



## Voices of the South Side

Voices of the South Side is a two year Federally funded project which aims to reduce the marginalisation of social & public housing communities in Port Melbourne and South Melbourne through community arts and community development.

The project will encourage residents from different backgrounds to connect via activities that showcase Port Melbourne/South Melbourne artistically, visually and theatrically. Strategies that include specially developed training courses, mentoring and group activities will build the confidence of vulnerable people to increase their participation in community life. They will create and direct their own projects, learn new skills and take up opportunities to strengthen their communities through advocacy, creating new networks and sharing their life experiences. There will be a variety of creative projects to capture the imagination of all age groups.

Training courses such as the Our Voices Community Leadership Course will offer people the opportunity to learn how to speak confidently in public, to advocate, become more aware of their communication style and clearly articulate their ideas. Other courses will be offered according to interest such as the creation of short films, storytelling and music production.

Our proposed model is at grass roots level, working alongside community participants (individual, group and wider community) to:

- Develop skills and resilience building
- Create pathways to volunteering and participation in civic life
- Collaborative decision-making
- Create community awareness and respect for diversity through creative activities
- Develop a community development model that can be replicated in other areas undergoing rapid population change/growth.

Voices of the South Side is a partnership between project leaders Port Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre and partners Inner South Community Health, Port Phillip Community Group and Southport Community Housing.

For more information please contact Robyn Szechtman at [robyn@pmnc.org.au](mailto:robyn@pmnc.org.au) or 0417 127 376.