



FACILITATING STORIES
THAT MATTER

Voice Arts Strategy 2020

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Kia ora nunui

Our Vision:

Creative, connected communities
where everyone has a voice and everyone can be heard

Our Purpose:

We facilitate growth, development and wellbeing
by unlocking creativity and deepening social connections

Our Values:

Creativity	Integrity
Collaboration	Care
Empowerment	Treaty-honouring

What we do:

We develop creative story-making and performance projects.
Our work is accessible to all and facilitates active participation,
self-discovery, connection and wellbeing.

Who we work with:

Older People
Former Refugees and migrants
People in Corrections facilities
Business and service providers

Our Impact

"Story-telling, talking, listening, laughing,
making new friends, can be life-changing."

"I've been shown how to enjoy life more
by improvising with others like me."

"My son comes home after your class
a completely different child.
He is so happy."

Our Values in Practice

Creativity

- We play, we get excited and we make.
- We take risks and we make mistakes.
- We are open, positive and curious, and we let go of preconceptions

Collaboration

- We begin well with clear guidelines and goals
- We ensure equity in our mahi
- We value the process

Empowerment

- We honour people and their story
- We are generous and we enable, encourage, and create opportunities for others
- We are true to ourselves and we ask for help
- We seek and share knowledge, we listen, we know when to let others speak
- We follow or walk alongside

Integrity

- We respect each other and all participants
- We do what we say we will do
- We follow good practice in governance and operation

Care

- We consciously take time to be present and listen
- We acknowledge different perspectives
- We are kind to ourselves

Treaty-honouring

- We listen
- We learn
- We recognise our privilege
- We commit to sharing power and supporting Rangatiratanga

Introduction

**Facilitating stories that matter –
We invite active participation in a
creative process that supports
people to tell their own story in their
own voice.**

We develop and deliver drama-based projects that foster social and cultural wellbeing.

Our projects offer opportunities for people and communities to engage in a creative process that invites active participation and facilitates positive change.

We work with all age groups and demographics – but often we work with people who feel they have nothing of worth to say, or no skills to say it, or a belief that no one will listen.

We do not have a fixed location – we work out in the community utilising existing community spaces making them into ‘creative spaces’.

Voice Arts works across artistic mediums of theatre, film and audio – mediums that encourage people to find and use their voice.

As Voice Arts consolidates its innovative programme of work, we look towards new relationships and continue to build on our powerful connective outreach work.

Who we work with and how we will reach them

Older People

Voice Arts has been successfully working with older people for several years, and the key needs we can help with include:

- Addressing Isolation
- Enhancing health, wellbeing and sense of worth
- Honouring life experiences
- Unlocking creativity

The opportunity here is to broaden and deepen this mahi, and key first steps include:

(a) Developing partnerships with organisations that work for quality of life for older people. This might include approaching other elder care providers (with Ryman as the flagship) and/or getting grants so we can work with low income residential communities.

(b) Support board development by providing opportunities for observing or involvement in the programmes

(c) Shape a business case for growth (e.g. planning relationship building, finding ways to work at a higher level at Ryman, ensuring we can grow our facilitator pool to meet demand)

People in Corrections Facilities

Voice Arts also has a strong track record of successfully working with people in Corrections Facilities for several years. Some of our projects involve:

(a) Facilitating personal growth, self-esteem and self-belief

(b) Developing skills for reintegration, e.g. re-parenting, practising and role playing job seeking, strategies for coping and managing "outside the wire"

The opportunity here is to develop ongoing relationships and programmes, rather than one-off projects. Key first steps include:

- Looking at what is already being done and finding the key gaps
- Developing a programme to meet these key gaps with clear outcomes, a practical implementation plan and costings
- Investigating how best to fund and implement this

Former Refugees and migrants

Voice Arts has also been successfully working with former refugees and migrants since 2006.

Key needs we help with include:

- Self confidence
- Language learning

(continued...)

Businesses and other paying organisations

Businesses and other paying clients is a new area for Voice Arts. Values alignment is important in order to stay true to our vision and purpose, however paying clients are also able to cross-subsidise work with people who can't afford to pay.

Key needs of this group include:

- Relationship building, including increasing connections, trust, collaboration and team building
- Increasing ideation and creativity
- Improving empathy, communication, inclusivity, wellbeing and conflict resolution
- Valuing staff and building leadership
- Supporting healthy work place cultures, corporate storytelling and growing productivity

Ideas for future development

Like all our projects, our ambitions for future work are grounded in community, creativity and connection. We are interested in exploring projects on:

- Wider intergenerational work addressing community loneliness and resilience
- Unhoused people
- Public Theatre
- After school programme

Our people

Our existing team

Currently Voice Arts has five contract facilitators and four voluntary board members. In order to contribute more strongly to our vision, we intend to grow our organisation.

Our growth plan

Over the next 18 months, Voice Arts plans to increase their staffing from the current five facilitators to include the roles in the organisation chart below. This will allow Voice Arts to not only “do the mahi”, but to also develop and grow opportunities and funding through the producer role and to provide back office support for money management, event coordination, social media etc. through the coordinator role.



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projects since Voice
Arts
began in 2005

Our
intergenerational
and intercultural
participants
bring their stories
to life

Kia ora nunui:
many thanks for your
ongoing support of
our programmes.

Acknowledgements

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