

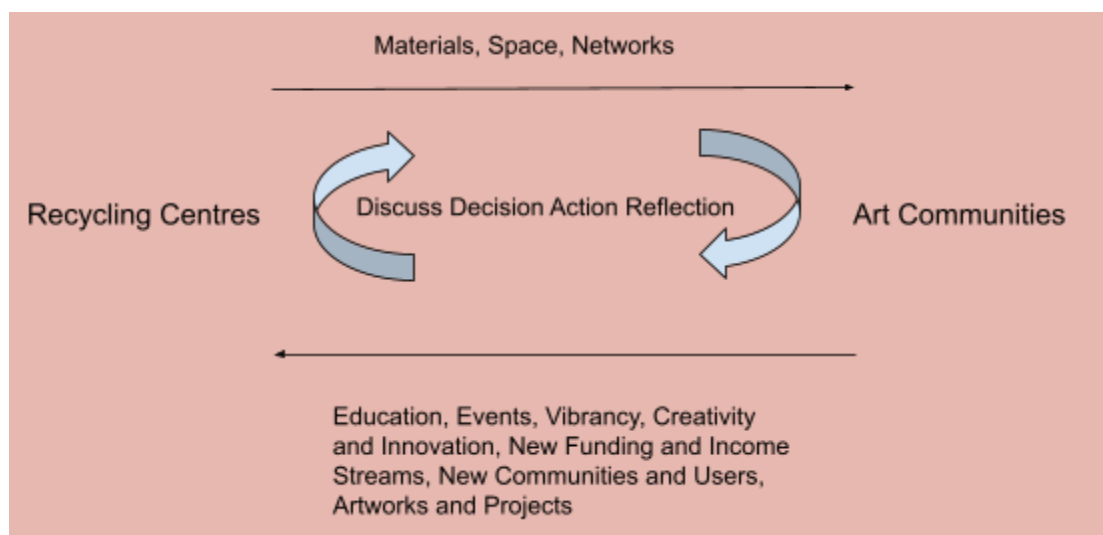
Creative Waste Network A Preliminary Proposal to Recycling Centres in the Greater Auckland Region (Document for Discussion)

Purpose

We are seeking to build a collaborative network between recycling centres and the art community (individual artists, art centres and galleries, schools and universities, etc.) across the Auckland region to (1) help recycling centres achieve their goals and (2) create change and possibilities in the waste minimization field. This project is based on our extensive research and pilot projects as well as learnings from similar projects that are running overseas (see Appendix: Case Studies).

The network combines (1) an on-site programme of work created with the centres (e.g. waste material curation, education and making activities, promotional exhibitions, and artist-in-residence) with (2) work across the region (promotion, delivery/collection, education, etc.) to connect individuals and organisations with recycling centres for mutual benefit.

Connecting recycling centres and the art community will contribute towards community engagement, sustainability awareness and building a distribution system for materials in order to divert more waste from landfill and reduce stock at recycling centres. Benefits include increasing mutually beneficial interfaces between recycling centres and their communities, increasing the availability of 'resources for creative activity' in the community, building the creative capabilities of all parties, and reduced costs (meaning that financial resources can be directed towards work that more directly benefits the community).



Project Team

This project is run by Tardigrade World, led by Java Bentley and Mongoose Chen (<https://tardigrade.world/>) with support from Chris Berthelsen of Activities and Research in Environments for Creativity Trust (<http://arecreative.org>).

Tardigrade World (TW) is a group that tests ideas in the fields of art, sustainability and social entrepreneurship. It is also a project initiator, working on [Mugly](#) and [Waste Archive](#) this year.

TW is interested in a transdisciplinary practice that uses art as a diplomatic platform. Art is used as a lens to view psychology, sociology and social entrepreneurship for the benefit of waste minimization and other sustainability goals, as well as for training in creative thinking.

Activities and Research in Environments for Creativity (AREC) is a registered charity which supports activities and research in the field of environments for creativity, including but not limited to education and self-learning, the creation of art and creative outputs, basic and practical research, publishing, community initiatives, and poverty relief through education in creative living. A core focus is the use of waste and free materials, as illustrated by the recent book Distributed Resource Centre (supported by Hibiscus and Bays Local Board and Mairangi Arts Centre) ([download](#)), and the school-based Negative Waste Creativity Programme (supported by the Ministry of Education).

