

ALBERT-EDEN COMMUNITY ARTS BROKERS REPORT

JULY 2018 - JUNE 2019



- 17 projects between July 2018 and June 2019
- 232 artists involved in projects
- Projects included: Free dance workshops in local parks, a floral carpet on Sandringham reserve, creation of a book with primary school students, and a Matariki Festival event for the Takatāpui community.

INTRODUCTION

As the fourth year of the community arts broker programme, the 18/19 year saw a maturation of the programme and a number of previously supported artists and projects being able to develop their work further.

A longer-term project, Prayas Theatre Company's Sound Check continued on from last year in order to understand the differences in community outcomes a larger investment in an ongoing project would make. This proved to be a very successful project, able to achieve nearly two full time weeks of rehearsal time for the artists leading to a number of well received performances.

The diversity of projects was a standout feature this year and it enabled the Albert-Eden community an opportunity to engage with many different ages, abilities and cultures in a creative way. Audiences were able to see members of the elderly community engaging meaningfully in the arts, the Deaf community had a chance to create collectively in an ongoing and safe environment, the general public were able to participate in a Bollywood film being created in all its glory, and the Takatāpui community were able to safely celebrate and explore elements important to them during Matariki.

An important element of the arts broker programme, outside of funded projects, continues to be providing advice, support, and connections to individuals and groups in the area who are running, or want to run creative projects. This advice often focuses on funding for projects, but also involves strategic planning, connections with similar or complementary groups, and providing information about Auckland Council processes and procedures.

In general, the community arts broker programme in 18/19 consisted of the following broad work strands:

- 1.** A curated series of community arts projects (details follow).
- 2.** Meeting with a wide variety of artists and organisations to discuss their needs and offer mentoring support where required, for example assistance with funding applications, assistance with council processes for using public spaces such as parks, making connections with participants, organisations, venues or exhibition opportunities.
- 3.** Developing a sense of the current gaps in arts offers and participation within the local board area, and targeting activities to address these - for example, this year saw two very different projects for older residents of the area.
- 4.** Utilising social media and targeted Albert Eden Neighbourhood Arts e-newsletter to create awareness of projects, events, funding, and professional arts opportunities both in and outside of the local board area.

Community engagement process

- Open call out to artists to submit project proposals and subsequent discussions with those submitting proposals
- Implementation of projects from July 2018 to June 2019
- Regular face to face meetings with local artists and organisations.
- Regular liaison with local board Strategic Broker and other local board staff.

COMMUNITY ARTS BROKER PROGRAMME SUPPORTED PROJECTS

Sound Check

Creator: Prayas Cultural Group of NZ Inc.

Dates: January - October 2018

Project Summary: Prayas continued to explore various aspects of Indian classical music with community music practitioners of diverse backgrounds. To this end a group of thirteen contributing artists participated in over 70 hours of creative workshop to develop music resources and present it to public forums. The creative process also included discussions on various aspects of Indian music, the similarities between Indian and other types of traditional and world music. Some of the researched and developed themes were used in the Prayas 2018 production: Dara.

Community Engagement: Thirteen artists participated in the ongoing project culminating with a performance called Confluence to an audience of 120 people. They also performed prior to Praya's latest show, Dara, at TAPAC on two separate occasions.

Highlights: The opportunity for diverse artists to meet, engage and exchange ideas with others in the community and creating a safe platform for musicians to learn, develop and grow along with like-minded, artistic, individuals.

"The feedback from the audience has been extremely positive. The spontaneous encore and standing ovation were very gratifying and the audience have shown keen interest in attending future shows." - Prayas



Dancing In Parks

Creator: Cindy Jang

Dates: March 2019

Project Summary: Free dance workshops in different styles were offered to the general public on three separate occasions in March 2019: Contemporary Dance with Claire O’Neil and Degrees of Separation at Tahaki Reserve; KPop at Potters Park with UOA KPop Planet; and CRAVE Dance Studios and Aerial Dance at Coyle Park with High Jinx Youth Company.

Community Engagement: Seven artists taught 120 members of the public during the three workshops across the month of March.

