

Letters of Support for Fern Smith and The Sea is Sinking



To Whom It May Concern

Sea is Sinking Project Partnership and Confirmation dates

Moomba Park Primary School is a highly multicultural school in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. We are delighted to offer ourselves as project partners with Fern Smith and the project *the Sea is Sinking*.

This project is a wonderful opportunity for our students who come from a wide range of cultural backgrounds many of whom English is an additional language to experientially explore concepts derived from Science, The Arts and The Environment in an integrated inquiry project culminating in a being part of creating a contemporary artwork, an interactive immersive installation.

Fern Smith the curator has been working in partnership with us since September 2018 when she floated the concept to us. It ties in with the students Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) program for this year.

Our STEAM teacher has already received Professional Development (PD) in May from Fern Smith in conjunction with the North Coburg Primary art teacher to understand the techniques involving recycled materials (cardboard, papers and cottons) and making environmentally friendly paints, dyes and glues for 3D creations and incorporated with a little science. PD workshop has enabled the teacher to assist the students with confidence in the creation of many marine creatures and their environment.

Creative Team for Sea is Sinking art creation workshops are booked in for two half day workshops the 12/09/2019 and 16/9/2019 at our school with the STEAM teacher; offering the students the opportunity to work alongside professional artists in their fields.

We have attached the Curriculum Planner for the Sea is Sinking project for Science Technology Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) classes developed to implement the project at our school. Please also see a student project plan and rubric for your information. The students are already highly engaged in the process of learning about the ecology of Port Phillip Bay and practising making artworks to represent their learning. Already all classes have had the opportunity to learn about sea conservation when the Dolphin Rescue Institute have visited our school this term. This project will form a high proportion of our STEAM classes until the proposed installation in November demonstrating our high commitment to the project.

The students work will form part an interactive immersive installation at Merlynston Hall 21st to the 25th November 2019 alongside other works by the community of Coburg North Primary School, Brunswick and Reynard Neighbourhood Houses, local artists and residents.

We are very excited to participate in creating a community driven contemporary artwork *The Sea is Sinking*. This opportunity is rare.

Yours sincerely

Sheenagh Callahan

Assistant Principal

Moomba Park Primary School

23/5/2019

[See last page of document for Curriculum Planner](#)

Letters of Support for Fern Smith and The Sea is Sinking

Australia Council
Email letter

3 June 2019

Support letter

I have known Fern Smith for over 20 years and in that time, I have had the privilege of witnessing her dedication to the community.

As a career artist, Fern has invested over 30 years using the creative process to bridge worlds, engaging the imagination of individuals and communities in exploring new ways of thinking; creating experiences that can be shared and accessed by all people in the community.

It is well documented through the collaboration between artists and communities can result in extraordinary creative works which are instrumental in strengthening social, educational and community outcomes. Fern has a strong track in such collaborations as demonstrated through the delivery of art projects, such as *disEASE HCV* (a collaboration between HEPATITIS C Council of Victoria and the Victorian Government) and *Celebrating 100 years of Women's Suffrage*.

The design of the Sea is Sinking art project is both innovative and educational. This project activates the imagination; is creatively contemporary and environmentally sustainable. Inspired by the underwater environment of Port Phillip Bay, the Sea is Sinking requires the creator to explore and interpret marine life plants, animals and other organisms living in the salt water or the sea ocean.

This project is uniquely focused on participants to be the co-authors (creators) of the Sea is Sinking installation. The creator's role is to learn about the marine underworld and create an aspect of this underworld for the art installation. The creator will be acknowledged as an installation contributor. The materials used to create the installation are environmentally friendly and used from recyclable materials.

This Sea is Sinking art project is curated by Fern Smith in collaboration with the creative team of established artists, Youbi Lee, Margaret Cowling and Maggie Cowling and in partnership with two primary schools (Moomba Park Primary School, North Coburg Primary School) and two neighbourhood houses (Reynard and Brunswick).

