

Local art festival to showcase diversity, identity and culture of St George area.



Image: © Maja Baska for *Inside/Outside* (2016) by Shopfront Arts & Museum of Contemporary Art Australia

Sydney, Australia: Shopfront Arts Co-op presents St George Metre Squared, a pop-up art festival and interactive arts experience for the community, created by young people from 5 local schools and 3 community organisations, in Carlton on **21 & 22 October**.

Taking over Shopfront's venue at 88 Carlton Parade with performance, visual art, music and film; local community members, families and young people are invited on a journey of art exploration through this often overlooked corner of Sydney and experience St George's diversity and vibrancy.

Exploring identity and connection to place, St George Metre Squared will celebrate the region's diversity, history, and rich Indigenous culture and heritage, highlighting community organisations in the St George region.

Kicking off at 6pm on Saturday and 4pm on Sunday, the festival will be open to the public with the aim of facilitating social participation among the diverse St George community, as well as showcasing the unique and culturally diverse talent of local groups and young people.

When audiences arrive, they'll roam around our interactive visual art exhibition, watch short films in Shopfront's cinema, participate in pop-up activities and get to try food from all over the world – representing the cultures who have made St George home. A variety of traditional cuisines will be available for purchase ranging from Lebanese pastries, Indian sweets and savoury snacks, Nepalese dumplings and more.

Later, Shopfront's theatre will come alive with a curated showcase of local talent; featuring young bands, spoken word, emerging artists, magic, comedy, singing and digital art.

Hannah Grant, Shopfront's Director of Socially-Engaged Programs explains the idea behind instituting St George Metre Squared is about bringing a new focus onto South East Sydney: *"Shopfront has been in the St George region since 1946 and we're proud of being located here, and are committed to being part of the local community and creating artworks inspired by the area and made by its young people. This is a chance to celebrate the diversity, culture, and people of the St George region."*

The schools and community groups working on St George Metre Squared include YouthZone, Advance Diversity Services, Al-Zahra Muslim's Women's Association, Beverly Hills Girls' High, Kogarah High, Kogarah Intensive English Centre, Woniara Road School, Shopfront's own ensembles and groups, and our local councils and libraries.

Participating Artists & Groups

3 Bridges YouthZone
Advance Diversity Services
Al-Zahra Muslim's Women's Association
Beverly Hills Girls' High STARS group
Kogarah High School
Kogarah Library
Rockdale Library
Kogarah Intensive English Centre
Woniara Road School
Shopfront young people

Key Dates & Times

Saturday 21 October 2017, 6pm – 8:30pm (performance from 7:30pm)
Sunday 22 October 2017, 4-6:30pm (performance from 5:30pm)

Cost

Free with a suggested donation on the door (people will need cash for food)

Media Enquiries

For more information or media enquiries please contact Rowena Tuziak, Communications and Marketing Manager at Shopfront on 02 9588 3948 or rowena.tuziak@shopfront.org.au

END OF RELEASE

ABOUT SHOPFRONT ARTS CO-OP

Shopfront is for young people, by young people - we make sure their voices are heard. Shopfront has been creating socially relevant, youth-led, multi-art form work since its inception in 1976.

Shopfront is a space where young people come together to express themselves. To learn, share and bring their imaginations to life. A space for celebrating the amazing ideas and creativity generated by young people and emerging artists.

We're known for our daring, adventurous and socially relevant work with young people across Australia and internationally, and are still the only dedicated youth-led arts organisation in the Southern Sydney and Illawarra region.

We've got big plans for the future, and we hope you'll join us in promoting our mission to empower the young artists and social change makers of tomorrow. Starting today!

www.shopfront.org.au

We acknowledge the Bediagal and Kameygal people of the Eora nation who are the traditional custodians of the land on which Shopfront is built. We pay our respects to those elders past and present, and to all our brothers and sisters of our first nations people.

Shopfront acknowledges the assistance and generous support from our core funding bodies: The Federal Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, the Commonwealth Government's funding and advisory body Arts NSW, Bayside Council and Georges River Council.

shopfront

This project is supported by Georges River Council Community Grants, Create NSW, NSW Department for Families and Communities, Australia Council for the Arts. Special thanks to Bayside Council and all our school and community partners.