

The City of Cape Town and its vision to upgrade the old Green Point Track
with creative & visual interpretation assistance from

ARTVARK

designers Theresa Jo and CP Wessels



It was identified that public art as a physical intervention will play a significant role in the upgrading project, mainly to visually portray and commemorate the rich social and cultural history of the track as well as the relevance of Cape Town's sporting history.

Historical references to explore for most suitable & significant themes

British Period / 19th Century

1850 - there was a report in the Cape Monitor of a **cricket** match at the Common
Basil d'Oliviera is one of the great names associated with cricket in the Cape
1897 - Jack Rose set an Amateur **cycling** world record at the track.

Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902)

The grounds served as grounds for British and Colonial troops. The track was used as a tented camp area for **Boer prisoners of war** held in transit before being shipped to St Helena, Ceylon and Bermuda.

20th Century

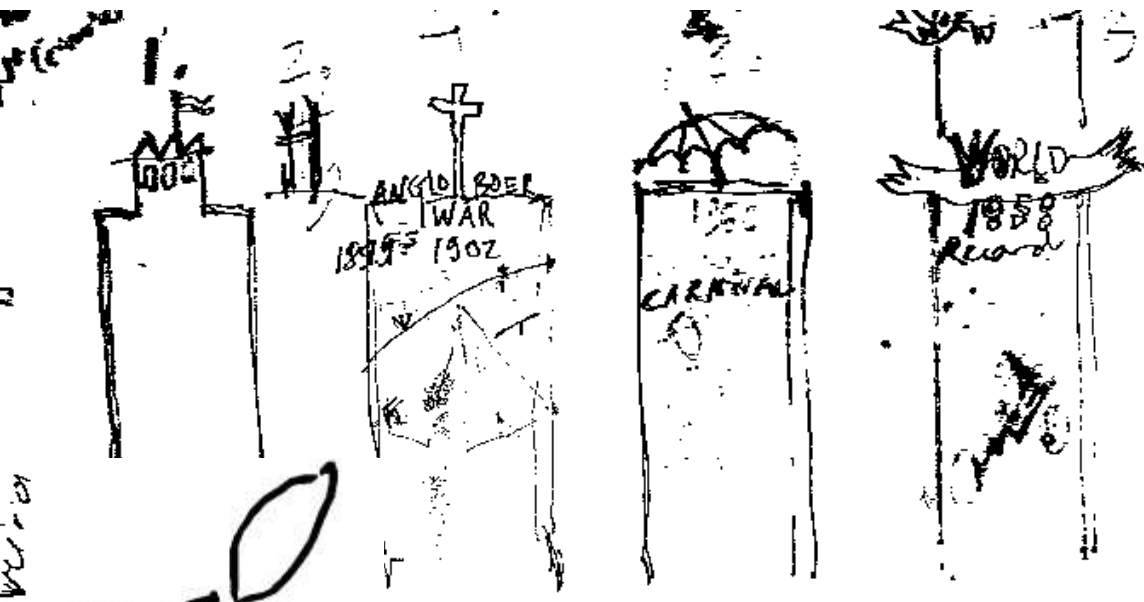
The first **coon carnival** was held on the Green Point Common in 1907 and in 1910 the track was the rehearsal venue for the Great Pageant. The track became an important venue for these parades and competitions from the 1920's.

Later 20th Century & Apartheid era

The track was a popular sporting and recreational venue for marginalized communities in Cape Town. Later on **schools from poorer areas** such as Bo-Kaap, District Six, Docks, Tramways road, Sea Point and St. Augustines in Kloof Street held **annual athletic** meetings.

Present

The ground is shared by various sport clubs
winter season – Schotse Kloof Walmers and Young Stars **Rugby** Clubs
summer season – United **Cricket** Club



