

MEDIA RELEASE

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HOPE STREET - An outdoor gallery for the whole community

HOPE STREET is a street art project that aims to create an outdoor gallery accessible to all, representing the community in all its diversity, celebrating creativity and increasing connectivity.

Following the success of HOPE STREET in 2017 which saw contemporary murals painted in Renmark, Mannum and Murray Bridge, Country Arts SA and Berri Barmera Council have partnered to bring the next stage of this Public Health project to Berri.

Artist Sarah Boese who created the stunning HOPE STREET mural in Mannum depicting an elegant egret, a much loved river bird found in the local area, will return as artist in residence in Berri and will be located at the Vaughan Terrace amenities laneway from 21 February – 3 March.

Following a community consultation process to develop the design concept, Sarah will line up the paint cans as she develops the mural over this ten day residency. Sarah will also be inviting the community to come along to workshops on offer each day between 1-2pm. This hands on experience is for anyone interested in finding out more about street art, learning techniques or gaining new skills and is open to all ages – no experience required.

Berri Barmera council will host an official event to unveil the work and celebrate their community on Friday 2 March at 5.30pm.

Country Arts SA's Arts & Health Creative Producer; Alison Howard and Project Coordinator Public Health Planning, Local Government Association of South Australia; Dr Rachel Earl developed the project as a new way of exploring community health with the Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association (MRLGA) Public Health Planning group.

Stage one of the project saw three South Australian artists each undertake a 10-day residency in the Renmark Paringa, Murray Bridge and Mid Murray councils. Artists: Jack Fran (Renmark Paringa), Joshua Smith (Murray Bridge) and Sarah Boese (Mid Murray) collaborated with local communities to produce contemporary painted murals responding to the theme of HOPE.

Ms Howard said: "Active involvement in creative activities can provide a wide range of benefits to individuals and communities as a whole, including the promotion of well-being, quality of life and health, increased levels of empowerment, positive impacts on mental health and social inclusion. The HOPE STREET project provides a great opportunity to celebrate and connect communities across the Murraylands and Riverland region and Country Arts SA are delighted to be partnering with Berri Barmera Council on the second stage of this collaborative project."

The Berri Barmera Council said: "Council is thrilled to be delivering this collaborative project. We are looking forward to seeing the site transform into a space where the community can connect."

HOPE STREET also aims to draw positive attention to the community wellbeing work of local government and encompass Regional Public Health Plan focus areas such as mental health and wellbeing, suicide prevention, support for aging communities, building stronger and healthier communities and neighbourhoods for all generations.

Country Arts SA delivers a Statewide Arts & Health program in partnership with Country Health SA Mental Health Network and seeks to increase opportunities for social connection using arts and culture as a means to improve health and wellbeing and creating pathways to resilience.

Media enquiries: Joy Lothian Joy.Lothian@countryarts.org.au or (08) 8444 0417 / 0423 828 035