The installation exhibition is scheduled to be delivered in the northern suburbs of Melbourne at Merlynston Progress Hall, 1 Novian Street, North Coburg, from 21 - 25 November 2019.

This is a well thought through participatory art project designed to engage the community, inspire the young and provide a pathway for artists, individuals, community organisations, schools to come together, strengthening community.

This is the inaugural delivery of the Sea is Sinking project, the design and collaboration model can be replicated and transformed across cultural and community boundaries.

Fern Smith is an effective communicator and has strong track record of collaborating and working in partnerships with organisations, individuals, community that has resulted in the production of extraordinary creative works, connecting hundreds of people, breaking down cultural barriers and engaging hearts and minds.

I strongly commend this project to you. You will not be disappointed.

Yours sincerely,

Gabrielle Castree
Art Patron

Mobile:0248-560-500

Letters of Support for Fern Smith and The Sea is Sinking



29/01/2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Fern Smith's exciting art project proposal 'The Sea is Sinking'.

I have been a practicing Ceramic Artist for over twenty five years and am currently a Resident Artist at Gasworks Arts Park. I have known Fern since 2007 when we were introduced through a collaborative project she was running, involving interviewing women working in community groups called 'Conversations'. I was involved in the Women's Circus at the time and they nominated me to be interviewed for the project.

Through that initial connection with Fern it sparked an idea in me that saw us collaborating and creating 'The Art of Suff-Rage' - Traveling art installation, celebrating one hundred years of women gaining the vote in Victoria.

We were able to secure Government funding and over the entire length of the yearlong celebration our project was involved in forty events ranging from the entire installation being on show at the Victorian Parliament House on three separate occasions, to touring the project to country Victoria including Portland and Echuca and also smaller installations in Libraries and Galleries.

During this time I got to know Fern in her capacity as a professional artist and her ability to collaborate and organize such a massive undertaking. She constantly impressed me with her organizational skills and ability to deliver on time all she took on board and the works she produced were well executed with high archival considerations

If you require further information please don't hesitate to contact me either on my Mobile on 0402 712 648 or via Email at ursula@ursuladutkiewicz.com

Sincerely,

Ursula Dutkiewicz (Ceramic Artist)

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Letters of Support for Fern Smith and The Sea is Sinking



COBURG NORTH
PRIMARY SCHOOL

To Whom It May Concern

Sea is Sinking Project Partnership and Confirmation dates

Coburg North Primary School has a high socio-economic profile based on the school's Student Family Occupation Index. The school has an active Parents and Friends group who organise events to fund raise and bring the parent community together. We are delighted to offer ourselves as one of the project partners with the project the *Sea is Sinking*.

Fern Smith artist and curator has been working in partnership with me since the beginning of the year and showed me her ideas for the project. It folds nicely into the marine art projects I started at the beginning of the year anticipating student exposure to contemporary art practice, giving their work worth and agency.

In May this year I attended a Professional Development workshop with the STEAM teacher from Moomba Park Primary conducted by Fern Smith. There were eight learning outcomes using involving creating sustainable art techniques from ethically sourced materials. As a primary school art teacher, the materials sourced are all also extremely cost effective especially when considering the budget constraints when purchasing items for a whole school primary school art program.

Creative Team for Sea is Sinking - art creation workshops are confirmed. They are a series of two-hour workshops will be held at Coburg North Primary School on; Friday 11th, Tuesday 15th, Tuesday 22nd and Friday the 25th.

The students work will form part an interactive immersive installation at Merlynston Hall 21st to the 25th November 2019 alongside other works by the community. This is a unique opportunity to work with a range of professional arts practitioners enabling me and my students to learn from the wealth of their experience.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Corozo

Art teacher

Coburg North Primary School

27/5/2019

STEAM CURRICULUM PLANNER SEA IS SINKING

Title: *Sea is Sinking*

Focus:

In this unit students explore the ecosystem of Port Phillip Bay and create an art installation with local artists.

