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EVENTS

Inspire: Kids who Care and Repair

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Empowering children to be active agents of ethical and resilient change in their communities through learning care & repair.

Building on work including Design Minds [Toolkit: 'How might we... Build a Culture of Repair'](#) and the development of other pedagogical tools [1], [Redirective Practice](#), a design collective partly run by the authors, is organizing a series of children's workshops that will empower children to be active agents of change in their communities through learning care and repair. Fun, hands-on and based around new design thinking, kids will learn how design can contribute to learning to care for themselves, the environment and others.

The main objective is to equip children with environmental and ethical agency, recognising that the ability to form strong communities and build localised skills is becoming increasingly important in the face of climate change, global economic instability and the breakdown of community [2]. This will be done through various fun and interactive workshops including:

Culture of Repair—teaching kids to live in a culture where repair is accessible, acceptable and sensible. Kids

REFERENCES

- ↗ [1] Schultz, T. (2015). Kartogrifa In-Flux: A Pedagogical Tool To Challenge Eurocentrism In Post-Compulsory Education For Sustainable Design. In K. Stables, Keirl, Steve, (Ed.), *Environment, Ethics and Cultures: Design and Technology Education's Contribution to Sustainable Global Futures* (pp. 193-206). Rotterdam: Sense.
- ↗ [2] Littlejohns, Lori Baugh and Thompson, Donna (2001), 'Shaking out the Cobwebs: Insights into community capacity and its relation to health outcomes', *Community Development Journal* vol. 36, no. 1, January, pp. 30-41.

- ↗ [3] How Might We Build a Culture of Repair Toolkit

Design Tweets

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1

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will have the chance to hack, make and repair items including phones, radios, shoes, backpacks with simple everyday tools. They will gain invaluable DIY skills and attitudes [3].

E-waste autopsy—kids will pull apart electronic objects in order to learn how many parts there are. Through this process they will learn diagnostic skills and how to better design for disassembly [4].

Recycling—through the Culture of Repair and E-waste Autopsy workshops kids will learn how to use materials traditionally regarded as waste, participating in a process of recycling, repurposing and bricolage.

Edible Urban Gardening—kids will learn to grow fresh produce in organic gardens. This will be accompanied with cooking classes and the development of DIY skills such as beehive, worm farm and compost construction [5].

Mapping – Kids will learn powerful relational thinking methods through fun participatory mapping workshops. They will learn to analyse and synthesis complexity by mapping patterns of information, geographies and cognition, equipping them with the skills needed in the 21st century to navigate complex future challenges [6].

The workshop series has been designed from a recognised need that young Australians will live in a very different and complex globalised environment over the next 30 years. This includes recognizing that our global economies are constantly shifting and Australia's youth need to be equipped with the entrepreneurial skills that enable them not only to face these changes but to lead them. They will be challenged to be creative in defining and solving problems across all facets of everyday life using a suite of design thinking tools.

What's next

The project is in development and testing phase and this article acts as a call for interest. If you are a practitioner, community member, educator or parent and are interested in what we are doing we would like to open conversation about where to next.

Over the coming months we will be hosting a series of trial workshops with local schools, securing funding streams and collaborating with other practitioners skilled in care and repair to help host the workshops.

Can we recognise that skills in resourcefulness, resilience, bricolage, repair and care need to be valued and taught to our children for all of humanity to have increased options to adapt, mitigate and redirect around future challenges in the coming decades?

Will you join us in this exciting project?

AUTHORS

↗ [4] E-Waste [Re]Booted

↗ [5] Fairfax, D., Hinshelwood, L., White, T., and Barnett, R. 2012, 'Seeding Opportunity: How reappropriation of public space can catalyse sustainable behaviours' Cumulus, Helsinki Conference,

↗ [6] Schultz, T. (2015). Unsettled? Map, Redirect your Knowledge and Design Futures Scenarios. Paper presented at the TEDxGriffith, Griffith University, Gold Coast, Australia.

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