



SHARED COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

*Independent Review of Initial Phase
October 2024*

Arts, Culture and Heritage - Whakatū Nelson -

Prepared for:

Shared Communities Consortium

Community Advisory Group

Migrant and Former Refugee Communities

***Arts, Culture and Heritage Sectors
in Whakatū Nelson***

***Welcoming Communities Coordinators
across Aotearoa New Zealand***

Other parties interested in the Initiative

Commissioned by Shared
Communities Consortium

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The cover design was commissioned by the Shared Communities Consortium. It has been inspired by patterns found in traditional fabrics or representing cultural objects from different migrant communities.

It symbolises the union of different cultures through the interweaving of patterns. It is intended to honour these cultures with respect.

Muchas Gracias to artist, Karolina Serrano for creating this design prior to undertaking the role of Cultural Navigator, Shared Communities Initiative.

For more information about Karolina, see the Shared Communities website

<https://www.sharedcommunities.org.nz/ourteam>

Dashain Festival

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Henna art at Multicultural Festival

Photo credit
Dushmantha Nuwan



Karenni National Day Celebration

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Kiwi Slang Exhibition

by Russian artist Kate Garnyk

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Samoan Dance Session Nelson Intermediate School

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Lunar New Year, Vietnamese Community

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Introduction

“With their* flexibility and support we can dream bigger.”

[Community Project Organiser]

*Refers to Shared Communities

Purpose

The Shared Communities Initiative [the Initiative] celebrates diversity in Whakatū Nelson and aims to build stronger connections between migrants, former refugees and wider community of the region. Delivery of the Initiative began in October 2023.

This Review seeks to identify the impact of the initial phase of the Initiative on arts, culture and heritage of Whakatū Nelson [the region] as well as its sustainability and resilience beyond the initial phase. **[1]**

Impact relates specifically to:

- Inclusion, access and participation in the arts, culture and heritage ecosystem
- Community leadership and self-generated community impact through self-initiated projects by migrant and former refugee communities
- Wellbeing of migrant and former refugee communities in the region. **[2]**

Key Engagement Groups in Whakatū Nelson included as part of this Review are:

- Migrant and former refugee communities
- Shared Communities Advisory Group
- Shared Communities Consortium
- Cultural Navigator
- Existing arts, cultural and heritage sectors
- Agencies and organisations working to improve the lives of migrant and former refugee communities who are members of Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum.

All photos and quotes provided in this review are included with the consent of Shared Communities, or from interviewees when conducting interviews during the review phase.

Further details regarding the consent process during the review phase can be found in *Appendix 1, Research Plan*.

Limitations

1. Availability of quantifiable data regarding access, inclusion and participation in the arts, culture and heritage sectors in Whakatū Nelson prior to the Initiative is very limited and has been used where possible.
2. As the review stage was commissioned in the last 2 months of the Initiative's initial phase, opportunities to attend community events were limited to the period end of May to early July, reducing opportunities to gather attendee feedback.

Hence, the following comparative data was not gathered from the wider community:

- Who had never attended a community-led event before?
- What knowledge did they have of this community prior to attending?
- What difference has attendance made to their lives?

Consequently, anecdotal evidence is relied on for the above.

Background to Shared Communities Initiative [the Initiative]

The Initiative was inspired by kōrero that took place over time at Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum, a strategy group facilitated by Multicultural Nelson Tasman Incorporated [MNT], and comprising agencies and organisations that deliver services to Whakatū Nelson's migrant and former refugee communities. [3]

The kōrero speaks to common challenges that migrant and former refugee communities face with settling into their new place of residence. The idea of using arts, culture, and heritage as a potential vehicle to facilitate this integration was generated by these meetings.

The Operational and Governance framework was established in 2021 as Shared Communities Consortium [the Consortium] for the purpose of managing the Initiative and enabling effective delivery.

Consortium members are:

- Anna Fyfe, Multicultural Nelson Tasman Incorporated [MNT]
- Anne Rush, Make/Shift Spaces Incorporated [MSS]
- Lloyd Harwood, Arts Council Nelson Incorporated [ACN]
- Bill Huppler, Welcoming Communities Coordinator, Nelson City Council [NCC].

Members offer a broad reach and bring individual expertise and access points across arts, culture, and heritage sectors in Whakatū Nelson. More information on members and the organisations represented can be found on the Shared Communities website: <https://www.sharedcommunities.org.nz/ourteam>

In June 2023, after 1.5 years of planning, the Consortium secured funding from Manatū Taonga Ministry of Culture and Heritage [MCH] Te Tahua Whakamarohi i te Rāngai Ahurea – Cultural Sector Regeneration Fund [the Regeneration Fund] to deliver the initial phase of the Initiative. [4]

MNT acts as the employer of the Cultural Navigator and any other recruitments pertaining to the Initiative. It holds the fund, hosts, and provides employment oversight where required. A Partnership Deed between the Consortium and MNT was signed on 1 September 2023, and Karolina Serrano was hired as the Cultural Navigator on 25 September.

Abbreviations

the Initiative = Shared Communities Initiative

the Consortium = Shared Communities Consortium comprising:

MNT = Multicultural Nelson Tasman Inc.

MSS = Make/Shift Spaces Inc.

ACN = Arts Council Nelson Inc.

NCC = Community Partnerships, Nelson City Council Te Kaunihera o Whakatū

the Regeneration Fund = Te Tahua Whakamarohi i te Rāngai Ahurea – Cultural Sector Regeneration Fund

the Communities = Migrant and former refugee communities

MCH = Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage

the Engagement Report = Shared Communities Whakatū Nelson – Arts, Culture and Heritage – Engagement with Nelson Migrant and Former Refugee Communities August 2022

the Group = Advisory Group

TANFF = Tasman Asian Night Food Fair

Glossary of Te Reo Māori terms

Kōrero = a conversation, discussion, or meeting

Pūtea = finances or resources to support

Mātauranga Māori = Māori knowledge

Tuakana-Teina = a traditional Māori model for peer learning and support

Te Tiriti = Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi)

Toi Māori = Māori art

Tamariki = children

Ngā mihi nui = a huge thank you



Executive Summary

Impact

The review undertaken to assess the impact of the Initiative covers the period September 2023 to July 2024, one additional month beyond the period covered by the Regenerative Fund. The additional month takes into consideration projects that received funding but may have encountered delays in delivery due to circumstances beyond the organisers' control.

The review identified significant delivery, reach and impact, as well as the Initiative's sustainability and resilience beyond the initial phase.

While only short-term impact can be identified at this stage, [due to the short duration of the initial phase – less than 12 months], it should be noted that many projects have the potential of moderate to long-term impact, [measurable in time- months, years etc and depth- shifts in practice, development, wellbeing or interactions with or experience of arts, culture and heritage] as follows:

- Approximately half the projects are of cultural, or heritage significance acknowledged annually by its community. Although the impact during the initial phase may not be long-lasting beyond the event itself, these ongoing annual events bring community together year after year, contributing to preservation of culture which is of great importance to these communities, and therefore to their well-being.

Examples: cultural celebrations such as Navratri, Eid Adha and Vesak Lantern Festival, and National Day Celebrations such as Hungarian, Karenni, Argentinian, Fiji National Days.

- Four projects have a moderate- to long-term time frame [6 -12 months] and were initiated, developed, or expanded during the initial phase. All are youth-focussed and umbrellaed by MNT to provide ongoing support. They encompass language learning, sports and performing arts.
- Four projects invest in learning skills or acquiring materials for the purpose of creating costumes or accessories of cultural significance. This investment in cultural preservation has potential to shift or change knowledge, skills etc for the long-term benefit of the community.
- Relationships with existing arts, culture and heritage sectors, funders and venues have just begun and are at various stages. There is much untapped potential remaining and a strong indication from the arts, cultural and heritage sectors of willingness to develop what has only just begun.

Abandoning development and support of the above would undermine their medium- to long-term impact. These projects contribute positively to migrant and former refugee communities in addition to the arts, cultural and heritage sectors of Whakatū Nelson, the result being stronger connections between migrants, former refugees and wider community of the region, enriching society for all.

Delivery and Reach

A total of 64 community-led projects of varying type, scale and duration were delivered by 27 migrant and former refugee communities of different ethnicity comprising 20 or more people. **[5]**

This total equates to an average of 6 projects per month- more than 1 project per week. Although there are no data available for comparison, anecdotal evidence from MNT suggests that these numbers are a significant increase from previously.

“There was an explosion of projects and people coming forward for more concrete assistance, I would say more than half were not existing before, it might be more.”

