

FOLK ART and HEALING

Developing a Folk Art contribution to a Healing Art Festival

Review of project intent

Seed funding from SEFAN was received to enable a Folk Art contribution to be investigated as part of a possible Healing Art Festival. The nature of folk art is considered very much in keeping with the aims of 'Healing Art' - e.g. to bring people together, to help them express themselves . . . and enable participants to share the joys and sorrows of life.

How the project developed

Through SEFAN and other local contacts, web searches, etc we identified a number of folk art activists with an interest in the healing quality to their work. These included those working with education of the tradition of folk art, the spiritual element of circle dance and the personal development aspects of Story Telling.

In order to bring together these and others involved in Healing Art locally (including sound therapists, healing visual artists, 'chakra dancing', photographers, poets, etc) a *Healing Art Festival Forum* was arranged.

Project Results

The Forum took place at the Unitarian Church on June 21st 2004. The event was attended by over 30 representatives of different forms of Healing Art, including folk art. The day was spent experiencing these different approaches to healing art by sharing our respective disciplines. Feedback during and after the event was extremely positive, with all involved finding great benefit from coming together with others in a similar . . . but different . . . fields.

There was good support for the idea of a *Healing Art Festival* to be held in the Brighton area, although Sept 2005 rather than March was suggested as a being more realistic date. Research undertaken during the project also identified possible sources of funding for such an event. Folk Art contacts made during this project will be kept involved with developments.

Also coming out of the event was a much improved awareness of various groups working in the arts locally - for example of SEFAN and of Lapidus (literary arts for personal development - embracing poetry and story telling).

Spending

The grant of £200 received from SEFAN was spent on arranging and supporting the Healing Art Festival Forum described above. It covered travel, stationery (copying, post and envelopes for invitations, etc) and materials on the day of the event (drinks, art materials, etc).

Partners

The project was run by:

- SEFAN Member **Keith Beasley** of Pintados Healing Arts,
- 'Healing Sounds Ltd', organiser of Healing Sounds festivals since 1996: Charity no 1021556. Contact: Mark Eynon,