

Illabunda Creative and Practical Arts Vision statement and Strategy for the community of Illabunda and beyond

(draft 28 July 2008, Jodie Goldney-Gibb)

Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life

Pablo Picasso

The Illabunda ecovillage community is passionately committed to the Creative and practical arts (CPAs). Following is our proposed Vision statement and strategy for the next 5 years.

Vision

Our vision is to create a place where the creative and practical arts are actively valued and practiced in a manner that is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable and in so doing, to celebrate, explore and develop our unique community at Illabunda and to provide opportunities to engage with and benefit others.

Strategies

The Illabundan community (IC), through integrated planning and responsive design, will facilitate distinct and diverse opportunities to celebrate, explore and practice the creative and practical arts within the residential community of the Illabunda ecovillage and the wider community including Winston Hills and surrounds. These strategies will serve to explore and celebrate the values of social, environmental and economical sustainability and contribute to the unique culture of the community at Illabunda.

The Strategies employed by the community are based around the following five key principles:

1 Living Sustainably

Aim to create artworks that reflect the values of living sustainably through the use of recycled materials and sustainable practices.

2. Community Cohesion and integrity

Employ the art creation process as a focus for facilitating powerful community interactions and strong, healthy relationships and as a means of celebration. Express the stories of both the land and people through art.

3. Celebration of Diversity

Celebrate diversity within the community and natural environment and explore the spirit of the place and people.

4. Creative exploration and expression

Facilitate people's working individually and collectively to explore their creativity and express that in meaningful ways.

5. Outward focus

Events and activities to facilitate relationships with the wider community

Strategies	Principles
<p>Spring and Autumn Markets Markets coordinated by the IC twice yearly in spring and autumn. Residents and the wider community will be invited to sell their wares with an emphasis on organic produce and local arts and crafts. Local performing artists may also be invited to showcase their skills at the event. Event to include the creation of a group artwork.</p>	2, 3, 4, 5
<p>Music Concert series Provision of various concerts throughout the year by members of the IC for the IC or wider community, and facilitation of concerts by other people in Illabunda for both the IC and wider community. Concerts to explore a variety of musical genres e.g. baroque, contemporary, indigenous, folk and jazz. Concerts to include food and drink at their completion.</p>	2, 3, 4, 5
<p>Inclusion of commissioned art works throughout the Illabundan landscape Commission art pieces from various artists to be included in the Illabundan landscape and shared places. May include functional works such as street furniture and “entranceways” to spaces</p>	1, 2, 3
<p>Inclusion of community created artworks throughout the Illabundan landscape Create community art pieces and include them in the Illabundan landscape and shared places. Pieces to be facilitated by IC members of artists. Pieces to be a mixture of permanent works e.g. mosaics and transitory pieces e.g. a fire sculpture.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4
<p>Art Installations and Happenings Projects to be explored linking in with Parramatta City Council and local artists as part of the markets or festival or to run independently. Alternatively, works to be created within the IC. Installations and Happenings are transitory pieces such as a found item collage or mosaic celebrating a particular event or day of importance to the IC or wider community e.g. a residents wedding, funeral, or HSC results, a fire sculpture celebrating a significant event or festival, or a water composition incorporating large Perspex/glass bowls filled with water and found percussion instruments (tin cans, bamboo flutes etc) played in and out of the water celebrating the spring food harvest.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
<p>Winter Solstice Festival Festival to be based on the Blue Mountains Winter Solstice Festival. Festival to include activities such as a fire sculpture, food etc.</p>	3, 5
<p>Council clean up creation IC to collect a selection of pieces from the wider communities council clean-up days. Each residence to create a piece for display on their front lawn for a short period of time for the enjoyment of the IC.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4
<p>Stain Glass Windows The IC to work collaboratively to design a number of stain glass windows for inclusion in the community building and individual residences if so desired</p>	1, 2, 3, 4
<p>Left over building supplies The IC to work collaboratively to create an art piece/s using left over building supplies from the construction of the Illabunda residences, community building etc. Pieces to be transitory or permanent depending on their final appeal.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4
<p>Inclusion of rigging for Aerial acrobatic work in the community building Consideration to be given by the IC to include appropriate rigging apparatus in the roof of the community building. Apparatus will be used for Aerialize-style workshops and activities.</p>	4, 5
<p>Annual run with the chooks A madcap fun event which could be photographed and used to raise money for the IC or an appropriate recipient in line with the values of the community</p>	2, 3
<p>Naturalist calendar Tasteful naturalist calendar to be created and sold as a fundraiser for the IC or appropriate recipient in line with the values of the community. Calendar to feature individuals for each month or events from the Illabunda calendar. Alternatively the calendar to feature art pieces created by the IC with each month or year having a different focus e.g. clay, recycled household items, wood, paper etc. A short film could be made of the process and submitted to Tropfest or similar.</p>	2, 3, 5
<p>Commissioning of musical works Commissioning of musical works in partnership with Parramatta City Council and key art organisations which</p>	1, 2, 5

