

Enhancing Cultural Wellbeing and Cultural Citizenship Through the Arts

30 October, 2014, *Museum of Australian Democracy*, Ballarat

Local government has a responsibility to respond pro-actively to the needs of its diverse citizens. While councils include diverse cultural groups in festivals and special celebrations, much more can be done to embrace the diversity of people from all cultural backgrounds and enhance cultural wellbeing and cultural citizenship.

*What can we learn from each other?
What can we do better?*

PROGRAM

Forum Chair: Eugenia Grammatikakis

Chair, Victorian Local Government Multicultural Issues Network (VLGMIN) and City of Monash

9.50	Smoking Ceremony and Indigenous Youth performance
10.00	Uncle Bryon Powell, Wadawurrung Elder: <i>Welcome to Country</i>
	Mayor, Councillor John Philips, City of Ballarat: <i>Welcome to Ballarat</i>
	Eugenia Grammatikakis, VLGMIN Chair, City of Monash
10.15	Keynote speaker: Arnold Zable <i>Creating a cultural democracy: How can the arts and artists contribute? We live in diverse multicultural communities with diverse stories. A truly democratic culture is inclusive; it allows a diversity of voices to be heard and reaches out to those who are excluded. Arnold will explore the role of story and the arts in nurturing an inclusive, democratic society, based on local communities attuned to their diversity and the multitude of stories contained within them.</i>
10.50	Q and A: Arnold Zable (facilitated by Jill Morgan AM)
11.00	Panel of discussants: <i>How can local government respond to these ideas? Potential opportunities and challenges.</i> Chair: Jill Morgan AM (Multicultural Arts Victoria) Panel of local government professionals: Monica Provan (Colac-Otway Shire); Maree Tonkin (City of Greater Bendigo); Daniel Henderson (City of Ballarat); Malcolm Sanders (Regional Arts Victoria).
11: 20	Morning tea
11.45	Breakout sessions:
Session 1	Facilitator: John Smith (Brimbank City Council) <i>Building partnerships between local government and culturally diverse communities: taking an active, inclusive approach:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating Creative Communities and Cultural Respect: Anita Larkin & Jess Fairfax (MAV) Derek Bwihambi (Congolese Community, Shepparton), Bec Cole (Wyndham City Council), Fablice Manirakiza (Burundi community); <i>Multicultural Arts Victoria's (MAV) Emerge Cultural Network: responding directly to the needs of communities and artists and how the arts can play a pivotal role in reflecting and articulating community ideals and identity working in partnership with local government</i> Strengthening Communities : Debbie Darnell (Victorian Multicultural Commission): <i>How can we best provide support to Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse communities, especially newly-arrived communities, to develop and sustain local community, programs, participation and engagement?</i>

Session 2	Facilitator: Con Pagonis (Municipal Association of Victoria) Access and equity: ensuring equitable outcomes for people from culturally diverse communities; adapting support programs and improving communication strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean Michael (City of Brimbank): <i>Access and Equity, Working day to day with a culturally diverse community</i> Jenny Fink (City of Ballarat) - <i>Multicultural Ambassador Program</i>
12.45	Jane Smith (Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (M.A.D.E)): <i>Guided tour -Museum programming to increase awareness of contributions from diverse communities.</i>
1.10 1.30	Lunch Performance: Sweet Monas Choir <i>The pride of Ballarat! The heart of Sweet Mona's Choir lies firmly in Gospel, with some of the most beautiful original arrangements of gospel songs you will hear in Australia. Their repertoire also includes uplifting songs from all over the world, including South Africa, Brazil, Persia, Georgia, New Zealand and of course, Australia.</i>
2.10	Breakout sessions
Session 3:	Facilitator: Kara Barnett (City of Melbourne) <i>Determining community needs and getting effective outcomes: creative ways to consult with culturally diverse communities and using data to inform our work.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Smithies (Cultural Development Network): <i>How do we know what we have achieved?: Taking an evidence-based approach to increasing diversity in council's cultural activity</i> Rimi Khan (University of Melbourne): <i>Understanding outcomes of our work in cultural development: Evaluation approaches.</i>
Session 4:	Facilitator: Biljana Komnenovic (City of Greater Dandenong) <i>Using arts to address racism in our communities.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jackie Gatt (City of Greater Dandenong): <i>Racism - Get Up and Speak Out Project</i> Anne Kershaw (Deakin University): <i>Evidence from VicHealth's Arts About Us program.</i>
3.10	Quick cuppa
3.20	Final session: Wrap up and open forum Chair: John Smithies (Cultural Development Network)
4.00	Close: Eugenia Grammatikakis

