

First Nations Songwriters Workshop 2021

Event Summary

An initiative of Jinibara People Aboriginal Corporation and supported by the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Sunshine Coast Council, the inaugural First Nations Songwriters Workshop was held on Saturday & Sunday, 4 & 5 December 2021.

Hosted on Jinibara country, at Woodfordia, the weekend workshop brought together eight First Nations songwriters and musicians of varying levels of experience. The participants, all connected to a number of First Nations communities, came together to build their professional capabilities and were provided creative training and development opportunities.

By supporting the local First Nations creative community with a platform to come together, nurture relationships and share skills, the workshop aligns with Council's Community Strategy, Regional Economic Development Strategy and Reconciliation Action Plan.

Led by Torres Strait Islander Elder and experienced facilitator, Uncle Getano Bann, the eight participants were guided on an immersive journey through the world of song writing. With over forty years of experience in the entertainment industry as a professional performer, workshop facilitator, musician and songwriter, Uncle Getano shared knowledge and strategies on developing song writing techniques, arranging songs, setting words to music and insights into the entertainment industry.

As part of the workshop a participatory performance and dinner was held, commencing with a smoking ceremony, and sharing of songs and stories from Jinibara Elders. Complimenting the ancient songs of the Jinibara peoples, were the original heartfelt performances and stories delivered by the workshop participants. The cultural practice of sharing food, music and stories created a beautiful evening of connectedness for the audience and performers.

Having the workshop delivered in a culturally safe environment allowed the participants to develop and create original songs while encouraging and learning from each other. The inaugural First Nations Songwriters Workshop facilitated a strengthening of the First Nations creative community through the sharing of creative knowledge, stories, experiences, cultural practices and connecting to Country.

In the near future, the experience and content shared by participants will contribute to further development and business opportunities for the artists.