Mongoose Chen

Is interested in a lot of different subjects, and sustainably brings all of her interests together and makes use of her skills.

She has started Tardigrade World which initiated projects that include Mugly, Waste Archive, The Projacket, which are mainly focused on waste minimization. Also she has been studying a variety of subjects for fueling her curiosity and building testimonies for her hypnosis on waste minimization.

She is an autodidact person and trying to know as much as possible on subjects from creativity to social entrepreneurship.

Chris Berthelsen

Chris Berthelsen's (<http://small-workshop.info>) work explores environments for creative activity, resident-led modification of the lived environment, and alternative education. He often runs multi-layered public projects throughout New Zealand and Japan which experiment with public/private space, Making Friends, trust and hope, and making-do with resources at hand.

He is a co-founder of Activities and Research in Environments for Creativity Trust (Tāmaki Makaurau) and Tanushimaru Institute for Art Research (Fukuoka, Japan), and was Deputy-Chairperson of the Mairangi Arts Centre Trust (Tāmaki Makaurau) (2017-2021).

Watch a short interview with Chris about “Making Friends with Junk” (produced as part of the Auckland Arts Festival 2021) [here](#).

Java Bentley

Is a practising sculptural installation artist inspired by the interconnection between repurposed objects and memory participating in exhibitions, collective events, workshops and artist residencies notably the *Trashed As* residency held at the Waitākere Recycling and Refuse Centre. Furthermore, she is the founder of Hangarua Workshops which is a series of recycling based workshops. Graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Art History in 2018 from Auckland university, she will be returning back to study a Masters of Māori Visual Arts.

Possible Collaboration Points

Based on our experience we have identified a number of preliminary points of collaboration which we would like to explore with you. We also want to learn more about the experiences of your recycling centre and come up with mutually beneficial solutions together.

Recycling Centre	Possible collaboration points (How we can connect)	Art community
Stored materials that can be distributed	1. We believe that there are ways to match the needs of both sides by connecting the service and the community.	Artists and projects that desire materials
Organisations that can source specific materials in excess	2. Build partnerships with council recycling centres across the Auckland region and research different ways that each recycling centre can contribute depending on what they can provide.	Artists and projects that desire specific materials in bulk
Space available to occupy	3. Connect council recycling centres firstly with art communities including (Tardigrade World, Chris, Elam etc) and establish ways of distributing	Artist and community studio spaces with easy

<p>Visual presentation of waste knowledge and experiences</p>	<p>materials to artists, art projects and art organisations.</p> <p>4. Present potential collaborations that are custom to groups needs ie recycle centres, art communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Material storage sites/ organisations where specific materials can be directed and distributed to locations that do not have nearby recycling centres - Source materials that individuals cannot - Provide creative and fluid spaces to present artworks, workshops, educational events, artist studio etc - Shop to sell products 	<p>access to resources</p> <p>Gallery space that can exhibit artwork (short or long term)</p> <p>Educational workshops</p> <p>Community waste events</p> <p>A shop that could sell products, artwork, materials, educational kits, etc.</p>
---	--	---

Funding and Potential Income Streams

We would like to discuss possibilities for funding this project through funding and developing income streams, including the potential for aspects to be covered by the recycling centre plan (current or future).

Past funding: This project is part of our long-term collaborative programmes. Past funders include Creative NZ, Creative Communities, multiple local boards in the Auckland Region, Asia New Zealand Foundation, Chartwell Trust, and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

We are also actively seeking funding from other sources and welcome any suggestions and introductions.

Other potential income streams include, for example: Charging art organisations a handling fee for the curation and delivery of resources, paid education/events, rental of studio/exhibition spaces at recycling centres, and the sale of art and products.

Health and Safety

We have health and safety management experience in the context of art and waste materials at both governance (as part of the boards of art centres) and operational (as artists and project managers) levels.

