

Community Cultural Development in Aotearoa: History and References

Community cultural development-based or informed arts practice has been present in Aotearoa/New Zealand since the 1980s. The first blooming of such practice occurred under the auspices of organisations such as the Whangarei Community Arts Council and ARTWORK in Auckland, both of which used Department of Labour funding to employ professional artists to work in a range of community contexts, which offered them new and resourced opportunities to experiment and develop new approaches to arts production.

This section briefly identifies some key historical moments or initiatives and related publications that chart some of the history of community cultural development in Aotearoa.

Comm'a Magazine

Published 1984 to 1990 initially by the Whangarei Community Arts Council and latterly by the national Community Art Workers Network. Issues after 1987 contain the Iritekura Statement which was the founding statement of the national Network of Community Art Workers. The Winter 1990 issue contains contributions from community cultural development practitioners and cultural workers from around the country.

ARTWORK

A joint project of the Auckland City Council, the Northern Regional Arts Council and the Department of Labour. It pioneered the employment of artists of all disciplines to work in new community contexts and employed over 300 artists from 1982 to 1986. ARTWORK is documented by: The ARTWORK Package (ISBN 0-473-00407-0) a brief record, The ARTWORK Documentation, five volumes, held at the Auckland Office of Creative New Zealand and the ARTWORK Archive held at Auckland Public Library.

Arts North Magazine (ISSN 1171-2058)

The September 1992 issue focuses on the range of practices and activities that claimed the description 'community arts' at that time. On behalf of the Network of Community Art Workers, Sandi Morrison contributed a key article *Art, Community, Democracy* (pages 8-9).

A Bridge Between Territories:

A Study of Community Cultural Development

Ric Mann/Media Studies Trust. (ISBN 0-473-02448-9)
Discusses The City project, a large-scale community cultural development video project that took place in Auckland between 1987 and 1990. The report is primarily an enquiry into community cultural development itself and contains a substantial community cultural development bibliography of New Zealand and international sources.

The Water in Which The Fish Swim:

Community Cultural Development Workers Survey

Centre for Continuing Education, University of Auckland (ISBN 0-86869-047-3)
Reports the findings of a 1991 national survey of community cultural development workers to ascertain their training needs – undertaken by the University of Auckland’s Centre for Continuing Education in association with the Northern Regional Arts Council and ACTION (later Artwork²).

The Arts in Aotearoa New Zealand

Peter and Dianne Beatson (ISBN 0-908665-83-0)
Contains an overview of the arts in New Zealand written in 1994 and provides a sociology of the arts in New Zealand. The area of community cultural development is investigated mainly through a description of the work of the community artist and cultural worker.

Report Of The Community Arts Working Party June 1994

QEII Arts Council
The Community Arts Working Party was established to develop recommendations for a national community arts policy. Amongst other things, the report defines and recommends support for community cultural development

“Community cultural development describes a way of working with the arts in communities. It is based on values which emphasises people doing things together which expand their awareness and understanding of the meanings life has for them, by making images and symbols which illuminate meaning. It is people ‘telling their own stories’ and expressing their vision of themselves. Community cultural development tends to emphasise process as much as product, seeing an important relationship between the quality of the participation, the degree of community ‘ownership’ and the relevance of the final product.”

The Potential of This Place

Artwork², 1995 (ISBN 0-473-0-3346-1)
Profiles four different community cultural development projects and identifies the factors common to successful community cultural development projects.

International Resources

Creative Community: The Art of Cultural Development

Don Adams and Arlene Goldbard (ISBN 0-89184-052-4).
This 2001 Rockefeller Foundation publication is an authoritative enquiry into community cultural development principles and practice by leading US practitioners. It can be ordered at no charge through www.rock.found.org

www.ccd.net

An Australian website launched in 2002. The site provides information on the history and theory of community cultural development as experienced in Australia plus profiles of current projects and people.