2015 CURIOUSWORKS
ANNUAL REPORT

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

For CuriousWorks, 2015 has proved to be an immensely valuable year of consolidation, creativity collaboration and expression. Without doubt, one of the company's greatest achievements was to find itself in the spotlight of the Sydney Film Festival. The selection of *Riz* to be shown at such a celebrated festival is evidence of the appetite for high quality, genuine community story-telling to a broad audience.

Most excitingly, Riz was produced in a partnership between our Artistic Director, S. Shakthidharan, and Guido Gonzalez, a CuriousWorks Cultural Leader, whilst using talent drawn from the young people of Western Sydney for the cast and crew. This demonstrates, and is a testament to, the unique model CuriousWorks has developed in taking local stories to a professional stage. The opportunities afforded to all those who work on such a project are tangible and have the potential to profoundly impact on lives. The building of skills, networks and confidence changes the possibilities and expectation of participants. More importantly, CuriousWorks has built a platform for expression so that authentic stories can be told and heard.

CuriousWorks has worked hard this year to continue to consolidate its community program. To achieve outcomes such as those demonstrated with *Riz,* a long-term and committed approach is essential. The appointment of a new community director, Caitlin Newton-Broad, has ensured that community relationships are put in the safest of hands for development and empowerment of all those who participate so that they go on to become the cultural leaders and creators of the future.

Whilst creativity is bursting with further development of our play *A Counting and Cracking of Heads* and our next large-scale film project *Myth*, there is no limit to the ingenuity of Colony, which was launched in March 2016. Colony is described as a "universe of stories", a grand narrative that as it continues will draw together the tapestry of *A Counting and Cracking of Heads* and *Myth* and so much more.

Meanwhile, as CuriousWorks grows and responds to community, we continue to consolidate our financial position through philanthropic and government partnerships. We also continue to develop our social enterprise model, which provides excellent training production services as well as employment opportunities for our Curious Creators.

To adequately support the CuriousWorks team in all these endeavours we have expanded and diversified the Management Committee. We warmly welcome Easha Ranasinghe, who has taken on the role of Treasurer. Easha brings a wealth of experience with more than 18 years experience in accounting and auditing. We are also very pleased to welcome Melinda Muth to the committee. Melinda is an experienced company director specialising in leadership and team effectiveness.

On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to acknowledge the commitment and excellence the CuriousWorks team bring to the company, community and artistic world each day.

Rachel Kerry
Acting Chairperson
CuriousWorks Committee of Management

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CuriousWorks helps tell the stories that are not being told - stories from some of our most underprivileged and misrepresented communities. We are a unique media arts company celebrating Australia's cultural diversity, from our First Nations people to those who have recently settled here. We are making a positive social, cultural and economic impact in Western Sydney.

Using film, theatre, digital technology and education programs we collaborate with communities so they can tell their own stories, and leave them with the skills to continue doing so for future generations.

What we do …

- Create high-profile professional arts projects developed in partnership with communities and shown in partnership with leading Australian theatre companies, major film festivals and national and international art exhibitions.

- Run long-term community grassroots programs that develop the talent of Western Sydney youth as emerging filmmakers, artists and cultural leaders. Our programs, designed with community partners, help young people find a voice, build more positive mental health, learn employment skills, encourage a deeper engagement with school, and establish a pride in the place they live and capacity to imagine a positive future.

- From these programs, we identify future cultural leaders – our Curious Creators. We mentor the creative and social development of these talented individuals so they can achieve their potential as a new generation of storytellers and community leaders.

- Our Social Enterprise Program provides training and production services in filmmaking, creative online media and site-specific art events for councils, communities, schools, non-profits and corporations. This program generates potential for pathway opportunities, professional development and on-the job experience for our young cultural leaders, while building diversity in NSW creative industries.

OUR IMPACT

With a little, we can do a lot!
In 2015, CuriousWorks spent a considerable amount of time crunching numbers as we sought to define the long-term value of our work.

From 2012 - 2015, on an average annual turnover of $500,000, CuriousWorks created the following impact in our target communities:

Our Cultural Impact

- 611 cultural events (75 screenings, 62 live performances and 474 creative workshops).
- 62,588 people attended these events, which stemmed from 21 professional arts projects and 10 community programs.
- Total audience was 393,335 when you count the 330,747 watching our work online.

