Young Change Makers 2016
Outcomes Snapshot
Feb 2018
Introduction

This report outlines the acquittals from the nine organisations that received funding through the Young Changemakers program in 2016. It paints a broad picture of activity undertaken by local community groups to support prosperous, connected and cohesive communities in Melbourne’s Inner North. Examples of the flow on effects from the program include.

- **Motivating** two students from Fitzroy High School to volunteer for the homework club after hearing from North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House at a school assembly
- **Influencing** final year projects by students at Fitzroy High School, with teachers stating their research into local disability providers came from their experiences with Young Changemakers
- **Inspiring** further fundraising from students at Collingwood College: St Mary’s House of Welcome mentioned that their milk allocation had been significantly cut. Students collected money for milk – giving vulnerable local people the basic dignity of being able to have milk in their tea.

The Clifton Hill Bendigo Bank and Inner North Community Foundation both give to local organisations for local impact. Part of the benefit of the Young Changemakers program is beyond transactional granting. The program engages local people in community life. Beyond the immediate impact that small funds have in progressing the work of local organisations, other benefits from filtering money through local students are evident.

We’re thrilled you’re with us,

Ben Rodgers - Executive Officer, Inner North Community Foundation
Overview

The Young Change Makers program is now in its third year, and is a result of a strong and mutually beneficial partnership between Inner North Community Foundation and the Clifton Hill North Fitzroy Community Bank. $30,000 of the funds distributed is provided by the Bank, and $15,000 is provided by the Foundation.

Year 10 Students from Northcote High School, Collingwood College and Fitzroy High School participated in the program. Each school gave three grants totalling $15,000. The Foundation guides a cohort of Year 10 students from each school through the philanthropic process, starting with exploring the students’ values and passions, learning about the challenges and opportunities in the school’s local community, and discussing the responsibilities associated with giving funds for social benefit. Site visits to local community organisations are undertaken and students reach consensus about how to allocate the funds. Approximately 30 students and more than 100 local people participated in and benefited from the projects funded by the nine grants given through Young Change Makers in 2016.
YSAS Youth Support Service collaborated with Yarra Youth Services and Juddy Roller between the period of October 2016-December 2016 to deliver the “Graffiti Workhouse” Project. This project was developed resulting from:

- Increases in the numbers of referrals of Young People to YSAS Youth Support Service for Criminal Damage (graffiti) offences and the absence of an existing restorative justice and graffiti diversion project within the region, and particularly in the Yarra area;
- Response to concerns raised by the community surrounding young people frequenting public places and engaging in tagging and anti-social behavior including Edinburgh Gardens Parklands;
- Provide an opportunity for highly vulnerable and marginalized groups including young women, ethnically diverse young people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to be involved in a project which provided publicly visible positive outcomes.

The program was facilitated with the following schedule:

- Weekly 2.5 hour workshops (Tuesday afternoons) between 18th October to 6th December 2016;
- Intensive workshops involving painting of Edinburgh Gardens Amenities block between 13th to 15th December 2016;

A total of 17 young people participated in the project including:

- 4 young women, including young women of ethnic diversity;
- 13 young men including ethnically diverse and Torres Strait Islander young men.
An evaluation of the project conducted in January 2017 was undertaken through individual consultations with the young people involved. These young people identified:

• The opportunity to participate in a public art mural project empowered the young people to feel valued, seen and positively recognized by their community. This was particularly significant for the young people who felt socially disconnected;

• The timing of the project as being after school and during school holidays provided an opportunity to engage in pro-social activities and establish positive friendships;

• Many young people invited their friends and families to observe them undertaking the public painting, allowing an opportunity to showcase and take pride in their skills. This also provided opportunity for re-connection to family through positive activities together;

• Many young people were unaware of the art studio located at Yarra Youth Services, including the opportunity to paint on a legal wall in this space. Multiple young people have remained connected to the studio and participated in follow up workshops surrounding street art and live drawing;

• Young people reflected on their sense of inspiration in being able to meet recognized street artists and be mentored. They identified it as being helpful to learn about the different trajectories available to them as artists.

• Young people unanimously described the experience as positive, meaningful and empowering and as allowing them to feel more connected to the Yarra community.

• Young women identified that this project allowed them to feel their skills were recognized in what is traditionally a very male dominated subculture.

$7,200
CALD Community Connectedness program funding provided participants the opportunity to participate in socially inclusive outings and activities that they otherwise wouldn’t have been able to access.

Outings included cherry picking in Silvan, a BBQ at Lerderderg Gorge, and a picnic at McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery. Other activities included a Lunar New Year celebration, special cooking groups at St Mary’s and ten pin bowling.

The participants in this program lack family support, experience extreme social isolation, and severe and persistent mental illness. They lack cultural connectedness with their community and don’t have the resources or ability to build a connection. Participating in this program has allowed participants to take part in activities in their community, in an environment that provides both peer and professional support.

Anecdotal evidence collected from the participants indicates that the CALD Community Connectedness program has greatly improved participants’ physical and mental wellbeing and has provided the feeling of being connected to their community.
One of the projects we focused on was the creation of a hip-hop/RnB program dedicated to young CALD women (between 10 – 18 years old) who would write and record hip-hop/RnB. Our young female mentor was Christobel, who has a Somali background and performs in a local RnB music group (Pillow Pro). Her assistance with this program has been crucial as she has been able to encourage our younger female members to overcome issues of self-confidence and to experiment with singing, rapping and writing lyrics.

