

Regional Arts Fund

Community Grant

Case study:

DISCOVERING - Beads of Culture - Diversity & Social Change



Hiroko Suzuki and her artwork. Photograph by Liz Arcus



Project Summary

DISCOVERING - Beads of Culture aimed to uncover practitioners of the traditional cultural beading skills of the many cultural groups who live within the Goulburn Valley Region. Women and men from these communities came together in a series of hands-on workshops to share, rediscover and reinterpret traditional bead making, sewing, threading and use.

Public Outcome

240 participants attended a series of hands on workshops throughout the project. The workshops were attended by the general public and facilitated by artists. Components of work produced in these workshops were used in the finished artworks which were then exhibited at Kaiela Arts in September 2018.

The exhibition enjoyed the attendance of a record 150 people. For many of the artists it was their first ever public exhibition, and all their friends, family, community supporters and fellow class mates from English Language classes at TAFE attended.

Community Benefits

This project provided the opportunity for participants in the workshops to meet, work with, laugh and talk with people from other cultural backgrounds while they learned new skills. All artists and arts workers were paid for their work; and of the five major works exhibited, four were sold. Three of these works are being exhibited by local service provider Family Care, thereby extending the impact of this project across a whole new audience.

Artist Benefits

The project exceeded the expectations of the participant artists. Five of the artists who had never exhibited before were mentored in the running of the workshops, designing their finished artworks and preparing for the exhibition. They were taught about hanging the work, writing artist statements, being involved in media interviews, and speaking with their audience.

The engagement of the artists involved was extended through a series of workshops facilitated by Multicultural Arts Victoria with in kind support from Kaiela Arts. Through these workshops the artists from Beads of Culture were taught basic business skills which prepared them to make and sell their own art/craftworks at a pop up market which took place in early December 2018.



Eva Ponting and her artwork. Photographer: Liz Arcus



Australian Government

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REGIONAL
ARTS
VICTORIA

Project Start Date	01/08/2017
Project End Date	13/09/2018
Project Location	Shepparton
Federal Electorate	Nicholls
No. Audience	230
No. Participants	249
Project Beneficiary	People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
Main Art Form	Visual Arts
No. Artists Paid	7
No. Artists Unpaid	0
No. Arts Worker Paid	2
No. Arts Worker Unpaid	0



Iptisam Al Jizani and her artwork. Photographer: Liz Arcus