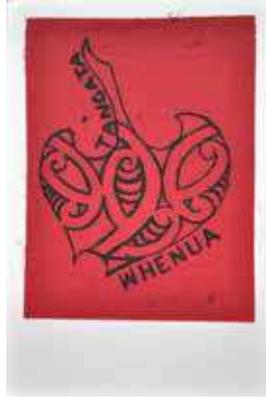




Fly Me Up To Where You Are



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Fly Me Up To Where You Are is a project relevant to the personal, political and social position of a city and this is reflected through the aspirations and shared thoughts of the community's youth. In aiming to provide a platform for the dialogue of 8-12 year olds from decile 1 and 2 schools (New Zealand's lowest socio economic communities) to be acknowledged and responded to.

An importance is placed on the role of creativity to process concerns, hopes, dreams and ideas. These concerns when transformed into concepts and addressed in a positive and considered way then allow for the wider community to have access to the aspirations and real world concerns of our youth, a voice which often goes unheard. By identifying what can be achieved through notions of co-authorship and by providing a canvas for their concerns, thoughts and opinions to be both seen and heard, we then begin to see a reality which is often overlooked is brought to the forefront of social and political agenda.

Art Work Development

Although much of the work results in creative expression, the key component of the project is to think constructively about the way we can shape our future; that for the children involved the lessons around community, hopes, dreams and future potential can be considered in a learned and experiential way. The classroom processes are the most influential and important. The project's capacity to operate as a therapeutic process is what which pushes the project to function as more of a community service and social work initiative than a work of fine art.



This process aims to counter the challenges faced by marginalised communities by developing a space for freedom of expression through creative practice as a means for healing and processing emotions and thoughts as an invaluable addition to education.

Thereby creating spaces for creative practice in schools we aim to help students to identify with their feelings and emotions, to trust in the power of imagination and their own capacity to affect change in the world around them.



School Commitment to the Project Potential

An education kit is sent out to the schools in advance so that prior learning can be done before the education team run by the artist arrive at the schools for the sessions. This is an important process as the concepts we are asking the children to digest are large. We found that if this process has not been facilitated it can be quite overwhelming for the children to think about their futures in a positive light. More often than not this is the first time the children have ever been asked what their hopes and dreams are. This needs to be a gentle process without fear or judgement or academic marking of their responses, to encourage trust within the project a provide a safe space to be open and honest in.





Education Outreach

The project is realised over two sessions. The first session first unpacks the mind map which asks the questions; What are your Hopes and Dreams for Your Future? What are your Hopes and Dreams for Your yourself? What are your Hopes and Dreams for Your Family? What are your Hopes and Dreams for The World? We look carefully at what these things mean, identifying the difference between environmental, social, political and personal Hopes and Dreams. We then look at imagery that communicates these ideas through different signs and cultural symbols. The second session supplies cut coloured fabric black fabric paint, brushes and binding for the flags to be stitched to. Each child is given 1 piece of fabric onto which they paint what they believe is their most important message to share. The fags are then pinned up in a colour order with the white fags then delivered to the local community sewing group to be stitched. The addition of the local sewing group allows the younger generations thoughts and ideas to be shared with the older generation as mostly the sewing circles are the elderly. We found this was a very positive and effective way of sharing these ideas between the two generations.



Objectives & Outcomes for Fly Me Up

- Unpack issues and biases faced by every day people and discuss the affects of this
- Use creative expression to develop a visual identity
- Share their personal challenges and the hopes and solutions they have for these
- Give a strong voice to the youth community.
- Furthered awareness throughout mainstream culture of our ethnic diversity
- A celebration of tolerance and diversity from an early age
- To empower the local community to facilitate and be the change their want to see in the world around them
- Educators share the project with students and whanau, support the idea generation process and invite students and other members of the community to take part

Values of Fly Me Up To Where You Are

- The power of freedom of speech and use it to make a difference
- To enable and faciliate creative projects as a means for education
- To see education as a mechanism for social cohesion and social advocacy
- To see social practice as a platform for awareness, tolerance and compassion
- To Facilitate open and honest discussion around a student vision for Aotearoa.

Aims for Fly Me Up To Where You Are

- To move toward a safe, stable and just society by mending conditions of social disintegration and social exclusion
- Generate community awareness and ownership of political issues and ownership for the future of Aotearoa.
- To create positive change through critical awareness and student lead action
- Empower youth to think about, discuss and find solutions for political issues and social biases that they may face everyday
- Assist a shared humanity by providing and facilitating humanised accounts of resettlement
- Identify pathways and goals to facilitate change; both local and global
- Install a sense of ownership for future self improvement
- To facilitate cross pollination between different sectors of the artistic community
- Empower and encourage the participation of youth in a collaborative process that showcases student's awareness and solutions of social, political, and personal issues in their community right now

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