Year level: P-6

Duration: 20 weeks

Host curriculum area: Science,
Integrated



Skills	
Analysing	✓
Checking	✓
Classifying	✓
Cooperating	✓
Considering Opinions	✓
Designing	✓
Elaborating	✓
Estimating	✓
Explaining	✓
Generalising	✓
Hypothesising	✓
Inferring	✓
Interpreting	✓
Justifying	✓
Listening	✓
Locating Information	✓
Making Choices	✓
Note-Taking	✓
Observing	✓
Ordering Events	✓
Organising	✓
Performing	✓
Persuading	✓
Planning	✓
Predicting	✓
Presenting in a range of ways	✓
Providing feedback	✓
Questioning	✓
Reading and Viewing	✓
Recognising Bias	
Reflecting	✓
Reporting	✓
Responding to others' work	✓
Restating	✓
Revising	✓
Seeing Patterns	✓
Selecting Information	✓
Self-Assessing	✓
Sharing Ideas	✓
Summarising	✓
Synthesising	✓
Testing	✓
Viewing	✓
Visually representing	✓
Working independently	✓
Working to a timeline	✓

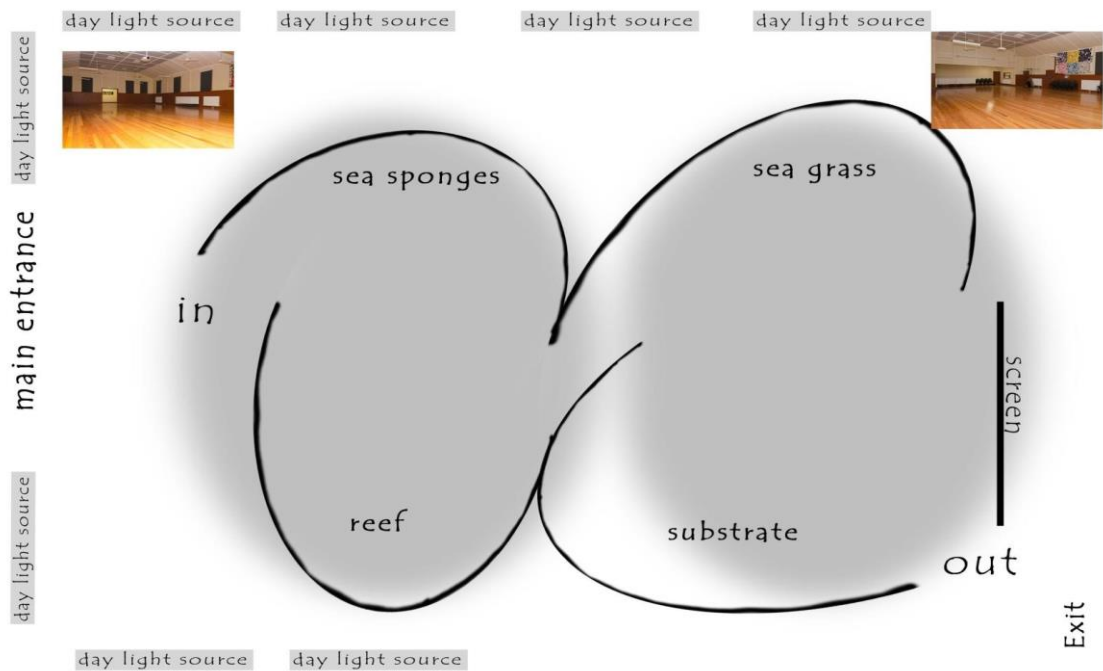
Understandings - Science

- Many human activities cause water pollution
- Materials change state
- Objects are made of materials that have observable properties – things we make will be compostable
- Composting – some materials break down, at different rates
- Things can be grouped
- Understanding that our actions impact the environment positively and negatively
- Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (4R's)
- Living things are impacted by humans
- What is the ecosystem and how is it affected by each other for survival
- Changes can be reversible or irreversible
- Design and Tech – Create a moving component (automata) to go with diorama, using levers (3-6) or push and pull

