

Community Engagement Plan - Dinner Party at the End of the World

'Everybody is an artist and everybody deserves the space to play and co-create in nourishing ways. It's important work you're doing.' NORPA community participant 2023



NORPA is not a Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) organisation, however community engagement is embedded in all our creative work, sits firmly as one of our strategic pillars, and is demonstrated in our living/strategic plan (see image).

'NORPA's purpose is to have a direct impact in our community, through our distinct theatre making process, and our program and project choices. We seek to add value to the social fabric of regional life, and towards the vibrancy and the health for our region.' (NORPA's living plan 2025-2028)

The Dinner Party development project aims to contribute towards social cohesion and ongoing recovery in this region through addressing the events that affected our community. It seeks to explore, understand and address healing from climate disaster through arts activities, increasing resilience and providing opportunity in a region, where there is currently a visible and expressed need.

Collaboration & Consultation

This project will bring together a diverse group of Creative Leads, who will have agency and flexibility to co-design their individual satellite projects within a safe framework supported by NORPA. These projects may further build community with an expanded group of other artists and non-artists.

We will collaborate and consult with Traditional Owners and Cultural Elders throughout, specifically including the three First Nations led projects and the community engagement process informing the site video design by Craig Walsh.

We have engaged original story-sharer, flood-survivor and community member Naomi Feller, as Artistic Associate on this project who will be consulted throughout, specifically with regards to access, inclusion and disability representation.

Skills sharing

The 2 day initial Creative Team workshop will enable skills sharing with each other, and skills development in the form of trauma responsive training. As part of their individual satellite project

processes, each of the Creative Leads will deliver at least one open community workshop in their relevant field. These workshops will be free to attend and supported by trauma therapists if required. Some of the workshop participants may join individual projects, deepening skill development opportunity.

Equity

All Creative Leads, creative team, First Nations consultants and trauma therapists will be engaged on a fee basis. Community workshops will be free to attend and spread regionally, removing financial and geographical barriers to access. Community participation that is not paid will be optional and flexible, and will be catered, with transport and access support if required. We are keen to look at a pay-what-you-can model for any audience attended sharings.

Trauma responsive approach

We acknowledge that trauma is still very present in our community – there have always been inequities experienced by some of this region's demographic, and that has been compounded by flood experiences.

The trauma informed principles of safety, trust, choice, collaboration and empowerment will underpin this project, and we commit to offering safe spaces for creatively exploring potentially traumatic stories in these embedded ways:

We will include psychosocial safety in the co-designed project manifesto, and a therapist led trauma responsive training workshop for NORPA staff, Creative Leads and Creative Team at the start of the program.

Trauma responsive strategies will be tailored to each of the 7 projects and their varying need, for example, some projects may include groups that have existing rapport and a different safety starting point. We will engage with a qualified trauma therapist to assess and design appropriate support for each in collaboration with the Creative Leads.

If on-site therapy or social support is required for any of the development workshops or outcome sharings, a trauma trained therapist will be present.