

# The Case for Love to Langa's Montessori School

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[We empower, develop and sustain community projects](#)

Registered in the US as non-profit organisation in South Africa as a public benefit organisation

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# 1. Executive Summary

Love to Langa is raising funds to establish a Montessori preschool in Langa, Cape Town.

Twenty-seven years into democracy, the same length of time Nelson Mandela was jailed, many children of South Africa still do not have access to high-quality early childhood care and development programmes.

The Love to Langa Montessori School will change this for the children, parents and teachers of the Langa community.

The need has been voiced time and time again, and with our official partner, Global Impact Social Advisory & Outreach, who have an excellent track record of other sustainable builds, we are raising funds to make this dream a reality.

## 1. The key outcomes:

- ▶ A sustainable brick and mortar facility consisting of
  - ▶ A pre-school and aftercare that will ultimately cater for 200 children with six Montessori directresses, four assistants, a principal and a school manager.
  - ▶ A Montessori Training Programme for community women that will emphasise entrepreneurship, small business and empowering early childhood teachers to open and operate their own sustainable centres.

## 2. What is needed:

The project is being rolled out in five incremental phases with the target for completion of the brick and mortar build, 31 December 2022. The total estimated capital R10 398 241.87 and operating requirement R2 633 400.00. Donations in kind raised to date from South Africa R2 093 618.00 and USA R2 339 637.54. This includes the donation in kind of a parcel of land (more detail below) but leaves a shortfall of R8 598 386.26 million for the project to be realised.

This document sets out the background and rationale for the project, what has been achieved to date, and a series of funding options for prospective donors.

Executive Summary

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## 1. Langa: South Africa's oldest apartheid township

Langa, which means “sun” in isiXhosa, was established in 1927 and is the oldest township in the greater Cape Town Area. The 1902 Location act was expanded to formalise administration and the 1923 Urban Areas Act enforced the “compulsory residence of Africans in locations,”<sup>1</sup> so it is logical that Langa became the site of many anti-Apartheid activities in the fight for democracy.

An often-forgotten fact about Langa is that like in Sharpeville, and also on 21 March 1960, the South African police killed several people during the national campaign against the *dompas*. On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that incident, the government unveiled a monument to the people of Langa who lost their lives that day.

Despite the advent of democracy in 1994, Langa remains a community characterised by poverty, with both generally low education levels and a high school dropout rate; these contribute to the equally high unemployment especially among the youth and women. This is complicated by the challenges associated with accessing skills training.

Other social challenges include child pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence. These have, of course, been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic: in a community where, already, too many children were not in school because they either have no access to education or they drop out in the hope that they can generate an income to support their families.

### 1.1. Early Childhood Development Challenges in Langa

More than 52,000 people live in Langa which is served by some 22 early childhood development (ECD) centres, six of which are not registered. In addition –

#### ▶ Early childhood services

The majority of Langa's ECD centres (many unregistered) offer a form of day care, where the children passively respond to teacher-centred lessons and activities. These do not effectively build children's confidence and make a limited contribution to intellectual and social development.

#### ▶ Teacher competence and quality

The majority (77%) of Langa's ECD teachers have level 4 vocational qualifications (the equivalent of Matric/Grade 12) with some – and mostly in the poorer schools – with no qualifications at all. Consequently, less than a quarter of ECD teachers (23%) have diplomas or degrees.

### 1.2. Early Childhood Development Programmes: their value

The value – in social and economic terms – of early childhood development interventions are well established. The World Bank notes that children born into poverty, the “equity enhancing impact of early childhood interventions hold the promise of overcoming social disadvantages and breaking the intergenerational transmission of poverty.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> South African History Online: available from <https://www.sahistory.org.za/place/langa-township-cape-town>

<sup>2</sup> Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank: available from <https://ieg.worldbankgroup.org/evaluations/wb-support-early-childhood-development>

## 1.3. Rising to the Challenge

Love to Langa is rising to the challenges confronting Langa's children by building a pre-school in Langa that incorporates a Montessori Training Programme. While Apartheid no longer forms part of South Africa's statutes, its lasting impact, limiting opportunities along racial and socio-economic lines, are still apparent in many of the country's poorer communities.

