

Creative Programming Partnerships and the Creation of Spaces for Reciprocity in a Local Indigenous Metropolitan Festival

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ABSTRACT

This presentation reviews a local Indigenous metropolitan festival and its impact on the creation of spaces for reciprocity and creative programming partnerships. Drawing on my current PhD research at RMIT University titled "Local Identity: Global Focus" investigates how a local Indigenous metropolitan festival creates spaces for reciprocity and community identity. My research practice involved the facilitation of an Indigenous festival program, the Yalukit Willam Ngargee: People Place Gathering held within a significant contemporary metropolitan meeting place, and hosted by the local government authority the City of Port Phillip in partnership with key community stakeholders.

The presentation will be divided in three parts: People, Place and Gathering. First: People will introduce my methodology, conceptual outline and briefly cover the Aboriginal history of the area; Second: Place will present the role of the City of Port Phillip's festival host; and Thirdly Gathering will present an overview of the festival's creative programming partnerships. My conclusion will cover to what extent the festival and its creative programming partnerships assist in creating spaces for exchange, wellbeing and the part they play in the revitalisation of a fragmented metropolitan community.

During the course of the presentation I will briefly discuss methods for knowledge transferral and cultural maintenance practices at a local level. It will highlight the rapidly evolving metropolitan worlds where Indigenous people are trying to affirm their identities in and provide a brief resource for cultural brokers to draw from. Finally it summarises how a local Indigenous festival hosted by a local government authority can benefit the wider society through reciprocal practices.

Keywords: *reciprocity, Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander, indigenous, festival, local government, wellbeing, creative programming partnership, identity*