



### **Alison Green**

**Title:** The kickstarter Creative Arts project - from policy to practise, transforming the classrooms of rural primary schools in South Africa

The Kickstarter Creative Arts project is an educational teacher empowerment and artist in residency programme, originally designed as a research case study to assess the impact of Creative Arts at the Intermediate level (Grade 4, 5 and 6) in rural South African Primary Schools. The pilot project took place from 2015 to 2016 in twenty schools in two provinces in South Africa and was sponsored by Rand Merchant Bank. The Kickstarter Creative Arts project is the first ever of its kind in South Africa, as it places Artists in direct contact with teachers in the classroom during the school day Creative Arts teaching period.

The outcome is to equip teachers to deliver the Arts curriculum content, as specified by the South African Department of Education CAPS (Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement) document, to ensure high quality, impactful interventions in Visual Arts, Dance, Dramatic Arts and Music. Artists, who have been trained in the curriculum and who are based in the rural areas, assist the teachers in the classroom during the school day to guarantee a smooth transition from policy to practice.

Trainings are hosted quarterly, and the methodology is experiential. Teachers are led through all the different Arts disciplines practically, they take part in the lessons as if they were participants in a classroom, in order to further grasp the material and embody the knowledge practically. All teachers are encouraged to become competent Creative Arts practitioners themselves and to be able to lead artistic activity with confidence.

The research conducted on the project in 2017 included extensive surveys, interviews and observations in the twenty schools, with the 40 teachers who took part in the training, as well as with their heads of departments and school principals. The Kickstarter Creative Arts project improves the skills of Intermediate Phase Life Skills educators in their delivery of the compulsory curriculum subject, Creative Arts which includes Dramatic Arts, Dance, Music and Visual Arts as per the curriculum guidelines. The project won the Development Business Arts South Africa award with Rand Merchant Bank in 2017.

The Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement for Creative Arts in Intermediate Phase is available from the National Department of Education's website: <https://www.education.gov.za/>