Speakers

Keynote speaker: **Arnold Zable**



An acclaimed writer, novelist, and human rights advocate, with a doctorate from the School of Creative Arts, Melbourne University. Alongside his books (most recently, *Violin Lessons- a book of stories spanning the globe*), Arnold has authored numerous essays, columns and features, has co-authored a play in which asylum seekers tell their stories, and himself enacts various full-length performances as a story-teller. He maintains strong connections to academic institutions as well as many community and cross-cultural projects. Arnold's work includes workshops for a range of groups -including

asylum seekers, refugees and immigrant- using story as a means of self-understanding. He was recently awarded the Voltaire prize for human rights advocacy and the advancement of freedom of expression.

Other speakers:

Monica Provan: Currently the Rural Access Officer for the Colac Otway Shire, working to increase access and inclusion for people with a disability and other minority groups within the shire. Monica is a hot glass artist and developed a co-operative gallery & retail space in Gellibrand River, responding to a lack of appropriate avenues to sell work locally. Monica is also an office bearer with Creative Otways Inc., a new community organisation working to create a cohesive approach to creative expression and experience.

Maree Tonkin: Has worked in the Arts and Cultural sector for over 15 years. Maree is a member of Castanet, a network of leading Arts organisations committed to increasing participation and access in arts and cultural activities across the State. She has presented at various State and National Conferences, is an arts-for-health advocate and supports participatory arts programs that increase social connectedness, recovery and expression within her community.

Malcolm Sanders: Creative Arts Facilitator for Ballarat and the Central Highlands with Regional Arts Victoria. Malcolm has been General Manager of the Bharatam Dance Company, Centre for Adult Education (where he opened one of Melbourne's first arts incubators), St Martins Youth Arts Centre and Courthouse ARTS in Geelong. Having originally grown up in a small country town on the Murray river, Malcolm is passionate about regional access to the arts and cultural activity, particularly for young people.

Daniel Henderson: Manager – Arts and Culture Facilitation City of Ballarat. Daniel has a solid background in both arts management within local government and banking and finance, whilst being an accomplished landscape painter. He and his team of dedicated professionals actively work across the Community and Council to develop, advocate and deliver opportunities that engage the wider community through innovative, accessible and creative means.

Debbie Darnell: Manager of the Community Grants Program at the Victorian Multicultural Commission. Debbie has worked in grants programs in both the federal and state government for the past 10 years, with a specific focus on supporting culturally diverse communities. She and the other VMC grants team members work to provide an accessible and responsive program that supports culturally diverse communities in Victoria.

Dean Michael: As Arts & Culture Co-ordinator at Brimbank City Council for the past eleven years, Dean leads a team that supports artists and delivers a broad range of creative opportunities for the community. His work includes managing galleries, an indoor art collection and artists' spaces, as well as public art, events and community cultural development projects. He has also had experience at Arts Access, VicHealth and in a 'previous life' as a performer.

Anita Larkin: A highly skilled cultural development worker, Anita is currently the Artistic Program Manager at Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV). She has overseen MAV's Emerge Cultural Network since its inception in 2004. Anita has a proven ability to connect to new communities through their cultural ambassadors, the artists.

Jess Fairfax: Project Officer at Multicultural Arts Victoria coordinating the *Emerge and Visible Mentoring* music program; linking newly arrived artists with refugee backgrounds, with established musicians and producers in Melbourne to build their industry knowledge and obtain necessary support and promotional materials. Jess presents and produces Big Mob on Melbourne's PBS 106.7FM and also mentors young people in audio story-telling and radio production.

