Located just a block away from the Museum is the landmark Sacks Futeran building. In 2002 we became the owners of these premises, made possible by a grant from Atlantic Philanthropies and a substantial deduction from the then owners, the Futeran family.

The potential unlocked by this space has taken the Museum into new terrain which includes a major renovation and restoration project. The plans involve expanding it as a centre for the Museum’s programmes which have long outgrown the current building, and as a community centre to support the ongoing work relating to the return of former residents to the District.

The building has a long history within the city. As a textile and soft goods supplier, it was frequented by generations of District Six seamstresses and tailors as well as by many other households. As it now stands, the complex in effect consists of 5 interconnected buildings - nineteenth and early twentieth century warehouses with a remnant portion of an old Gothic-style church at its centre (see below).
The various components to be accommodated within these premises include **office space** for Museum staff, a centre for the **District Six Beneficiary and Redevelopment Trust**, a **conservation centre** for the archival collection, **rental space** particularly for non-profit organisations, **conferencing** and **meeting** space, a youth **digital arts club**, **workshop** and **training** space and a multi-use **theatre**.

The following are some of the envisaged dedication areas:

**Theatre: performance and memory**

The space designated as the theatre is envisaged as a multi-functional performance space that invokes the social spirit of the bioscopes and community halls of District Six. It should serve as a physical centre for memory, story-telling, reminiscence and performance of all kinds. It should also serve as a venue for meetings, conferences, seminars and multimedia presentations.
Conservation and archives

The Museum is custodian of a large collection of audiovisual, photographic and documentary materials, as well as textiles and artefacts. Considerable expertise in conserving these media has been developed over the years and an ongoing memory methodology involving donors to the collection in an ongoing way, continues to form an important part of the work. The dedicated archival areas in the current building have been stretched to capacity, and an extended conservation centre is being planned as part of the new development.
Memory workshops
The Museum’s memory work encompasses a wide range of creative activities, which involve both young and old. These include reminiscent craft design workshops planned to embrace existing knowledge systems and build onto creative design processes; imaginative re-enactments of historical events- all of which depend on active participant engagement.

Huis Kombuis workshop with ex-residents, and Re-imagining the city workshop with school children, both of which took place in the temporary space assigned for this purpose in the building

Rental and retail
Renovations to buildings 2 and 3 have rendered these spaces habitable, and a number of prospective tenants have indicated an interest in renting space for their own operations. In addition, space has been identified in building 1 for a museum shop and restaurant.

Floor plan (below) and outside view (left) of building space identified for rental
All of this requires substantial capital investment, a large part of which has been made possible by a legacy grant awarded by the National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund. Despite this, additional funds are required, and the Museum needs to embark on a major fundraising drive for the project. We will be calling on the public to support the campaign and appeal to you to help us realise the dream of truly making this a Homecoming Centre.

The current series of fundraising concerts being held at the Museum over the next few months, is part of the drive to raise money for the building in a way which is consistent with our commitment to providing a space for cultural expression.

If you are able to support the project in any way, please contact Bonita or Nicky at 021-466 7200 or send an email to the addresses which can be found on the *General Information* page of our website. Our bank details for cash donations can also be found on the same page.