Our Social Impact

We've built thousands of new relationships within our target communities in the last three years, including:

- Involving nearly 1,700 people from those communities in our professional arts and grassroots projects
- Initiating those projects through partnerships with more than 200 arts and community organisations
- Connecting our Curious Creators to local organisations at every opportunity, empowering them to take over the maintenance of those relationships.

Our Economic Impact

Our projects provide work for nearly 70 people each year, two thirds of them professional artists.

We are developing a select group (average number = 13 per year) of young emerging artists as cultural leaders for their communities. These Curious Creators have participated in more than 13,000 hours of mentorship, training, community and professional art projects and work experience on client commissions in the past three years.

Our social enterprise program has provided 40% of our company income since 2010, and given us more than $1million over that time to reinvest in our cultural leaders and community programs.

This client work, coming from 75 organisations in 47 locations across Australia, has also provided casual paid employment for our young trainees, and often leads to other opportunities outside CuriousWorks for them to earn an income from their developing skills.

Almost all of the 19 young people in our key development program from the past three years are earning part or all of their income from arts and media production skills developed with CuriousWorks. Three have used the experience to gain entry into tertiary arts, film or design courses.

Our Impact on Real Lives

Curious? Read the real life case study of Guido Gonzalez at:
www.curiousworks.com.au/project/guido-gonzalez-profile.

He is living proof of the value we deliver for individuals and the misrepresented communities of Western Sydney. Having progressed from our grassroots programs to professional artist and co-director of a Sydney Film Festival feature, he is now mentoring our next wave of aspiring artists and cultural leaders. They in turn arestarting to take the lead on key community projects and beginning to help mentor others following in their footsteps. The movement that could change and broaden Australia's cultural outlook has started – our unique model of Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) practice works!

ARTISTIC PROGRAM

Foreword by S. Shakthidharan

My belief is that art forged through community collaboration can be as entertaining and sophisticated as anything else that graces our stages and screens. It deserves a place on our main stages, should inhabit our key cultural centres, and reach the audiences it deserves. 2015 was another great leap towards this long-term goal for CuriousWorks. After a brilliant 2014 season at Carriageworks, Riz was re-edited into a feature film and premiered to sell out audiences at Sydney Film Festival. A Counting and Cracking of Heads went through several development stages with Belvoir theatre and this epic theatre work promises to be a game changing, landmark event when it premieres in 2017. Shooting began on Myth and we are thrilled that this large scale audiovisual work will be touring the world in 2017 and beyond, broadcasting to screens across seven continents.

Equally important is the structures we have in place for the professional development of our Curious Creators. In 2015 we began a regular writer's group, and this simple idea has had dramatic consequences. It has harnessed the dreams and aspirations of the young artists we have coming up through CuriousWorks to devote serious time and energy to their own long form artistic projects. The stories that are being developed in this group are striking in their diversity and innovation and we look forward to sharing those stories with you over the coming years.

HIGHLIGHTS:

***RIZ* - Sydney Film Festival**

CuriousWorks had a major milestone moment when our first feature film, *Riz,* was selected for the Sydney Film Festival in 2015!

This prestigious recognition is an incredible success on a number of fronts for this coming-of-age story set in multicultural Western Sydney. Not only is it CuriousWorks' debut feature film, *Riz* is also the first for co-writers and directors Guido Gonzalez and S.Shakthidharan.

"The strength of Riz is its ability to represent Australia as it is now. Australian cinema and television are often criticised for maintaining a White Australia policy decades after it was formally abolished as our national response to immigration." – Nour Haydar, Sajjeling

Selection also provided an opportunity to raise the profile of our work with new audiences. Apart from attracting sell-out audiences at the screenings, Guido, Shakthi and our young cast and crew did solid rounds of media interviews generating nearly 80 pieces of coverage on TV, radio, online and in print. Major outlets included the Sydney Morning Herald and ABC TV.

It was made on a shoestring budget, using local debut actors and a crew that included young aspiring filmmakers from our Curious Creators training programs for western suburbs young people. *Riz* is based on Guido's real life experiences growing up in Cabramatta.

