



*the JOURNEY of a
MILLION MILES
— following steps*



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Singh's recent project The Journey Of A Million Miles Begins With One Step launched at the 2017 headlands Sculpture On The Gulf Project has been a hugely successful Social Practice artwork asking "What happens when a refugee or asylum seeker gets a permanent home in a new country? The exhibition The Journey of a Million Miles - Following Steps evolved over a 7 month long exhibition at The New Zealand Maritime Museum. The development focused on the experiences of recent immigrants by sharing real-life migration stories. In an attempt to humanise relevant issues that both the resettled community and recent immigrants face are likely to face, such as discrimination and prejudices which can make feeling at home difficult. This ongoing project has highlighted how valuable it is for honest personal human stories to enable a pathway for tolerance understanding and compassion to be built.

Art Work Development

To further the project the artist has been granted funding to facilitate a local online web application with both submission and story archive to enable junior school children to create their own stories of migration archive.

This will enable the youth community to share in their own time, their own stories without needing to be interviewed or publicly share their experiences. The development is aimed at primary school level so the engagement process can aid spoken english, confidence building and the sharing of identity and experience through a safe and private portal. The school then has access and potential to build a current audio library of its students experiences of immigration.

*“Our stories reflect and shape
the world around us”*

The intention of the digital development is to build a cathartic process for both current and future users. So they can to connect through similar experiences by building a record of student narratives. That connect cultural nuances through the shared medium of digital storytelling and oral history.

The outcomes would be shared through the schools local hosting with a data visualisation to ignite engagement and further participation. The aim of the project is to provide tangible opportunities for students to engage with the arts as a tool to improving their own wellbeing. The audio archive could then become a pivotal tool in showing how the arts, sciences and humanities have a crucial role to play in acknowledging creativity and the imagination as agents of wellness.



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Localised School Immigration Library Potential

By using a web application as a collection tool, we deploy multi-faceted solution. Foremost, it allows the user, whether that be school or student, to submit and access stories in an environment they are comfortable in and on a device of their choosing – mobile, tablet or PC.

The aim here is to dramatically increase the reach of the project since most households and schools have some sort of spare device. From a technical standpoint, compared to a native application, a web application is comparatively quick to develop and can be accessed on any device that has an internet browser.





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Education Outreach

An onsite demonstration and lesson will be offered along with an educational package on how to best utilise the work. Instructions will be supplied on how to use the system as well as technical support should it be needed. There are many existing stories from the pilot project archive housed at New Zealand Maritime Museum from a similar age demographic, these can be used as examples and ice-breaking for the students to get a feel for how the library operates.

The web application can easily utilize the current device's in-built microphone to record a story. Once a story has been recorded it will be cleaned up via software and compressed on the device before being transferred via the internet to a storage server.

“Through listening to the different stories there is the potential to build tolerance, compassion and an awareness that enables us to build a more harmonious society”

Objectives & Outcomes for School Immigration Library

- An enabled empowered resettled / immigrant community
 - Student lead process
 - Furthered awareness throughout mainstream culture
 - A celebration of tolerance and diversity
 - A restoring of solidarity to the heart of human culture
 - Future partnerships between community groups, organisations, local territorial authorities, and refugee and migrant communities.
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Values for the School Immigration Library

- The power of freedom of speech and use it to make a difference
- To enable and facilitate creative projects as a means for education
- To see education as a mechanism for social cohesion and social advocacy
- A transparent approach to a dynamic and structured process in which everyone can participate in dialogue to achieve and maintain peaceful social relations.
- To see social practice as a platform for awareness, tolerance and compassion
- To empower students to share. As sharing an important issue, whether it be a social, historical or political one, can lead to great things. The persuasiveness of a voice can bring about huge change.

Aims for the School Immigration Library

- To move toward a safe, stable and just society by mending conditions of social disintegration and social exclusion
- To create creative platforms for public engagement to raise awareness around resettlement
- To create positive change through critical awareness
- To activate therapeutic arts practices to generate wider communication, understand and awareness
- Assist a shared humanity by providing and facilitating humanised accounts of resettlement
- To encourage local communities to support the integration of refugees and migrants to enhance community cohesion.
- To broker partnerships between community groups, organisations, local territorial authorities, and refugee and migrant communities.
- To use technology and new media platforms as tools for outreach and awareness

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