

From: Kim Dunphy and Holly Schauble contact@manyhands.org.au
Subject: News from Many Hands International, May
Date: 20 May 2011 2:04 pm
To: Kim.dunphy@manyhands.org.au

Many Hands International
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Many Hands International

culture based community development



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Update on our activities

Dear friend of Many Hands

We write to update you on our work in culture-based community development in and for East Timor.

Since our last e-bulletin, much has happened; we've run a music project, created books, supported a VIDA volunteer, organised new activities, developed plans for our centre and written lots of funding applications! In Melbourne, we recently helped to host Timorese artists Marqy and Luis da Costa, who exhibited works from their Baucau art school Arfalyca at the Box Hill Community Arts Centre. The artists brought with them drawings created by children who attend programs at their centre, and we are working with Professor Maureen Ryan, from Gallery SunshineEverywhere (www.gallerysunshine.com) to put on an exhibition of the work later this year..

Read on for more information.....

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Seeking a community cultural development officer

We are delighted to have been successful in obtaining a VIDA volunteer placement for an experienced community cultural development officer to begin work for us in Lospalos. The position will have a particular focus on capacity building with staff in the local government cultural development office. This placement is part of our larger project to establish a Centre for Traditional Arts and Culture in Lospalos.



If you or someone you know are experienced and would like to spend a year in a small regional town in Timor-Leste, we'd welcome your application. This is a VIDA volunteer position for 12 months.

Closing date: Friday May 28
www.vidavolunteers.com.au/volunteer-with-vida/current-assignments.

Contact us for more information:
kim.dunphy@manyhands.org.au

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Inviting you to our forum, Wednesday June 15, 6-7.30 pm

It's been a while since we offered you the chance to hear more about us. On Wednesday June 15, we will put this problem to rights, with a public forum, 6 - 7.30, at the East Melbourne Library, 122 George St, East Melbourne.

Speakers:

- Directors Kim Dunphy and Holly Schauble will discuss Many Hands work overall
- Asialink resident Gillian Howell and ANAM musician Rachel Cashmore will discuss their recent experiences as musicians working with Timorese communities in Lospalos.
- architect Richard Blight will show the plans he is drawing up for the centre.

We'll also offer you drinks and nibbles and a chance to meet us informally after the presentations. We hope you can join us. RSVP: hollyschauble@manyhands.org.au

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Progress on our plans for the Lospalos Centre

Over the last year we have been fortunate to have the support of architect Richard Blight, who has been drawing up plans for the centre we plan to build in Lospalos. Richard joined us in Lospalos during Gillian's music residency, and his attendance at our first big community event, the Toka Boot (Big Jam), helped him begin to create plans that will best use existing facilities and facilitate community engagement in the centre's activities.

Richard is keen to use his skills as a tropical architect to create a beautiful and functional centre for Lospalos. One of his recent projects was the new Visitors Centre in the Botanic Gardens in Cairns. (www.cairns.com.au/article/2011/03/02/152125_local-news.html). Recently we have been introducing Richard to a range of people who have expertise in libraries, art galleries, recording studios, museums, performing arts centres to contribute their ideas on good design and best practice. Richard will present the plans so far at our event on 15 June.



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Supporting disability organisation Katilosa

Many Hands is pleased to have become the host organisation for Sarah Daley, who is working in Baucau, Timor's second city as a VIDA (Volunteers for International Development) placement. Sarah is supporting Katilosa, a new disability organisation that is developing a range of programs for its clients; children, young people and adults who mostly have physical disabilities. These include arts programs and a playground focussed around creative



include arts programs and a playgroup focussed around creative play.

Find out more about Sarah's project at http://manyhands.org.au/our_activities/

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Recent projects: Making community music in Lospalos

Our first on the ground activity happened over the recent summer. Australian musician and composer Gillian Howell undertook a 14 week Asialink residency in Timor. MHI supported Gillian to develop community music projects with local community members and organisations in Lospalos and Baucau.

In Lospalos, Gillian led formal workshops and informal jams in a range of locations including a kinder, English language classes, the hill village of Kakavei, the RM Convent and her front verandah. She was assisted in Lospalos by fellow musicians Tony Hicks from the Australian Art Orchestra and Lina Andonovska, Rachel Cashmore and Doug Coghill from the Australian National Academy of Music.



Kim researched this project as a case study for her PhD thesis, and the community response was overwhelmingly positive. Participants and community leaders valued the opportunities for creative learning, skill development, cultural exchange through music, English language practice, maintenance of their cultural heritage and more! The main problem was that people wanted these events to happen every week, and our project had to come to an end. This was great confirmation that our planned centre will offer programs that the community value. Read more about Gillian's project on http://manyhands.org.au/our_activities/past_projects/

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Recent projects: Public forum: 'Working with Communities Through the Arts', Dili, January 2011

We were pleased to host our first professional development activity in Dili, a public forum on 'Working with Communities Through the Arts'. 78 people from all around the country, representing government, NGOs, community organisations and individual artists, attended and contributed to lively discussions.

Presentations were made by

- Sra Cecelia Assis, National Director of Culture, introducing current and future activities of her department

- Meelky, Youth Participation Officer, PLAN International, on PLAN's mobile music recording project with young people in districts, Lospalos and Aileu.



- Kim Dunphy, researcher and Director, Many Hands International, who presented some findings from her PhD research project about the role of arts in communities in Timor-Leste

- Gillian Howell, Asialink resident, who spoke about project making music with communities in Baucau and Lospalos.

Presentations from that event are available from our website. http://manyhands.org.au/our_activities/past_projects/

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How you can help us

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This time around we are seeking assistance for Sarah's project at disability organisation Katilosa in Baucau. Sarah is looking for donations of goods that our volunteer Adam Rosza will organise for Rotary to transport over to Timor. If you can help with art supplies, playgroup equipment (for children 6 mths to 6 years), musical instruments, sewing machines, computers or medical equipment, Sarah would be very pleased to hear from you: contact@manyhands.org.au

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Coming up: theatre and film making projects

There's lots more coming up this year.... theatre and film making projects and workshops, bookmaking projects, more research and presentations.

Take a look at our new and improved website: www.manyhands.org.au to find out more. Our heartfelt thanks to AgentC Media for the new website and continued technical support.

Regards

Holly Schauble, Kim Dunphy and Yashian Schauble

Directors, Many Hands International

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Many Hand International | Suite 1201, 377 Burwood Rd Hawthorn, VIC, 3122, Australia

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