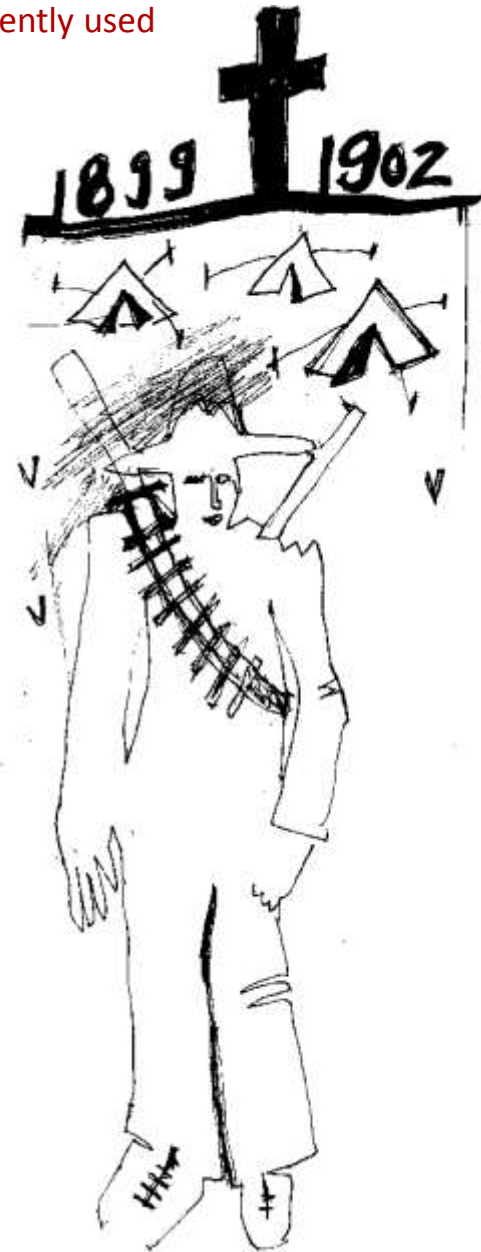
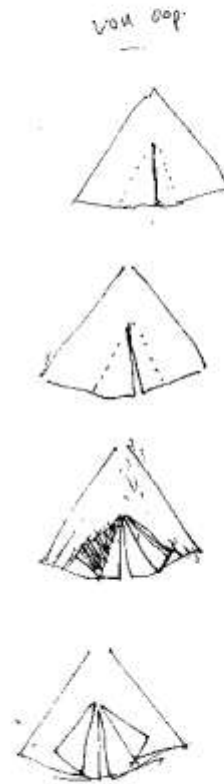
It was crucial for the pieces to relate to its historical reference as well as introducing the element of surprise that a viewer can educationally engage with the public art

*** Learning the history through fun visual interpretations and elaborating on creative thinking**

Building an individual character with detailed characteristics making the past present again through design

The OBJECTIVE

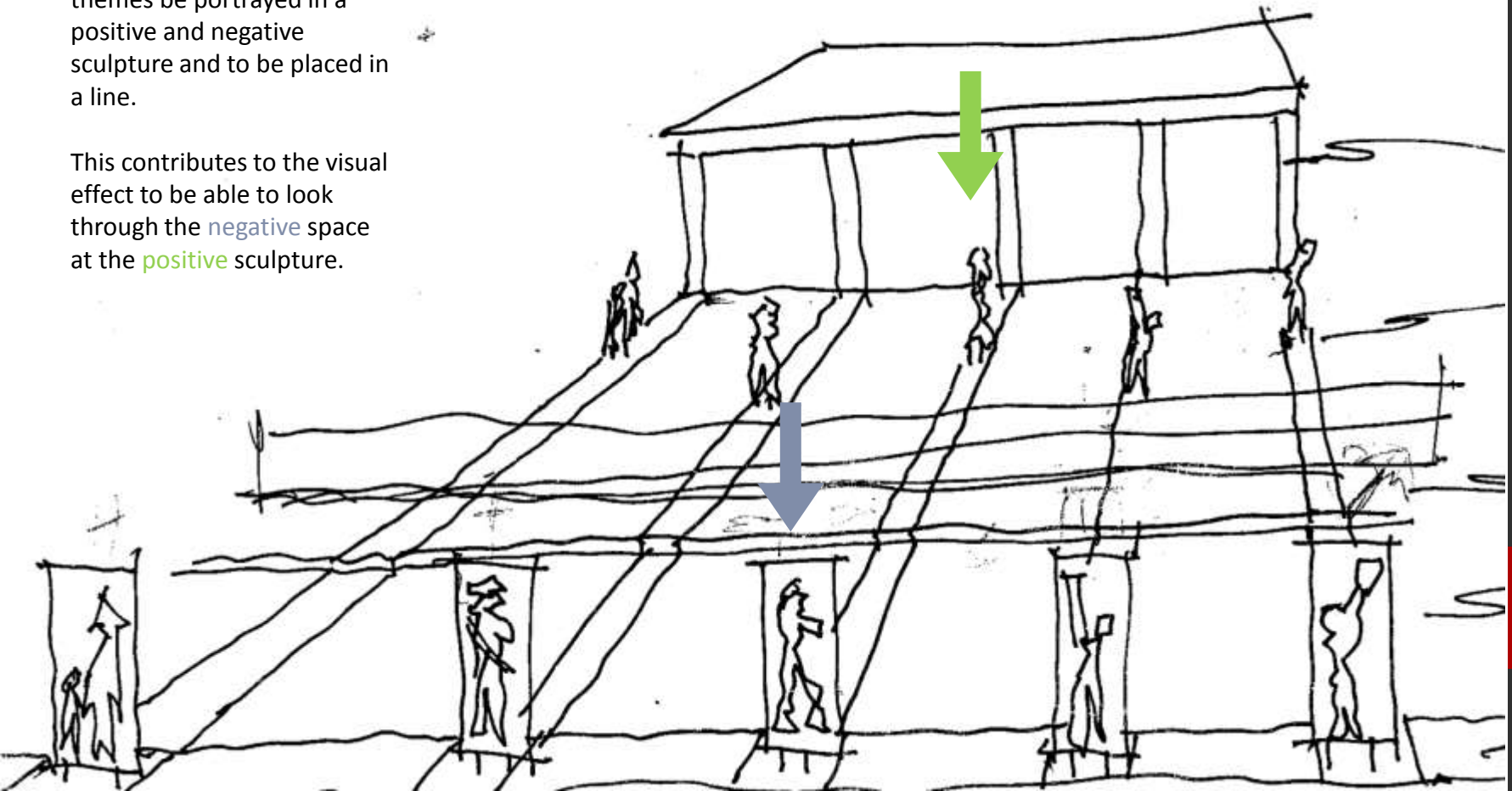
visually and emotionally portray the rich history and significance of the site that is publically accessible and presently used for sporting and fund raising events