Education is a basic human right, enshrined in the constitution and to which all children are entitled. We believe that education should not be basic: The Love to Langa model values the whole child in and outside the classroom with education offered by teachers who are competent, caring and qualified and who, themselves are valued and nurtured. Inherent in this model is ensuring that our teachers will not be overworked, losing their sense of self, and who are inspired to further their own educational journeys.

To achieve this, educators must be able to rely on a well-functioning ecosystem that exposes them to new and innovative educational philosophies. This includes access to research-led institutions that generate new ideas, which is integral to maintaining quality, training and support and underpins longevity and sustainability.

### 1.3.1. Supporting the Broader ECD Community

Through the Love to Langa educational model, a first of its kind in this community, the board hopes to change the understanding and practice of education and enable the Langa community to experience this through their children's experience.

To achieve this, Love to Langa will also develop partnerships with educators, government and local educational forums. Consequently, the centre will be a hub for Langa's multitude of non-registered places of care (creches) offering guidelines to help their educators to follow more appropriate educational programmes.

## 2. More than a school – the Love to Langa Montessori School

The intention behind the Love to Langa Montessori School in the Langa community is to increase the likelihood that the Montessori philosophy and practice will be adopted in South Africa's townships. We discuss this philosophy in more detail on page 7 as follows:

**Vision:** Access to quality early childhood education for all children in the Langa community.

**Mission:** To build a world class Montessori school.

**Objective:** Within three years, to develop a sustainable, fully functional, fully staffed Montessori pre-school that will be operating at 100% capacity.

## 2.1. Objectives and benefits for the Langa Community

Love to Langa has the following three objectives that it wishes to achieve through the Montessori Academy:

### Objective 1:

To develop and provide quality early childhood education to ± 200 children in Langa, preparing them for entry to Grade 1.

### Objective 2:

To train, empower and support local women as entrepreneurial Montessori Directresses who will be empowered to to operate their own schools, generate income and support their families.

### Objective 3:

To establish a premium, quality, sustainable centre of learning in the local community that incorporates five classrooms, each equipped for ±40 children.

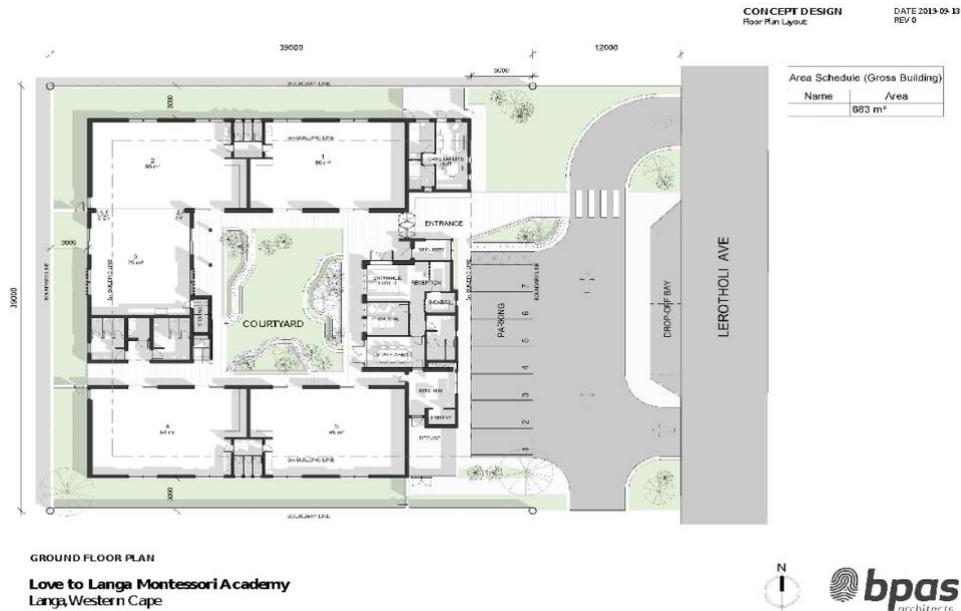
In addition to the obvious benefit of an ECD and aftercare centre that runs a programme approved by the South African Montessori Association, the Love to Langa school will be a safe haven for children and provide nutritious meals daily. It will also provide an after-care service for working parents unable to collect their children at the end of the “school” day.

