



ΔIXIT

ANNUAL REPORT
2025/26

THE VISION

*The power of creativity to make
real change for young people*

MISSION STATEMENT

To use the core creativities of voice, imagination and movement to increase confidence, communication, life skills and support successful transitions for young people from former refugee and migrant backgrounds.

To be a creative community project with far reaching ripples, offering life-long connections between multi-cultural former refugee, migrant and local youth.

VALUES

RESPECT

Discipline | Safety | Dignity

BELONGING

Identity | Connection | Inclusion | Acceptance | Support

GROWTH

*Empowerment | Potential | Emergent Leadership | Inspirational Dreaming |
Courage | Knowledge*

EXPRESSION

Communication | Creativity | Identity



OVERVIEW

The Mixit Charitable Trust, established in 2006 and based in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, provides support and programmes for young people – primarily from former refugee and migrant backgrounds. Following a period of research into the needs of refugee background youth, programmes commenced under the umbrella of the Fledgling Trust and in 2012 an independent Mixit trust was established.

The 2025/26 year delivered four creative courses and a summer performance project. We continued mentoring and leadership development, provided outreach activities and supported both current and past participants. The Trust's central purpose is to use the power of engagement in creativity as a means to build life skills and personal capacities to successfully move forward.

CORE PROGRAMME

The core programme is the engine room of Mixit. Every Saturday across the four school terms, creative courses are offered. Creative disciplines used include dance, drama, visual arts, music, costume, performance and more. Due to a challenging financial environment Term 1 2026 was held differently.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A central aspect of Mixit is the support of emerging leadership. Focus is on mentoring development through our Youth Leadership programme, which wraps around the weekly core programme. This is based on a tuākana-tēina model of older youth leading younger people. Some graduating youth leaders join the Alumni Squad, who receive regular professional development and training to co-facilitate Mixit workshops and step up to lead presentations. Alumni are incorporated into all activities where possible. Some have gone on to become Board members and others are appointed into key staff roles. They are inspirational for the wider sector and communities.

ANNUAL SUMMER PERFORMANCE PROJECT

Every summer (provided funding is secured) our annual 2-week immersive performance project is held. A team of guest artists, Mixit Alumni and an average of 20 young people create a devised show from scratch. Based on an open-ended theme and incorporating multi-creative disciplines the project culminates in public performances.

MIXIT AOTEROA OUTREACH (MAO)

2025 was the final year of our 3-year funded MAO project. This initiative culminated in a return trip to provide workshops in Invercargill and Ashburton. Additionally, two young people, from the resettlement areas of Invercargill and Nelson, were invited to Auckland to participate in the 2026 summer performance project.

NEVILLE KAY MIXIT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 2024 the scholarship awards young people from former refugee backgrounds financial support to access tertiary level study and training towards their future career pathways. Applications by invitation.

EXTERNAL EVENTS

Throughout the year Mixit participates in activities beyond our own programmes. We are active members of a community consortium of other organisations who support refugee background youth, we regularly provide workshops and presentations to ESOL departments in high schools and we engage with conferences, hui and the many events of our community partners. Additionally, we participate in national events for the youth development sector.





*Be creative
in your
everyday life
– it doesn't
have to just
be on stage*



PRODUCER REPORT



Another great year for Mixit. Once again, we stayed the course and remained steady for the young people we support. The environment has been financially challenging, but by taking prudent measures, paring our engine room back to the bone and putting our Term 1 on pause we managed to weather the storm and plan for the inevitable next battering. Big thanks to those of you who stepped in beside us to link arms, top up the bank account and ensure we survived. We value our ability to nimbly adapt, so while not able to provide free weekly workshops for 2 months in Term 1, we were still able to gather together through that period for late great summer picnics, a small team of Alumni created a new performance piece to take to the annual CultureFest, along with getting a van load of Mixers there too.

Supporting leadership development is one of our superpowers. This manifests at the front line of staffing and leadership of the organisation. Kaviesha (the new

Director) and Izadine (Programme Leader) are both providing empowered and inspirational role modelling, not just at Mixit but in the wider external world of our community partnerships, outreach activities and events. Other Alumni leaders are also stepping up – into Board roles, as artists and volunteers wrapping around our core programme delivery, driving the Mixit van or providing the catering at summer projects. We have long held a vision that one day young people coming up through this mahi would be the ones to shape and lead its future. This indeed is now what's happening and it's extraordinary for me that after 20 years I can move aside and watch them fly. After a carefully considered succession plan it is with pleasure that I clear the space (remaining available and connected) to celebrate the dynamic leaders of the future as they take charge going from strength to strength.

