

# 'City of gold' yields the evidence

**NEARLY** 900 people packed the Johannesburg Art Gallery on the last Sunday in October to enjoy the fruits of the five-month oral history research project "Jo'burg City - Whose City?"

The project was organised and convened by Idasa's Johannesburg office in conjunction with Actstop (The Action Committee to Stop Evictions) and the South African History Archives.

It involved 15 student history teachers from the Johannesburg College of Education, the University of the Witwatersrand and Khanya College, under the supervision of Leslie Witz

of the History Department of the University of the Western Cape.

The students interviewed residents of Pageview, Homestead Park, selected by Actstop, to construct an oral history of the inner city.

The object of the project was three-fold: to expose trainee teachers to the world of oral history; to begin a new and different process of public and direct exposure for inner city residents; and to create a cultural event which would show Johannesburg as it is today, challenging the historical stereotype of "the sunshine city built on gold."

Actstop publicity secretary Cas Coovadia was the master of ceremonies at the launch, which was opened by Christopher Till of the Johannesburg Art Gallery. Coovadia expressed his delight at the evidently enthusiastic response from the public.

JCE students standing outside the gallery during the launch of the project.

Leslie Witz, Idasa's Johannesburg office convenor, speaking at the launch.

Explaining the project's interest in oral history as a vehicle for further education, Witz said: "The fact is that the product of oral history is a perception of the inner city which is different from her/his own experience."



Luli Callinicos

history of the inner city. "It is in our schools that we can begin to change the perception of the inner city in the public mind."

**LULI** Callinicos, Idasa's Johannesburg office convenor, speaking at the launch. She is wearing a patterned top and a necklace.

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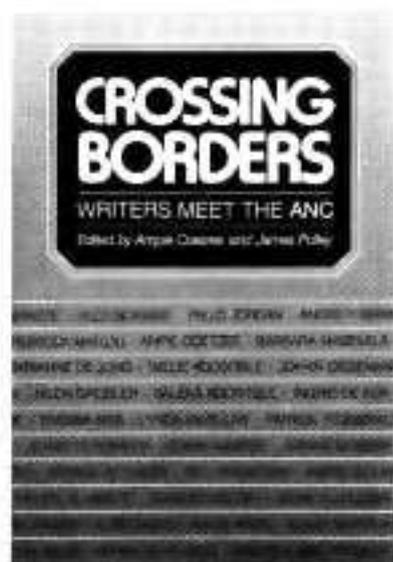


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