

**NET DIASPORAS:
COLLABORATIVE INTERNET MUSIC MAKING BY DISPLACED PEOPLE**

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

***Net Diasporas* is a pilot internet music project that will enable musicians from migrant and refugee backgrounds in urban and regional areas to collaborate and perform culture specific musical repertoires online.**

Expressions of interest are currently being invited from settlement agencies, organisations and volunteers who would like to participate in the Net Diasporas project which will run between February-August 2016. It is expected that initial planning meetings will be conducted in early January 2016. There is no cost of participation in the project other than a commitment to in-kind facilitation.

What

The project aims to provide an opportunity for exiled musicians and audiences to reconnect with, maintain, and develop social and cultural practices through sustainable online musical collaborations and real-world performances. Participants will be encouraged to draw on their knowledge of cultural styles and musical compositions using traditional instruments (where they are available). They will also learn new collaborative, communicative and technical skills in an engaging interactive telematic experience.

The project will be led by musician and academic Dr Roger Mills from the University of Technology Sydney, and supported by [Settlement Services International](#). It is a community music research project that seeks to understand the ways in which (internet-based) telematic music performance may provide displaced people with opportunities to re-connect with their social and cultural traditions, and increase a sense of belonging, inclusion, personhood and agency in their new lives. It will focus on developing relationships between interstate settlement agencies from which a sustainable program of distance collaboration and research can be established.

How

Project leader Roger Mills will conduct information and training sessions at each of the project locations in NSW and Victoria outlining the framework of the project and assisting host project officers to install and operate the necessary software. The technology can facilitate up to four groups of musicians playing in real-time across wide area distances. Roger will also work closely with client musicians in structuring the development of musical works leading to a performance ready repertoire. For more information on the project structure, research and technical components visit <https://netdiasporas.wordpress.com>

Participate

If your organisation works with people from migrant and refugee backgrounds you have the opportunity to participate in this innovative music project.

Organisation Requirements

- Asylum seekers, refugees and migrant clients with musical knowledge, and/or experience and interest in performing culture specific music
- Host project officer / volunteers willing to commit to organising client participation over a six month period; and
- Suitable infrastructure; venue with ADSL network; possible links to community music technology programs with access to sound production facilities would be an advantage (we can also help with this).

Please register your interest in a cover letter that outlines:

- Name, location and type of organisation
- Number of potential participants, cultural background, languages, skills (musical or organisational) and the types of instruments available; and
- Suitability of your venue, and possible commitment of staff and/or volunteers

Expressions of interest should be emailed as a pdf to Dr Roger Mills on roger.mills@uts.edu.au by 6pm December 18, 2015.

The Net Diasporas Project is supported by Settlement Services International.