[MNT Manager]

A total of 309 practitioners took part in the projects and there were 13,382 attendees [ranging from 10 attending children's holiday workshops to 3000 at well-established festivals]. **[6]**

The range of projects created were highly diverse, including 6 festivals, 4 films, 7 workshops, 13 celebrations, 2 exhibitions, 3 regarding materials sourcing, 6 with an education focus, 2 gatherings, 2 sports events, and 19 performances [dance, music, street performance]. *Appendix 2: Community-Led Projects* supported by the Initiative summarises all projects undertaken. Projects were delivered in various venues, from small-scale workshops in studios to large-scale public events at Founders Park.

The Initiative was very focused on communities creating and leading projects that reflect 'what' is important to their community.

Common themes that emerged were the preservation of culture and traditional making skills for future generations, gatherings to strengthen community connection *within* their community, and cultural exchange with the wider community to better understand each other.

Capacity and capability building occurred through opportunities created by the Initiative. However, specific workshops, resources, networks and connection facilitation with a particular focus were also delivered:

1. One Cross-Cultural Awareness Workshop with 21 attendees.
2. One Event Planning Workshop with 30 attendees.
3. One Pop-Up Multicultural Market with 70 participants and 1500 attendees built confidence and removed potential barriers that communities might face when participating in cultural markets and festivals (e.g., cost to participate, sourcing equipment, understanding council regulations). [7]

What made a difference?

The entire structure of the Initiative was developed with the primary goal of mitigating the challenges for migrant communities that were identified in the 'Shared Communities Whakatū Nelson – Arts, Culture and Heritage – Engagement with Nelson Migrant and Former Refugee Communities August 2022' Report [the Engagement Report]. [7]

The Initiative was shaped by three components:

1. Non-contestable pūtea for community-led projects – allocated to projects meeting one of the following three strategic outcomes of the Regeneration Fund:
 - a) Improve sustainability and resilience of the arts, culture, and heritage sectors
 - b) Improve access and participation in arts, culture, and heritage sectors
 - c) Increase the use of arts, culture, and heritage as a tool to improve wellbeing.

2. Cultural Navigator Role – a role positioned to be right in the middle of things, creating networks and building strong relationships across Whakatū Nelson's:
 - a) Former refugee and migrant communities
 - b) Key stakeholders including arts, culture and heritage organisations
 - c) Funding partners, **[8]** venue providers, **[9]** NCC, and existing service providers working within the former refugee and migrant communities **[3]**.

3. Advisory Group – A Shared Communities Advisory Group was established in November 2022 [before delivery of the initial phase of the Initiative] through an invitation to participants involved in the Engagement Report and extended to others in their community. It is an open group of members of the Whakatū Nelson migrant and former refugee communities, with people joining and stepping down at different times.

Its primary role is to provide advice to the Cultural Navigator and Consortium members on the direction of the Initiative, including its alignment with community need and equitable funding. The Advisory Group is also instrumental in developing connections within migrant and former refugee communities. **[10]**

This city-wide approach is believed to be the first structure of its kind to develop in Aotearoa New Zealand focusing on:

1. Removing barriers and creating access points to arts, culture and heritage in the region
2. Developing Community leadership and self-initiated projects
3. Amplifying arts, culture and heritage to increase community participation and engagement.

This approach, along with the support of the Consortium partners through a broad collective network and a shared passion for the value of connection and wellbeing through arts culture and heritage, has contributed to the success of this Initiative.



Key Findings

Twelve key findings were drawn from raw data gathered during the initial phase of the SCI from the following:

- 42 project registration and record forms completed by all projects that were allocated pūtea
- 36 one-to-one or small group interviews undertaken by the Reviewer, comprising:
 - Community representatives leading projects
 - Individuals representing an organisation from existing arts, culture and heritage sectors
 - Agencies and Organisations supporting migrant and former refugee communities
 - Consortium members
 - Cultural Navigator
- Advisory Group meeting minutes AND relevant documents pertaining to the Initiative.

The key findings are discussed in detail in pages 19–33.

Key findings 1 to 7:

The Initiative was successful in:

1. Reaching less visible communities in Whakatū Nelson
2. Funding a diverse range of projects in a range of venues **[9]**
3. Facilitating Community Leadership
4. Improving understanding and empathy of the wider arts, culture and heritage sectors for migrant and former refugee communities in Whakatū Nelson
5. Facilitating multi-way connections between community groups and service providers
6. Increasing participation and inclusion in wider arts, cultural and heritage programmes
7. Addressing barriers to participation in arts and cultural activities identified in the Engagement Report. **[7]**

Key finding 8:

Self-initiated projects build confidence and create networks and connections to build upon.

Key finding 9:

Well-being for communities is anchored in:

- a) Their ability to gather and connect with a shared cultural purpose
- b) Preserving cultural traditions for future generations

- c) Providing experiences that allow younger members of their community to learn their culture and history as a means of shaping their identity.

Key finding 10:

Large-Scale Events of National Significance were made possible for the first time or previously delivered projects were able to grow and expand with support of this Initiative.

Key finding 11:

Beyond this initial phase of the Initiative, the main challenges remaining for communities are:

- a) Continued financial support
- b) Volunteer commitment and resource limitations
- c) Capacity and capability to complete reporting and financial reconciliation
- d) Keeping connected with communities beyond their own
- e) Long-term project support.

Key finding 12:

The following areas are identified as needing development:

- a) Capacity & capability building for migrant and refugee communities as well as existing arts, culture and heritage sectors via workshops and mentoring programmes
- b) Fostering networking and relationship building
- c) Provision of useful resources and an information hub where communities can learn from each other and share resources.



Recommendations

18 recommendations are provided with the following three intentions:

- 1) Enhance well-being of migrant and former refugee communities [**Well-being**].
- 2) Facilitate community leadership and self-generated community impact [**Leadership**].
- 3) Create sustainable, long-term impacts on the multicultural fabric of Whakatū Nelson's arts, culture and heritage sectors [**Sustainability**].

These recommendations are based on the Key Findings of this report and on raw data gathered with input from the Advisory Group.

	Recommendations	Well-being	Leadership	Sustainability
1	Ensure the role of Cultural Navigator is sustained long-term. This position is identified as the key component of the Initiative, with the aim of creating networks, building strong relationships that address all three intentions and enabling delivery of all other recommendations.	x	x	x
2	<p>Continue to support and coach migrant and former refugee communities to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access funding • Lead and deliver their own projects • Engage in wider arts, culture and heritage events and activities in Whakatū Nelson. <p>This will require developing an understanding with communities regarding impact of the unavailability of the Initiative's pūtea in next phase, what funds are available and alignment with eligibility criteria etc. Communities will need to plan their events well in advance and understand the time frames for applying for different funding.</p>	x	x	x
3	Further develop Cross-Cultural Awareness Workshop for existing arts, culture and heritage organisations, facilitating opportunities for connections, deeper understanding of different communities' ways of working, culture and heritage.		x	x
4	Continue to deliver Event/Project Planning Workshop to wider migrant and former refugee communities. This is ongoing work as new people and communities enter this space.		x	x
5	Encourage ways for the Advisory Group to participate more in governance of the SCI. To date, the Group has played a vital role ensuring that the SCI has addressed communities' desires and needs contributing to future direction. The Consortium takes a hands-off approach but is still the governing body. Capability building in the governance area would give a greater sense of ownership to the communities concerned.	x	x	
6	Create a Tuakana-Teina, Mentorship or Skills Sharing Programme with the Advisory Group and the wider migrant and refugee communities. More experienced members of the migrant and former refugee communities have indicated an interest in doing this. Creating a process with the Advisory Group to identify suitable candidates for such a programme could be a useful starting point.	x	x	x

7	<p>Facilitate regular networking and connecting events between communities creating opportunities for sharing knowledge and experience, working together and new friendships. The desire to work across cultures and collaborate has been indicated by some community representatives.</p> <p>Identify community representatives that would like to lead this with support from Cultural Navigator.</p>	x	x	x
8	<p>Increase outreach into wider community, e.g., talks in schools raising greater awareness of the Initiative aligning with anti-racism work in schools and filling capacity and capability gaps. This will build upon positive work already initiated in schools and workshops.</p>	x	x	x
9	<p>Create the following resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A digital Multicultural Events Calendar with input from community groups - increasing an awareness of multicultural offerings to all and encouraging forward planning to source funds. • An advocacy toolkit that includes useful materials and insights provided during workshops, by the Engagement Report and directly from communities during this initial phase of the Initiative. These offer valuable information to support organisations in their efforts to work effectively with migrant and former refugee communities and can form the basis of a toolkit. 	x	x	x
10	<p>Further develop the website to contain resources and links such as templates for event/project planning etc, those recommended above, Nelson Founders Directory [funding information] and Venue Database.</p>		x	x
11	<p>Increase the Initiatives visibility in the funding and sponsorship realm by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building relationships with key funders • Advocating and brokering philanthropic and sponsorship agreements with donors, employers, embassies who have a relationship or interest in respective multicultural communities. <p>This will be crucial in a competitive funding environment after the pūtea of the Initiative ends.</p>	x	x	x
12	<p>Follow up with Nelson Museum and Elma Turner Library on initiatives to showcase cultural heritage as part of their ongoing programme.</p>	x	x	x
13	<p>Maintain visibility of migrant and former refugee communities through regular events such as the following, suggested by community representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A stage at the Saturday market for communities to showcase their talents • Regular [quarterly] multicultural markets • Continue to support and expand participation in existing arts, culture heritage programmes such as Tūku, Te Ramaroa, Nelson Arts Festival. 	x	x	x

