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New Report Findings StoryCasters program seeds emerging media talent in Western Sydney .

The StoryCasters is one of Diversity Arts Australia's most successful programs for emerging creatives of colour, supporting them with the skills and resources, and connecting them with employment opportunities. The program is an intensive and unique training hub for future citizen journalists and digital producers in four disciplines: writing, podcasting, film and sound.

"[StoryCasters] connected us to different parts of the industry, and helped to get our foot in the door. I think this type of program really helps to build that sense of strength," says Melvin Tu, StoryCasters participant. "Meeting [industry mentors] helped me to set out on that path."

The newly released StoryCasters report by Diversity Arts Australia highlights the program's phenomenal outcomes. We engaged 65 young creatives of colour, hosted 72 training and collaboration sessions and published 136 pieces of fresh, inspiring and thought provoking work. The program has created a community of practice for young emerging producers from Western Sydney and profiled 100+ culturally diverse artists from across New South Wales.

"StoryCasters was delivered at a time when the whole world was in flux. The project was midway through its scheduled timeline when COVID-19 took us all by surprise, causing suffering globally and decimating the arts. Against the backdrop of a global pandemic, political turbulence and climate disasters, critical discussions about race, representation, and access took centre stage. The momentum of the Black Lives Matter movement and increase in anti-Asian racism, reinforced the importance of diverse representation in the media and arts, and the significance of this project." - Lena Nahlous, CEO/Executive Producer.

Along with providing long-term investment in emerging talent, the StoryCasters program aimed to enrich the media landscape with critical perspectives and artistry. Participants in the StoryCasters podcasting program conducted exciting interviews with creative icons such as acclaimed author Alice Pung, award-winning journalist and media personality Marc Fennell, and rising musician A.GIRL. These interviews are included in Season 5 of Diversity Arts Australia podcast, The Colour Cycle, which was wholly produced and soundtracked by StoryCasters participants.

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