Highlights: Bringing the community together from all over the suburbs, to dance and learn from the workshop facilitators, including a wide range of ages and backgrounds.

“Thank you for the opportunity! It was fantastic to try it out and got such lovely feedback from the public! It would be amazing to do this again, the arts broker programme is really awesome in supporting the different artists and groups around! Hope more of these opportunities arises!” - Cindy Jang



Visual Arts workshops in NZSL and Exhibition

Creator: Deaf Wellbeing Society

Dates: August 2018 - May 2019

Project Summary: Deaf Wellbeing Society provided a Deaf friendly drop in centre where art and craft workshops were held fortnightly in NZSL. The tutors were Deaf and NZSL interpreters were used when needed. There was on average sixty Deaf people attending each month. Language barriers were broken down and the Auckland Deaf community were given the opportunity to try some new art projects and techniques and express themselves freely without language limitations.

Community Engagement: Eight tutors and artists leading the classes and 600 participants and visitors to the exhibition.

Highlights: Reducing the sense of isolation for the Deaf community through regular workshops with the same people. Participants learning many new and diverse art techniques and pride in exhibiting the resulting art works. The Deaf Wellbeing Society being approached by the Wellington District Health Board and a community group in Hamilton asking for our help with their own versions of the sessions.

"Being Deaf, it would have been helpful to have had wifi in the council building. As English is our second language we thank Bronwyn for allowing us to update our projects' progress via Facebook and photos. This was extremely helpful."
- Deaf Wellbeing Society.



Glass Ceilings

Creator: SeniorsDANCE Company

Dates: July - September 2018

Project Summary: Glass Ceilings is the sixth work choreographed by Susan Jordan for and performed by SeniorsDANCE Company. This work was presented in commemoration of the 125th anniversary of New Zealand Women's Suffrage. There were seven performances across five venues in the local area.

Community Engagement: Six performers and 450 audience members in total.

Highlights: Highlights from performers included being part of a group with other dancers of a similar age and enjoying the creative process but wishing it was longer. The general public experiencing older community members engaged in meaningful creative work.

"...The productions by SeniorsDANCE Company are part of the concept of Creative Ageing, which is the ACTIVE participation in any art form and not just the passive viewing of others' art. Albert-Eden Local Board is to be congratulated on funding and supporting such activity as research by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland has shown that senior participants have better emotional wellbeing, a more satisfying life, more vitality, resilience, and self-esteem when they undertake such activity."
- Susan Jordan



MADE

Creator: Ron Crummer

Dates: October 2018

Project Summary: MADE (Mt Albert Art + Design Exhibition) 2018 is a biannual event that supports and showcases local creatives (artists, designers, community groups) in the area. MADE 2018 event was held at Alberton House, between Oct 20th to Oct 26th from 10 am to 4 pm.

Community Engagement: Twenty-six artists; multiple visitors to the exhibition.

Highlights: New creative genres introduced to the event such as fashion. Input and support from the Mt Albert community to help source new artists and designers. Increased audience from last event in 2016. Keen interest was shown in several particular works from some of the public.

"Bigger picture benefits emerging and have evolved due to MADE. There is easier access in sourcing creatives for MADE. Cross benefits of local creatives who have exhibited at MADE now sharing opportunities to each other in terms of awareness of other creative events and projects." - Ron Crummer



Ahurei Matariki Takatāpui

Creator: Taurima Vibes

Dates: July 2018

Project Summary: Taurima Vibes collaborated with the Takatāpui community to create a festival to celebrate Matariki, Ahurei Matariki Takatāpui, and used this opportunity to commune and unify our whānau and their allies. At its core, with this project, our aim was to engage the Takatāpui community of Tāmaki, to look at ways to help bridge gaps both culturally and generationally. As a collective we wanted to create an educational salve to remind our whānau, who they are, why they matter and where they come from. We aimed to provide a space to unite in celebration, commemoration and increase our mātauranga during Matariki.

Community Engagement: Forty artists and creative leaders and 100 audience members.