14	Create a database of volunteers that are willing to assist across communities. This could include people from wider Whakatū Nelson community and volunteer networks such as Volunteer Nelson channels or creating a fit-for-purpose migrant-friendly volunteer network. An outcome of this could be cross-cultural learning.	x	x	x
15	Promote with Nelson Regional Development Agency to gain support for multicultural events at national scale, held locally, and bringing together community from all over the country.	x		x
16	Utilise grant forms that are already translated into other languages (e.g., those on the ACN website) and advocate for translation into additional languages that would be useful to the local demographic.	x	x	

Additional long-term recommendations put forward by the Advisory Group:

17	Addressing storage challenges for community items – Items used for annual festivals and celebrations need to be stored somewhere to avoid unnecessary waste. A common storage solution would be useful.
18	Multicultural Hub – A physical space to gather and connect would strengthen community networks and relationships.

At the time of writing this report, a space has become available in Waimea Road that could serve recommendations 17 and 18 to some degree.



Gallery—Selected projects showing range of projects delivered

- The following 6 pages document a selection of projects supported by the Initiative and are categorised as follows:
 - Celebrations and Gatherings – Cultural, National, Language
 - Learning Together – Preserving and Sharing Culture
 - Participation in Wider Arts, Cultural and Heritage Programme
- A full documentation can be found on Shared Communities website gallery <https://www.sharedcommunities.org.nz/gallery>

Celebrations and Gatherings – Cultural, National, Language

Why these events are important to our community [Summary of feedback offered from Project Organisers]

- Provides a rare opportunity to gather with the wider community and speak our language
- Exposes children to traditional music and dance, family history and cultural heritage
- Deepens old friendships and develops new ones
- Fosters a sense of belonging
- Allows for sports, traditional performances, and sharing history
- Provides a place to express cultural identity and maintain a connection to homeland
- Educates the local community about our cultural heritage
- Fosters joy and keeps traditions alive for young families, and children born here
- Unites families who haven't met for years
- Brings community together on a grand scale
- Provides a platform for annual celebration, fostering community spirit and anticipation

Fiji Independence Day Celebration

photo credit @wiphalastudio



Hungarian National Day Celebration

photo credit @wiphalastudio





Chin Womens Concert

photo credit @wiphalastudio



Diwali NAATA Indian Association

photo credit @wiphalastudio



La Peña, Argentinian Community

photo credit @wiphalastudio



Navratri Festival Gujarati Community Nelson

photo credit @wiphalastudio



Eid ul Fitr Nelson Whakatū Muslim Association

photo credit @wiphalastudio



Vesak Lantern Display, Sri Lankan Community

photo credit @wiphalastudio

Learning Together – Preserving and Sharing Culture

Why these events are important to our community [Summary of feedback offered from Workshop Organisers]

- Provides new experiences and enjoyment for participants
- Opportunity to share skills with the community
- Promotes happiness and engagement among learners
- Facilitates cultural exchange and creative expression
- Promotes sustainable practices and cultural preservation
- Fosters community cohesion and connection
- Encourages creativity, inclusion, and participation
- Teaches and preserves own language, essential to cultural identity and connection to the past
- Promotes a sense of belonging and continuity with cultural heritage
- Values knowledge and diverse cultural traditions
- Supports preservation of cultural traditions
- Addresses parental concerns about youth engagement by providing constructive activities
- Strengthens connections between families



Kayah Language School
photo credit @wiphalastudio



**Arte Libre Curso Vacacional –
Holiday Workshop for tamariki,
Latino Community**
photo supplied by community



Burmese Language School
photo credit @wiphalastudio



**Golazo Football Project initiated
by Colombian and Brazilian
Communities**
photo credit @wiphalastudio



He Raihi Whakatū Rice Growing Workshop, Japanese Community
photo credit @wiphalastudio



Traditional Wine Pots Workshop, Zomi Community
photo credit @Rami Pixel



Polynesian Panthers Educate to Liberate Workshop
photo credit @wiphalastudio



Bamboo Painting, Zomi Community
photo credit @wiphalastudio



Colombian Dance and Music Academy
photo credit @wiphalastudio

Participation in Wider Arts, Cultural and Heritage Programme – New and existing initiatives

Recognising less visible communities and enriching wider community through multicultural celebrations – 2024 saw increased participation compared to 2023.

1. Multicultural Festival - 7 more performers and 9 more stallholders
 2. Matariki – Auga o Aute Reason for the Day Dance Group started 4 years ago with only a few girls. A small group presented at the Pop-Up Multicultural Market, with a larger group of 18 taking part in Matariki 2024
- “The new uniforms give us a sense of pride.” [Organiser Auga o Aute]*
3. Tūku - Increased participation by 50%
 4. Tasman Asian Night Food Fair - 2 more stallholders
 5. Pop-Up Multicultural Market – inaugural event, building community confidence and capability - 19 non-commercial stallholders and 8 paid performances



1

Ni-Vanuatu Community
photo credit Debra Cole



Mate [tea] at Global Tea Tent, Argentinian Community
photo supplied by community



Lakhey Dance Performer from Tāmaki Makaurau, Bhutanese-Nepalese Community
photo credit Debra Cole



Thai Community
photo credit Debra Cole



2

Auga O Aute Dance Group, Samoan Community
photo credit @wiphalastudio



Auga O Aute Dance Group, Samoan Community
photo credit @wiphalastudio

3



Ram Navami Shobha Yatra Street Performance
photo credit @wiphalastudio

Indian Block Printing Workshop, NAATA Indian Community

Photo supplied by community



4



Burmese Community
photo credit Debra Cole

Dragon Dancing, Chinese Community

photo credit Debra Cole



5



Shri Durga Vedic Sanatan Ramayan Bhagwat Mandal Indian Community
photo credit @wiphalastudio



Indonesian Community
photo credit @wiphalastudio

Karenni Community

photo supplied by community



Pakistani Community
photo credit @wiphalastudio

Discussion of Key Findings

The Initiative achieved success in the following areas:

1. Reaching less visible communities in Whakatū Nelson

Of 45 ethnic communities [with a population of 20 or more and for whom English is not their primary language], 27 were reached. This is nearly two-thirds of community groups in the above category. **[5]**

Over half of the participating communities became aware of the Initiative through their association with MNT, which is often the first point of contact for migrants and former refugees, or by face-to-face engagement with the Cultural Navigator.

Approximately 50% of the Cultural Navigator's time was spent on relationship building and networking correlating directly to above results [remaining time broadly allocated to office and administration (including support writing funding applications) 40%, and event attendance 10%]. **[11]**

"The level of engagement Karolina brought was next level. We are not resourced to engage at this deep level." [Representatives from arts sector]

Generally, communities did not use the website to access information about the Initiative as the depth of engagement with time-poor community volunteers was more effective via face-to-face contact. There is potential to review this now that many communities are familiar with the Initiative after delivery of the first phase.

Leveraging off previous work in this space, i.e., the comprehensive Engagement Report, the Initiative was able to amplify outreach to communities with support from other organisations working with migrant and former refugees, particularly Co-author of the Engagement Report, Karen Darling, Community Navigator at Victory Community Centre, Norma Sequera, and the Advisory Group, along with Consortium members who brought their very broad networks.

There is some lack of clarity regarding the relationship between the Initiative and the Consortium. Most people from migrant and former refugee communities taking part in the Initiative understood the Initiative to be part of MNT and didn't have a clear understanding of the Consortium. While this lack of understanding does not seem to have impacted on the Initiative's delivery of the initial phase, it may be beneficial for the Consortium to consider whether further clarification would serve to benefit the communities as well as the arts, cultural and heritage sectors of the region. The Cultural Navigator's role, however, is very clearly understood.

2. Funding a diverse range of projects in a range of venues

In total, 64 community-led projects were supported. This translates to an average of six projects per month, showcasing a vibrant and active multicultural landscape in Whakatū Nelson.

