



ANNUAL REPORT FINANCIAL YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2019

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The paper discusses progress with the medical (Interplast and COPE) and child protection projects (Peuan Mit) supported by the Foundation and the inaugural year of Elevations Laos the contemporary art project founded by Spellbrook.

A significant effort has been made to pioneer a contemporary art project in Laos following unsuccessful attempts to support an existing gallery in Phnom Penh and to generate interest for an art collective in Laos. This project will complement the four-year agreement to contribute to QAGOMA's acquisition program in Southeast Asia.

Upon successful implementation of the art project, Spellbrook will be one of the most significant contributors to the promotion of cultural diversity in Laos.

2.0 PEUAN MIT DONATION AND 3-YEAR COMMITMENT

Last year, the board approved a donation of \$40,000 to Peuan Mit for the 2019 FY.



Children participating in a puppet show for children at Transitional Home

The approved funds for the 2019 FY were donated by Spellbrook in September 2018. They are being applied as a contribution to the costs of the transitional home.

In summary, in 2019 FY, improved safety, dignity and better living conditions were provided for 78 marginalized children and youth through accommodation at the

Transitional Home (TH) and Dormitory. 31 of whom stayed in the TH and 47 in the Dormitory facilities. The ratio of girls to boys staying at the TH was 52:48, while the corresponding ratio in the Dormitory was 30:70.

During the reporting period three new children were referred to the TH and 37 new youth stayed at the dormitory while attending Peuan Mit vocational training programs in hospitality and motor mechanics. The number of youth in the dormitory increased during the reporting period with the opening of the new vocational training street restaurant “Let’s Eat” in September 2018.

Children accommodated in the TH are provided with medical care, three nutritious meals a day, counselling and access to education or training, including daily school transportation. The main objective is to support and empower the children towards their reintegration into school or educational setting and with their family or a guardian family home.

The purpose of the Dormitory is to support the attendance of marginalised youth in vocational training, to improve their well-being and decrease their risk of engaging in street life or other harmful behaviours. All students receive three nutritious meals a day and bicycles for easy travel. Without the dormitory, many students would have to travel long distances to attend the training, in most cases preventing them from enrolling in the program in the first place.

The Dormitory is also a valuable stepping-stone towards independent living. 27 out of 47 youth were attending the training in hospitality and 20 were attending the training in mechanics.



Youth studying mechanics and staying at the Dormitory



Rice noodle cooking class – youth studying hospitality and staying at the Dormitory

In August 2019, the board approved a donation of up to \$40,000 to GDG to fund Peuan Mit for the 2020 FY to continue the funding support for the transitional home or subject to the Founder agreeing with GDG and Peuan Mit a suitable alternative purpose for the donation.

This will mark the fourth year of commitment to Peuan Mit.

3.0 INTERPLAST DONATION AND 3-YEAR AGREEMENT

In January 2019, Spellbrook completed the third donation of \$35,000 of its three-year commitment to Interplast under the MOU executed in January 2017. The donation was applied to fund the annual general plastic and reconstructive program in February this year.

A summary of the Interplast report for the 2019 FY donation follows:

“Due to construction at Mahosot Hospital, the 2019 program was delivered differently to previous years. The usual team was reduced in size, consisting of only one surgeon, one anaesthetist, two nurses and a hand therapist as the team undertook clinic and operations across two locations, Vientiane and Luang Prabang, with one week at each.

The first week at Mahosot Hospital began on Sunday 17 February 2019 where the team consulted approximately 70 patients. The shorter program time changed how the team worked and many patients were able to be splinted by an Interplast hand therapist in theatre. As in previous years, the team worked closely with the Mahosot team to revise skills and introduce new techniques to improve patient outcomes.

The second week began on Sunday 24 February when the team undertook a clinic at the Lao Friends Hospital for Children in Luang Prabang. This was the

first time a program had been delivered to this hospital and location, and the experience of the Interplast team in Laos meant that many of the expected challenges of a new activity were able to be managed with reasonable ease. A Lao surgeon joined the team from Mahosot to continue his training and exposure to plastics cases. It was a busy clinic in Luang Prabang with the team consulting over 90 patients.

While the program was, overall, very successful, the team found working across two locations to be challenging, and will return to delivering a full two-week program to Mahosot in 2020, and a separate one-week provincial program activity to be delivered by a different team, at a separate time of year to the Mahosot program.”