#### 2.1.1. What the centre will look like

The centre, in addition to the five classrooms, will include disabled facilities (bathroom and access to classrooms as well as an inclusive classroom), bathrooms for the boys, girls and teachers. There will be a fully functional kitchen and a sick room. Along with a properly equipped playground, there will be a rooftop vegetable garden, water recycling unit and premises for an on-site caretaker.

Plans have been drawn up on for the site that has been secured and are available on request.





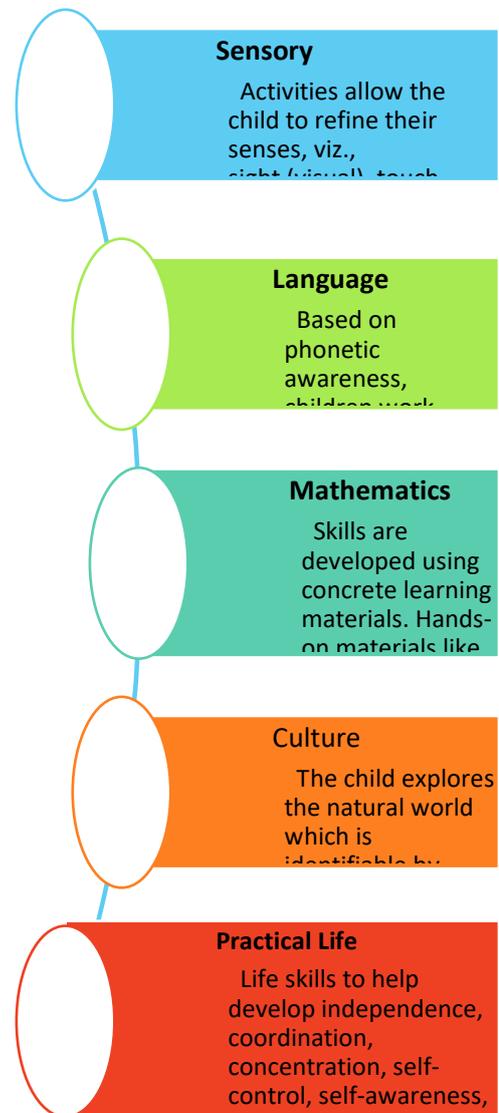
## 2.2. Why Montessori? The Philosophy

'Montessori [philosophy]... inspire[s] confidence, nurture[s] the child's innate desire for learning, discovery, and social interaction skills in an environment where teachers are encouraging, engaging and value[ing] the individual child. Children learn how to learn, and this prepares each child for future academic and social excellence.'<sup>3</sup>

The Montessori approach is an integrated one: practical life, and sensory activities form the foundation for learning language and mathematics with culture forming a golden thread that runs through all learning experiences.

The five key areas of learning in the Montessori environment are shown below:

<sup>3</sup> Webster Montessori School: available from <https://www.webstermontessori.org/why-choose-montessori>



The Montessori approach is an innovative education model, and the school will form a hub for empowerment, productivity and success. Montessori is not trademarked, and it was the wish of the founder. Montessori should be available to all, it is for all children, parents, educators and that alone speaks volumes from an entrepreneurial or social view.

## 2.3. Early Childhood Centre & Aftercare

The Love to Langa Montessori school is a new project for the board: a Montessori pre-school offering high quality education for 200 children each year and training for women from the Langa community who will be the future teachers in both the school and in the broader community.

This school will be the first of its kind to offer an entirely different teaching philosophy from the current chalk and talk approach and one which ensures that children are adequately prepared for primary school.