A Counting & Cracking of Heads

Casting & Creative Development with Belvoir
Playwriting Australia National Script Workshop Program

Written by our S.Shakthidharan after years of engagement with the Sri Lankan Australian and diasporic communities, *A Counting and Cracking of Heads* is a play following the uprooting and resettling of a family over four generations from Sri Lanka to Australia. Through their journey, we see a Sri Lanka riven by, but by no means surrendering to, violent divisions – and an Australia transforming of, but also transformed by, the people that flee to its shores.

The play is a large scale co-production between CuriousWorks and Belvoir and is planned to premiere in the theatre company's 2017 season. In 2015 Playwriting Australia supported the script development over a week of creative workshops with professional actors and a dramaturg.

Curious Creators Writers Group

In 2015 CuriousWorks gathered the best of its young writers and started a regular writer's group. Weekly sessions were led by our Artistic Director and emerging facilitator and artist Miranda Aguilar. Through this group our young writers have each begun their own long form artistic project. The scripts are striking in their diversity, innovation, and ambition - but they all have one theme in common; they are passionate, honest, grounded stories about life in Western Sydney. We look forward to sharing the stories from this new generation of storytellers over the coming years.

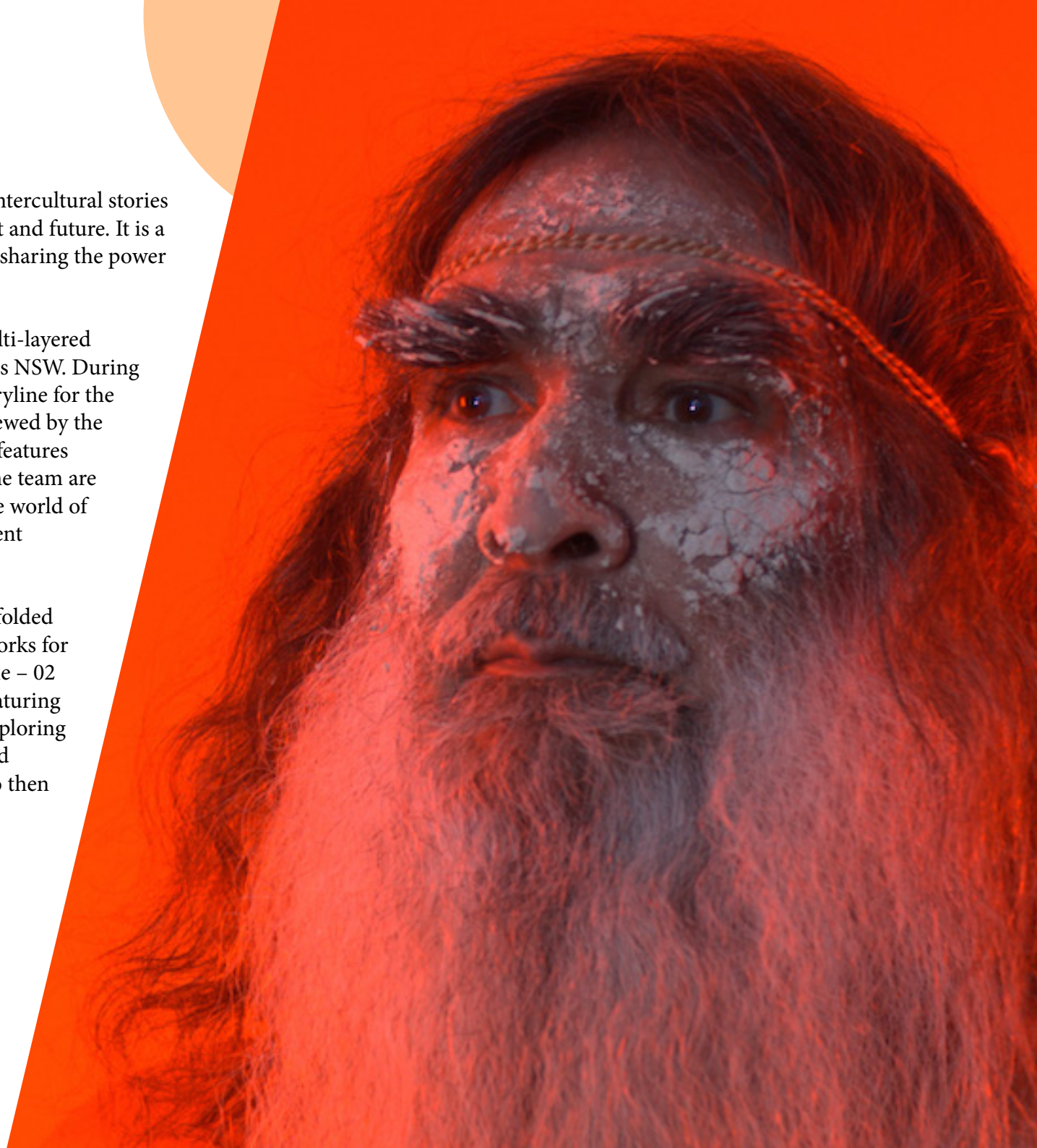
Myth

Creative Development Phase One
24 Frames Per Second, Carriageworks

Myth is a multi-platform artwork that weaves together intercultural stories with First Nations' wisdom from Australia's past, present and future. It is a work of fiction, inspired by traditional cultural systems, sharing the power of nature to guide human life.

Over the course of 2015 CuriousWorks conducted a multi-layered Creative Development for *Myth*, with the support of Arts NSW. During this time we successfully developed the concept and storyline for the overall project and began production on two scenes. Crewed by the awesome Curious Creators, the footage is exquisite and features scenes from the present day and the imagined future. The team are bursting with excitement to share this story, however the world of *Myth* is still a secret with the second phase of development scheduled for mid 2016.

Myth (Emergence), a dance visual arts piece that will be folded into the larger project, was commissioned by Carriageworks for inclusion in the *24 Frames Per Second* exhibition (18 June – 02 Aug 2015). *Myth (Emergence)* is a screen based work, featuring performer and Yolngu women, Rosealee Pearson and exploring mythologies of her traditional culture through dance and soundscape. This piece was one of eight works chosen to then be exhibited as part of *the Light Moves Festival of Screen-Dance* in Limerick, Ireland (November 2015).



Meet+Eat

Launch of Series II & project wrap

