

INVEST IN THE DIVERSE FUTURE OF AOTEAROA

HELP KEEP THE CREATIVE COURAGE FLOWING



MIXIT

| Creating Communities
of Connected Youth

WHAT IS MIXIT?

Mixit is a multicultural creative platform where migrant and former refugee youth aged 13-20+ connect through art with each other and with local youth in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We use the performing arts, including drama, dance, music, and spoken word poetry, to build confidence, connections and life skills.

Professional artists lead sessions focused on creative thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving, with FUN at the core.

FREE WEEKLY CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

Every Saturday during school terms (2-4:30pm)



SUMMER PERFORMANCE PROJECTS

Intensive two-week programmes culminating in public performances



YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Scaffolded pathways from participant to leader



NATIONAL OUTREACH

Sharing our model with regional resettlement areas



"Mixit is an arts project for young people with refugee backgrounds, mixing it up with migrants."

"We celebrate diversity through creativity...once on the Mixit floor, it's freedom, it's safe, it's family."

WENDY PRESTON, CO-FOUNDER

WHO WE SERVE

OUR PARTICIPANTS

- Young people aged 13-20+ from refugee and migrant backgrounds
- Currently from 20+ countries including Afghanistan, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Ethiopia, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Syria
- Many carry adult responsibilities – translating for parents, navigating systems, supporting families.

THEIR REALITY

“I was 16 years old and new to New Zealand without any other family members, arriving during Covid, feeling really isolated. I got invited along to Mixit through Immigration NZ and thought there would be people like me and that I could make friends.”

Mixit Youth Leader, 2025

OUR REACH

- Over 10,000 youth engagements since 2006
- 790 participant engagements in 2023-24 alone
- 15-20 consistent weekly participants
- Many participants engage for multiple years, often with siblings.

WHAT THEY FIND AT MIXIT

“I felt that warmth and welcoming vibe of community and friendship. Mixit began to feel more like a family or a community. I was able to express myself more and when you can put your true self out there, Mixit sees that potential in you.”

Mixit Youth Leader, 2025

OUR PROVEN IMPACT MODEL

FOUR LEVELS OF VALIDATED IMPACT

1. IMPACTS YOUNG PEOPLE

- Feel included, connected, valued and uplifted
- Gain confidence, skills and identity through creative expression.

2. IMPACTS FAMILIES

- Mixit becomes a second whānau. Deep, long-lasting connections are built. Parents trust the opportunities Mixit creates.

3. IMPACTS COMMUNITY

- Empowers generations of young leaders as active participants. Strengthens intercultural connection and understanding.

4. IMPACTS SECTOR

- Builds local/regional capability to meet former refugee youth needs. Strengthens locally-led responses nationwide.

FOUR INTERCONNECTED STREAMS

CORE SATURDAY PROGRAMME

- Weekly workshops during school terms
- Different creative focus each term
- Professional guest artists
- Culminates in term showcases

SUMMER PROJECT

- Annual 2-week intensive in January
- Participants create original performance
- Public performances for family/community
- Deep creative immersion

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

- Selected participants become Youth Leaders
- Co-facilitate sessions, coordinate logistics
- One-on-one mentoring for career pathways
- Annual leadership training retreat

MIXIT AOTEAROA OUTREACH (MAO)

- Alumni-led workshops in regional areas
- Capacity building for local providers
- Connecting isolated youth nationwide

2022-25:

Delivered in Dunedin, Palmerston North, Christchurch, Hamilton, Invercargill, Ashburton, Wellington

20 YEARS OF SUSTAINED IMPACT

ORGANISATIONAL EVOLUTION

2005: Research stage – extensive research starts into the needs of former refugee youth in Aotearoa and how a creative approach could best support

2006: First Saturday workshops commence

2009: Youth Leadership Programme launched

2012: Became an independent Charitable Trust

2019: Alumni Squad formed

2022: National outreach programme begins

2023: New headquarters established in New Lynn

2024: First memorial scholarships awarded

2025: Independent impact evaluation completed by the Centre for Social Impact

KEY STRENGTHS (FROM EVALUATION)

- Flexibility to respond to youth needs
- Regular reflective practice
- Creating safe, accessible space
- Consistent long-term engagement
- Authentically youth-led

RECOGNITION

Co-founder Wendy Preston was awarded MNZM for Services to Youth in 2018.

