

Junayne Baatjes

Junayne Baatjes is a community leader with a BCom Honours in Tourism Management.

As a former lecturer at Nelson Mandela University, Junayne played an instrumental role in both the degree and diploma programs, specializing in Destination Management, Marine Tourism and Spatial Development, and Tourism Economics.

Junayne's contributions extend beyond academia into meaningful community engagement.

As a driving force behind the development of the Go Maritime Skills Development Program, a program instrumental in equipping youth from previously marginalized communities with technical skills (ratings) aligned to the global maritime industry. This initiative bridges the gap between opportunity and access, enabling young individuals to build sustainable careers in the maritime sector.

Junayne's commitment to community upliftment is further demonstrated through facilitating international service-learning trips for U.S.-based students, creating opportunities to work in underprivileged communities in Gqeberha. This cross-cultural exchange has fostered impactful collaborations and highlighted the importance of service-oriented tourism.

In addition to academic and community development endeavours, Junayne is also the founder of a thriving community drumming academy in Heidelberg. This initiative has transformed the lives of local youth, offering them a platform to express their talents and perform at events across the Garden Route and Western Cape region.

A passionate advocate for education, empowerment, and innovation, Junayne continues to blend expertise in tourism with a dedication to creating opportunities for youth and fostering social change.