The self-generated projects were notably diverse, reflecting the varied interests and cultural expressions of the communities. They include:

Festivals: 6

Films: 4

Workshops: 7

Celebrations: 13

Exhibitions: 2

Material Sourcing: 3

Education-focused Projects: 6

Gatherings: 2

Sports Events: 2

Performances (dance, music, street performance): 19

Projects were hosted across 26 different venues, ranging from private homes to community facilities, schools, cinemas, parks, and private event venues that familiarising communities with previously unknown venues around the city. **[9]**

Projects varied in duration from few hours to 12 months, and beyond.

Four long-term projects were initiated and umbrellaed under MNT:

- Importing of traditional instruments from Colombia and the creation of an Afro-Colombian Dance and Music Academy for Afro-Colombian former refugees living in the region and wider community
- Latin American Football Kura for youth from any community
- New Kayah Language School
- Expansion of Burmese Language School.

MNT stepped in to ensure their viability to overcome the following challenges:

Funding amount and timing: long-term projects required significantly more funding than what the Initiatives' pūtea could provide. External funding sources continuing beyond the Initiative's timeframe were sourced for this reason and to ensure sustainability of projects beyond the initial phase.

Additionally, some projects were intended to be delivered after the SCI deadline.

Unregistered Organisations and Lack of Bank Accounts: Many communities, especially those not previously active in art, culture, and heritage activities, are not registered organisations (i.e., as incorporated societies, associations or charitable trusts) and do not have community group bank accounts - a significant barrier to accessing funding.

MNT acted as an umbrella organisation by submitting applications on behalf of these communities and assuming responsibility for distributing grants via a Fund-holding Agreement. While adding significant responsibility and risk to MNT, without this arrangement, the projects would not have got underway. **[12]**

This arrangement has set an expectation for ongoing assistance from the Initiative, including for advice, help with reporting and accountability processes, particularly the Cultural Navigator and MNT.

“Shared communities Initiative is very straight forward, high trust model so not a lot of barriers. No idea where to go for other funding so will need their help in the future.” [Long term Community Project Organiser]

“Providing support with applications, networking, financial. Next 12 months support crucial as delivering project and need assistance with managing accountability.” [Long term Community Project Organiser]

At the time of writing this report, additional funding has been sourced for the Cultural Navigator role, extending it beyond the initial phase until January 2025.

There is overwhelming evidence to suggest that this central point of contact is key to successful delivery of the Initiative due to its relational nature. Trust building, visibility in the communities, flexible ways of working addressing different needs were key. Karolina, the appointed Cultural Navigator, excelled in all these areas.

3. Facilitating community leadership

In total, 309 practitioners participated in the 64 projects delivered. Practitioners included people from within the community creating, organising, delivering and performing in projects. **[6]** Community ownership, confidence, sense of pride and belonging resulted in empowering communities and enhancing well-being.

"All of which support 'sustainability and resilience'." [Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum member].

Shifting the dynamic from current leaders in the space to newcomer-leadership contributed to creating a much more diverse and multicultural arts, culture and heritage landscape.

Building upon this experience, and responding to Advisory Group's request, an **Event/Project Planning Workshop** was organised as part of the Initiative, with the aim of building further capability in organising events/projects within their community, public events, or participating in local markets.

- Participants learned about event basics, budgeting, funding and sponsorship, permissions/consents, venues, equipment sourcing, event promotion, logistics, site plans and scheduling, health and safety, food vendors, contracts and agreements, payments, IRD, Work and Income, event reporting, and measurable templates.
- In addition to the main speaker, who is an event planning expert, guest speakers from Nelson City Council, the Inland Revenue Department, and the Ministry of Social Development engaged directly with these communities, answering their questions and addressing their concerns.
- This also helped our guest speakers gain a better understanding of the barriers these communities face when leading their own projects and events.
- 27 people from 19 different community groups attended this workshop.
- Some overall feedback from attendees included:

"Informative and well organised"

"Very purposeful workshop"

"10/10 best workshop I have attended"

"Great event! Thank you very much!"

"I think it was amazing the information shared with us"

"Very helpful, please have this kind of workshop regularly"

"It was a really friendly environment and a complete workshop"

"It was great! Really enjoyed the speakers at this event"

A mentoring program to connect project leads with potential mentors is also being explored – something also requested by some members of the Advisory Group.

It is also important to note already established leadership structures and barriers within some communities. Some communities have established hierarchies that influence participation, and women may not be officially recognised as leaders but are active contributors. This needs to be respected and worked alongside with different approaches, e.g., separate meetings for women's groups where necessary to ensure their active involvement. Also, many leaders are willing to support initiatives but face challenges due to full-time jobs and family commitments. This limits their

ability to take on additional responsibilities. Support and flexibility here is essential and there was much praise for both MNT and the Cultural Navigator for doing this, such as the example below from a community leader:

“Coming to someone like Karolina for help made a difference. She was very flexible and saw us when we could make it, after work etc. Other places close and we can't go during work time.” [Community Project Organiser]

4. Improving understanding and empathy by wider arts, culture and heritage sectors of migrant and former refugee communities in Whakatū Nelson

A Cross-Cultural Awareness Workshop for arts, culture, and heritage organisations was provided, aimed at increasing awareness about potential barriers and challenges preventing members of migrant and refugee communities from participating more fully in arts, culture, and heritage activities.

Participating organisations had the opportunity to hear directly from five different migrant and former refugee groups about key considerations when working with their specific communities.

- The workshop was attended by 21 people, including representatives from Nelson Provincial Museum Pupuri Taonga o Te Tai Ao, Nelson Library, Richmond Library, The Refinery Artspace, Nelson Arts Festival, Nelson Fringe Festival, Magenta Creative Space, Make/Shift Spaces, The Suter Art Gallery Te Aratoi o Whakatū, Arts Council Nelson, Greenmeadows (NCC venue), Founders Heritage Park (NCC venue), Welcoming Communities - NCC, Tukū Festival (Arts and Heritage Advisor NCC), NCC Senior Planning Advisor, and Fresh FM Motueka.
- A survey conducted after the workshop and interviews with organisation representatives during the review period provided following insights from attendees:

“Gained a better understanding of different cultural groups in Nelson and increased awareness of barriers to engagement with the arts, such as filling forms.”

“I most enjoyed hearing directly from migrants and refugees. It's wonderful to hear about what they need from community organisations straight from them.”

“It was very powerful hearing directly from those with lived experience as new migrants and former refugees in Nelson.”

“It was an opportunity to see and hear what you may 'know' via a different lens.”

“An eye-opener - raised awareness regarding diversity in the region, learned about migrant and former refugee community experiences.”

“Very moving and impactful. Gained confidence in going to events from different communities and seeing what they did and made.”

- Hearing directly from migrant and former refugee communities had the most impact.
- Some arts, culture, and heritage organisations expressed interest in:
 - Continuing to engage with these communities and their leaders welcoming more opportunities for engagement, mutual learning, deeper conversations to create inclusive opportunities and foster community connections and collaborations.
 - Deepening their relationships with Shared Communities viewing the Cultural Navigator role as crucial for bridging the gap between communities and their organisations – a level of engagement that they themselves could not resource because of the size of their organisation.
- The workshops prompted immediate tangible changes in practice among participants. For instance:
 - Exploring translation of application forms into Spanish and Portuguese by ACN is underway.
 - Several organisations relayed increased mindfulness about inclusivity within their organisations. *For example, greater attentiveness to welcoming practices, reading body language, and prioritising accessibility and inclusivity over data collection.*
 - Both **Nelson Museum** and **Elma Turner Library** are working on a dedicated space to showcase different migrant cultural heritage as part of their general programme to tell migrant stories, raise cultural awareness, and celebrate the region’s diversity. They are keen to work with SCI to get this underway.
 - In contrast to the migrant and former refugee communities, this sector was clear regarding the Initiative and its relationship to the Consortium, as well as the Cultural Navigator role.

One interviewee questioned whether the Initiative should be umbrellaed by an existing arts organisation such as Arts Council Nelson.

The Initiative’s aim is to respond to projects that are important to migrant and former refugee communities. Projects supported have been very broad [beyond arts] including, culture, heritage [including sports] and education as well as art projects. MNT has provided support for 30 years across a wide range of areas including but not limited to above. It is also generally the first point of contact for the communities concerned. Having the Initiative umbrellaed under MNT provides one point of contact with a dedicated person to assist communities with support from the other Consortium members. MNT has also had some prior experience with fundholding on behalf of organisations and this was something anticipated as part of the Initiative.

5. Facilitating multi-way connections between community groups and service providers

Twenty-five percent of projects were supported with networks and connections to wider community [festivals, schools, sports team, Nelson Provincial Museum Pupuri Taonga o Te Tai Ao, libraries, and artists working from their studio] and across migrant and former refugee communities.

