Thursday September 19, 2013

Port Phillip Housing Association Art Programme | 2013: A Vision in Substance

 Port Phillip Housing Association (PPHA) is holding an exhibition of artworks by their community housing tenants, with the support of MGS Architects. This exhibition will open November 21st as part of Social Inclusion Week at BrightSpace Gallery, St Kilda.

The PPHA is a not-for-profit community housing organisation, providing critical services to people at risk of homelessness by helping them find suitable, affordable housing and advocate on their behalf. PPHA is about more than just housing – they provide the potential to improve the well-being of individuals and communities.

As part of their strategic plan to build community involvement for their tenants, the PPHA Art Programme encourages interested residents to develop their own art together with PPHA staff, volunteers and other community groups. PPHA supports the tenants by providing materials, workshops and exhibiting their work. This programme gives tenants the opportunity to build relationships with each other and external agencies, such as galleries, local businesses and partners.

Those who’ve experienced housing insecurity often become stigmatised and isolated from others – reducing their ability to find work through networks or develop healthy relationships. This programme demonstrates a practical effort from both private and community-based organisations to foster an inclusive community for community housing tenants.

The PPHA Art Programme is conducted with the financial support and active involvement of MGS Architects and BrightSpace Gallery.

**MGS Architects** offers an expanded idea of architecture and design that few firms offer, drawing on advocacy, research, policy development, business acumen, artistry and community engagement. MGS have had over 25 years’ experience in award-winning affordable housing, public buildings and community infrastructure projects.

**BRIGHTSPACE Gallery,** owned by Marin Kantor, is a naturally lit, two-room gallery in St Kilda that shows established and emerging contemporary artists. BrightSpace actively promotes the space to host creative endeavours and presentations of all types.

**Social Inclusion Week** encourages communities to allow ALL members to participate in and contribute to their society. It is run by Jonathon Welch with support from the Australian Government. Last year, SIW had over 188 events held by 500 organisations and a national audience of over 5.1 million. For more information please go to www.socialinclusionweek.com.au.

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