

3 March 2024

Creative Australia
Re: Arts Projects for Organisations Round 2024

Dear Creative Australia Assessment Panel,

I write this letter in support of Arts & Cultural Exchange's (ACE) application for the *Capabilities and Leadership Skills in Community Arts and Cultural Development For Emerging Producers in Western Sydney*.

Arts & Cultural Exchange (ACE) is a cultural organisation working on Dharug Country in Western Sydney. ACE has a longstanding reputation being committed to social justice, using creativity to reverse disadvantage and produce ground breaking interdisciplinary, intergenerational collaborative projects co-devised with diverse communities. ACE is passionately committed to Western Sydney and its diversity, uniqueness and spirit, and the opportunities to unleash its creative capacities.

Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) is a practice that involves artists working collaboratively with communities for the purpose of social change through art and culture. This practice is embedded in ACE's core programs by engaging diverse communities to express themselves and share their stories on their terms while deepening their cultural understanding and artistic skills.

This application comes at a timely moment for Western Sydney where there is a shortage of CACD trained producers, working in an ethical and meaningful way with diverse communities. This opportunity will provide much needed professional skills development and increase the capacity building of young people from Western Sydney. This will in turn revitalise the arts sector in Western Sydney as the training will be inclusive and involve most arts organisations in Western Sydney. ACE sees this project as a whole sector development opportunity and I am supportive of this vision.

I am fully supportive of ACE's application as I believe ACE is a key arts and cultural organisation in Western Sydney and beyond. I have been involved with ACE through many projects, notably the music and CCD projects in the foundational days during the early 2000s to date.

As an artist and cultural practitioner, I am very happy to be part of this project by sharing my knowledge and expertise in CACD by presenting a Master Class to the emerging producers. I can be contacted via email on info@tapastrycreate.com for more information.

I hope you look favourably to this application.



Kind regards
MC Trey
(Thelma Thomas)

MC Trey (Thelma Thomas) has over 20 years' experience as a hip-hop/ soul artist, with nominations for the ARIA, Urban Music, 3D and Jack Music Awards.

She has performed locally and internationally, offering a unique style of melodic and insightful rhymes and delivery about life, love and her experiences.

Lyric-writing began in Fiji at primary school, while listening to reggae, island music and whatever was on the radio. She was introduced to Hip Hop through movies like 'Krush Groove' and music videos by 'Rock Steady Crew,' but wasn't propelled to rap her own words over beats until the early 90's.

MC Trey is currently working on a new EP, 'Music, Memory & Mana' to be released in 2024.

**MC TREY Bio : Hip-hop rhymes : Soul feels : Island styles :
Storyteller : Activist : Community Connector**



(Image: T.Smith/ Dress: Haus of Koila)

On stage: MC Trey has entertained crowds around Australia, NZ, Fiji, USA, UK & Japan including, Oceania Festival, Vivid Festival, Sydney Writers' Festival, Sydney Festival, East London West Sydney Theatre Show, 4Elements HipHop festival, TRAPS Night Club, Onyx bar, East London West Sydney, Spirit Festival, Platform 1 Hip Hop festival, Slum Village, Big Day Out tours, Pyramid Rock Festival, Multicultural Festival, Pacific Unity Festival, Pasifika Festival, The Basement, Homebake Festival, Newtown Festival, Vibes on a Summers Day tour, Waitangi Festival, St.Kilda Festival.

MC Trey's Pacific heritage and father's gospel singing helped inspire and mold her musical abilities.

She has supported and performed onstage alongside musical heavy-weights such as: LUPE FIASCO, COMMON, RZA, XZIBIT, JURASSIC5, THE FUGEES, NAUGHTY BY NATURE, RUN DMC, MICHAEL FRANTI, THE ROOTS, BLACKSTAR, BLACKALICIOUS, COMPANY FLOW, CHE-FU, KING KAPISI, The ALKOHOLIKS, SCRIBE AS WELL AS DJS ROC RAIDIA, CASH MONEY, SHADOW, Q-BERT, HILLTOP HOODS, SIA AND MORE.

...Nominated as one of Sydney's Top Ten Creatives...

MC Trey is a passionate arts and community advocate utilizing music to engage young people, encouraging creativity and storytelling practices for self-expression and identity. She also consults with corporates and non-profits. Her work in this sector spans over two decades with some of the most notable organizations and institutions in the region.

'I love telling stories through my music. It is a continuation of how my ancestors told stories back in the day. Today, music is the medium I choose to continue this practice' said MC Trey.

Previous releases include: Harvest Manifest single (Tapastry 2023), Street University Cypher (Street University 2020), Getaway feat. Savuto (Tapastry 2019), Daily (Tapastry 2017), Light (Tapastry 2013), Duets CD (ICE/Grindin 2009), Foreign Heights CD (Grindin'/Central Station 2007), Tapastry Tunes CD (Tapastry Toons/Shock 2003), Creepin' CD/vinyl single w/Fatt Dext (TV1/Sony 2001), Daily Affirmations CD (Tapastry Tunes/Mother Tongues 2000), Universal Soldier 12" (Tapastry Tunes/Mother Tongues 1999), Projectiles US tour tape (Tapastry Toons 1998), Projectiles demo CD & Tape w/DJBonez (Tapastry Toons 1996 & 1997).

She has also worked in Hip Hop Theatre with Jonzi D (UK) at Carriageworks East London West Sydney, for Sydney Festival and The Bridge hip-hop play. She has hosted music shows on Foxtel TV Network, Channel V and Red. A collaboration with Maya Jupiter and DJ Nick Toth as Foreign Heights, earned them an **ARIA nomination in 2007**. The album featured Mystro (UK), Eternia (Canada), with production by Pmoney (NZ), Mr. Zux & Kut Master Kurt (USA).

Her business, '**Tapastry**' provides consultancy, events coordination, arts /youth workshops, and creative projects working with 4E HipHop Festival, Sydney Olympic Park, Parramatta Council, Street University, National Library, Sound West, Australian Museum, NSW Justice, NSW Health, NSW Education, Music industry businesses and artists for consultancy. She also provides in-kind support to Pacific cultural organisations, Fiji Youth Pacific Initiatives and Matavai Pacific Cultural Arts and currently working with **VYVA entertainment** and the **Powerhouse Museum**.

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