Examples:

Kate Garnyk, a migrant artist for Kiwi Slang Exhibition was connected to the Elma Turner, Richmond and Motueka libraries to exhibit her work.

Ram Navami Shobha Yatra street performance was connected to the Nelson Museum and Elma Turner Library to host the performance along their route for Tūku 24.

Zomi Community weaving and pottery projects were connected with Arts Council Nelson to find artists to support their upskilling in these craft areas and to NCC parks for their bamboo collecting project.

Several migrant artists have also been connected to Make/Shift Spaces for the 'Doors' project which has recently got underway.

Nelson Intermediate Lunch Time Sessions - As part of Ngā Taonga/The Treasures lunch time series, the Performing Arts Teacher Lead was connected to the following community groups to share their expertise with interested students: Afro-Colombian , Brazilian, Samoan, and Indian.

This developed into:

- a) A school-wide Samoan dance project celebrating and valuing diversity at their school:*

"Bringing different cultures to school provides a place to be proud and show things off, culture is preserved and valued." [Nelson intermediate School Project Organiser]

- b) Employment opportunity for a member of the Afro-Colombian dance group as a teacher aide at the school.*

Golazo Latin American Football Kura - Although a project led by Afro-Colombian and Brazilian communities, the Cultural Navigator has connected other community groups to Golazo, interconnecting different communities and strengthening this project with increased interest and participation.

"Karolina connected with many communities and can help us connect too. For example, we have Samoan people in our football team, Fijian singer. We want more connections now that we have the relationship". [Project Organiser]

6. Increasing participation and inclusion in wider arts, cultural and heritage programmes

The following existing event organisers reported the following:

Multicultural Festival

Seven more performers and 9 more stallholders compared to 2023 and attendance reached venue capacity of 7,000.

For the first time, a professional dancer from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland presented a traditional dance with participation from the Bhutanese-Nepali Community in Nelson, made possible by support from the Initiative.

Tasman Asian Night Food Fair

Two new stallholders due to new relationships from the Pop-Up Multicultural Market

Tukū 24

Participation increased by 50% compared to Tukū 23.

“Whilst Tūku engages with migrant communities, level of engagement that the Consortium brought to disadvantaged migrant communities is next level. Potentially 2-3 events would not have gone ahead without the financial, emotional support provided by the Consortium.” [Tūku Manager]

Matariki 2024

While the Samoan Dance Group, Auga o Aute, have performed at previous Matariki celebrations, they received considerable feedback after their 2024 performance wearing their new uniforms, a SCI project resulting in increased interest in newcomers joining the group.

“We were funded for 18 uniform and after Matariki, our group is now 28. Very good feedback about uniform, how we looked on stage particularly at Matariki.” [Auge o Aute representative]

Finding 7 below states how the Pop-Up Multicultural Market, planned, organised, and promoted by Shared Communities, at no cost to participants somewhat facilitated this increase in participation.

The initial phase of the Initiative did not align with the programming periods of major art festivals such as Nelson Arts Festival and Te Ramaroa.

Both festivals have previously partnered with Cultural Conversations to diversify their programmes, indicating a willingness to engage more with the diverse cultures of Whakatū Nelson.

7. Addressing barriers to participation in arts and cultural activities identified in p13 of the Engagement Report [7]

How did the Initiative do this?

a) Centralised support through the Cultural Navigator

Having a single point of contact significantly simplified access to information for communities. Previously, community members had to navigate multiple organisations, a time-consuming and complex process. The Cultural Navigator role, dedicated to supporting community-led projects, provided a deep level of engagement, easing the pathway for delivery and fostering strong ties and trust.

“Shared communities and Karolina made it easy for us to know where to go, what funding is available, how to connect with people, help with language[writing]. We don't have anyone in our community that can help with this. We are all volunteers, and time is also an issue.” [Community Project Organiser]

b) Funding support – financial and time support

The Initiative supported 42 projects with the allocated pūtea [\$75,000.00] and assisted 18 additional projects in sourcing other funding totalling \$75,534.00. **[13]**

Support was provided in preparing applications, interpreting forms, and writing formal documents. This was particularly beneficial for project organisers who, despite having everyday English skills, required assistance with formal writing and managing time constraints.

While longtime migrants might have found alternative financial support, approximately half of the projects would not have continued without the Initiative's support. This is aptly expressed in the following testimony by a community organisation lead:

“I was trying to do projects for the past 3 years on my own without any knowledge of funding, where to go, how to apply for youth in our community through dance and music and felt really lost. It wasn't until I met Karolina through the Initiative that I was able to start the project.”

c) Developing easily accessible processes

A simple Project Registration process and a Record Form [to report back] were developed for quick and efficient pūtea allocation and accountability. All projects received 100% of their requested funds, ensuring certainty for project delivery.

“Very accessible funding process.” [Community Project Organiser]

d) Networking and Connecting

Sourcing materials and skills

Example: A group of Zomi women were keen to find a pottery tutor and venue to create pots and bamboo for a future dance event – they were connected to a local potter who ran a bespoke workshop for them and to Parks Division at NCC to assist with these projects. This level of support shows a real commitment to supporting what is important to the community.

Finding venues

Projects were hosted across a range of venues in Whakatū Nelson and the Tasman area, including private homes, community facilities, schools, cinemas, parks, and private event venues. While some communities found their own venues, the Cultural Navigator facilitated introductions to others. [9]

One interviewee suggested developing a venue database or link to an existing database for venue listings assisting communities searching a venue.

Assistance with understanding regulations

Initiatives such as the Pop-Up Multicultural Market provided opportunities to build capability by sharing resources and information such as templates, keeping records, and reporting. Guidelines were given to stallholders, along with support for first-time performers and stallholders, fostering confidence to participate in events like the Multicultural Festival and Tasman Nelson Asian Food Fair [TANFF].

8. Self-initiated projects build confidence, creating networks and connections to build upon

Communities sometimes started with small projects and gradually moved on to more complex or larger projects as their confidence grew.

For example, the Zomi Community successfully created three projects:

- *Khuado Pawi: Their most significant harvest festival*
- *Pottery Workshop: An initiative to learn skills for creating clay pots important to their cultural practices*
- *Sourcing Bamboo: A project to gather materials for future dance performances.*

These projects not only enhanced the community's cultural expression but also built their capacity to undertake more initiatives.

Opportunities to connect with the wider Whakatū Nelson community and gain employment also emerged from these projects. For instance, after delivering a drumming workshop at Nelson Intermediate lunchtime series, employment as a

teacher aide was secured at the school by the community member delivering the drumming workshop. Plans to establish a Cimarron Dance and Music Academy are underway after several smaller initiatives [including this one].

Additionally, parents expressed comfort in sending their children to school classes where instruction is provided in their cultural language. This highlights the importance of community-led culture, tradition, and heritage projects, as they allow communities to create initiatives that reflect their unique identities and needs, providing autonomy and fostering a sense of ownership.

“Youth telling us that they love to learn in Latin American style.” [Community Project Organiser]

9. Well-being for communities is anchored in:

a) Their ability to gather and connect with a shared cultural purpose

Organising cultural events, which involve collective efforts in planning, venue preparation, and food, brings communities together. It provides opportunities for members to connect, communicate, and unite, fostering a sense of belonging and strengthening relationships. Projects often described their impact using phrases such as *‘feeling connected’*, *‘getting to know each other and supporting each other’*, and *‘creating good relationships’*. This collective effort and shared purpose help reinforce community bonds and provide a powerful platform for celebrating and sharing rich cultural heritage.

b) Preserving cultural traditions for future generations

Many projects focused on passing down teachings to the younger generation, ensuring the conservation of culture, and sharing celebrations with the wider community. Participants highlighted the importance of conserving their culture and the community’s responsibility to preserve it. This preservation work not only keeps traditions alive but also enriches the lives of community members. Key phrases such as *‘conserving our culture’*, *‘keep our culture alive’*, and *‘opportunity to pass on tradition to next generation’* underscore the importance of these efforts.

c) Providing experiences for younger members of their community to learn their culture and history to shape their identity

About half the projects delivered were own community, [i.e., not for public], allowing children to learn about their culture, history, and language, which helps them connect with older generations. Descriptions of the impact include phrases like *‘reinforce in children their sense of belonging and impor-*

tance of cultural heritage', 'language helps young people to connect with older generation', and 'keep youth engaged'. These experiences empower young people with a strong sense of pride and identity, contributing to their overall well-being.

10. Large-Scale Events of National Significance were made possible for the first time, and previously delivered projects were able to grow and expand with support of this Initiative

Examples:

Latin American Film Festival

Annual non-profit event showcasing films from Latin America and Spain in 11 cities across New Zealand with Whakatū Nelson being one of the 11. This is not a new event but additional pūtea from the Initiative made it possible to tour the festival around Whakatū Nelson and Tasman.

