

The background is a vibrant, artistic illustration. It features a central sun with a yellow core and a gradient of red, orange, and yellow rays. The sky is a deep teal blue, filled with soft, white and light blue clouds. Several black silhouettes of birds in flight are scattered across the scene, some appearing to fly towards the center. The overall style is painterly and expressive.

Birds of SEQ

a citizen science-art programme

Socio-Wellbeing Mini-Evaluation

Prepared by Hand Bent Banana

BoSEQ, where ART meets SCIENCE

Birds of South-East Qld (BoSEQ) was a collaborative pilot project by

Tiarna Stephenson, with Hand Bent Banana and Hands On Art

Made possible through the Regional Arts Development Fund

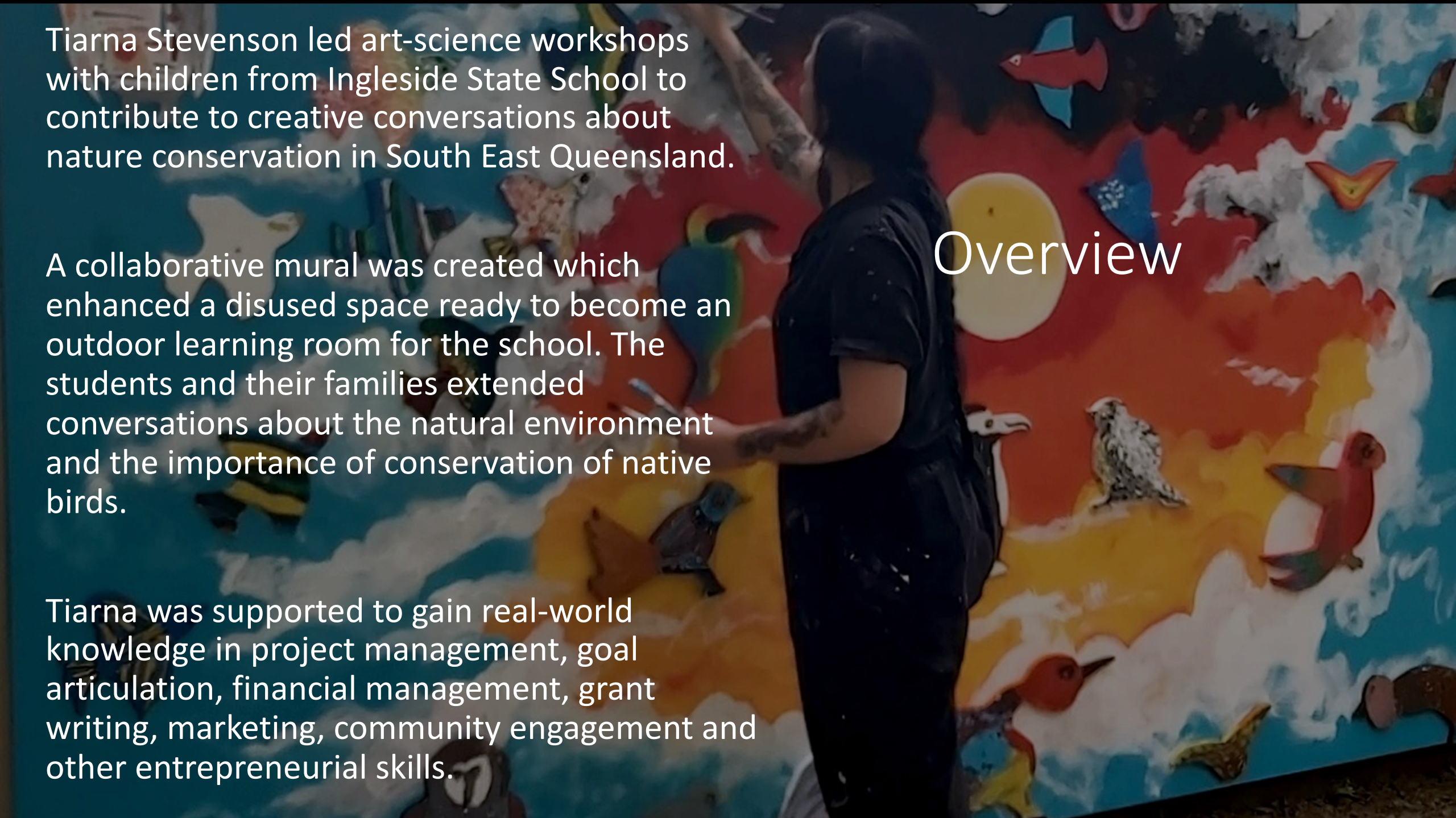
RADF is a partnership between the Queensland Government and City of Gold Coast to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland



Queensland
Government

CITY OF
GOLDCOAST.