In 2015, CuriousWorks launched the second and final series of Meet+Eat, unveiling some delightful and thought-provoking cross-cultural stories based around the simple concept of getting people together to share a meal. Series II was directed by Mark Taylor and Emma Macey-Storch and the series launched at two very successful premiere events in Broadmeadows in Melbourne and Bonnyrigg in Sydney. The Melbourne films also got some big screen exposure on the huge outdoor screen in the city's Federation Square at a free public event in May 2015. Material from some of the films was also used in a *Recipes for Harmony* e-book commissioned by the Federal Government for use in schools. If you haven't viewed them all they are still online at www.meeteat.com.au

In 2015 Emma completed a brilliant three year program of documentary making with communities in Hume, Victoria. This not only included the creation six episodes of the Meet+Eat web series, but also the identification of a number of local cultural leaders. In late 2015 CuriousWorks made the decision to distill the company's activities and focus its long-term community program on Western Sydney only. This means that our Victorian activities are now wrapped up, but contact is being maintained with artists and communities in Hume and the region generally.

Emma Macey-Storch, our Victorian Creative Producer, was a sensation in her role; committed to community, a fantastic artist and highly capable partnership builder. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours, which includes further documentary making with local and international communities.

COMMUNITY PROGRAM

CuriousWorks has a unique, long-term vision for cultural leadership and community development in Western Sydney, driven by the vibrant communities who live here. It is a deeply thought-through and well-practiced model that has evolved through the vision of key CuriousWorks' artists, including Elias Nohra, S.Shakthidharan, Mark Taylor, Guido Gonzalez and many others over the past ten years.

In 2015, our community program flourished. We brought on Caitlin Newton-Broad as Community Program Director to assume partnership development, program integration and networking to link our Curious Creators with community partners and work experience in the creative industries. The close working partnership between Caitlin and long-time cultural leader, Guido Gonzalez brought insight, relationships and resources into many communities, in processes whereby experienced artists passed on skills in story, sound and image to a range of communities gaining confidence and a proud public and creative voice.

Throughout 2015, authentic stories began to unfold, tapping the vibrancy and beauty of Western Sydney and prizing open the global dimensions of these city stories.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Curious Creators

"CuriousWorks is like a tree that is always growing and branching out. The roots are Know Where You Come From; then - Cultural Diversity and Community; Always Growing and Learning and Sharing Knowledge; and then, Always Branching Out and Trying New Things; Doing What Hasn't Been Done Before." - Andrea, Curious Creator, writer, 22 years

Curious Creators is a growing group of twenty young cultural leaders who are digitally savvy, committed to their community's development and capable of telling their own stories, in their own ways. The Curious Creators are the backbone of CuriousWorks model of development, contributing their stories, skills and community understanding across the whole company.