Arts:

- Select and experiment with forms, styles, techniques and materials
- Practising a variety of techniques and using technology to make a simple animation
- Explore different ways to display art to enhance their meaning
- Investigate the suitability of materials, systems, components, tools and equipment for a range of purposes

Expectations	Minimum	Good	Excellent
Habitat Aquarium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquarium painted • 3D fish and animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colours are accurate • Range of animals • Range of plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals and plants look realistic • Aquarium has a moving animal
Booklet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals and plants all named • Spelling is correct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile of all animals and plants • All explained for viewers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra facts included • Pictures and descriptions of all animals and plants
Food Chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plants and animals labelled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanation of food chain



Floor Plan Draft

Confirmed site for Sea is Sinking

Merlynston Progress Hall 1 Novian Street Coburg North 3058 VIC

Features and assets

- Close to three types of public transport Bus, Train and Tram
- Close to upfield bike path - Parking available at train station and shops
- Wheel chair access and amenities
- A known hall in the North of Moreland
- Recently refurbished 2018 specifically catering to arts in the north.
- Has drop down screen

Floor plan 1 Considerations

- Where are the windows
- Entry and exists
- Drop down screen placement
- Walk flow

Lighting Plan 1

- Shadows to be used create atmosphere, depth and immersion
- Natural light source – shadow puppets
- Led lights – battery only no wires for hanging fish / installations/ sculptures
- illuminate
- Power points for projector light onto ceiling for sea surface
- Power points for coloured atmospheric spotlights and enhance shadows

Drop down Screen

- animations of sea life by students and people sending in their animations
- Port Phillip bay marine life film footage (from the snorkelling clubs around Melbourne)
- images of the single artworks of the installation components (studio shots)

Focus of risk	Risk	Possible damage	Control measures	Risk Assessment Low Medium High	Further action taken to reduce risk
Australia Council	Grant funding \$10,000 not awarded by funding agency	Project outcomes not realised.	Speak to Auspicious Arts, Australia Council where weak points may lay Speak to Creative team and Partners	Medium to high	research alternative sources such as other grants, sponsorship, crowd funding and consider reducing scope of project this has been discussed with Creative team and the Partners
Moreland City Council (MCC)	Grant funding \$8,000 not awarded by funding agency.	Project outcomes not realised	Meet with appropriate MCC staff to discuss grant application Speak to Auspicious Arts, MCC, Creative team and Partners	Medium	research alternative sponsorship, crowd funding and consider reducing scope of project this has been discussed with Creative team and the Partners
Creative Team	Artist cannot make the commitment No funding	Workshop change time Workshop cancelled	Move workshop suitable for Partner and the creative team or Relace artist with one of the others in the creative team Speak to Auspicious Arts Creative team and Partners	Medium	the artist either works in-kind or leaves the project this has been discussed with the artists Time changes has been discussed with the artists and we have kept our times flexible
Partners	No funding Engagement issues	No or cut down workshops at Partners	The schools have adopted the program into their schools and would continue with work- scale down NH Houses workshops cease Speak to funders and Auspicious, CT and Partners MOU drawn up with each partner and the creative team	Medium	a contingency plan and the Curators desire for successful outcomes Fern has provided workshops to the community from her art studio and these would continue and time for being open would extend on the Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Exhibition at Merlynston Hall	No funding	Unable to hold an exhibition	Find a free space, ie school hall, scout hall, Speak to Moreland Council, Auspicious Arts, Creative team and Partners	Medium to high	Change time and seek alternative funding Speak to Moreland Council see if there is any flexibility or another space free of charge
Working with Children	Children	harm	Teachers are present at workshops and the Creative teamwork in twos All Creative team have working with children approval cards	Medium to low	The Creative team understands the protocols in each environment before any workshop takes place- part of the MOU