

MEDIA ALERT June 7, 2010

Imagine Chicago [www.imaginechicago.org](http://www.imaginechicago.org)  
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## South African Elephant visits IIT, Neocon, and The Field Museum

**What:** While the 2010 World Cup is being played in S Africa, Imagine Chicago is hosting Nomkhubulwane, (Nom-koo-bull-WAH-nee – Zulu for Mother Earth) an elephant sculpture made of galvanized steel and recycled truck tires. The life-size sculpture was created by eminent South African artist Andries Botha to catalyze conversation about how to creatively address issues caused by the expanding human ecological footprint. It is one of 17 elephants on display globally by the Human Elephant Foundation ([www.humanelephant.org](http://www.humanelephant.org)) and the first and only one in N America. Nomkhubulwane embarked on her North American tour last November at the World Wilderness Congress, WILD9, in Mexico. She will be in Chicago from May 28 through July 30 at IIT, Neocon and the Field Museum. Mr. Andries Botha will visit Chicago June 11-18 and present several free public programs.

**Where/when:** The elephant will be sited at IIT (34<sup>th</sup>/State) from May 28-June 12, at the south entrance to the Merchandise Mart for Neocon from June 13-16, and at The Field Museum's Northeast Terrace, 1400 S Lake Shore Dr, from June 17-July 30.

**Event Details:** **June 12 (Sat) 10 - 11:30 am.** An interactive arts program led by Andries Botha for children 5-12 in Crown Hall at IIT, co-sponsored by the Mies Van der Rohe Society and Open Lands, to evoke in children a wonderment of nature through the arts of storytelling, music and drawing. Mr. Botha will be joined by singer songwriter Claudia Schmidt and Chicago artist David Csicsko. Program is free but reservations are required. 312-567-5025 or email [miesmembership@iit.edu](mailto:miesmembership@iit.edu)

**June 15 (Tues) 7-8:30 pm** Andries Botha and Theaster Gates, artist and Director of Arts Programming at the University of Chicago will discuss "Public Intellectuals Shaping Public Space" at the Franke conference room at the University of Chicago. Sponsored by the Civic Knowledge Project. JRL S-102 1100 East 57th Street, Chicago, IL 60637-1502 (773) 702-8274. Free admission.

**June 18 from 11:30-1 pm.** Public lecture by Andries Botha on "Can We Live Without the Elephant?" in Rice Hall of the Field Museum. Joining Mr. Botha will be Vance Martin, President of the WILD Foundation ([www.wild.org](http://www.wild.org)), the leading global organization on wilderness conservation. Pre-registration for this free program includes free basic admission to the museum. To register, email to: [library@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:library@fieldmuseum.org) by June 15. The lecture complements the Field Museum's current related exhibition entitled *Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age* which includes some of the oldest human artifacts in existence and a display of the oldest baby mammoth ever discovered. For more information about Mammoths and Mastodons, visit [fieldmuseum.org/mammoths](http://fieldmuseum.org/mammoths).

**Sponsor:** Nomkhubulwane's Chicago visit is made possible by InterfaceFLOR, the Human Elephant Foundation, Imagine Chicago and the WILD Foundation.

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