Interplast is seeking support from Spellbrook of \$40,000 per annum for a further three-year commitment (February/March 2020, 2021, and 2022) subject to local need and the satisfactory implementation of program objectives. In summary, the proposal can be described as follows:

“As with previous support given by Spellbrook, Interplast would ensure funds are used to deliver programs in Laos, primarily in the Vientiane area.

Any change to the activities, including the location for delivery, substantial changes in dates or any material change to the focus of the program activities, would be discussed and agreed in writing between the two organisations prior to scheduling of the program.

As funding provided by Spellbrook covers approximately 50% of program costs, funding from another donor or donors will be identified by Interplast to cover the remainder.”

In August 2019, the board authorised Spellbrook to formalise a new three-year agreement with Interplast to donate up to \$40,000 per annum to Interplast commencing in 2020 FY to continue the funding support for the annual general plastic and reconstructive program in Laos.

The last year of the proposed new three-year agreement will mark seven years of commitment to Interplast.

4.0 COPE

Last year, the board approved a donation of \$40,000 to COPE through the Global Development Group (GDG) to fund a mobile clinic in February 2019 that delivered orthotic and prosthetic services through the Government of Lao’s Centre for Medical Rehabilitation to a rural area in Boten and Kenthao districts in Sayabouly Province, Laos.

The clinic served around 167 patients, who were assessed and received various rehabilitation services. Casts were taken for 110 of the patients for fabrication and fitting of prosthetic and orthotic devices in Vientiane.

5.0 QAGOMA FOUNDATION

In 2018, the board approved Spellbrook entering into a four-year commitment to donate \$10,000 a year to QAGOMA's acquisition of works by emerging artists from those Southeast Asian countries where there is limited opportunity for artists to gain exposure.

The second \$10,000 donation was made in September 2018.

On 29 May 2018, the board approved included a proposal from QAGOMA for two years of donations (\$20,000) to be applied to a \$33,000 commissioned textile work from Lao Hmong artist Tcheu Siong, which was to be displayed at the ninth Asia Pacific Triennial at QAGOMA.

The third agreed and approved \$10,000 donation is due in September 2019.

6.0 ELEVATIONS LAOS

Spellbrook founded the Elevations Laos initiative last year with administrative support from in-country partner STELLA and co-funding from the Australian Government through the Embassy in Laos. Spellbrook's funding was directed through the Global Development Group (GDG).

The founding curator for the inaugural exhibition, held at the i:cat gallery in Vientiane between November 2018 and February 2019, is a leading expert on South Eastern Contemporary Art and was formerly the founding curator of the Sa Sa Bassac Gallery in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Under her leadership and guidance, several emerging Khmer contemporary artists and their work achieved global recognition and were acquired by leading public and private art galleries in Australia, SE Asia, Europe and America.

The original concept was to retain the founding curator on a part-time basis through the inaugural exhibition and subsequent prize schedule. However, she resigned in March 2019 and alternative arrangements will have to be made before the next exhibition scheduled for late 2020.

A copy of the catalogue for the Exhibition and public programs is available on the www.elevationslaos.net website and 300 English language copies have been printed and half of those distributed. A Lao language version is currently being prepared and 750 Lao language copies will be distributed to student organisations and other interested parties in due course.

Following the opening of the 2018-19 Exhibition and the symposium the management team commenced a review of the strategy and a round of consultations. The original strategy conceived a biennial exhibition alternating each year with a biennial prize for emerging artists.

However, through preparations for the Exhibition it became clear that the exhibiting Lao artists, though established and well known in Laos, are emerging in an international context as measured by the number of solo exhibitions and international exhibitions they have participated in.

Indeed, it is possible that there are only five or so established contemporary artists in Laos and three of those participated in the 2018-19 Exhibition. So, where and when are the next generation going to emerge?



The most likely source is the National Institute for Fine Art (NIFA) in Vientiane and regional government schools. Through visits to NIFA and meetings with the Director of NIFA, it is apparent that the school focuses on teaching early to mid-20th century French-influenced impressionist and cubist styles and that experimentation is neither encouraged nor recognised in the work produced by students.

It was agreed that the students and teachers of the NIFA would become a focus for encouragement to adopt a more contemporary approach to art in all its forms. In addition, and consistent with our Mission, Elevations Laos will continue to elevate the profile of established Lao artists.