In 2015 the Curious Creators worked on all the Curiousworks professional projects in development in the Artistic Program. These included Myth and a series of music videos that extend the narrative of feature film Riz, to be launched in 2016.

In 2015, Screen NSW invested in this group to develop long-form artistic works through a consistent Writers Group and Professional Quarterly series. These programs build the creative and business knowledge of the group as they begin forging their networks and pathways as diverse creative agents in Sydney.

In 2015, CuriousWorks' community program was reaching into all parts of our professional and community networks. Guido Gonzalez piloted the Riz Schools Package with a local Campbelltown high school. This integrated local artistic product into school's Year 11 & 12 Drama and English programs.

Guido joined Fairfield City Council's Arts and Culture Directorate as an advocate for the community.

In November 2015, Curtis Taylor and Guido Gonzalez represented their work and approach to arts learning at the inaugural National Arts Learning Forum, bringing together over 100 leaders in Australian and international arts learning programs to consider practice and purpose.

ReFill

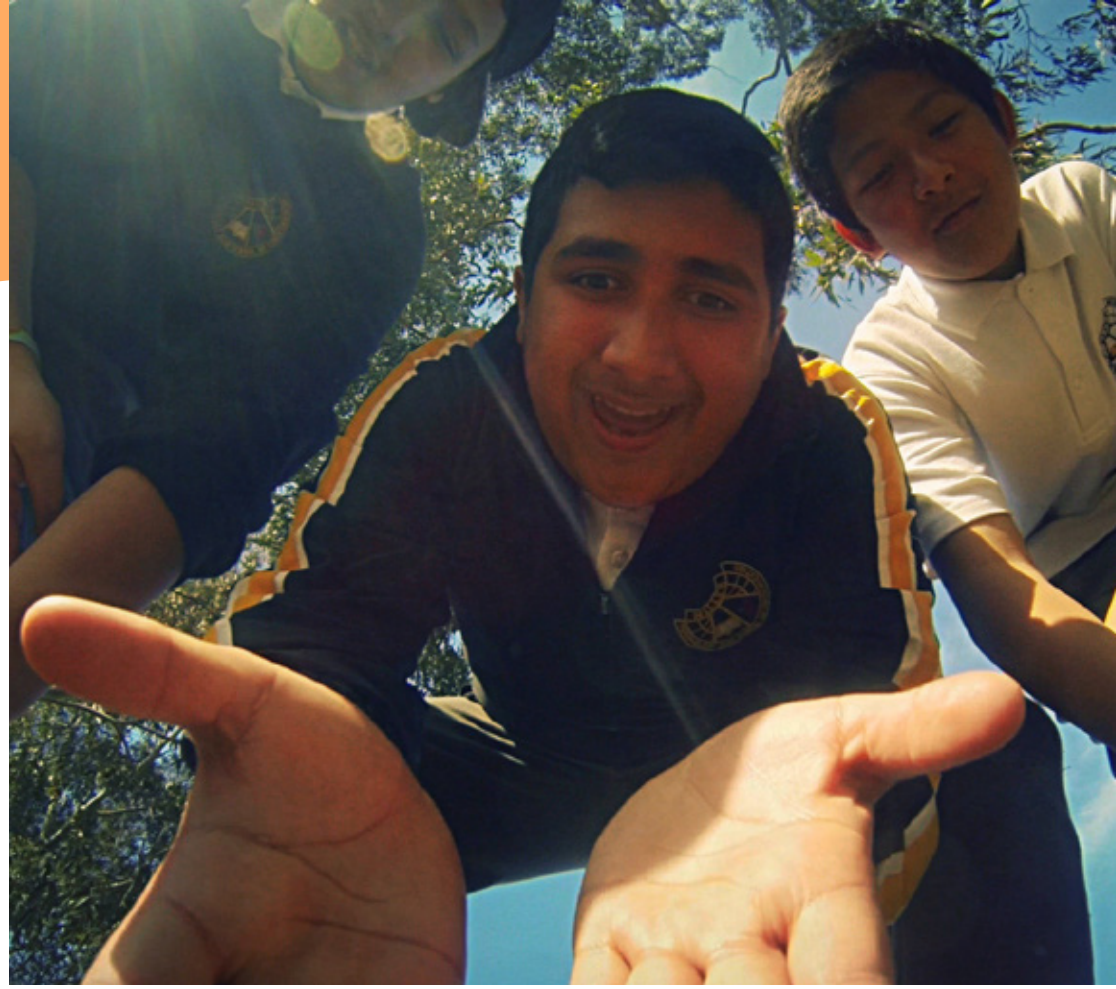
"It was Aaaamazing."
" Ten out of ten."
" I learnt so much and made friends!" - Miller Technology High Students, 12 – 13 years, Refill