## 2.4. Teacher Development

In order to boost the likelihood of the successful uptake of the Montessori philosophy in the Langa community, we need to provide a centre that nurtures individuality, confidence and independence in children – and their teachers.

### 2.4.1. Training to date

In order to have a functional and sustainable Montessori school, qualified staff is key. The beneficiaries are from the Langa community, 22 in total for the first intake of teachers in training for the year 2019 (foundation training, 6 months). The dropout rate for foundation training was 14 ladies due to the following:

- Other job opportunities became available through government, stipend and short term related only
- Depression
- Mental health within the household confines adversely affects the educational process of a student or students
- Violence within the home
- No support system in place for single mothers wanting to further their education
- No financial support during the training process for their children and families.

The seven ladies successfully completed their training with the college with only their practical hours remaining (Professional Placements) in order to receive their (Sector Education and Training Authority) SETA accredited higher certificate. After the 150 hours of practical training the teachers in training will commence teaching in a temporary structure in Langa while the brick and mortar school is being built. A manager has been assigned to the teachers in training. Bringing the total number of ladies to eight to start with forty children from 20 July 2021 to 15 December 2021.

## 3. Progress Towards Achieving the Vision

Teacher training in Langa will be ongoing for the vision of the Love to Langa Montessori School. The timeline below is based on securing the necessary funds for establishing and operating the campus, as well as on the risks (see below) associated with the build project.

### 3.1. Timeline

The project is divided into five phases, some of which are complete, while others are ongoing.



### 3.2. Site

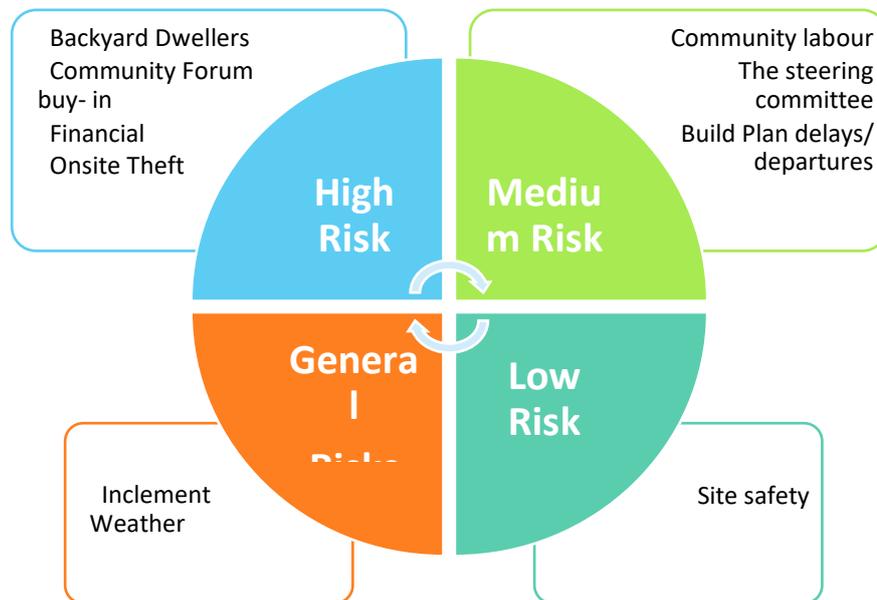
In order for Love to Langa to proceed with their dream of building an educational facility, an appropriately situated and sized area of land had to be acquired.

The easiest option would be to purchase a house in the Langa community, however, most properties that were available to purchase were either not in the seller’s name (the parent having passed on and transfer of ownership not been completed), or that of children attempting to sell their parents houses without permission.

Acquiring land from the City of Cape Town in the area tends to be linked with political implications and specific criterion attached to leases. This process is a lengthy exercise which mostly results in extended delays and little to no success.

The Diocese of Cape Town was approached and Love to Langa CT was donated 2000m<sup>2</sup> of land for this very special project.

### 3.3. Risk Analysis



### 3.4. Risk Mitigation

The following steps will be taken to address the identified risks.