Kia kaha – we believe in, and are inspired, by you all.

Wendy Preston MNZM
Mixit Producer/Co-founder

DIRECTOR REPORT



Mixit has been part of my life in Aotearoa since 2012. I participated in the weekly programmes as a Mixer, was invited to be a youth leader, sat around the table as a Trustee on the Mixit Board, and in my heart I'll always be an Alumni. Through all of it, Mixit has been my steady place: a creative outlet, a source of challenges to learn from, and a place that has quietly pushed me to keep stepping outside my comfort zone.

In 2023 I took on the Outreach Leader role for the last two years of the MAO project, and we knew it was a stepping stone towards wearing the Director's hat. Mixit has been built on scaffolded leadership from the very beginning, and Wendy and I worked with that intentionally – in every opportunity, every debrief, every lunch conversation. This was her way of mentoring me towards this role.

Young people now see Mixit as a place of leadership progression and employment, with carefully considered wrap-around support, training and professional development. The connections built with people at Mixit run deep and long. We are a small non-profit grassroots organisation, yet Mixit is bigger than all of us.

Thank you to Wendy, the Board, the Alumni, my family and everyone who's been part of this journey – you've contributed to who I am, and I carry that with me into this role.

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A tree bears fruit because of its strength.

Kaviesha Abeyasinghe-Perera
Mixit Director

CHAIR REPORT



One of the enduring visions we have for Mixit is that it becomes an organisation for young people, run by young people. It's the reason we put so much emphasis on our Youth Leadership programme and on creating ongoing opportunities for our Alumni.

It's also the reason we have worked very carefully at Board level, over a number of years, to plan our succession strategy. When an organisation is built around one remarkable and passionate individual, a sensible Board asks "*but what happens after?*" At Mixit, our co-founder Wendy Preston is that individual.

Lucky for us, the succession plan is a conversation that Wendy has been eager to have. Over the last few years, we've worked with her to identify the right person to step in and step up as our Director. This year, we have been able to promote long-time Mixer Kaviesha Abeysinghe Perera into the role, with Wendy staying close as Producer and mentor. And that's the result of 3 years of careful and considered planning, with Wendy passing on knowledge and responsibilities to support Kaviesha into the role. It's the next step in a clear transition strategy, developed collectively between Mixit's Board and employees. And it's exciting to see.

Another highlight of this year has been seeing our new Trustees become fully immersed in the Mixit whānau. Angus Swainson, Kate Elton, Arezo Nazari and Rana Arif have all brought new energy and ideas to the Board table.

The downside of the year? The continued pressure on community, social and arts organisations. Funding is tight for everyone. The constant struggle to chase money diverts energy and time that we all want to pour into people. I can only hope that whoever forms a government following this year's election can remember that a nation can only thrive when belonging, creativity and joy thrive.

Ngā mihi nui.

Mark Easterbrook
Mixit Board Chair



*I love
Mixit's
purpose,
people and
playfulness*





WHO WE ARE

THE BOARD

Chair: Mark Easterbrook

Secretary: Angus Swainson

Susan Davis	Rana Arif (Alumni)
Kate Elton	Oscar Arnold (Alumni)
Sam Ramlu	Arezo Nazari (Alumni)

THE TEAM

Producer: Wendy Preston MNZM

Director: Kaviesha Abeysinghe-Perera

Programme Leader: Izadine Ahmat Abdallah

Financial Leader: Kaye Reihana

Graphic Design: Megan Bardsley

Drivers Cohort: Marcelino Padayachee,
Ray Santiago, Ruwan Chathura

THE ALUMNI SQUAD

Arezo Nazari	Mu Nyay
Ilknur Özbal	Oscar Arnold
Izadine Ahmat Abdallah	Ray Santiago
Kaviesha Abeysinghe-Perera	Rana Arif
Laya Rasooli	Sajal Taneja
	Younis Ahmat Abdallah

THE YOUTH LEADERS

Arezo Nazari	Rana Dwlaty
Hanan Jama	Rivindee Udugala
Jake Easterbrook	Shahram Qasimi

THE MIXERS

The core group of participants, across all programmes, were young people from former refugee and migrant backgrounds aged between 13-20+ years. At any given time, the families' countries of origin can include: Afghanistan, China, Chile, Columbia, Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Fiji, India, Iran, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Samoa, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Türkiye, Tonga, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe.