Highlights: Providing a platform for a minority lens within a minority community that constantly feels under-represented. The opportunity to connect, chance to commune and speak honestly in a safe environment, to be able to bring cross generational conversations to the table for robust honest interaction.

"I never feel seen or heard in a mainstream gay culture environment. PRIDE is meant to be inclusive but I never feel like there is a place for me in this as a brown queer person. I never feel fully welcomed" - participant

"There needs to be more of this! Celebrating with this whānau was mana-enhancing, uplifting and incredibly 'tau' " - participant



An Oldie But A Goodie

Creator: Active Arts

Dates: December 2018 - March 2019

Project Summary: Active Arts founders Nina Burchett & Fiona Mogridge along with residents of Selwyn Village presented a new show at the Auckland Fringe Festival. An Oldie But A Goodie was a heartfelt mix of stories, memories and poetry. Active Arts has been delivering poetry sharing sessions in aged care homes since 2015. The residents enjoy immensely these sessions expressing that it makes their time in the home worthwhile and it's a great way to meet people. It has been said of the sessions that they are ..."Wonderful. This has been really wonderful for me. We don't have anything else like it". The Fringe poetry event brought these poetry sharing sessions to a wider audience.

Community Engagement: Twenty performers and 300 audience members and friends and family who were involved in the performance and had further discussions about the work.

Highlights: The Fringe show provided an opportunity to develop both at an individual artistic level, as well as for the Active Arts organisation to grow and expand. The rehearsals and lead up to the show, provided an opportunity to give back to the elderly community and to share the power of performing arts and enjoyment of engagement with this group.

"It's a chance to use the energy and skills they have developed as performers and drama teachers in a new realm...we continue to deliver the poetry sharing and performance sessions in aged care homes around Auckland and hope to continue, funding permitting, with mounting a Fringe show each year." - Active Arts



Floral Carpet

Creator: SPiCE

Dates: December - March 2019

Project Summary: The floral carpet took place in Sandringham Reserve on Sunday March 10 (rain date). SPiCE had gathered the biggest collection of flowers they had ever offered the community - bought, privately contributed, and grown by Sanctuary Garden (and harvested by SPiCE members in the morning). This year SPiCE laid out a rangoli design on the grass, and whole families participated in 'colouring it in' with flowers. A performance by the beautifully costumed children of Tapasya School of Classical Dance followed, and free ice creams and ice blocks sponsored by Fonterra were distributed.

Community Engagement: Five artists and 200 participants on the day.

Highlights: A new collaboration with MIT, Sanctuary Garden and a local dance school. A new collaboration with a community member who arranged the Fonterra sponsorship. Children and their parents working together to lay out the floral carpet.

"Thank you from SPiCE for the funding from Neighbourhood Arts and the local board to enable SPiCE to continue the developing tradition of the floral carpet, which we hope to make better year by year." - SPiCE



The Kitchen

Creator: Renee Laing

Dates: March - August 2019

Project Summary: The Kitchen is a free community arts event that ran from March - August 2019. It is a six month project with the aim of engaging the community by bringing them into each other's houses to share food and stories. The first part, Kitchen Sessions, bringing 57 people together in small group sessions in neighbourhood kitchens with NZ writers to share food and stories. Established local writers (poets, novelists, fiction and non fiction writers) attended to engage and guide the participants in the storytelling journey.

The second part, writing workshop plenaries, brought all those small groups together to refine their writing under the guidance of experienced tutors.

Community Engagement: Sixteen creatives and 57 participants.

Highlights: The participants finding new and novel ways into writing and exploring stories, sharing recipes and reading recommendations. Participants discovering new concepts, ie being able to tell stories through visuals as well as writing; understanding the reasons and approach to editing. The diversity of the group who attended (gender, age, ethnicity, religious background) and participants starting to connect between themselves.

