



Arts Talks 2011



The Cultural Development Network
and the City of Melbourne
present their first public forum for 2011

Home... Lands? Free Public Forum

Constructing home and identity with young people from refugee backgrounds through media and technology.

Wednesday 23 March, 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Blue Room, Multicultural Arts Hub, 506 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

This forum seeks to address issues arising from young people's use of technology in construction of identity and home in a new country. Can re-settlement of young people from refugee backgrounds be more successful if identification and communication with home communities is maintained? How can technology assist with this?

Speakers:

Prof. Sandy Gifford & Dr. Raelene Wilding, La Trobe University Refugee Research Centre

Dave Nguyen, Artist, Home Lands project

Jen Hughes, Digital Artist and Documentary Maker

Shakthi Sivanathan, CuriousWorks, Sydney

This event will be of interest to artists and artworkers, local government, community, health, welfare and cultural development workers who engage with young people and refugee communities, particularly with resettlement issues. The session will provide opportunities for information sharing and networking with colleagues, including a post-event afternoon tea.

Registration:

Admission is free, but for catering purposes, please RSVP: www.trybooking.com/LDN

Enquiries:

03 9658 9976

contact@culturaldevelopment.net.au

www.culturaldevelopment.net.au

Presented by:



CDN is supported by:



Home... Lands?

Free Public Forum

Speakers:

Professor Sandy Gifford and Dr. Raelene Wilding, researchers, La Trobe University Refugee Research Centre, Melbourne

Professor Sandy Gifford is Director of the La Trobe Refugee Research Centre with a specific interest in investigating how best to support young people with refugee backgrounds. She is a medical anthropologist who has worked in issues of multicultural youth. She and Dr Wilding are collaborators on the ARC project “Home Lands” and she has a number of other studies that are following young people over time to document their settlement experiences throughout their life transitions.

Dr Raelene Wilding is Senior Lecturer in Sociology at La Trobe University. Her research focuses on understanding the experiences of migrants seeking to maintain family relationships with information and communication technologies. Her recent books including *Families Caring Across Borders* (Palgrave, 2007) and *Race and Ethnic Relations* (OUP 2009). Her current research projects include Home Lands, an ARC Linkage collaboration with the City of Melbourne, Cultural Development Network, APC.au and Centre for Multicultural Youth that aims to investigate whether young people from refugee backgrounds might experience more positive settlement outcomes if they are able to connect and collaborate with peers in and from their home countries.

Dave Nguyen, artist, Melbourne

David Cuong Nguyen is a community theatre writer and director with over ten years experience developing performance projects with young people from marginalised and culturally diverse backgrounds. His recent work includes 'Black Face White Mask', a play created in collaboration with African young people from Flemington (Western Edge Youth Arts), 'The Wall', a play developed with diverse young people from the North Richmond housing commission flats (North Richmond Community Health Ltd), and 'Homelands'. David is passionate about facilitating theatre projects that reflect the ideas and experiences of marginalised and culturally diverse communities.

Jen Hughes, digital artist and documentary maker, Port Phillip

Jen Hughes is a digital artist and documentary-maker with 27 years experience in media, art and cultural development in Adelaide and Melbourne. Jen has spent the past ten years working on a “documentary in process” exploring the potential of fast evolving digital technologies and art for bridging the digital and cultural divide, to connect her community of Port Phillip with Suai in the southwest of East Timor.

Shakthi Sivanathan, Executive and Creative Director, artist, CuriousWorks, Sydney

As its Director, Shakthi has led CuriousWorks to deliver a series of creative initiatives that have had sustainable and innovative outcomes for all Australians. His first initiative was The Migrant Project, which brought together 40 Sydneysiders with cultural and artistic ancestries from across the globe. From 2005-2007, The Migrant Project was a series of live performances and forums, garnering an audience of just over 2,000 people. A feature film concluded the project. His second initiative was to develop a best-practice model for using digital media in a simple, positive, lasting manner in marginalised communities, which has led to long-term community projects in Western Sydney and remote Western Australia. His latest initiatives are The Stories Project, a program which provides a pathway for potential cultural leaders to become employed, professional, influential media makers on behalf of their community; and The Lanka Project, a multi-platform initiative of theatre, audiovisual and community projects bringing the lives of Sri Lankan - Australians to the fore. Shakthi also writes and produces his own music and film under the moniker Asi. Visit curiousworks.com.au and digitalasi.com to learn more.