FRIENDS OF MIXIT

A group made up from all walks of life forms our team of regular donors – some small, others big. You too can be part of this valued group. Please contact us and we will send you the details as to how you can sign up. We are deeply grateful for the steady generosity of our Friends and never underestimate how much difference they make.

2025/26 CORE PROGRAMME WORKSHOPS

TERM 2: CHARACTER MEETS COSTUMES AND MAKES REELS

May 3rd – June 28th 2025: Exploring character, costume and short video/reel making

Guest Artists: Tahi Mapp-Borren, Margaret-Mary Hollins and Anna van Schie du Pont

Participant Engagements: 126



TERM 3: NEXT GEN MELODY MAKERS

July 19th – Sept 20th 2025: Unleashing the power of spoken word poetry into songwriting and recording

Guest Artists: Tawanda Manyimo and Gino October

Participant engagements: 135



TERM 4: HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Oct 11th – Dec 13th 2025: Unpacking and considering summer performance theme: **Where do you see yourself in the year 2050?**

Guest Artists: Margaret-Mary Hollins, Ray Santiago, Kaviesha Abeysinghe-Perera

Participant Engagements: 168



TERM 1: 2026

Due to funding constraints, the core programme was suspended for 1 term. However, a series of field trips and leadership activities were provided.





*We have
found stuff
we didn't
even know
we had in
ourselves*

2025/26 LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Our foundation youth leadership programme continued to provide the first stage of Mixit's scaffolded leadership training and development. The initial focus is on building the foundational skills of commitment, work ethic, communication and experiencing hands-on responsibilities that include management, catering, and co-facilitation of core programme workshops, and social media needs. The 2025 year supported six youth leaders. One graduated in September and another in December 2025. Remaining youth leaders discussed with the wider participants about the leadership programme and their interest in inviting new leaders to the team.

ALUMNI SQUAD

Graduated youth leaders get invited to become part of the Alumni Squad and participate in opportunities to further build their responsibilities. This includes increased creative facilitation and leadership, both in our core programme and externally. Alumni actively co-deliver Mixit workshops in schools, for other community groups and for our National Outreach programme MAO. They are required to regularly engage in training, co-design of programmes and strategic development planning for the organisation.

2025: The Squad was joined by a graduated youth leader.

2025/26: Total Alumni Squad – eleven





2025/26 OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

MAO – MIXIT AOTEAROA OUTREACH

Our National Outreach programme MAO travelled throughout the motu and across Auckland, delivering workshops for young people in resettlement regions and professional development opportunities for emerging youth workers. This was the final year of a 3-year funded project where we continued building stronger partnerships with schools, community organisations and returned to two resettlement regions.

These included:

- Throughout the year – Auckland – Māngere Refugee Resettlement Centre workshops
- April 2025 – Auckland, Avondale College – Presentation & workshop for ESOL students
- April 2025 – Matapōuri, Northland – Annual Leaders' Training Retreat
- June 2025 – Auckland, Māngere College – World Refugee Day event for schools
- June 2025 – Auckland – Leadership training on Mental Health for Alumni Squad
- July 2025 – Invercargill – 2-day workshop
- July 2025 – Ashburton – 2-day workshop
- August 2025 – Christchurch – Participated in Youth and Philanthropy Conference
- August 2025 – Christchurch – Participated and facilitated a workshop in the Ara Taiohi INVOLVE Youth Workers National Conference
- October 2025 – Auckland, Avondale College & Mt Roskill Grammar School – Presentation to promote Summer Project Performance 2026
- January 2026 – Auckland – Alumni in key leadership roles in HOPE Summer Performance Project
- March 2026 – Auckland – Contributed to Mixit Strategic Development Hui



*Everyone
brings their
own style,
flavour and
spice to this
dish called
Mixit*





2026 SUMMER PROJECT

HOPE

The theme of the January 2026 performance project was to provide a platform for participants to explore what they think their lives, and the world, could look like in the year 2050. Do they see a future of fear and anxiety, or a time of optimism and hope where we will be socially well-connected? Could the world be a place of darkness and dysfunction or will harmony and boundless possibilities prevail?

Stories, movement, song and projected image were devised and shared with audiences across three public performances, which prompted plenty of tears, laughter and celebration of the participants involved and their honest hopes and concerns for the future.