Great attention was given to the specific detail and identity of each piece to depict the characteristics which makes each sculpture unique and creating a character which reflects historical, social, cultural and emotional reference.

The landscape architects idea was that the different themes be portrayed in a positive and negative sculpture and to be placed in a line.

This contributes to the visual effect to be able to look through the **negative** space at the **positive** sculpture.



The idea to have a series of sculptural figures to symbolize the main themes were decided upon, it was a crucial fact to take the significance and sensitiveness of the area into account.

The presentation of the life size sculptures had to be in a format of both positive and negative designs from metal.



Rugby

Cricket

Children & Athletics

Klopse

Prisoner of War





The structure was designed by using two metal plates with a flange in between.
The cut-out characters are almost life size,
and the artist felt it essential to have the sculptures placed at eye-level.
To have the characters flat on the ground, it diminish that respect and fear , even though there are
10 sculptures they induce an informal and homely atmosphere.

The build-up



The FACTS

- ✓ CP Wessels designed the structure for the sculptures by using two metal plates with a flange in between to ensure rigidity and strength giving it a three-dimensional appearance.
- ✓ The cut-out characters are almost life size, and the artist felt it essential to have the sculptures placed at eye-level.
- ✓ Theresa Jo did not want the sculptures to be put on pedestals, she emphasizes that these sculptures are for the users of Track A and they should feel 100% comfortable with them. To have the characters flat on the ground you diminish that respect and fear, even though there are 10 sculptures they induce an informal and homely atmosphere.
- ✓ Great attention was given to the specific detail and identity of each piece to depict the characteristics which makes each sculpture unique and creating a character which reflects historical, social, cultural and emotional reference.
- ✓ Theresa Jo and CP Wessels aimed towards creating pieces that has an educational value for its viewer/visitor.
- ✓ To relate and learn from the history portrayed through the fun visual elements and elaborating or enhancing the process of creative thinking, which places the viewer at ease and let them interact and form a dialogue with each character at their own pace.
- ✓ The public art is just one of the elements present within the whole upgrade project of the new Green Point Track





Executive Mayor of Cape Town, Patricia De Lille, officially opening the public sculptures by *ARTVARK*



Opened to be enjoyed,
Patricia De Lille experiencing this first hand

From the left:
Theresa Jo (designer)
Patricia De Lille (Mayor)
CP Wessels (designer) and
Gert Bam (Director of Sport, Recreation & Amenities)





The TEAM (talent, excellence, *ARTVARK*, memorable) behind the 10 public art sculptures:
Theresa Jo, Olivier Nduwayo, CP Wessels





The hope of the artists (CP Wessels & Theresa Jo) regarding their art at Green Point Track A ;

That the pieces will be a timeless anchor for recreation and sporting activities

It will embrace the diversity to be enjoyed by a variety of cultures

That the visitor can have fun to take interactive and group photographs with the sculptures

The fun has begun



Memorialization of the Green Point Track, Cape Town

The fun has begun



Memorialization of the Green Point Track, Cape Town

ARTVARK would like to give a note of thanks to

City of Cape Town

Peter van Heerden, Planning coordinator, City of Cape Town

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Andre Pentz , Heritage practitioner

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Pat van Wyk, for her input, support and love



We keep the stylish needs of our clients a reality, any commissions welcome

Artvark Gallery based at 48 Main Road, Kalk Bay, Cape Town

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