

Steph Vajda operating through Ferment Collaborate

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Ferment Collaborate (FC) is solely operated by Steph Vajda and specialises in delivering inclusive film, engagement and community building projects. FC projects are delivered by collaborating with other sole operators and companies and are based on shared ideation and delivery.

Steph is a creative producer, engagement specialist and film maker who draws on twenty years of advocacy, community engagement and planning and multimedia experience. With award winning skills in creative engagement design, cross-cultural facilitation, workshop / event facilitation and community planning, Steph specialises in supporting people and communities to collaborate, articulate and participate, using creative approaches to activating public space, encouraging cultural expression and sharing stories.

Steph's work is informed by the intersection of arts practice, cultural expression and decision making, as a space available to planners, cultural facilitators and community workers to understand and instigate change. He feels that creating and working within these spaces allows professionals and community members alike to better understand practical and meaningful ways of building communities that people connect with, express themselves through and celebrate.

He specialises in engaging with people in public space as a means of encouraging expression by uncovering and sharing stories about connection to place and culture, as well as connecting people with decision making and planning while breaking down cultural, social, geographic and other barriers that disconnect people from spaces and each other.

Steph has worked in community, government, private sector and advocacy contexts in Australia and Sri Lanka. He has co-authored two award-winning publications with Dr Wendy Sarkissian, through London based publisher Earthscan (Kitchen Table Sustainability - 2008 and SpeakOut - 2009) and has received over fifteen professional awards for his work.

As a film maker Steph specialises in engaging with marginalised people to uncover and share their stories. His work values the process of story gathering equally with creating quality film content. Most of his film projects have been delivered with remote isolated communities operating as a solo film maker.

Born in Australia, Steph identifies with his Sri Lankan and Hungarian heritage.

Vimeo - www.vimeo.com/fermentcollaborate



FILM: Selected Projects

Short Documentary

- 2017 Burrmalala Boongil / Cyclone Ceremony (In production)
- 2016 Whanala Dhiyunguny Bala Galiwin'ku? / Where are you today Galiwin'ku? (14'49")
- 2016 Dhawu Burrmalala / Cyclone Stories, Galiwin'ku (5'35")
- 2015 Binbi Meta, Rockhampton (27'09")
- 2014 Introducing Franziska Omeenyo (4'02")
- 2014 Yarning with Uncle Trevor, Hopevale (5'47")
- 2014 Stop All The Sniffing, Palm Island (8'05")
- 2014 Celebrity Getaway (Not So Perfect), Hopevale (8'34")
- 2014 Hey Yubbah!, Hopevale (6'03")



Community Education

- 2017 Marnggithirr ga Djaykulunggu romgu / Knowing About Cyclones, Galiwin'ku (10'18")
- 2017 Ngathilmirriyanhamirr / Be Prepared, Galiwin'ku (11'08")
- 2017 Djaykulungnydja Martjin / The Cyclone Arrives, Galiwin'ku (12'08")
- 2016 Ngamangamayunmirr! / Galiwin'ku Be Ready! (10'00")



Digital Stories

- 2017 Darwin Story Lounge (25 shorts)
- 2013 West End Block Party, Brisbane (10 shorts)
- 2012 Lanka Stories, Sri Lanka (6 shorts)
- 2011 Canning Stories, Perth (35 shorts)
- 2010 Davies Park Cultural Map, Brisbane (60 shorts)



Promotion

- 2017 Parap Public Artwork (In Production - City of Darwin)
- 2016 This is Our Hope For Health, Galiwin'ku (3'39")
- 2016 I am Pilawuk, Daly River (5'25")
- 2015 Rani's Story, Brisbane (4'03")
- 2015 Supporting change makers in Sri Lanka (6'12")
- 2015 Upstairs @ 199, Brisbane (9'05")
- 2014 Kaylah's Word, Brisbane (2'16")
- 2013 The Venesa Matram Symposium, Sri Lanka (3'24")
- 2013 We Share Skills, Brisbane (4'17")



Music Video

- 2014 Cofi Ft Kaylah Truth: We Are Cofi, Woorabinda (3'08")
- 2014 Kid Kastro Ft Kitch: Palm Island Where You At? (4'25")
- 2014 DJ Ft Triks: Rappin' To Myself, Hopevale (3'41")
- 2013 CBG Girls Ft Kitch - CBG Girls, Cherbourg (3'45")
- 2013 Abe & Doyley Ft Kitch - Say Woorie, Woorabinda (3'03")



PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

- 2015 Hope For Health, NT (Program Manager, 2 years)
- 2014 Creative Tracks, Qld (Program Coordinator, 2 years)
- 2011 Venesa Matram, Sri Lanka (Producer, 4 years)
- 2010 Creative Pathways, Regional Qld (Manager, 2 years)
- 2009 Stylin'Up Regional, Brisbane (Manager 1 yr, Coord. 2 yrs)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2017 Bagot Community Archive, Darwin
 - 2017 City of Darwin: Launch Media Youth
 - 2016 Foundation for Young Australians - Impact
 - 2015 University of Queensland Master Plan, Brisbane
 - 2015 Wagga Wagga Transport Plan, NSW
- Other previous: Canning Community Plan (Perth); Richlands Cultural Heritage Public Art (Bris); Karana Waters Master Plan (Bris); Palm Beach Master Plan (GC); KG Urban Village (Bris); Footscray Master Plan (Vic)

PRODUCTION

- 2017 Cinema 360, Darwin Intern. Film Festival, Darwin
- 2015 West End Film Festival, Brisbane (& 2016)
- 2013 Art Bites Cultural Workshops, Brisbane (& 2014)
- 2010 Shockwave Festival, Blackall (2 years)

DESIGN

- 2017 City of Darwin Open Spaces Toolkit
- 2016 Hope For Health collateral
- 2015 West End Block Party collateral
- 2014 Passion Mountain & FC websites

WRITING

- 2012 Community Festivals & social change, Mailout Mag, UK
- 2009 SpeakOut: A Step-by-step Guide to SpeakOuts and Community Workshops, Earthscan (UK)
- 2008 Kitchen Table Sustainability: Practical Recipes for Community Engagement with Sustainability, Earthscan
- 2005 Towards a Community Supported Agriculture, Friends of the Earth (Brisbane)

REFERENCES

Brian Cohen
Creative Director,
Umbershoot Films
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Dr Wendy Sarkissian
Author / Engagement and
public space safety specialist
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Aleem Ali
National Manager,
Welcoming Cities
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Jade Lillie
CEO, Footscray Community
Arts Centre
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“ Through the Australian and Northern Territory Government’s Community Recovery Fund Steph created useful high quality culturally appropriate Cyclone Preparedness short films for remote Indigenous communities. Steph’s dedication to working with Yolngu in remote communities and meeting the requirements of the agency was evident in the quality of the project and meeting the grant deadlines. ”

Michelle Nuske, Dept. of the Chief Minister NT
Galiwin’ku Cyclone Preparation films, 2017

“ Ferment Collaborate reminds us that creativity and the agency of storytelling is a vital part of the health and well-being of a community. Love this organisation! ”

Brian Cohen, Creative Director
Umbershoot Films

“ Steph is a highly professional, community-focussed project manager, facilitator, events manager, and community and cultural development practitioner. His work is highly regarded in rural, Indigenous and urban communities. ”

Aleem Ali, Creative Director
Human Ventures / SpeakOut Limited

“ Thank you very much for the film production - a really fantastic result. ”

Thalep Ahmat, Bidgerdii CEO
Binbi Meta project, 2015

Making Change Together