This summer's project was an opportunity for Alumni to develop their leadership capacity – across the full spectrum of creating, producing and presenting a performance. For incoming Mixit Director, Kaviesha, it was a significant creative opportunity to co-direct. Our Programme Leader, Izadine, interviewed, edited and oversaw the film components. Ray led choreographic and dance skills, while Oscar stepped in as Stage Manager. Mu Nyay and Ilknur handled all the catering and other Alumni supported production needs, publicity and front of house during the performances.

Dates: January 12th – 25th 2026

Venue: Oratia Settlers Hall and Pitt Strett Theatre

Participants: 23

Audience: 250 approximately

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Producer: Wendy Preston MNZM

Co-Director: Margaret-Mary Hollins

Co-Director: Kaviesha Abeysinghe-Perera

Choreographer: Ray Santiago

Production Manager: Kauthar Eckstein

Videographer: Izadine Ahmat Abdallah

Lights and Tech: Zane Allen

Stage Manager: Oscar Arnold

Costume: Cecilie Bridgeford

Caterers: Mu Nyay and Ilknur Özbal

Transport Captain: Gino October

Financial Leader: Kaye Reihana

Design: Megan Bardsley



2025/26 ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Alongside our regular weekly programmes, training and professional development opportunities and national outreach, Mixit also contributed to and hosted other activities including:

- Regular monthly Consortium Meetings organised by refugee youth sector partner organisations.
- Organised a Listening Party to release the new Mixit single – *Next Gen Melody makers*
- Commenced discussion towards an International Collab project with the UK
- Presented as part of Pan Asia Music Night Panel
- Participated in He Hononga Hauora – Connecting for Wellbeing & Belonging hui
- Participated in the Auckland Refugee Alliance Hui
- Organised an end of year picnic for wider Mixit whānau
- Led an Annual Strategic Development Hui with the Mixit Board and staff
- Alumni performed and Mixit had a stall in the Auckland CultureFest 2026
- Successfully became one of the Top Ten Semi-Finalists in the 2026 Mitre 10 Community of the Year Award

SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT:

Completed and produced the external Impact and Measurement Report – conducted by the Centre for Social Impact.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2025/26

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

GRANTS	\$386,667
Auckland Foundation	\$5,000
Creative Communities	\$10,000
Ethnic Community Development Fund	\$10,000
Foundation North	\$115,000
JR McKenzie Trust	\$71,667
Lottery NZ	\$100,000
The Trusts Community Foundation	\$15,000
Tindall Foundation	\$60,000
DONATIONS	\$116,170
Friends of Mixit	\$23,823
Fundraising	\$37,505
One Good Kiwi	\$16,207
One Percent Collective	\$33,635
The Thomas Brydon Trust	\$5,000
REVENUE INCL. PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES, INTEREST & OTHER INCOME	\$21,849
TOTAL INCOME	\$524,686

EXPENDITURE

Alumni Programme	\$ 3,287
Annual Summer Project	\$ 39,397
Core Programme	\$ 44,903
Engine Room & Marketing	\$ 74,036
Outreach Programme	\$ 31,220
Salaries	\$ 313,087
Youth Leadership Programme	\$ 5,858
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$511,788
NET POSITION AT 31.03.26	\$12,898

FINANCIAL POSITION

Current Assets	\$221,090
Non Current Assets	\$36,453
Current Liabilities	(\$206,072)
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$51,471
NET POSITION	\$51,471

A copy of the audited financial statements is available on request.

FRIENDS OF MIXIT REGULAR DONORS

Andrew Smith
Christopher Graves
Christopher Hawley
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PRO-BONO SUPPORTERS (A BIG THANK YOU)

Aesium Music House
Andrew Nicolls – Martelli McKegg Lawyers
Thanks to the Mixit Board for their tireless support.

FUNDERS (PRINCIPAL)



FUNDERS (PROJECTS)



CONTACT DETAILS

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🌐 mixit.co.nz

MIXIT HQ AND OFFICE

8 Croydon Rd
New Lynn
Auckland 0600

CORE PROGRAMMES

Held in various studio locations
depending on the Core Programme
focus. Get in touch with us for details.

POSTAL ADDRESS

8 Croydon Rd
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Auckland 0600

CHARITIES COMMISSION

Registration Number: CC47816
NZBN: 9429043234974

MIXIT