"My kids need networks. ReFill creates networks for life." – Sally Atkins, Lead Student Voice Advocate and Art Teacher, Miller Technology High School

CuriousWorks first crossed creative paths with Miller Technology High School in 2008, and we have rekindled that relationship in 2015 by setting out on a new two-year ReFill journey of creative workshops.

Our artists mentored students in writing, performance and drama, video-making, new media technologies and contemporary visual arts. The program specifically focuses on engaging students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including young people who have recently settled in Australia and Australian First Nations young people.

ReFill is a long-term western suburbs school program where our artists build the creative skills of students who might otherwise struggle to gain such an opportunity. ReFill embraces humour, chaos and creative processes to engage in dynamic learning between skilled artists, emerging artists and young people. It builds community cohesion, friendship and heightens values such as teamwork, honest self-reflection, creative offering, confidence, pride and problem solving.



" What I have learnt from facilitating the 2015 Refill Holiday Workshop program is the experience of working with different types of creative individuals and the different personalities that come through. I have never done anything like this before. I am normally the one that gets taught new skills and it was fun to pass on some of my skills. I have learnt a ton whilst teaching."
– Adam McPhilbin, Curious Creator, emerging film-maker

Beyond Refuge

Beyond Refuge is a large vision for intersecting global stories that create the fabric of Western Sydney – building a detailed, personal history from the perspective of refugees and former refugees reflecting on their stories of home and home in the making.

Fairfield City Council, through the 'Social Change through Creativity' grant program, invested in a specific pilot lead by Curious Creator Sean Ly to kick-start the Beyond Refuge series of film and theatre works, documenting the migration stories in our communities. Sean's film Flashback: Beyond Refuge is a film conversation between mother and son, about the experience of fleeing Cambodia and settling in Cabramatta in the 1980s.

"My role in the project has been to help create the concept and pilot, as well as to learn. As I do not have an artistic background, the first step has been training led by Guido and CuriousWorks in how to film, and how to put together a coherent narrative. Essentially, this has been the testing ground to create a foundation for future episodes to be built around this concept of empowering migrants to tell their own stories."

Guido and I had both been raised in the same western Sydney suburb, Cabramatta – a community largely made up of people from a refugee background. From our perspective of normality towards migrant communities, we felt perplexed at the lack of empathy shown in recent times towards new arrivals and those seeking asylum, and the lack of opportunity for their perspectives to be voiced." - Sean Ly, Youth Off The Street Worker, Curious Creator and emerging film-maker

Photography & mixed media workshops in partnership with Settlement Services International

Over eight weeks, CuriousWorks collaborated with an extraordinary group of nine asylum seekers on a digital storytelling project in partnership with Settlement Services International. Focusing on the still image and video portraiture these artists worked together, supported by informal translation from our Iraqi Curious Creator Dani Sitto and Australian Lebanese Curious Creator, Samia Halabi and skilled film-makers Mark Taylor and Guido Gonzalez. This work formed an impressive body of photography inspired by the freedom and beauty of everyday life in Australia, as well as the yearning for family felt by refugees undergoing massive change and memory of home.

Our partnership with Settlement Services International, under the guidance of Arts Program Co-ordinator Carolina Triana has fostered a long-term collaboration and we are working together to support the voices of recent arrivals in Australia, to ensure people are given a voice and new creative communities are forged through common interest, offering belonging, safety and skills.

The work undertaken in 2015 resulted in a Creative Production team of skilled artists from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Syria working throughout the last half of 2015 towards a major exhibition of photography and moving image in 2016.

