



BRISBANE MULTICULTURAL ARTS CENTRE

www.bemac.org.au

Her Hands Project Introduction

With 23 years experience BEMAC is the lead agency in Queensland for the development, and presentation of multicultural arts, promoting the artistic value, cultural worth and commercial potential of Queensland's multicultural arts and artists.

Her Hands is a multilayered developmental, social enterprise project working with a range of communities in the context of their traditional crafts practices. The project is an exciting new focus for BEMAC seeing quality and sustainability for refugee and migrant women. **Her Hands** will have several outcomes including: cultural maintenance for dying crafts, cross-cultural and inter-generational exchange and skills training in creating a quality exhibition, and small business development for on-going sustainability. **Her Hands** will be delivered by the project facilitator Joan Winter in three stages:

Stage one is currently focusing on building individuals and communities of interest, both as participants and professional and volunteer support, research, and funding.

Stage Two will have several overlapping features over 9 to 12 months of workshops held in 2011:
1 Craft Skills development in traditional and contemporary methods, both non western and western media and production, in order to:

- Reinvigorate traditional craft skills such as: hand and machine embroidery, carpet making – knotting, weaving and felting methods particularly for Afghani, Iraqi, Sudanese and associated communities; Pacific Islanders- quilt making, mat and basket weaving, knotting, knitting, bilum methods and tapa making and decorating
 - Learn new western based crafts which may influence the development of traditional non western crafts and/or lead to new directions in hand made textile based production
 - Use the workshop base to transfer existing skills and intangible cultural knowledge across generations and across communities within the Australian multicultural context
- 2 Small Business and exhibition development skills:*
- Use the workshop friendly milieu to learn and improve other necessary skills such as, initially, English language acquisition and social engagement and support base, Australian style
 - The last three months of workshops will include facilitation by a professional curator on exhibition development in presentation of work, collection of personal/ group stories, text based information approval, curatorial principles and appropriate exhibition sound track and context
 - The last 2/3 months of workshops will include arts business skills development to build knowledge and practice in micro to small business models for those selected for this outcome;

Stage three will commence around March 2012 to achieve tangible arts outcomes to include

- A Kultur national touring exhibition, the exploration of platforms for the sale of products, including: fair trade retail outlets such as The Trading Circle, setting up own retail outlets, and organizing a comprehensive calendar of events to have stalls at major and other festivals and appropriate markets and venues such as multicultural festivals, Northey St; Woodford Folk Festival, etc.

Please join with BEMAC to make this happen in the best way we all can.