#### 3.4.1. High risks

<b>Backyard Dwellers:</b>	Security perimeter, fencing and risk management plan in place. Facilitation and execution of risk plan will be affected by the Diocese, local law enforcement & steering committee
<b>Community Forum buy-in:</b>	is crucial and if not handled correctly could mean no project, steering committee and community meetings are imperative to ensure continuity onsite.
<b>Financial:</b>	Financial transparency with donors and stakeholders is crucial. Payment to suppliers, contractors and project management company will adhere to scheduled roll-out and audited accordingly with full transparency and regular updates to donors.
<b>Theft:</b>	Onsite theft is always a possibility regardless of security on site. Strict protocols will be in place to mitigate where possible.
<b>Contractor Selection:</b>	Building in the township is the highest risk to encounter as many individuals will attempt to open companies in order to receive the tender to build. A document was developed for criteria that contractors need to fulfil.

#### 3.4.2. Medium risks

Community labour:	This is a prerequisite for building in townships. Global Impact Social Advisory has developed a community labour policy for working in the townships.
The steering committee:	A committee was appointed from the community to advise, assist and select labour for the project.

Build Delays:	Build for the school could be a drawn-out procedure and possible complications with regard to departures may arise which could change the timeline of the build.
ECD Forums:	Crèche's belonging to the ECD forum will feel threatened by a private school with a new teaching philosophy. Love to Langa has adopted an open-door policy to address the forums concerns in order to manage possible future issues.

**3.4.3. Low risk**

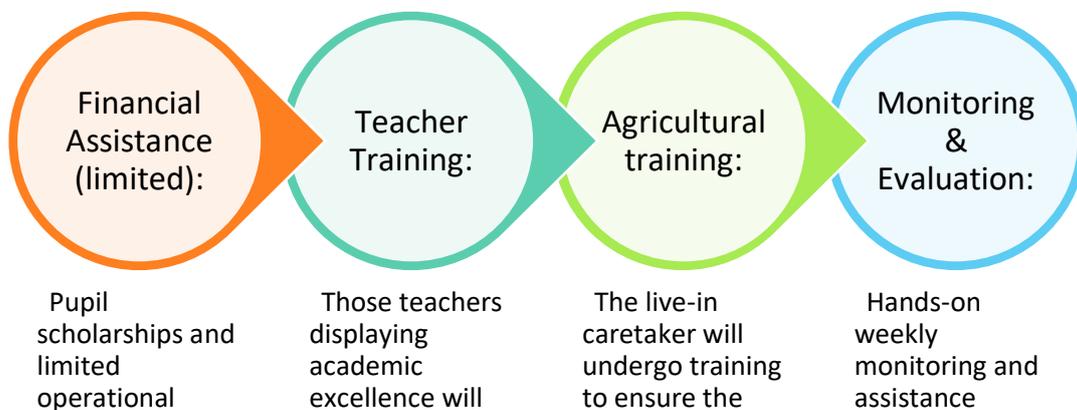
Weather:	Weather conditions in Cape Town can be temperamental, causing delays with builds. Contingency planning with builders and contractors has been factored in and incorporated within the projected timelines.
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**3.4.4. General risk**

Safety on site:	Safety of the contractors, labour and visiting guests is crucial. A safety officer will be on site daily, sign in is a prerequisite as are the entry rules for those entering the area during build.
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**3.5. Sustainability Plan**

The Montessori School sustainability plan consists of a three (3) year term assisting the educators & the appointed community steering committee to develop an operational institution that generates income.



Love To Langa's involvement with the Montessori School will continue for ten years, after the '3-Year Sustainability Plan' has lapsed, offering marketing for donors and volunteer visits.

## 3.6. Finances and Expenses

### 3.6.1. Accountability and Reporting

It is imperative that there is 100% transparency by a non-profit, and because of this there will be regular reporting sent on to the Love to Langa Board and project funders, prepared by GISO. Financial accountability is vitally important, therefore the Love to Langa financial records will be audited by an independent auditor every tax year. We place high priority on financial transparency so as not to jeopardise future funding and to maintain a good relationship with current and future funders.

