

Cultural Development Network

*Cultures
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An interactive workshop for cultural planners – 'Cultural Planning and Cultural Indicators': how do we measure what we have planned?

February 16, 2006, VicHealth, Carlton

This theoretical and practical workshop was designed for those who plan for and measure cultural activity, especially local and state government arts and culture workers and social, community and urban planners. This event picked up on interest generated from Mike Salvaris' presentation on Cultural Indicators at the 'Working Outside the Box forum' presented by CDN and partners in May 2006. The event was intended to connect the theory and practice of cultural planning and cultural indicators.



Participants explored underlying goals and values of cultural planning processes and considered the value of cultural indicators in a local government context. An interactive planning activity, using Zing Learning Technology, generated a long list of possible indicators relevant to participants' contexts.



Attendees overall found the workshop valuable, with comments including 'refreshing', 'inspiring', 'very participatory' and 'valuable and continuing forum'. Feedback indicated that attendees were very keen to develop further their working knowledge and ability to apply relevant and appropriate indicators. A further workshop on this aspect of the topic is planned.

Presenters:

Professor Mike Salvaris, Institute of Community Engagement and Policy Alternatives, Victoria University. Mike Salvaris is a consultant and academic with over 30 years experience in social policy and research with government and community organisations, at the international, national, state and local community levels. Mike's chief research interests are human rights, democracy and citizenship, with a specialised focus on defining and measuring progress and well-being as a tool for empowerment and community development in local governance.

Hayden Raysmith, Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Built Environment, RMIT University
Hayden Raysmith is a partner in the social policy consulting company WWW Communications and since 1998 has been Adjunct Professor at RMIT University in the Faculty of Constructed Environment. In 2000, he was appointed chair of the combined Social Science and Planning School course advisory committee for the Faculty. In recent years, Hayden has specialised in work relating to Local Government, service planning, governance and community development.

Mark Boyd, Senior Project Officer, Health Inequalities, VicHealth

Victorian Community Indicators (VCI) Project

This session referred to this VicHealth funded initiative designed to support local governments to develop and use community indicators as tools for measuring health, wellbeing and sustainability and for improving citizen engagement, community planning and policy making. Particular reference was made to the developing area of cultural indicators; measures of cultural activity relevant to government, especially, local contexts.