

5 August 2026

Reference: Alisa Tanaka-King, Community Artist

I am delighted to provide this referral for Alisa Tanaka-King, who was employed as the lead community artist across multiple community arts and engagement projects with Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC).

Throughout her work with ECLC, Alisa demonstrated creativity, professionalism, and a deep commitment to meaningful community engagement. She has a unique ability to bring people together, designing inclusive, participatory arts experiences that foster connection, amplify community voices, and create a genuine sense of belonging.

As the lead artist on the My Generation project, Alisa designed and delivered a 9-month revitalisation initiative, funded by the Victorian Government and supported by the Boronia Revitalisation Board. Working in partnership with community members, local organisations, and schools, she developed a series of art workshops that culminated in a large-scale public mural created collaboratively by community members aged over 55 and primary school students. The project also included the production of a documentary capturing the creative journey and a community dinner celebrating the project's outcomes. Through every aspect of the project, Alisa skillfully embedded themes of social inclusion, mental health, ageism, and sustainability, creating opportunities for meaningful intergenerational connection.

Alisa also led the artistic design and delivery of the Lilydale Voices initiative, a series of events and creative projects promoting community connectedness and resilience through storytelling. Funded by the Victorian State Government and supported by the Lilydale Suburban Revitalisation Board, the initiative was developed in close partnership with community organisations including Anchor, Inspiro, Migrant Information Centre, Oonah Health & Community Services Aboriginal Corporation, Yarra Ranges Council, and Yarra Ranges Regional Museum. Through community consultation, Alisa designed interactive creative activities that reflected the diversity of the local community. These included an interactive letter-writing installation presented as a micro-exhibition at the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum, a children's drag story time event, and an Aboriginal music performance, all of which encouraged participation, storytelling, and cultural celebration.

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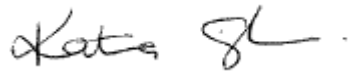
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Alisa was also the lead artist behind the Flavours of Lilydale and Flavours of Boronia projects, both funded by their respective Suburban Revitalisation Boards. These projects celebrated cultural diversity, connection, and storytelling through food. Alisa designed the project concept and facilitated community participation, inviting local residents to contribute a treasured personal recipe alongside the personal story behind it. Participants exchanged their recipes for a sweet treat, with the collected stories and recipes beautifully compiled into professionally bound community cookbooks. The projects were delivered in collaboration with local English language schools, libraries, and a wide range of community members, creating welcoming opportunities for cultural exchange and community connection.

Across each of these projects, Alisa was the creative lead, designing activities and events in partnership with key community organisations and local community members.

I would highly recommend Alisa for any role or opportunity involving community arts, engagement, co-design, and/or creative leadership. Her ability to build meaningful relationships, inspire participation, and deliver projects with lasting community impact makes her an exceptional artist and community practitioner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Gibson' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kate Gibson
Director, Partnerships & Community Engagement