Work with artist groups, art centres and community galleries will place importance on health and safety policies, orientation/induction, and continuous monitoring and improvement.

Next Steps?

- Introductory meeting to discuss this idea.
- Create a strategic plan for the network and operationalise it.
- Identify essential policies and implementation.

We are looking forward to making something great together!

Tardigrade World (Mongoose Chen, Java Bentley and collaborators)

Activities and Research in Environments for Creativity (Chris Berthelsen and collaborators)

Appendix: Case Studies

We have tested similar ideas on a small scale and have found many successful cases overseas.

Local Cases

<p><i>Tardigrade World Studio Hub</i>, Auckland CBD by Mongoose Chen in 2020-2021</p>	<p>Brought together the K' road and wider community to create and collaborate providing studio space, exhibition space and minimal material storage.</p> <p>https://tardigrade.world/</p>	
---	---	--

Trashed As artist residency at <https://www.tippingpoint.org.nz/shop/trashed-as-art-exhibition/>

In 2019 the *Trashed As* artist residency at Waitākere Recycling and Refuse centre asked six artists to create work entirely out of waste allowing access to the Tipping Point Recycling Shop and waste depot stations.





Distributed Resource Centre at and around Mairangi Arts Centre (2019-20) <https://www.mairangiarts.co.nz/resource-centre>

(Funded by Hibiscus and Bays Local Board)

A programme of activity (resource recovery, exhibitions, public workshops, artist-in-residence) using freely available resources (commercial and household waste, fruit/vegetables and other food, skills, time, places/infrastructure) in our community.



Overseas Cases

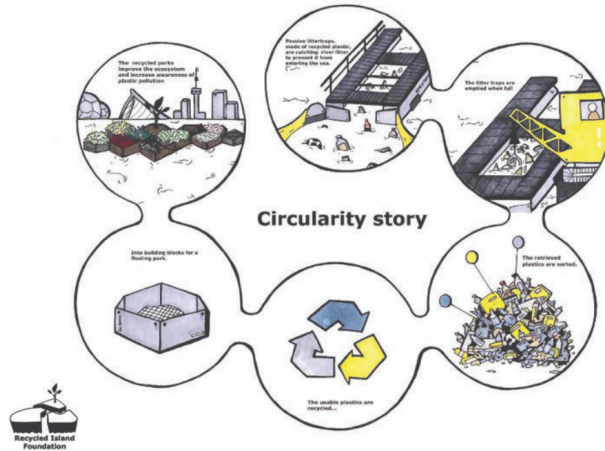
<p>Based in New York, LES Ecology Centre</p>	<p>has set up multiple drop off locations to repurpose and reuse discarded waste while also providing e-waste and composting services, environmental stewardship opportunities and educational programmes.</p> <p>https://www.lesecologycenter.org/about/</p>	
<p>Recology (AIR) Artist in Residence Program in San Francisco, Ongoing since 1990</p>	<p>is an art/ education program that provides waste materials, artist and studio space at San Francisco Recycling and Transfer Station.</p> <p>https://www.recology.com/recology-san-francisco/artist-in-residence-program/</p>	

The Recycled Island Foundation (RIF) 2014 Non-profit project Rotterdam, NL

The Recycled Island Foundation makes proposals on how to deal with plastic pollution and climate change. From our Rotterdam office we work on the prevention, awareness, education, retrieval and re-use of marine litter. Our key projects are currently our litter traps, to retrieve marine debris, and Recycled Park

<https://solarimpulse.com/companies/recycled-island-foundation#>

<https://www.designboom.com/design/recycled-park-netherlands-plastics-07-14-2018/>



BARCELONA
Drap Art is a non-profit organization founded in 1995 in Barcelona dedicated to the promotion of creative recycling through festivals, exhibitions, markets and workshops, in Spain as well as in other countries.

Drap Art has become a platform for emerging artists, designers, craftsmen and other creative professionals from Europe and elsewhere who use trash as raw material for their works. **It talks about the “3 Rs” (reduce, reuse and recycle) through art and creativity.**

<https://www.cccb.org/en/projects/file/drap-art/40689>