"This project would not have been able to happen without the great funding and production advice from the Local Board Advisors. Being able to pay our tutors (and ourselves) ensured we could approach the very best people in their fields and put in the time and effort required to engage people on a new project. We also appreciated the genuine excitement and emotional investment from the Advisors."
- Renee Laing



Baboons on Balloons

Creator: Stephen Lethbridge, Pt. Chevalier Primary School

Dates: July - November 2018

Project Summary: Baboons on Balloons was a collaborative art project that ran from Term 2 to Term 4 of 2018. The school took a story about resilience, written by a Year 4 student and turned it into a picture book. Students and specialist art teachers developed creative ideas with each class to produce the illustrations. These were produced into a picture book that was launched in Term 4 of 2018. The art exhibition lasted for 4 days and a large number of parents, children and community members visited.

Community Engagement: Two artists, 700 participants.

Highlights: The very high quality of the art produced by all the children of Pt Chevalier School. The grant enabled the school to employ a specialist art teacher for a concentrated focus on the techniques to be used. Class teachers increased their professional knowledge of art teaching as they worked alongside the art teacher. The children experienced quality, in depth art instruction that far exceeded what would be expected in a regular art experience at school.

"This funding secured quality art education for our children and we are grateful for the funding received." - Stephen Lethbridge



Summer Block Party

Creator: ARCC

Dates: December 2018

Project Summary: Held at Alberton House in Mt Albert, the local community were invited to watch five cultural performances, and experience food and drink such as Ethiopian and Iranian coffee. There was a DJ playing music and games for the children and the day celebrated the diverse cultures living in New Zealand including resettled refugees.

Community Engagement: Forty-five creatives and 200 participants on the day.

Highlights: Communities gathering together to be able to show their culture. Many different communities coming together in an outdoor, fun setting. The new setting meant different groups of people came out to meet each other. Positive for the community to see the support and presence from politicians and board members attending events put on by the resettlement community

"It was a success for us as an organisation. The community said it was the best event we have ever held. They loved the venue and had a fun relaxing day with neighbors and family. Thank you for the support Albert - Eden" - ARCC



St. Luke's Exhibition

Creator: Māpura Studios

Dates: October 2018

Project Summary: A public display of artwork by artists from Māpura Studios, as well as a five day interaction where the public were able to participate in visual arts workshops was held over two weeks in Westfield Mall, St Lukes.

Community Engagement: Fifty-one artists and 600 participants

Highlights: An unexpected highlight was the opportunity for questions to be asked and understanding to be gained which was seen as very beneficial to the wider public. Two artists took it upon themselves to help with the workshops and this provided further unexpected outcomes of interaction between different groups in the community. Westfield were very happy with the exhibition and workshops. It was invaluable at raising awareness for Māpura and conveyed the message that creativity is a positive tool for increased health and wellbeing.

"Overall, we were delighted with the outcome of our project, and we plan to undertake another one, hopefully larger, in collaboration with Westfield again in 2019. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again, for this fantastic opportunity for Māpura Studios." - Māpura Studios



Kollywood Extra

Creator: Satellites / Ahi Karunaharan

Dates: May 2019

Project Summary: Kollywood Extra was an interactive homage to South Indian cinema created by visionary director Ahi Karunaharan, featuring culinary treats by Samrudh Akuthota of Satya and the sweeping, majestic artwork of Bepen Bhana. Part performance and part live art installation, the audience who attended this free event were invited to interact as if they had sneaked into a fake Kollywood film shoot or an imaginary blockbuster-in-the-making to learn a dance move, watch a performance, or have their headshot taken. They could immerse into the act as an observer, an extra, or even step up and take on a lead role.

Community Engagement: Thirty artists, 200 audience members

Highlights: In light of recent events (in Christchurch), Kollywood Extra was an important day which provided "moments of joy being sparked throughout from the production team, cast and out to the community."



Silent Disco

A silent disco was held at Mt. Albert Library open to the public and encouraging children to engage in dance where the music was transmitted through wireless headphones rather than played over a speaker system.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Name: Lift

Creator: Jared Diprose

Dates: July 2019

Project plan: Local artist Jarden Diprose will create a room made from perspex with encouraging quotes written onto the surface, backlight the room and hold an event at night with dance music playing to create an uplifting space. The idea behind the project is based on a recognised therapeutic technique which assists people in filing thoughts with positivity. By placing it in a public space like CRAVE cafe he wanted to expose a new art work to people that may not ordinarily attend an exhibition.

