

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Interactive Presentations - IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (IP)

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THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF CREATING IN CONCERT WITH COSMOS

Abstract

“Creating in Concert with Cosmos” Astro-Arts collaborative formed an emergent community of astronomers, artists, teachers and students, focused around understanding our integral, co-creative role in, and as, cosmos. Students, artists and the public were brought into deeper connection with the presence of cosmos within their own personal narratives, whether the physical body and ecological location, or the space in which we abide both socio-culturally and psychologically. We are space, emerge from, dwell in and incessantly remerge into it. There is no boundary between ourselves and the infinite; this is an empowering transformative educational reality and lever. Originally multi-dimensional, Australian Arts Ministry funded with myself as conceptual designer, artists and dancers, were paired with astronomers, each group collaborating on creative works through exploration. Concurrently, I presented astronomy workshops in several schools, focused on understanding the universe, our integral dynamic, the value and remarkable nature of life, and our co-creative capacity. Students responded creatively with art works, poetry, etc., one 12th grade developing 3D orreries. Student’s artworks became the Sydney Science Festival opening ceremony exhibition. Emergent creations from the astronomer-artist collaborations formed the body of a weeklong professional exhibition at The Rocks Harbor Gallery, filling three large rooms. The creation of an interactive galactic sand mandala attracted children’s hand and footprints into its edges: Our shared paths through sands of space-time. Astronomy themed classical string concerts occurred daily. A further dimension was choreography and performance by a youth dance troupe of a series of astronomical based works at Sydney Observatory. Impact assessment forms were compiled.

Currently, “Creating in Concert with Cosmos”, is being planned in collaboration with ASTRON, Netherlands Institute. This project is to work with local refugee communities, and LOFAR Radio Telescope. The theme will integrate ideas of “alien and indigenous”, exploring what is life, our shared cosmic and ecologically emergence. How do we arrive at this collective space-time moment? What do our shared origins and astronomical knowledge teach us about the imperative role of diversity for cosmic creativity? The objectives are to leverage the value and integral nature of our unique and diverse creative expressions, as aspects of the universe itself, - to foster reverence for all life. The modalities will include dance, multi-lingual spoken word, and diverse art forms. Enhancing the sense of universal community, and awe at the symphonic collaborative of life’s multiverse is the design objective.