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**15 MAY 2012**

WEBSITE  
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COUNTRY  
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## Cultural Development Network

The Cultural Development Network is an independent non-profit organisation that links individual practitioners, community organisations and government across Victoria around issues of cultural vitality. They advocate a stronger role for cultural expression to build a healthier, more engaged and sustainable society. They work towards a society in which local communities, in all their diversity, have the resources and support they need to make and express their own culture. They advocate a stronger role for local government in nurturing cultural vitality and see the arts (at the heart of culture) as central to this vision. They aim to elevate and embed the appreciation of culture and community-based arts into public life at the local level. The Cultural Development Network is based in Melbourne, Australia. They work primarily across the state of Victoria and have partnerships in other Australian states.

Their Four Goals are:

- Networking: Facilitating the growth of useful connections
- Discourse and Debate: Stimulating interaction between diverse perspectives
- Projects and Partnerships: Demonstrating the value of community-based arts activities by example
- Advocacy: Promoting the need for public support to cultural development

Their Four Action Areas are:

- Arts Practice: The making of art becomes an everyday activity amongst communities
- Community Understanding: The value of making art together is embraced by agencies and organisations that work with communities
- Effective Service: The Cultural Development Network responds with initiatives that are relevant and effective to our members, their communities and the wider community, especially in Victoria
- Government commitment: All spheres of government develop policy and resources that support independent community cultural activities

Since their establishment in 2000, the CDN has initiated or contributed to more than 120 public events. These have been designed to stimulate productive dialogue between sectors as diverse as refugee and youth services, academia, school and community education, disability, housing, environmental sustainability, juvenile justice, local government culture development, and community services. They have also run seven major conferences: Making Culture Count in 2012, Culture: A New Way of Thinking for Local Government in 2011, Regenerating Community in 2009, Expanding Cultures in 2007, The Fourth Pillar of Sustainability in 2004, Beyond Cultural Policy Symposium in 2003, and The Art of Dissent in 2002.

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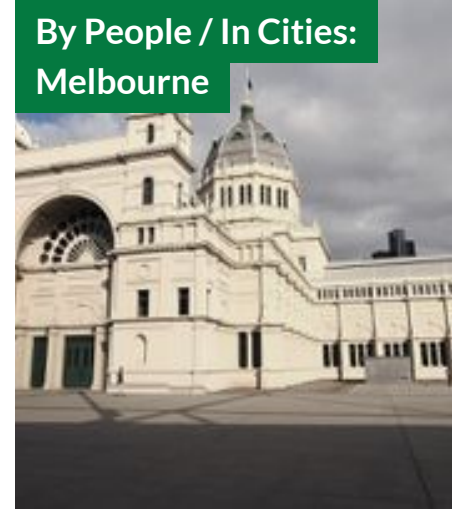
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