

CAMD Case Study – CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND BELONGING:

Community Engagement

Immigration Museum, Melbourne



Connecting with culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Victoria

The Immigration Museum in Melbourne collaborates with culturally and linguistically diverse communities to explore, document and present stories and experiences of immigration and cultural diversity in Victoria.

It works with different communities on Community Exhibitions and Community Cultural Festivals and invites community members to contribute towards planning for future initiatives, projects, research and development of collections.

The museum's Community Gallery hosts three exhibitions annually which are generally created by the communities in collaboration with museum staff. Where possible these are scheduled to coincide with important milestones or celebrations in the participating community calendar. In the past 12 months exhibitions have included:

- *Honouring Our Ancestors: Remembering Timor-Leste* which looked at the ritual called *Se Matebian*, which takes place each year on All Souls Day and honours East Timorese ancestors;
- *West Africa: Rhythm and Spirit* which explored the spiritual beliefs to daily life of the array of vibrant and dynamic cultures of West Africa;
- *Survival of a Culture: Kurds in Australia* which examined the traditions at the core of Kurdish culture that have enabled it to survive.

Cultural Festivals are also an annual event. Festival events staged with the museum in recent years have involved the Brazilian, Cambodian, Dutch, Ethiopian, Pacific Islander, Turkish and Vietnamese communities. As each community is unique, the museum has developed a process of establishing and developing honest, respectful and long-term relationships with communities through annual consultations and special projects.

The work of the museum:

- provides a forum for groups to tell stories and investigate themes relating to immigration, cultural diversity and identity;
- encourages community collaboration, participation and ownership;
- documents and promotes the diverse community stories and experiences that are an important part of Australian history; and contribute to State history collections.

See: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum/about-us/community-engagement/>