"The Power is in Our Stories. I think of Power that way and I try not to get distracted by the idea of abstract power."
– Guido Gonzalez, mentor, former refugee and cultural leader (from the Arts and Learning National Forum, held at Footscray Community Arts Centre, Melbourne in 2015)

Connecting to Country

Project & Partnership Development

In 2015, Connecting to Country began a five-year partnership with the primary New South Wales First Nations performing arts company, Moogahlin. Together CuriousWorks and Moogahlin are invested in intergenerational knowledge transfer, between First Nations young people and the wealth of Elders in our Western Sydney communities, prepared to share both cultural and historical stories of Darug Country. This work has been centred on the community of Mt Druitt.

"First there's Culture. Then comes Learning. Learning flows from Culture." – Lily Shearer, Artistic Directorate, Moogahlin, celebrated Australian artist and Aunty-in-training

"There are young people in Mt Druitt who have never seen a kangaroo in the bush. And that's a crime." – Uncle Wes Marne, Bigambul man and Mt Druitt Elder

Moogahlin invited CuriousWorks into a Cultural Walk project, NgAl Lo Wah Murraytula to undertake the primary youth engagement, leading toward young people as storytellers of their own community and future dreams. This project has been guided by the wisdom and cultural knowledge of Uncle Wes Marne and Aunty Edna Watson.

In 2015 intense partnership development was fostered through participation in a range of active community coalitions, including the FUNPARK coalition between CuriousWorks, Powerhouse Youth Theatre, Blacktown Arts Centre and community organisations Learning Ground, Bidwill Uniting and Urban Neighbours of Hope and the Mt Druitt and Areas Reconciliation Group, which was founded by Uncle Wes Marne and others 30 years ago.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

CuriousWorks provides training and production services in filmmaking and creative online media for local council, schools, non-profit organisations and corporations. We develop individuals' and organisations' skill and capacity in storytelling and change agency.

Each year we have employed professional artists to fulfill these client commissions, and in recent years they have been paired where possible with our young Curious Creators. This model of social enterprise is proving highly successful as it generates potential for pathway opportunities, professional development and on-the job experience for young cultural leaders.

In 2015 we had 10 Curious Creators paired with experienced media professionals to deliver CuriousWorks' community /client commissions. These paid opportunities are another vital step towards building the Curious Creators' skills and capacity to take over delivery of services to community through media production, cultural advocacy and community leadership.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Partners in Recovery - *Alone to Supported*

CuriousWorks was pleased to be invited back to St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst to run a second filmmaking program with the Inner City Mental Health Recovery SUPER group, after a very successful program in 2013. The 2015 program was focused on creating a short film sequel to the film Inpatient based on participants own experiences and stories of taking the next step in mental health recovery. Under the passionate and energetic expertise of lead artist,Vincent McManus, *Alone to Supported* was created along with a fantastic behind-the-scenes film documenting the workshop & production process.

Shire of East Pilbara –
Digital Storytelling & Filmmaking Workshops

Over two very full weeks, Mark Taylor and Curtis Taylor led a series of filmmaking workshops with young people in Newman, Marble Bar and Nullagine, Western Australia. In collaboration with the Shire of East Pilbara, the workshops focused on developing filmmaking and storytelling skills and resulted in eight short films created and launched at three local community screenings nights.

" Great to see some kids challenged in decision making/problem solving when it came to filming and organising scenes. Mark and Curtis really allowed the kids to work through filming issues they had, which I thought was empowering; All in all I thought it was a great workshop, the kids learnt a lot and had fun with it. A stand out for me was when the kids directed their own films, coming up with an idea and bringing that to life."
- Luisa Viliafi, Youth Service Coordinator, Shire of East Pilbara

Young People Ahead
Raise Your Cards - Sharing Stories at Mount Isa

Lead artist Vincent McManus led this exciting four-day digital storytelling workshop program in Mount Isa, Qld with 15 young indigenous participants. With a focus on capturing indigenous stories and giving a voice to personal experience, the project was designed to give young people in Mount Isa a platform, new skills and support to tell their own personal stories of mental illness. Together several short films were created that responded to local issues. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive and the program received great media coverage on ABC News and ABC radio.

"I think [the workshop] really exceeded all expectations to be honest around mental health. With my experience, especially with youth of their age, they're usually very enclosed in themselves and don't talk. [The workshop] really did launch us out of the water, it was so surprising that they were open to discussion." - Stephanie King, mental health campaigner and project organiser

Liverpool City Council – Re-Brand Projection Art Installation

CuriousWorks created a major public film art installation for Liverpool City Council in late 2015 that appeared in numerous locations around the region as part of the launch of a new brand identity for the city.