We value our donors and take pride in keeping them informed of how their incredible contributions have been utilised and received by the beneficiaries.

The following reporting methods will apply and be provided to all donating parties for the duration of the project:

### 3.6.2. Montessori School

Quarterly Update Reports

Audited Financial Statements (Annual)

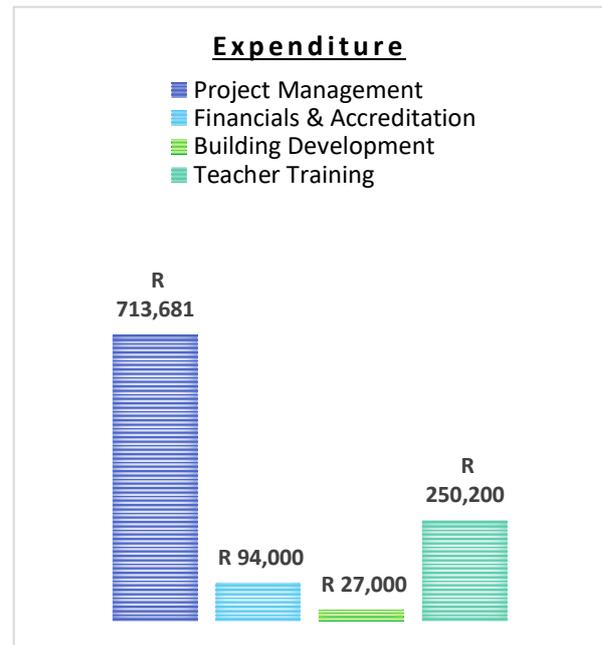
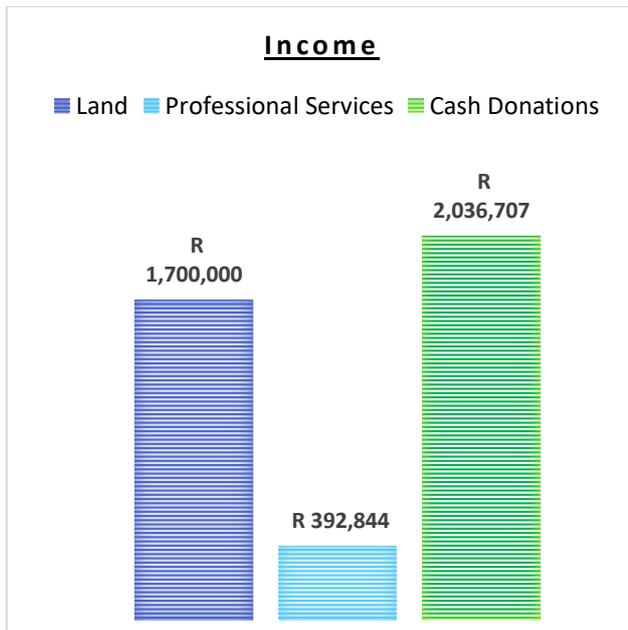
Company visits & volunteer work sessions will be allowed

### 3.6.3. Love To Langa

Annual Report

Audited Financial Statements

### 3.6.4. Income and expenditure 2019



## 4. Donor Benefits & Packages

A select few packages are listed below, however opportunities are not limited to these. Each and every donor, both individual and corporate, are very special to Love to Langa, we will support our patrons with mentions across our various platforms:

18A Receipt: Love to Langa Cape Town (SA office) is a registered Public Benefit Organisation Ref No.: 930069356

Naming Rights: We have varying venue naming right opportunities available which are highlighted in our donor packages.

Donor PR opportunities: We love to thank out valued donors and will use our various social media and digital platforms to inform our audiences about your involvement.