HOW WE CREATE TRANSFORMATION

OUR CORE ELEMENTS

1. VOICE

Finding confidence to express oneself.

2. IMAGINATION

Exploring possibilities beyond limitations.

3. MOVEMENT

Building physical confidence and presence.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

Culturally safe space

"Positive but firm boundaries" within "a culture of acceptance".

Level playing field

Creative expression transcends language barriers.

Long-term engagement

Many participants stay 5+ years, growing through our programmes.

Youth-led approach

Former participants now lead the organisation.

TRANSFORMATION IN THEIR OWN WORDS

FINDING CONFIDENCE

"Mixit makes my confidence go from down on the floor to up in the sky."

PARTICIPANT

FINDING BELONGING

"I have to assimilate in other spaces, but with Mixit you can be yourself."

PARTICIPANT

FINDING FAMILY

"Mixit is, and always has been, my second family. I can always come back to it."

ALUMNI

FINDING PURPOSE

"Mixit helped me with my first job... Leadership is a big difference that Mixit has made for me. Every job I have, I can show that I can lead."

YOUTH LEADER

PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE

"Through Mixit, I've watched my family's world expand. We've got connections outside of our own isolated bubble."

MIXIT PARENT

MIXIT INVITES YOU TO BECOME AN INVESTOR

Mixit needs support NOW. We Invite you to be an investor and stand beside us. After 20 years of transformational social impact, we hope to be there for another 20. Be part of making a difference and support hope for the future.

CRITICAL GAPS IN SUPPORT

The Centre for Social Impact evaluation identified urgent needs for the communities of young people we work with:

- Mental health support and mentoring
- Creative activities and growth opportunities
- Platforms for leadership development
- Help navigating financial and language barriers
- Feeling valued and heard

THE AUCKLAND REALITY

Despite being a key resettlement city, Auckland's support for refugee youth remains thin. Many families self-relocate to Auckland seeking better opportunities, adding pressure to limited services.

OUR RESPONSE

Mixit fills these gaps by providing consistent, accessible, creative programmes that build confidence, connections and pathways to success.

"A former Mixer becomes a nurse, bringing cultural understanding to healthcare. Another starts a business, employing other young migrants. Someone becomes a teacher, recognising the quiet kid who needs encouragement."

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL IMPACT EVALUATION



KEY INVESTMENT AREAS

For supporters or organisations with the means to invest at scale, there are four key areas where you can make a significant impact.

1. MAINTAINING THE ENGINE ROOM

Keeping the organisation running and maintaining the momentum we've built.

- Rent and overheads
- Programme support costs
- Promotion and community relationships

= \$240,000PA

2. SUSTAINING THE CORE PROGRAMME

Ensuring our weekly Saturday programme in Auckland continues.

- Programme Leader wages
- 40 workshops annually
- Professional guest artists
- Free transport and kai

= \$100,000PA

3. DEVELOPING YOUNG LEADERS

Mentoring the next generation to carry the kaupapa.

- Emerging leadership training
- Mentoring and career support
- Leadership retreats
- Pathways to employment

= \$60,000PA

4. EXPANDING OUR REACH

Continue the MAO programme beyond 2025.

- Regional workshops in more locations
- Alumni employment opportunities
- Local capacity building
- National network development

= \$150,000PA

REVIEW OUR EVIDENCE

Our impact is verified through a 2025 Centre for Social Impact evaluation including:

- 24 key informant interviews
- 21 stakeholder workshop participants
- 3 years programme data analysis

View the report at mixit.co.nz

Full Performance Reports and Audited Accounts available on the Charities Commission website: charities.govt.nz

Registration Number: CC47816

“When you give young people tools to creatively express themselves in a culturally safe space, you’re not training them for a specific outcome — you’re preparing them for life itself.”

WENDY PRESTON MNZM
CO-FOUNDER

VISIT MIXIT

Join us for a Saturday session to see the magic firsthand and meet our team.

Every Saturday, 2-4:30pm during school terms.

MEET OUR LEADERS

Schedule a conversation with:

Wendy Preston MNZM

Producer/Director

021 554 1411

wendy@mixit.co.nz

Mark Easterbook

Board Chair

021 400 705

chair@mixit.co.nz

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