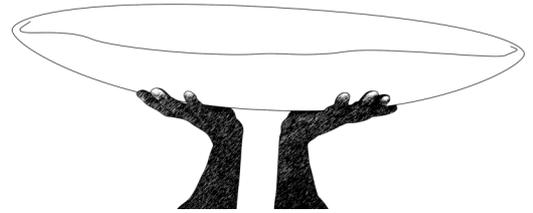


G.F.Smith Peace Foundation's \$10,000 arts grant awarded for planned Australian sculpture gift to Nagasaki Peace Park



On Friday 23 October, 2015, community arts organisation Alphaville was announced as the 2015 winning recipient of the Graham F. Smith Peace Foundation's \$10,000 annual arts grant.

The announcement was made at the Peace foundation's yearly dinner at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre, presented by His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO, Governor of South Australia. The annual Graham F. Smith Peace Foundation arts grant supports projects promoting peace, social justice and care for the environment.

The 2015 winning project is an international sculpture gifting planned for Nagasaki Peace Park coordinated by arts company Alphaville, with partners Mayors for Peace (Australia) and South Australia's Yalata Anangu community. It is inspired as a contribution to the peace-related activities taking place in Nagasaki during the 70-year commemoration of the atomic bombings in Japan.

Nagasaki Peace Park is an internationally renown sculpture park frequented by thousands of visitors annually, featuring gifted artworks from around the world that convey messages of peace and friendship to Nagasaki City. To date there is no Australian presence.

Alphaville Creative Producer Paul Brown and Yalata Sculpture Group representative Steven Harrison attended the Peace Foundation dinner to accept the award. Paul Brown explains, "the Australian contribution will convey a timely message of peace to Japan's atomic survivor communities, and represents the passing of a call for hope and peace across generations and across borders, sent as an internationally relevant message of peace from Australia to Japan."

The proposed indigenous-inspired sculpture design is linked with an existing community arts sculpture project being run with remote indigenous communities in South Australia whose recent history relates to the British nuclear tests of the 1950s at Maralinga. The contribution is in the final stage of approval with Nagasaki Peace Park, with the official gifting and unveiling planned for March 2016.

The initiative is supported by Yalata Community Council, the Maralinga Tjarutja Council, City of Fremantle as lead city for Mayors for Peace (Australia), Nuclear Futures program (Alphaville), and with financial assistance from the Australia Council for the Arts.

The sculpture gifting project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, as part of the three-year international arts and cultural program, Nuclear Futures, exposing the legacies of the atomic age through the creative arts. Nuclear Futures is led by Sydney-production company Alphaville. More information is available at: www.nuclearfutures.org or info@nuclearfutures.org

The Graham F. Smith Peace Foundation (Peace Foundation) was founded in 1989 and aims to promote peace through the creative arts with a focus on human rights, social justice and environmental sustainability. <http://artspeacefoundation.org>

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Interviews available with Creative Producer Paul Brown and Yalata Sculpture Group representatives.

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Nagasaki sculpture gift Creative Team

Russell Bryant (Project Leader, Yalata Men's Sculpture Group)

Russell Bryant is a singer, guitarist and harmonica player, and a key member and organizer of the Yalata Band. Russell is a resident of Yalata Aboriginal community in the far west of South Australia. Russell also appeared in "Ngurini" (Searching) a video production made in collaboration between Alphaville and Yalata community. He has played the lead role in establishing arts activities at Yalata, including its sculpture group, and is a member of the design team that is developing sculptures in partnership with Alphaville's Nuclear Futures program. He is also a Lutheran pastor, and a member of the Maralinga Tjarutja Council.

Steve Harrison (Yalata Men's Sculpture Group)

Steve is an Anangu carver and painter from Yalata, who is the Leading hand for the Yalata sculpture project. Steve has experience across South Australia, as a youth worker with at-risk children on the streets of Adelaide, as a landscaper in Port Augusta, and he currently works in Yalata on community projects. These include renovation and design of memorials, headstones and crosses at the Yalata cemetery. His artworks include ground installation at Pika Wiya, the Port Augusta Aboriginal Health Centre, as well as carved artefacts. He has recently embarked on large scale carving using found timber and machinery.

John Turpie (Visiting artist: sculptor and facilitator)

Sculptor, printmaker, painter and graphic designer John Turpie has worked on numerous public art commissions, with non-Indigenous and Indigenous communities in South Australian and the Northern Territory. John has presented in numerous exhibitions and his works reside in public and private art collections. He was instrumental in devising the Elliston Sculptures by the Sea. His awards include the Port Pirie Art Prize (2000) and the City of Whyalla Art Prize (1999 & 1995). John's sculptural practice bears the stamp of later 20th century conceptual art, and incorporates a preference for using found objects and materials.

Ellise Barkley (Program Manager Nuclear Futures Partnership Initiative)

Ellise has extensive experience in program management, community development, creative arts, education and sustainability. She also conducts research on evaluation in community arts. She was Senior Education and Engagement Officer for Wyong Shire Council and Strategy Consultant for Blacktown City Council. She was Project Coordinator at Camden Head Pilot Station in 2004, and ran a Community Technology Centre in the rural community of Comboyne. She was Project Coordinator of a national design and innovation program involving 900 high schools. She is currently Program Manager across all Nuclear Futures projects, and taking the lead role in international initiatives connecting atomic survivor communities in Australia and Japan

Paul Brown (Creative Producer, Alphaville)

Since 1980 Paul has worked in community development contexts, through cultural activities, research, producing, and creative writing (theatre and film). He is the author of Aftershocks an award winning verbatim play about the Newcastle earthquake, produced by many of Australia's leading theatre companies, and studied by senior high school students. Paul's theatre projects also include large-scale community works. Paul was co-founder, creative producer and a playwright for Urban Theatre Projects (previously Death Defying Theatre), one of Australia's foremost community theatre companies; established in 1981. He established Alphaville in 2001, was an Asialink Resident in India during 2013, and he is currently Nuclear Futures' Creative Producer.

Keith Peters (Yalata Community Inc)

Keith is a key spokesperson for the Yalata community, and for Maralinga Tjarutja Council. He has represented the Maralinga communities in handover ceremonies returning control of Maralinga Lands to Anangu. He has long been an advocate for cultural rights and the maintenance of the Yalata Indigenous Protected Area, including the call for community housing and local services, and for local cultural tourism industry. He recently made a key speech on the history and future of the Maralinga bomb test sites (Section 400) in a ceremony to mark the return of unrestricted access rights.

Rico Ishii (Cultural Liaison)

Rico Ishii has worked as outreach and communication officer, media trainer and journalist over the past ten years in the fields of nuclear free movement, human rights and democracy. Rico holds a M.A in Media, Peace and Conflict from United Nations mandated University for Peace and currently works as an independent consultant and a media expert of peace process and conflict resolution in Myanmar. For Nuclear Futures, Rico has been involved with the international youth leadership workshops and the Nagasaki Peace Park sculpture process among other things.