The event attracts visitors, boosting local businesses and establishes a temporary community hub.

Diwali Festival at Founders

A significant event for the Indian community, akin to Christmas attracted 3000 people to Founders giving the event a vibe that larger cities in Aotearoa New Zealand have with Diwali in these centres. There are no data on how many visitors this event attracted from out of town. Anecdotal evidence for previous years has indicated significant attendance from Blenheim. This year, two Christchurch businesses sponsored the event, suggesting further outside interest.

Karenni National Day Celebration

This year, for the first time, Karenni National Day was celebrated for all Karenni communities in Whakatū Nelson. It is celebrated as a national event every three years in one of the cities and attracted close to 500 people this year as well as performers from all around the country.

Hungarian National Day

This was held at Fairfield House and attended by the Hungarian Ambassador, which attracted over 60 people with 2 performers brought from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. This has given confidence to consider future South Island events in Nelson, drawing Hungarian communities in the South Island together.

Afro-Colombian Day Celebration

Performers from Blenheim were connected to local community members bringing together a total of 50 performers as part of the celebration.

Argentinian Revolution Day Celebration

18 performers were invited from Christchurch, Blenheim, and other regions making the celebration a significant South Island gathering for this community.

11. Challenges remaining for communities beyond this initial phase of the Initiative

a) Continued financial support

In the current funding environment, it is unlikely that the next stage will include direct pūtea that can be directly allocated to projects as part of the Initiative. However, the need for sustained financial resources remains critical. Many projects rely on pūtea funding, and without continued support, the ability to maintain and expand these initiatives is jeopardised.

Foreseeing the likelihood of the Initiative's pūtea not continuing, communities were encouraged and supported to apply for other grants that could potentially provide continuity. Eighteen projects received funding from seven other funders, with pūtea from the Initiative supplementing if required. **[7]**

b) Time constraints to prepare applications and plan projects

All project organisers are volunteers who often have limited time to dedicate to community projects due to work and family commitments. The process of applying for funding, planning, and organising projects is time-consuming and can be overwhelming without adequate support. Continued assistance from the Initiative is essential to help community members navigate these demands until they gain greater confidence, skill, and knowledge in event planning and delivery.

c) Capacity and Capability to complete reporting and financial reconciliation

The capacity and capability to manage these administrative tasks vary among community members, many of whom are still developing these skills. Continued guidance and support are needed to ensure accurate and timely reporting, which is crucial for maintaining funding and accountability.

d) Keeping connected with communities beyond their own

Maintaining connections with the diverse communities of Whakatū Nelson is vital for sharing knowledge, resources, and support. The initiative has fostered a sense of unity and collaboration, but ongoing efforts are required to keep these connections strong. Experienced community members are keen to pass on their expertise, but structured opportunities for knowledge sharing and mentorship are necessary to facilitate this.

e) Volunteer Commitment and Resource Limitations

As volunteers, project organisers face the challenge of balancing their community involvement with other personal and professional responsibilities. This limitation impacts their ability to apply for funding, plan effectively, and manage projects comprehensively. To overcome these challenges, the Initiative's support must extend beyond the initial phase, providing a foundation until community leaders achieve a higher level of self-sufficiency.

f) Long-Term Project Support

Several long-term projects have successfully established themselves under the Multicultural Nelson Tasman umbrella during the first phase. These projects will require ongoing support and guidance to deliver their 12-month plans and secure funding for subsequent phases. Ensuring the continuity of these initiatives is crucial for the sustained growth and development of the community's cultural and artistic endeavours.

"Grateful and feel lucky to have SC support. Lived in Auckland 15 years but didn't experience anything like this." [Community Project Organiser]

12. Main areas where improvements can be made in the next phase of the Initiative

a) Capacity & Capability Building

Workshops on:

- Further developing Cross-Cultural Awareness
- Ongoing Event/Project Planning
- Preparing funding applications.

Mentoring programmes enable more experienced event organisers within community to support first timers, working towards a more sustainable and resilient Initiative, addressing succession planning within the community, and sharing systems and processes developed with wider migrant and former refugee communities. Other benefits are strengthening of leadership within communities and addressing succession planning for the Initiative.

b) Fostering networking and relationship building by:

- Having a stage at the Saturday market for communities to showcase their talents
- Regular gatherings with the Advisory Group to deepen the connections between different communities
- More mingling and networking between communities and Group members.

c) Useful Resources

Setting up an Information Hub where Communities learn and share knowledge about each other's projects.

The SCI website does hold information on all projects allocated pūtea from the Initiative's fund, but it appears that the website isn't frequently used by communities.

Ways of encouraging people to use the website could be an area for exploration and development.

For example, a section containing useful resources like those provided at the Event/Project Management Workshop.

d) Other suggestions:

- Addressing storage challenges for community items
- Need for volunteers to support projects
- Increasing outreach (e.g., talks in schools) for people who are unaware about the project.

Conclusion

Shared Communities Initiative has created lasting impacts, paving the way for continued growth and collaboration in the multicultural landscape of Whakatū Nelson.

Significant achievements lie in its successful engagement with diverse communities, an effective funding model [accessible and flexible], and facilitating community leaders through community-led projects.

Insights gained along the way relate to the importance and value of:

- Building trust with communities
- Providing effective funding support
- Involving communities in decision-making to create their own impact
- Offering upskilling and capability building opportunities
- Supporting preservation of culture and gatherings enhancing community well-being
- Assisting with administrative tasks and technical guidance
- Maximising existing resources

The Initiative impacted migrant and former refugee communities, where representatives from communities gained confidence, skills, and made connections fostering a sense of identity and belonging. It also allowed the existing arts, cultural and heritage sectors to gain insight and address barriers faced by diverse communities, leading to more inclusive practices and engagement.

In short, the Initiative enriched the cultural fabric of Whakatū Nelson and facilitated opportunities for social cohesion.

The collaborative model of the Consortium brought together the strengths of four organisations. Their commitment to the Initiative leveraged off a comprehensive Engagement Report, bolstered by wider Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum members and arts, cultural and heritage organisations. As a result, the Initiative was well supported and achieved considerable impact in less than 12 months.

A robust framework for the Initiative is now in place with clear direction for the next phase:

- How can the Initiative respond to Te Tiriti, facilitating a more rich, responsible and strong relational connection to new place of residence?
- What opportunities are there for increasing employment and skill development?
- Recognising that the Initiative's pūtea offered simplicity and flexibility that other funders don't offer to the same degree, what other sources can be tapped into to continue offering this support?
- What succession planning is required to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of the Initiative?

Shared Communities recognises that this is ongoing work. It also celebrates its achievements in breaking barriers for migrant and former refugee communities, and in fostering cultural exchange and inclusivity. The Initiative's future direction will continue to focus on enhancing well-being, building capabilities, and creating sustainable, long-term impacts on the multicultural fabric of Whakatū Nelson.



Acknowledgements

Thanks to all **project and interview participants** for giving their time and insight regarding the Initiative. A list of names is not provided with consideration to participant confidentiality. Their honesty and trust in sharing their experience and depth of knowledge about their communities, arts, culture and heritage of Whakatū Nelson have made this report possible.

To the **Advisory Group**, your guidance in facilitating arts, culture and heritage projects generated by the community and contribution to this review is invaluable.

This report was made possible with the support of members of the **Shared Communities Consortium**.

Particular thanks go to MNT staff [Anna Fyfe and Ramiesha Perera] who generously shared their office and to **Cultural Navigator, Karolina Serrano** for her passion and commitment to this Initiative, and for sharing her data.

Padma Naidu – Independent Reviewer

Padma has run her own creative practice for over two decades taking on a diverse range of projects in architecture, arts, education and community engagement across Aotearoa New Zealand including Whakatū Nelson and Tasman.

Born in Fiji, Padma migrated to Aotearoa New Zealand with her family in the mid-1970s. Over the decades, she has witnessed and taken an interest in the many waves of migration that followed and has worked with former refugee and new migrant communities across Aotearoa.

An artist and designer herself, she brings a passion and commitment to working with different cultures and creatives to harness all that arts, culture and heritage can offer to enrich our diverse society.

All interviews were conducted by Padma with the following people providing guidance, support and technical expertise:

Elisabeth Vaneveld [MNZM]- Elisabeth is a strategist, leader and facilitator working in New Zealand's creative sector. Her experience includes establishing start-up organisations, designing programmes, devising productions, managing tours, organising festivals, activating projects, developing partnerships, building networks and facilitating change.

Karen Darling – Previously National Manager of New Zealand Newcomers Network, which encompasses over 35 community groups nationwide providing social connection to newcomers. Karen has had a varied and interesting career in community projects in Aotearoa and overseas in Botswana, St Vincent and the Grenadines, the UK and Australia.