Name: Children Talk About

Creator: Alice Canton

Dates: July - August 2019

Project plan: Award winning director and theatre-artist, Alice Canton is creating a new intergenerational documentary work that will culminate in a live theatre show. The works centres around the courage needed to have important conversations about caring for the elderly and involves residents from Selwyn Village. Earlier work contributed by students at Ormiston College will be included in the project and it is hoped that this work will create a safe place for people of all ages to talk and to share their experiences with each other.

Name: School Installation

Creator: Edendale Primary School

Dates: July - August 2019

Project plan: In order to celebrate the Garden to Table Programme at the school as well as show the community what a rich and vibrant school lives behind the street facade, Edendale Primary are currently working on the installation of a public art piece that transforms the grass strip neighbouring Sandringham road. Art work will include mesh archways, birdhouses, bug hotels and wind chimes and it is hoped it will add vibrancy and joy to the local neighbourhood.

Name: PARS Exhibition

Creator: PARS

Dates: 6th July

Project plan: A public exhibition of artwork created by PARS (People at Risk Solutions) clients and staff members will be presented to promote the artistic talents of ex-offenders, deportees, youth and their whānau who are supported in the PARS programs. The exhibition will allow clients to tell their story through an art piece, while also growing their knowledge and understanding of Matariki. PARS staff will walk alongside their clients sharing their journey with them. By sharing this experience together PARS staff become positive role models and mentors to our clients supporting them on their journey to recovery. Ultimately the exhibition will allow the community to see there is more to the person than the offence they committed hence reducing the discrimination, stereotyping and judgment they endure.

EVALUATION

Action against 2018/19 priorities

- Ensure diversity of projects, audiences, and art forms, artists, and locations.

With the inclusion of Ahurei Matariki Takatāpui in particular, it was pleasing to see representation by Māori artists and the community that supports them. The Floral Carpet, Kollywood Extra, PARS and The Summer Block Party all provided opportunities to represent and show off the rich cultural diversity of the Albert-Eden local board area. It is important to continue to strive for this representation and we look forward to continuing these and new relationships moving forward. In addition, the Deaf Wellbeing Society provided access to participatory arts projects for people who might otherwise have difficulty accessing other classes.

- Develop stronger mechanisms to ensure projects are marketed well and reach the wider community.

It was pleasing to see some projects reach a wide audience across this year, including appearances on television; yet reaching a wide audience on small budgets will always be challenging. Support from the local board communications advisor has meant that Council communications methods have been used more widely and we will continue to find new ways to ensure the wider public is aware of this programme.

- Develop stronger relationships and work alongside other Auckland Council programmes and facilities.

This year the arts broker programme has supported two projects happening within libraries in the Albert-Eden local board area; one project using community centres, and three projects sited in local parks. One persistent challenge is the visibility of the programme with some Auckland Council teams outside of those that are already immediately aware of it, and it remains challenging for some other teams to understand that this is a local board programme that can be incorporated into their ongoing programming; however, as the programme develops this problem grows smaller.

Priorities for 2019 / 20 year

- Maintain diversity of projects, audiences, and art forms, artists, and locations.

Whilst the 18/19 year presented a good variety of projects across all of these different considerations, it is important to ensure that this continues on, and is not just taken for granted. The availability of the arts broker programme must continue to be promoted to a range of artists and audiences. It remains challenging to ensure a fair spread of projects across the local board area, however funding will be prioritised for those projects that work within areas that are traditionally underserved for community arts offerings.

- Increase visibility of projects with the general community.

The arts broker programme will look at further opportunities to ensure the general public knows about projects happening through the programme, by supporting artists to provide good quality images and marketing copy, and by working with the Auckland Council communications team to ensure these projects are profiled whenever possible in Council publications.

- Develop stronger relationships and work alongside other Auckland Council programmes and facilities.

The three libraries within the Albert-Eden local board area are natural partners for some arts activity, so it would be mutually beneficial to develop a deeper partnership with these facilities, with more ongoing, programmed activity, alongside those community centres that have the ability to be able to host one-off or ongoing arts projects.