### R 2,5 million upward

School Naming Rights (Combined with Love To Langa)



### R1 million - R 2 million

Admin Block; Community Hall; Training Room & Classrooms fully Equipped



### Less than R1 million

Edible Garden; Kitchen; Caretakers Premises; Water Recycling Unit; Infirmary (sick room); outside Playground area & additional teacher training

## 5. More about Love to Langa

Love to Langa is a US based non-profit organisation, which has been operating in Cape Town, South Africa for 15 years supporting and initiating successful, and sustainable projects within the townships. The head office is in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the USA. Since the organization's inception, the registered non-profit has grown from strength to strength working with communities and empowering countless men, women and children annually. Due to the continued success, Love to Langa's board partnered with a local project management company to ensure all projects adhere to timelines and fall within the ethos of the organisation.

Love to Langa is a US-based 501(c)3 charity with a history of completed build projects in Cape Town, South Africa. The board, have come a long way, from supporting children with bursaries, providing food and clothing, training teachers, art workshops, outings for previously disadvantaged children and adults, to longer term projects, such as building and equipping a classroom, building a moveable library, building additions to an orphanage as well as a learn to swim indoor heated pool which is currently providing swim lessons for 150 children weekly at an early childhood development centre as part of the curriculum at no cost to parents.

### 5.1. Commitment

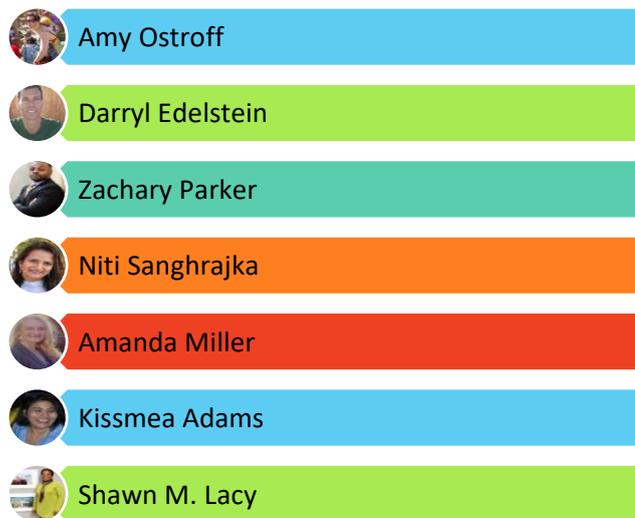
Finding an approach based on scientific observation of how the child learns.

The approach is child-centred and acknowledges the innate eagerness of the child to learn and acquire knowledge.

It should be a holistic approach to education, which values all areas of the child's development: physical, social, emotional and cognitive.

## 5.2. The Board and Governance

The board members come from an array of different backgrounds, from journalism, law, public health, education and finance. Six of the seven board members live in various states across the United States of America, whilst the seventh member is proudly South Africa. Having one of the board members in South Africa means we have an ear to the ground and understand all about the culture of South Africa. It is very easy to go into a country and tell them what to do or what they need, however having the South African influence we know now to ask the community what their wants and needs are without forcing ourselves on them or assuming donors know best.



## 5.3. The role of Global Impact Social Advisory

Love to Langa partners with Cape Town based GIS Advisory & Outreach, to facilitate the following areas on their behalf within the South African economy.

Global Impact Social Advisory and Outreach is a Non-Profit Organisation, which is an outcome of the Project Management Company (Global Impact Social Advisory). This outreach arm ensures we uphold our values and follow a path of service. With more than 10 years' experience in the industry and a proven track record we wanted to find a better way to give back. We work together with communities to help empower them by creating long-term, sustainable projects through proper delivery channels.

The outreach sector partners with Love to Langa Cape Town, a registered Public Benefit Organisation (PBO ref no: 930069356), the South African affiliate of Love to Langa USA.

- Project Management
- Fundraising
- Land Acquisition
- Community Accreditation
- Monitor & Evaluate
- Workshops

The partnership has spanned ten years, and has been entrenched with each completed project managed to date, however the three most notable builds to date were that of the Love To Langa

Library (Philippi); The Love To Langa Swimming Academy & the Love To Langa Grade R Classroom.

## 6. Sources of Financial and in-kind support to date