Bec Cole: Arts Development Officer at Wyndham City Council. Bec has worked as an artist, facilitator and researcher with communities across Tasmania and Victoria. With an academic background in community cultural development and commerce, she is particularly interested in developing sustainable business models for the arts, as well as imbedding the principles of inclusion into her work.

Fabrice Manirakiza: A former child soldier from Burundi who has been calling Australia home since 2007, Fabrice was the 2014 recipient of the Inaugural Arts and Cultural Development Scholarship for Refugee Youth at Multicultural Arts Victoria, made possible through the bequest from the Estate of Beverley Shelton and her late husband, Martin Schöenthal. Fabrice is also a member of Fly ByZ-hip hop group.

Jenny Fink: Currently the City of Ballarat Manager - Learning and Diversity, Jenny leads Council's strategic integration of library services to be creative and innovative community learning hubs. Developing libraries as welcoming, inclusive, vibrant and safe places is a key objective for Jenny, who advocates the integration of cultural diversity and the practice of meaningful social engagement across various sectors in service delivery.

Derek Bwihambi: A leader in the Congolese community in Shepparton and is the Artistic Director of the Congolese Traditional Dance Group of Shepparton, and Manager of The Rap Masters. Derek has been involved in community development since arriving in Australia and has been involved in the Emerge program in Shepparton since its inception.

Jane Smith: The inaugural Director of the new Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (M.A.D.E), Jane has a strong background in ICT, film, television and broadcasting. She was formerly the Chief Executive of the NSW Film & TV Office for nine years, Vice-President of Seed Australia – actor Hugh Jackman's production company - and having held a number of senior positions within the ABC.

John Smithies: An arts manager with experience working on policy development and a background of arts programming, specifically in cinema, new media arts, and screen education. John joined Cultural Development Network as Director in 2005 and has since been working with the CDN Board and a highly skilled team to support stronger arts planning within the cultural development activities of local government.

Rimi Khan: Research Fellow and Sessional Lecturer in Cultural Studies at the University of Melbourne. Rimi is currently involved in an Australian Research Council-funded Linkage Project that seeks to develop cultural indicators for local, state and federal government cultural agencies working at the intersection multiculturalism and the arts. She teaches in the areas of cultural policy and cultural complexity and difference

Jackie Gatt: Currently works as Projects Leader in the development and delivery of arts, cultural and heritage projects with the City of Greater Dandenong. With a background in research and education, her work includes oral storytelling programs with local Aboriginal communities and the delivery of international conference papers around representations of race and identity.

Anne Kershaw: Member of the Deakin University team evaluating VicHealth's Arts About Us funding program, which uses the arts as a means of raising awareness of the harms of race-based discrimination and the benefits of cultural diversity. Anne lectures with Deakin's Arts and Cultural Management program, and previously worked for 15 years in various local government arts and cultural planning roles.

Event partners:

Victorian Local Government Multicultural Issues Network

Cultural Development Network

Multicultural Arts Victoria

Municipal Association of Victoria

City of Ballarat

Supported by City of Melbourne, City of Greater Dandenong,

City of Monash and Brimbank City Council

*A special thanks to the Museum of Australian
Democracy at Eureka*

Organising committee:

Eugenia Grammatkakis
*Social Policy and Program
Coordinator*
City of Monash
Chairperson
VLGMIN

Con Pagonis
Multicultural Policy Adviser
**Municipal Association of
Victoria**
Co-Convenor
VLGMIN

Jill Morgan AM
Chief Executive Officer
Multicultural Arts Victoria

Dr. Kim Dunphy
Research Program Manager
Cultural Development Network

Biljana Komnenovic
Cultural Diversity Planner
City of Greater Dandenong

Sarah Dugdale
*Coordinator Arts and Cultural
Development*
City of Greater Dandenong

Frances Salenga
Coordinator Cultural Diversity
City of Ballarat

Kara Barnett
Cultural Diversity Officer
City of Melbourne

Terri Soumilas,
*Community Planning &
Engagement Officer*
City of Brimbank

Leda Yazgin
Research Assistant
Cultural Development Network

Elizabeth Hardiman
Cultural Partnerships Officer
City of Ballarat

Sarah Masters
General Manager
**Museum of Australian
Democracy (M.A.D.E.)**