reflect the values of the Illabunda and wider community. Works to be showcased at Illabunda	
Free For All Monthly musical event where people come and jam together in a spontaneous and unorchestrated manner. Based on Free-for-All currently run from the CafeChurch space in Glebe.	2, 3, 4, 5
Annual Arts competition Annual art competition to be run in the style of Get Off Your Arts (see Case study 1) with or without a paid worker depending on funding. Art pieces to all be made using recycled materials and reflect the values of the permaculture and sustainability.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Art in the Park Art activities to be run during school holidays for children from the IC and wider community in the style of Art in the Park (Case study 2). Art activities to predominantly use recycled materials and reflect the values of permaculture and sustainable living.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Living History Project The stories of the IC to be recorded in the form of an in house book or film. Stories to include life before and after Illabunda, and the how/why of people's involvement with the IC.	3, 4
Provision of Space/venue Provision of space/venue to perform popular classics such as Wind in the Willows, or a Midsummer Nights Dream by local theatre groups.	2, 5
Provision of art space in the community centre Provision of space in the community centre for people from the IC to do art.	4
Creation of the Pool waterfeature and mosaics IC to work with a professional artist to create concept and actual piece suitable for a water feature for the communal pool. IC to also work on mosaics for inclusion in the pool and surrounds.	1, 2, 3, 4
Built Environment IC to work with professional artist/s to create art in the built environment at Illabunda for example seating around the property, street light columns, house numbers, street names (if applicable) and road pavers	1, 2, 3, 4
Mural IC to consider designing and creating a mural on the boundary fences	1, 2, 3, 4
Illabunda Choir Interested members of the IC to form a choir.	4
Themed Dinner parties Regular dinner parties (progressive, pot-luck in the community building, or at one residence) with a particular artistic theme e.g. art made from bark or glass	3, 4

Case Study 1

Get Off Your Arts

In 2006 and again in 2008, Glebe CafeChurch sought funding to implement the comprehensive creative and practical arts competition "Get Off Your Arts" (GOYA). The funding submissions were successful and included money to pay a project worker; web design; graphic design and printing. All other funding was provided internally and included: office admin; printing; catering; prize money; exhibition space; technical set-up of artworks; and volunteer "labour".

Implementation of the project commenced in 2007 with the employment of an event co-ordinator. The employment process was competitive opened to all CafeChurch members, with the expectation that the employed person would be paid a "Recognition" for their time up to 95 hours, and additional time to be given on a volunteer basis. A website www.getoffyourarts.com, and additional advertising were also produced.

The first competition was themed "Earth" and included the following sections: music composition; Visual arts; Performance art; Film and video; and 12 years and under. Sponsors

were approached and included local businesses, short film internet sites, art magazines and Little Creatures Brewery. Support from the community was overwhelming with GOYA being approached by numerous organisations from outside the church wanting to provide sponsorship or support.

GOYA is working towards financial sustainability within five years. Artists pay a fee to enter the competition. Fifty percent of money raised has been put towards running GOYA in 2008, with the remaining money donated in equal parts to TEAR Australia and Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation. This was in keeping with the identified mission priorities of the church, as is nurturing creativity within the CafeChurch and wider community through provision of infrastructure and opportunities for creative expression.

GOYA 2007 culminated in a cocktail opening, three days of exhibition and a celebratory church service. GOYA 2008 looks to build on the success of GOYA 07 with the addition of a children's picture book section and the possibility of expanding to a festival. Additional funding has also been sought from City of Sydney Council.

For more information please visit <http://www.cafechurch.org.au/getoffyourarts/index.html>

Case Study 2 **Art in the Park**

In 2006 Wests Ashfield were approached through the CDSE funding program to finance an outreach project called "Art in the Park". Funding was successful and allowed for the provision of 10 weekly art sessions of 1 ½ hours each targeting young children 5yrs and under during the school holidays. The project ran informally from 9:30-11:00 in a local park complete with children's playground. A trained teacher designed implemented, promoted and evaluated the project.

The informal nature of the program provided a non threatening opportunity for parents and their young children to interact with other people in similar situations and form friendships and support networks. The project also unobtrusively drew attention to the services provided by the Summer Hill Community Centre eg toy library, playgroups, health clinics etc. *Art in the Park* was advertised through local playgroups; the local paper, the Summer Hill toy library; Summer Hill early childhood centre; local libraries; Ashfield Council; word of mouth; and other local networks.

Art in the Park targets a number of social needs within the community, particularly social isolation and support for families. Parenting is a difficult and challenging task at the best of times. School holidays, with a hiatus from playgroups, playtimes and other support networks can mean increased isolation and loneliness for parents and their children, particularly families from CALD backgrounds. The park at Summer Hill provides an ideal location for families to meet safely with their young children. *Art in the Park* seeks to capitalise on the focal point of the park, and provide fun, interactive, educational activities for young children, and their parents, at a time when other such services are taking a break.