She has been involved in a number of research projects in Whakatū Nelson over the past few years including Victory Community Centre, The Women's Centre, Tāhunanui Community Hub, Victory Boxing Charitable Trust, and Shared Com-

munities. She has a very multicultural family and is passionate about combating racism and working towards providing opportunities and improving the quality of life for migrants and former refugees in our community.

Annabel Boyes – Editor | annabeljj@xtra.co.nz

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Notes

[1] Timeline and Stages of Shared Communities Initiative [SCI]:

2021: Shared Communities Consortium established.

Seed funding for the Engagement Report received end of 2021.

August 2022: Engagement Report distribution.

June 2023: Funding from MCH Te Tahua Whakamarohi i te Rāngai Ahurea – Cultural Sector Regeneration Fund secured.

September 2023: Funding received. Due to delay in receiving this, delivery of Initial Phase was shortened to 10 months.

1 September 2023 to 30 June 2024: Delivery of the Initial Phase of the Initiative

Within this time frame:

- *1 September 2023:* Partnership Deed between the Consortium and MNT signed.
- *25 September 2023 to 31 July 2024:* Appointment of Cultural Navigator, Karolina Serrano.
- *Late September to 30 June 2024:* Pūtea allocation with some projects delivered in July [due to circumstances beyond community group's control such as delay in arrival of materials from overseas] and beyond [long-term projects such as different school for youth].

[2] “Wellbeing” within this document refers to the Treasury’s Living Standards Framework, specifically the measures outlined in the “Our Individual and Collective Wellbeing section.

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/higherliving-standards/our-living-standards-framework>

[3] Agencies in Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum include Red Cross, Victory Community Centre, Welcoming Communities/Nelson City Council, English Language Partners, Nelson Citizen’s Advice Bureau, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Development, Make/Shift Spaces, Regional Public Health, Age Concern, Volunteer Nelson, Community Law, and Department of Internal Affairs.

[4] The Regeneration Fund was designed to support strategic, sector-led initiatives that have lasting benefits for arts, culture, and heritage in Aotearoa New Zealand with five outcomes:

- 1) Improve sustainability and resilience of the arts, culture, and heritage sectors
- 2) Increase employment and skill development opportunities
- 3) Improve safeguarding of Mātauranga Māori and support of Toi Māori
- 4) Improve access and participation in arts, culture, and heritage sectors
- 5) Increase the use of arts, culture, and heritage as a tool to improve wellbeing.

The Initiative prioritised outcomes 1,4 and 5.

[5] Breakdown of migrant and former refugee communities’ ethnicity was taken from Appendix 3 of the Shared Communities Initiative Proposal to Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage Te Urungi - Innovating Aotearoa.

[6] Practitioners are defined as individuals within the sector, where ‘sector’ refers to communities delivering projects and ‘Audience/Attendees’ refers to individuals experiencing the sector as per the MCH Cultural Sector Regeneration Fund – Outcome Measure Overview.

Numbers used are those supplied to MCH in final reporting.

[7] Page 13 of the Engagement Report lists barriers identified by migrant and former refugee communities. The Report can be found on the Shared Communities website,

<https://www.sharedcommunities.org.nz/sharedcommunitiesinitiative>.

[8] The seven other funders applied to for various projects with successful outcomes are: Lottery Community, NCC Community Investment Fund, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs Ethnic Communities Development Fund, Tū Manawa Active

Aotearoa Fund Sports Tasman, NCC Neighbourhood Grant, Nelson Regional Development Agency Event Fund and Creative Communities Scheme.

This is not an exhaustive list of funders operating in the Whakatū Nelson region.

[9] Venues used: Nelson College, Saxton OvalC, 123 Bridge Street, Kiln Studios, Scout Hall, Old St. Johns Hall, Founders Park, Greenmeadows Community Centre, Nelson Library, Private houses, Community Art Works, 206 Songer Street, The Suter Art Gallery Te Aratoi o Whakatū, On-line, Victory Primary School, Anzac Park, Victory Community Centre, Nelson Intermediate School, 903 Trafalgar Square, Gecko Cinema Motueka, Old St John's Hall, St Joseph's School, Nelson College for Girls, 1 Crathie Place, Annesbrooke Church, Broads Field Nelson, Fairfield House, Victory Primary School, The Refinery Artspace.

[10] A *Terms of Reference* document was established for the Advisory Group, stating its Purpose, Term, Membership, Roles & Responsibilities and Meetings. However, the gatherings are generally quite informal, as and when needed. The Group remains open to any member from the communities, and, to date, the make-up has varied according to community interest at any time.

For example, community members attended when they had a project registered with the Cultural Navigator.

[11] As part of the Cultural Navigator interview, an analysis of tasks undertaken, and time spent was conducted and documented for future reference.

[12] A *Fund-holding Agreement* Template between Multicultural Nelson Tasman and the Community receiving funds was signed, and included grant information, release of funds, MNT fee for administering funds, dispute resolution and termination of agreement.

MNT has previously been a fund holder but not quite to this extent.

[13] Financial data obtained from the Financial Reconciliation component of the final reporting to MCH.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Research Plan

This Independent Review seeks to assess the impact of the Shared Communities Initiative [SCI] on arts, culture and heritage in Whakatū Nelson, and evaluate its sustainability and resilience beyond the initial phase.

'Impact' relates specifically to:

- Inclusion, access and participation in the arts, culture and heritage ecosystem
- Community leadership and self-generated community impact through self-initiated projects
- Wellbeing of migrant and former refugee communities in the region.

Within this document, '**Wellbeing**' refers to the Treasury's Living Standards Framework, specifically the measures outlined in the "Our Individual and Collective Wellbeing section:

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/higherliving-standards/our-living-standards-framework>

Review Question: What factors [if any] made a difference and can be sustained beyond the initial phase?

The following overarching research questions guide the review:

1. What *difference* has the SCI made to former refugee and migrant communities as well as the region's arts, culture and heritage sectors regarding *inclusion, access and participation*?
2. What changes can be observed by *former refugee and migrant* relating to their *wellbeing*?
3. What *opportunities* were initiated and what is still untapped potential?
4. What *barriers* were addressed and what still needs to be addressed?

This plan outlines a series of research methods that work together to bring forward relevant information, data, perspectives and views.

Through a process of triangulating the findings delivered by each research method, a series of key findings will reveal the impact of SCI, lessons learnt AND provide recommendations for SCI to progress and/or activate in next phase of the project.

Abbreviations

SCI = Shared Communities Initiative

MCH = Manatū Taonga Ministry of Culture and Heritage

NCC = Community Partnerships, Nelson City Council Te Kaunihera o Whakatū

MNT = Multicultural Nelson Tasman Inc.

ACN = Arts Council Nelson Inc.

REVIEW METHOD	AREA[S] OF ENQUIRY	WHO, WHAT, HOW [LOGISTICS]
DESK-TOP RESEARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background and motivation for SCI Opportunity, Purpose, Key Stakeholders Findings & Recommendations of 2022 Engagement Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of Consortium to MCH, including 2022 Engagement Report by Ryan & Reinhoff Associates Treasury's Living Standards Framework, specifically the measures outlined in the "Our Individual and Collective Wellbeing section" MCH milestones and reporting requirements NCC 10-year plan and related submission by MNT Process documents created for Initiative delivery, i.e., contracts and data recording templates Cross-check data with ACN and Consortium
KEY INFORMANT SURVEY – Individual representative[s] from migrant and former refugee communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number, communities, types of community led projects supported by SCI Ways in which projects were supported and external funding support Venues used How communities became aware of the Initiative Importance of project to community Impact projects had/having on community Number of attendees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected via Project Registration and Project Record [post project delivery] forms
KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS – Representative[s] from migrant and former refugee communities	<p>Interview guided by questions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social cohesion and connection Personal, community development and confidence Experience with SCI Addressing barriers identified in Engagement Report Initiative sustainability and resilience What made a difference and why? What difference was made? Community leadership and empowerment What challenges remain? What are some opportunities that are still to be realised? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 one-hour long (maximum) face-to-face and 1 phone interview conducted by Reviewer, with community members who participated in SCI Cultural Navigator's advice sought on participants selected Confidentiality discussion before the interview Each session is recorded on a template and transcription is sent to participants to sign off via return email or consent form provided Mahi acknowledged with voucher and hospitality
KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS – Individual representatives from existing arts, culture and heritage sectors	<p>Interview guided by questions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of engagement with SCI and communities Insights and influence on organisation Feedback on Cross-Cultural Awareness Workshop How can this be built upon to assist your organisation and sector? Background to Initiative and changes observed leading up to Initiative and after Access, Inclusion and Participation in organisation Where does the Initiative fit into arts, culture and heritage ecosystem? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 one-hour long face to face and 1 phone interview conducted by Reviewer, with representatives from arts, culture and heritage organisations that participated in the Cross-Cultural Workshop Cultural Navigator's advice sought on participants selected Confidentiality discussion before the interview Each session is recorded on a template and transcription is sent to participants to sign off via return email or consent form provided Hospitality provided if appropriate
KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW – Cultural Navigator	<p>Interview guided by questions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What required most time/energy? What were main accomplishments, learnings, opportunities harnessed? Where to next and what is incomplete and requires more development? How was the role supported – what can be let go of and what can be developed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessing data collected by ACN Reporting to MCH Ongoing kōrero on almost fortnightly basis Attending events together Opportunity to review Draft Report for confirmation and seek clarity
KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW – Consortium Members	<p>Interview guided by questions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal to MCH and components funded Structure of the Initiative Anecdotal evidence about Initiative's impact Sustainability of Initiative Journey working as separate entities in this space to working as a Consortium What impact has it had on arts, culture and heritage landscape in the region? How can this be built upon? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One on One interview and/or email queries with each of the 4 members throughout the Review Opportunity to review Draft Report for confirmation and seek clarity
KEY INFORMANT SURVEY – GROUP and/or Individual working with migrant and former refugee communities	<p>Interview guided by questions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aware of any difference resulting from SCI anecdotally? Background to the Initiative. Their support during delivery Where to next? 	<p>Representatives from following 4 organisations interviewed face to face conducted by Reviewer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victory Community English Language Partners Ministry of Education Nelson Tasman Pasifika Trust
REFLECT & REVISE FEEDBACK SESSION – With Advisory Group, Consortium and Cultural Navigator	<p>Cultural Navigator-led session in April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What works and what can be done differently? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session 1 attended by 15 participants from 13 different community groups, plus 4 from SCI and Reviewer Recorded as minutes and sent to Advisory Group

