

CASE STUDY:

Starting an Enterprise (Artist)



Mount Gambier MRC has been supporting Congolese artist and sculptor Sadiki Kamundele in various ways towards starting an enterprise.

AT A GLANCE



Target Participants

Talent from refugee background



Aim

Provide volunteering and networking opportunity to community and artists; provide exposure to community which can lead to talent recognition, mentoring by other artists; or collaboration opportunities which can lead to start an enterprise.



Organisations Involved

Mount Gambier MRC



Location

Mount Gambier, SA



Funding

Australian Migrant Resource Centre

Mount Gambier MRC has been supporting Congolese artist and sculptor Sadiki Kamundele in various ways towards starting an enterprise through connecting Sadiki with various Australians, artists and organisations to enable him to volunteer as an artist, learn new skills and learn how to start a business.

Sadiki's profile can be found on third page.

Successful Outcomes:

1. Sadiki's talent is recognised and led to paid jobs: Sadiki has been enjoying a lot of media attention and has also appeared on the front page of the local newspaper, *The Border Watch*, more than once.
2. Sadiki gained confidence as an artist and raise awareness of the importance of the MRC's role in connecting migrants to the community.
3. The positive media attention has also helped to improve the greater community's acceptance of refugees in the community.
4. Sadiki gained new skills from established artists, including sculpting with Australian wood and limestone, and using tools and brushes he has not used.
5. Boosted his income after selling almost all of his art work in his first art exhibition in the Riddoch Art Gallery with well-known and respected artists in March 2018. (He was working full-time at a meat processing plant at the time and prepared for the exhibition on weekends and after hours).
6. Exposure to other artists in the community has expanded his horizons and taught him about Australian art and artists.

"There is often the assumption that refugees have no skills when they arrive in Australia especially when they can't tell us of their talents in English. As a new arrival, Sadiki broke through that barrier by showing us through pictures on the internet what his talents and aspirations were."

Anelia Blackie, Mount Gambier MRC Manager on Sadiki Kamundele is 36 years old male from the Democratic Republic of Congo

For More Information Contact:

Mount Gambier Migrant Resource Centre
11-13 Eleanor St, Mount Gambier SA 5290
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Other outcomes that assist refugee settlement through MRC's continued assistance and support:

1. Sadiki has learnt why and how to use an ABN, how to price his art for profit in Australian dollars and how to invoice clients.
2. Engagement with community and artists through opportunities created by the MRC through regularly informing Sadiki opportunities to display his art i.e February 2018 Sadiki participated in the Fringe Festival where he showed children how to paint and also painted pictures at the event with the public looking on, and in June 2018, he exhibited some of his art during Refugee Week, during which he was invited to provide workshops to Australian students at a local school.
3. The MRC introduced Sadiki to Mount Gambier businessman and art expert, Tony Burch, who has started to mentor Sadiki towards building an enterprise. One of the ideas they are working on is to develop opportunities for Sadiki to paint murals on rainwater tanks for an income.
4. Sadiki completed the required 510 hours of AMEP at TAFE and his English further improved a great deal through his interaction with Australians who have been keen to support him. He has also made many Australian friends through the Men's Shed and art gallery.

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Sadiki's profile

Sadiki's journey as artist started in the refugee camp where visiting artists taught him how to paint murals and do sculpting.

On arrival in Mount Gambier, he was quick to show off his talent with photographs of his works, a proud smile and very little English.

The Mount Gambier MRC manager Anelia Blackie helped Sadiki to start building his reputation by introducing him to opportunities to showcase his talent to the local community. His first project was an unpaid one for a local radio station – he had to paint their mobile caravan they use for live broadcasts at public events.

Sadiki would come to the MRC where he asked the manager to help him search images on the internet for inspiration for the project and he would then take pictures of the photos on his mobile phone to recreate on the sides of the caravan.

Word spread quickly and with his humble and friendly demeanour, Sadiki quickly won the hearts of local artists, and in particular 93-year-old Kelvin Smibert who dragged Sadiki along to the Men's Shed where he introduced the budding artist to the use of a range of sculpting and other tools he has never used before.

Sadiki quickly realised he had a lot to learn. He had never worked with limestone and Australian woods were a lot softer to sculpt with than the African woods he was used to.

But he was willing to learn and in the months leading up to his first exhibition at the Riddoch Art Gallery in March 2018, Sadiki worked tirelessly to collect pieces of wood and limestone which he carved in the Men's Shed and in his backyard to create the works for display.

In between, he was commissioned to paint large murals at a local primary school as well as on the front wall of a shop.

In June 2018, the Mount Gambier MRC manager introduced Sadiki to an experienced businessman and art collector, Tony Burch, to mentor Sadiki towards developing a business with his artistic skills.

Tony meets with Sadiki at the MRC office every Friday where they brainstorm ideas and Sadiki learns about branding, marketing, pricing for profit and other skills to help him towards financial success.

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