We were also able to continue our DJ program for young women through this grant and saw the expansion of this program into music production itself, i.e. writing dance and electronic music from scratch.

Throughout this grant period we also set-up three different 1-on-1 tutoring relationships based on learning a specific instrument, which take place once a week. Nina (aged 10) has been learning drums with Andrew. Benjy (16) has been learning piano with Charlie, and Zahra (18) has been learning piano with Erin. Nina made enough progress this year that she was able to perform live at the Peel Street festival with our young rap group, Girl Zone.
Some of the key participants in this program were a group of six girls between 10 and 11 years of age. At the start of this grant these girls had already formed a music group which they named ‘Girl Zone’ and recorded songs under this alias. They had performed a few songs at our Bridges to Harmony Festival, but it was during the course of this grant that they were able to truly develop their repertoire and skills, especially with the additional guidance provided by Christobel. In August 2017 they released their first music video, which received a great deal of attention and landed them their first major performance opportunity at the Peel Street festival, performing as one of the headline acts. They recorded an additional three songs for this performance and were incredibly well-received by a very large audience and, as a result, they received further opportunities to perform throughout the year and well into 2018. They performed as support for an international touring artist in December 2017, and received an invite from the curators of the Melbourne Pavilion to perform on February 11th, 2018. They also received an invite from the Melbourne Writers Festival to perform and run workshops at a handful of schools in August 2018. This level of achievement is unprecedented within the Clubhouse and demonstrates the immense value of this grant to our program.
“The reasons we thought we should give Celebrating Abilities $8,000 is because Margie put her own time and money into helping the less fortunate who can’t always function properly by themselves. Margie is unbelievably passionate about helping others. She’s been in the industry for over 30 years and recently started her own charity with no government funding, all the funding comes from her own small business and very little donations. So we believe that Margie is the perfect candidate to receive the most amount of money because it will go a long way for her and her charity.”

Student, Young Change Makers Program 2016.

Watch the Celebrating Abilities program video (acknowledging the Bank and the Foundation) here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=HieCMer1Q
Salvation Army

English Classes for Asylum Seekers in Preston

With the Young Change Makers grant, the Salvation Army Asylum Seeker and Refugee Service delivered weekly two hour English class in Preston and Mill Park.

They also conducted Educational Excursions with students to:
- Immigration Museum
- Ian Potter Art Gallery (Indigenous arts and history)
- Melbourne Museum
- State Library

“The Young Change Maker's Grant enabled us to introduce some educational excursions as part of our curriculum. These excursions were designed to enhance the learning of English language through cultural exchange and exploration of Australian history, art and culture. An average of 10-15 participants attended each excursion. The majority of participants were older women seeking asylum who are our regular group of students at our Preston site.”

Program Coordinator, Salvation Army

Finally, they conducted Workplace Visits:
- 16 people seeking asylum participated in the workplace visit excursions.
- Excursion participants expressed they had gained an increase in knowledge of what employers required when recruiting staff in their particular industry.
- The visit helped people seeking asylum looking for work a better understand of the food manufacturing and aged care industry.

$5,000
Beyond Zero Emissions

Training-the-trainer Program to Reduce Household Emissions

Due to extraneous circumstances, Beyond Zero Emissions were unable to deliver the project in the timeframe but are planning on expending the funds in line with the original assessment in the coming months. The Foundation in in discussions with them to see the process through.

$2,000
An Aboriginal Elder and her daughter, Lyn-Al Young, who is a fashion designer and local artist, designed and developed a windcheater that current and future students of Charcoal Lane can wear proudly outside of the Charcoal Lane space. Alongside this, she and her mother Judith shared cultural stories with students and helped them to develop their own artwork. Students explored different types of clothing art and ultimately decided to work with silk. The results were amazing, with students making three different types of garments; scarfs, bandanas and t-shirts. The students reflected that this was a rewarding and empowering cultural experience.
Karen was a single mother with three children. Before they moved into the AHV property on 14/1/2017, they were living with a friend in a two bedroom house due to family violence. Karen was injured and lost her job. She struggled to feed her children and didn’t have the money to buy furniture and other essential items when she got offered a property. Our program coordinator referred her to family violence support service and programs where she managed to get second hand furniture and white goods. In addition, she had also received household products including food from AHV welcome pack to help start a new chapter in her life. Karen was so appreciative that she emailed our CEO to thank the staff who had been extremely helpful and supportive.
Due to extraneous circumstances, 3CR have not returned their acquittal report to us. The project has successfully taken place and The Foundation in discussions with them to see the process through.
Looking to the future

Young Change Makers 2017-18

With the projects funded by the 2017 cohort currently in train, Young Change Makers continues to enable local people to turn philanthropic funds into community value.

The funding provided through the partnership between Inner North Community Foundation and the Clifton Hill / Fitzroy North Community Bank has an impact that is three-fold:

1. **The bank**
   - is meaningfully engaged with the community in which it operates.

2. **The students**
   - are educated about philanthropy and empowered to make decisions about where resources might be best placed for social good in their local context.

3. **The recipients**
   - have the capacity to run essential programs changing the lives of local people, and strengthen their connections with local schools and businesses in the process.

The Foundation is interested partnering with the Bank to deliver the Young Change Makers program again in 2018. We would be pleased to commit a further $15,000, and we invite a further investment of $30,000 from the Bank to carry out the program in the coming year.
Thank you for your Partnership

Clifton Hill / Fitzroy Bendigo Community Bank

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