Appendix 2: Community-Led Projects Supported by SCI

October 1 2023 – July 2024

No.	Project	Organising Community	Type
1	Nelson Navratri 2023	Gujarati Community in Nelson	Festival
2	Latin American & Spanish Film Festival	Latin American & Spanish	Film
3	Zomi Khuado Pawi 2023	New Zealand Zomi Innkuan (Nelson) Inc.	Festival
4	Traditional Pottery Workshop	Zomi Community	Workshop
5	Fiji National Day Celebration	Nelson Fiji Indian Community	Celebration
6	Dashain Celebration Event	Nelson Nepalese Community	Festival
7	Experience India - Diwali 2023	NAATA Indian Community Trust	Festival
8	Diwali Festival	Shri Durga Vedic Sanatan Ramayan	Festival
9	Kiwi Slang Exhibition	Russian Migrant Artist	Exhibition
10	Novena de Aguinaldos	Nelson Colombian Community Trust	Celebration
11	Multicultural Choir - Evening Carols	Individual Pauline	Performance -Music
12 to 19	Pop-Up multicultural Market	Multicultural	8 Performances
20	Arte Libre Curso vacacional	Latina	Workshop-youth
21	Lunar New Year Celebration 2024	Vietnamese Community of Nelson	Celebration
22	Bamboo Gathering	Zomi Community	Materials
23	The War of Chimeras	Ukraine Community	Film
24	Bhutanese Film - documentary	Bhutanese Community	Film
25	Bhutanese-Nepali Cultural Show @ MC Festival	Bhutanese-Nepali Community	Performance
26	Kayah Language School	Karenni Community Nelson	Education
27	Sri Lankan New Year Celebration [Sinhala]	Sri Lankan Community	Celebration
28	Eid ul Fitr celebration	Nelson Whakatū Muslim Community	Celebration
29	Indian Block Printing Workshop	NAATA Indian Community Trust	Workshop
30 to 35	Flag Dance and Music World Festival	Multicultural	6 Performances

No.	Project	Organising Community	Type
36	Ram Navami	Indian Community	Performance
37	Brazilian Beats	Brazilian Community	Performance
38	Sip Tea Taste cultures	Multicultural	Celebration
39	My Tyme, My Life	Colombian & Cimarron communities	Celebration
40	Experiencing China in Wakatū	Chinese	Celebration
41	Afro-Colombian Day Celebration	Afro-Colombian	Celebration
42	Ngā Taonga The Treasures session 1	Colombian & Hindu Communities	Education
43	Chin Women Group Gathering	Nelson Chin Women	Gathering
44	Vesak Lantern Display	Sri Lankan Community	Festival - 2 days
45	Preserving Hungarian Cultural Heritage through films	Hungarian Community in Nelson	Film
46	La Pēna Argentinian National Day Celebration	Argentinian Community	Celebration
47	NZCFS National Conference	NZ Chinese Friendship Society	Gathering
48	St Joseph's Pasifika Group	St Joseph's School	Materials-Costume
49	Karenni National Day	Karenni Community	Celebration
50	Auga O Aute [uniform]	Samoan Community	Materials-Uniform
51	Rice Workshop	Nelson Japanese	Workshop
52	Our Living Room Pasifika Workshop	Polynesian Panther Legacy Trust	Workshop
53	Chin Womens' Concert	Chin Community Group Nelson	Performance
54	Golazo - Football Academy	Afro Colombian	Sport
55	Burmese Language School [NZ Nelson Myanmar Language School]	Burmese Community	Education Language School
56	Bamboo Painting	Zomi Community	Workshop - Art
57	Ngā Taonga The Treasures session 2	Te Kura Tūwaenga o Whakatū Nelson Intermediate School	Education
58	School-wide Samoan Dance Support	Te Kura Tūwaenga o Whakatū Nelson Intermediate School	Education

No.	Project	Organising Community	Type
59	Eid Adha Community Celebration	Nelson-Whakatū Muslim Association (NWMA)	Celebration
60	Kia Kaha Ukraine Photographic Exhibition	Tautoko Ukraine Charitable Trust	Exhibition
61	Celebrating the Hungarian State	Hungarian Community in Nelson	Celebration
62	Afro-Colombian Instruments & Dance Academy	Afro-Colombian Community	Education Music Instruments from Colombia & set up Academy School
63	Naomi Azoulay Collage Workshop (exploring identity)	Arts Council Nelson - workshop for Naomi	Workshop supporting Exhibition
64	Chin Sports Tournament	Chin Community Group Nelson	Sport

Appendix 3: Bibliography

- Shared Communities Proposal to Manatū Taonga – Te Tahua Whakamarohi i te Rāngai Ahurea Cultural Sector Regeneration Fund [includes Application of Consortium to MCH including 2022 Engagement Report by Ryan & Reinhoff Associates].
- Multicultural Nelson Tasman Submission to Nelson City Council's 2024–2034 Long Term Plan April 2024.
- Shared Communities End of Contract Report to MCH July 2024
- Process documents created for Initiative delivery:
 - Cultural Navigator Job Description
 - Multicultural Nelson Tasman – Fund-holding Agreement
 - Shared Communities Community Advisory Group– Terms of Reference
 - Project Registration and Project Record Forms completed by communities leading projects
- Shared Communities website: <https://www.sharedcommunities.org.nz/>.

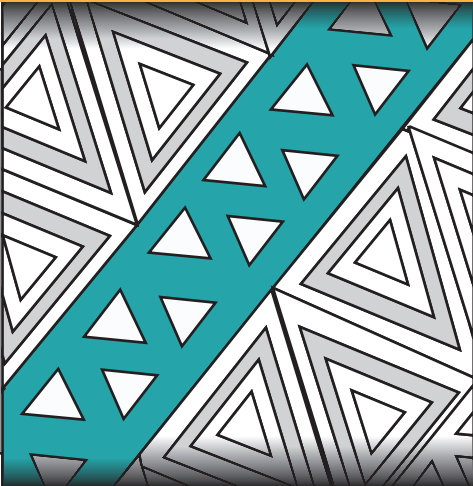
Ngā mihi nui

to all people taking part in this Initiative.
Whakatū Nelson is richer for your
contribution to the arts, culture and
heritage sectors.



Importing traditional Colombian instruments

Photo credit @wiphalastudio



Sri lankan New Year

Photo supplied by Sri Lankan Community



Gracias

Lungdam

Vinaka vakalevu

Dhanyavad धन्यवाद्

Spaseeba Спасибо

Cảm ơn

Dyakuu Дякую

Kadrin chhe la

Thel Bwe

Isthuthi ස්තූතියි

Shukria شكريه

Obrigada/o

xiè xie 谢谢

Köszönöm



Shared
Communities

Fa'afetai tele lava

Arigatou gozaimasu

ありがとうございます

Toda Kai lawm

Fakaauē lahi

Thank you

