



a world class African city

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## Media Statement

### For Immediate Release

**Date: 27 February 2024**

### **Joburg partners with C40 Cities for youth-led urban regeneration competition**

The City of Johannesburg, in collaboration with C40 Cities, is calling on all higher education students in the city to participate in the Reinventing Cities Competition, a global design challenge for youth.

As part of the competition, the City invites students in higher education to participate in a redesign pilot project aimed at revitalising the area around the Marlboro Gautrain Station and its surroundings into a green and vibrant transit-oriented community space.

This area currently faces challenges such as growing informal settlements in flood-prone areas, river pollution, a lack of walkable routes, inadequate housing and amenities, poverty, and environmental degradation.

To further engage with this initiative and its requirements, the City's Transformation and Spatial Planning Unit within the Department of Development Planning is planning a webinar to take place this coming Friday, and all interested students and other stakeholders are invited to attend.

MMC for Development Planning, Cllr Eunice Mgcina, expressed her excitement about engaging young people to help regenerate and reimagine these spaces, which are, in essence, their future living spaces. She stated: "Young people must assist us in reimagining future living spaces, and involving them in initiatives like this one ensures that they are not left behind in the planning processes that we undertake as the City. Ultimately, they are the future beneficiaries of all developmental projects that the City is currently undertaking."

Currently, the City of Johannesburg has projects focusing on enhancing water security, creating resilient human settlements, implementing flood and drought management strategies, and developing resilient infrastructure to improve the health and well-being of communities.

The City has also set out several environmental objectives to ensure a sustainable future for its residents through the implementation of Smart City strategies. These key objectives include:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the City's carbon footprint, reducing

water wastage and making clean water available and accessible.

- Protecting the natural environment, improving public administration and implementing smart energy.

Additionally, the City's Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan aims to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of resources.

Furthermore, the City's Integrated Development Plans also commit to creating a resilient, sustainable, and live-able City environment by driving economic growth through targeted programmes, services, and enabling support.

All Proposals for this competition must be submitted in English. And the winning team will have an opportunity to exhibit their project to the CoJ Development Planning Department.

The City of Johannesburg will then evaluate the best development and implementation options – either by (1) developing the property, (2) releasing the land to the private sector for development or may (3) enter into agreements with other spheres of government.

The details about the Webinar are as follows:

- When: **Friday, 1st March 2024**
- Time: **3PM South Africa Standard Time (SAST)**
- Where: **Zoom**

Link: [https://c40.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_VViLkcrkQrumERn3QAnMBA](https://c40.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VViLkcrkQrumERn3QAnMBA)

**For more information, please contact  
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