



**THE ART OF RENEWAL**

**Deborah Miles and Glenda Masson**

The presentation provided an overview of *The Art of Renewal – A Guide to Thinking Culturally about Strengthening Communities*. The guide, to be launched in early 2005, has been developed by Arts Queensland and the Queensland Department of Housing’s Community Renewal program in partnership. It is supported by a steering committee which includes representatives from peak organisations and local government.

The guide identifies the role and value of culture, creative practice and the arts in communities and highlights how the inclusion of cultural identity and creativity in community engagement processes can benefit communities. The guide includes the *Art of Renewal* planning pathway, which is a series of group exercises designed to achieve a community creativity plan.

In the context of Health and Wellbeing, the presentation noted the policy contexts for the *Art of Renewal* guide in Arts Queensland and Community Renewal. In addition, Glenda and Deborah noted that the *Art of Renewal* planning pathway integrates cultural issues in planning and decision-making in local areas as well as promoting the implementation of creative cultural practices.

A trial of the *Art of Renewal* planning pathway was conducted in late 2003 in the renewal area of Vincent, a suburb of Townsville. Community Renewal staff guided a community group through the following three steps and 10 exercises and in 2004 an action plan to meet the identified goals was implemented.

	Step	Exercises	Outcomes
Dreaming Phase	1. Building a cultural picture of your community	1. Mapping the locality 2. Reflecting and reminiscing 3. Developing themes 4. Identifying community values 5. Visioning	<b>Our Community Culture</b>
	2. Identifying your community cultural resources & aspirations	6. Auditing cultural resources 7. Identifying aspirations	<b>Our Community Cultural Resources</b>
Translating Dreams to Reality	3. Translating community cultural development aspirations into action	8. Re-visioning and goal setting 9. Determining strategies 10. Action planning	<b>Community Creativity Plan</b>

The *Art of Renewal* guide has shaped the development of the Community Renewal community creativity program strategy and is in line with the Community Renewal program goal ‘to develop communities where people feel valued, safe and proud’.

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