To this end, a number of initiatives are being advanced and the proposed 2019 budget and 2020 forecast reflect the anticipated progress of these initiatives:

- 1. Publication of a Lao language catalogue for the 2018-19 exhibition and development of the website to include Lao translations of key components**
- 2. Symposium on contemporary art for the students and teachers of NIFA**
- 3. Mentoring and exhibition for participants in a student-focused art prize**
- 4. Prize to comprise visits to international galleries or student exchange**
- 5. Potential collaboration with QUT**
- 6. Joint exhibition with two established Australian and Lao artists**

Notwithstanding the disappointment of losing our founding curator, the skill set of an experienced curator is not specifically required for the period to June 2020.



6.1 2019 FY Funding Summary for Elevations Laos

STELLA received direct funding of US\$32,358 (c. A\$50,000) from the Australian Embassy for Elevations and in-kind support to promote the exhibition and host the seminar.

Spellbrook made total donations of A\$74,600 (c. US\$55,800) to the end of June 2019 through GDG.

Last year the board approved a total of A\$80,000 for the 2019 FY and part of the 2020 FY.

In August 2019, the board approved the donation to Elevations through GDG of up to A\$55,000 for the 2020 FY.

7.0 THRIVE NETWORKS WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

The Lao government has created national and provincial action plans to improve universal access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) for its people, but given its limited capacity and resources (such as private sector support and knowledge of inclusive WASH strategies), it requires technical assistance.

Since 2014, Thrive Networks has been working with the national and provincial governments of Laos, helping address the gaps in the country's rural WASH sector. Thrive Networks implement pro-poor WASH programs to create an enabling environment where government, private sector, civil society, and local communities work together and share resources to ensure that the poorest, most vulnerable rural households have sustainable access to quality WASH services.

Thrive Networks are seeking a three-year US\$25,000/annum donation agreement with Spellbrook to fund the expansion of their ongoing four-year program titled "**Women-Led Output-Based Aid (WOBA)**" to the province of Luang Prabang.

It is proposed that support from the Spellbrook Foundation will finance this new phase in the WOBA program, which will be implemented across three years. Thrive propose to divide the US\$75,000 donation evenly between:

- **A feasibility study for the construction of a piped water system at Nayang village cluster in Nambak district:** The study, which will be conducted between October to December 2019, will enable Thrive Networks to identify the target site, households and detail design for the system;
- **Capacity building for LWU members in Luang Prabang as demand mobilisers:** Similarly to Sayaboury and Champasak, the women will visit households to build demand for water connections and conduct hygiene education campaigns in Nayang village. Their training will start between May to July 2020, as construction of the piped water system will be underway; and
- **Capacity building for the selected private water operator in Luang Prabang:** Under the output-based aid model and a private-public partnership agreement or "concessionaire's contract," selected private water operators will handle the operations and maintenance (O&M) of the water system

under government supervision for 25 years after it is built. To help build their O&M capacity, Thrive Networks will provide the aid assistance through training on water treatment and pipe maintenance, water tariffs and billing systems, and data collection and recording. For the proposed project, training for the water operator will be sometime between January and March 2022.

The piped water system is expected to be operational, providing safe water to 600 households between 2021 and 2022. The grant will enable Thrive Networks to complete initial activities for construction, including site feasibility study, identification of target households, selection of private water operator for the construction and operations of the water system, and training for provincial government and Lao Women’s Union partners.

It is proposed all donations will be made through GDG and be subject to their 7.5% administration fee and prevailing foreign exchange rates.

In August 2019, the board approved (subject to satisfactory completion of due diligence) Spellbrook entering into a three-year agreement with Thrive Networks and GDG to provide \$40,000 funding per annum over the period of the agreement.

8.0 PREVIOUS DONATIONS SINCE THE FUND’S INCEPTION AND PROPOSED DONATIONS (AUD) FOR 2020 FY ARE SUMMARISED BELOW.

	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)	2016 (\$)
COPE	-	40,000	-	-	40,000
PEUAN MIT	40,000	40,000	40,000	52,658	-
INTERPLAST	40,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
ELEVATIONS	55,000	74,600	-	-	-
QAGOMA	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	-
THRIVE	40,000				
OTHER	10,000	5,000	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$195,000	\$204,600	\$85,000	\$87,658	\$75,000

Report dated 20 August 2019