We produced nine short films depicting montages of Liverpool's diverse population and cultural life. Each were shown through a different letter making up LIVERPOOL, displayed as projections up to 30 metres wide in shop fronts, across buildings and other public spaces.

Aboriginal Legal Services – Talking FactSheet Program

CuriousWorks continued our work with ALS Field Officers in remote communities across NSW to create short films featuring 'Yarn Ups' around legal issues in Aboriginal communities. In 2015 we travelled to Moruya and Bourke for 3 x four-day filmmaking workshops with young people resulted in a powerful series of films that aim to increase awareness of, and access to legal rights information.

SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

In 2015, CuriousWorks finally completed the technical development, platform architecture, and curation of *The Drip Feed*, a digital platform that aggregates useful content for the small to medium art sector and artists working in community engaged settings. This platform has emerged from the National Sector Development Initiative (NSDI) and is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts Community Partnerships.

Developed in collaboration with Rebecca Conroy, *The Drip Feed* is a fantastic resource to keep the CACD sector hydrated with a critical news feed of essays, articles and announcements, as well as showcasing rich media content from the sector via an RSS feed. The site is to be launched in 2016.

OPERATIONS

Human Resources

In early 2015 CuriousWorks was thrilled to announce the appointment two new key management positions: Caitlin Newton-Broad as Community Director and Gary Spink as Communications Director.

Caitlin is an innovative creative producer with an ongoing commitment to community cultural development, artistic adventure and access to the arts for everyone. Caitlin holds responsibility to develop our grassroots community program and the long term development of our Curious Creators. In 2015 we have seen both these programs flourish under her direction, along with the development of solid structure for the future sustainability of the programs.

With the amazing Gary Spink joining the CuriousWorks team, there has been a revolution in the online world of CuriousWorks. Gary brings his broad communications experience to CuriousWorks, gained from a varied career that includes newspaper journalism, photography, teaching media and drama and numerous senior PR roles. In 2015, CuriousWorks' communication and audience development strategies advanced in leaps and bounds under Gary's guidance. In September 2015 we officially launched our new website that looks more exciting, makes it easier for you to explore the breath and depth of CuriousWorks and is a better showcase for the films, theatre and digital art we are producing.

CuriousWorks is proud to have S.Shakthidharan appointed as a directorate member of the National Theatre of Parramatta, a new Western Sydney performing arts institution housed at Riverside Theatres. He was also awarded Belvoir's prestigious Phillip Parson's award for playwrights. Recognition like this is uplifting, and an important step in the CuriousWorks mission to see our arts representing the real cultural diversity of Australia.

Committee of Management

In 2015, CuriousWorks said goodbye to our treasurer, Darren O'Beirne, and welcomed Easha Ranasinghe, to the Committee of Management. Easha brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in governance and financial management to CuriousWorks, after working in accounting and auditing for more than 18 years.

We are also very pleased to welcome Melinda Muth to the committee. Melinda is an experienced company director specialising in leadership and team effectiveness.

The CuriousWorks Team

Committee of Management

Chairperson – Rachel Kerry
Treasurer (resigned May)– Darren O'Beirne
Treasurer – Easha Rad
Public Officer – Marc Brandon
Secretary – Vanessa Hyde
General Member – Melody Ng
General Member – Melinda Muth

Staff

Artistic & Executive Director – S.Shakthidharan
General Manager – Vanessa Hyde
Community Director – Caitlin Newton-Broad
Communications Director – Gary Spink
Creative Producer & Educator – Mark Taylor
Creative Producer – Emma Macey-Storch
Cultural Leader & Educator – Guido Gonzalez
Lead Artist– Aimée Falzon
Lead Artist – Vincent McManus

Partners

Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre
Carriageworks
Belvior
National Theatre of Parramatta
Riverside Theatre
Playwriting Australia
The Streaming Museum

Funders

The Federal Government through the Australian Council for the Arts Community Partnerships
Nelson Meers Foundation
The NSW Government through Arts NSW
Screen NSW
Liverpool City Council
Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre
Fairfield City Council
Crown Foundation
Hume City Council

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