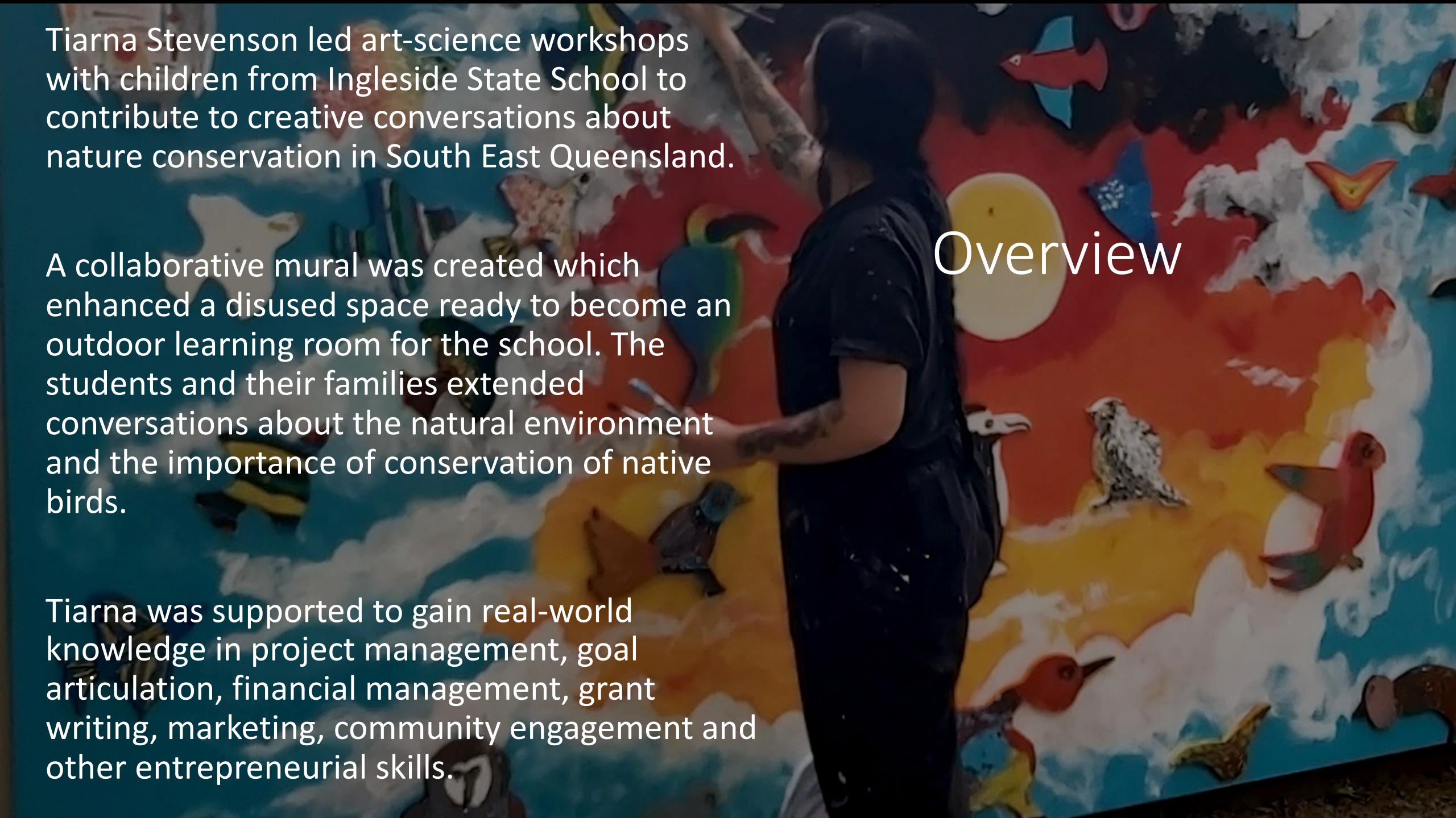


Tiarna Stevenson led art-science workshops with children from Ingleside State School to contribute to creative conversations about nature conservation in South East Queensland.

A collaborative mural was created which enhanced a disused space ready to become an outdoor learning room for the school. The students and their families extended conversations about the natural environment and the importance of conservation of native birds.

Tiarna was supported to gain real-world knowledge in project management, goal articulation, financial management, grant writing, marketing, community engagement and other entrepreneurial skills.

Overview

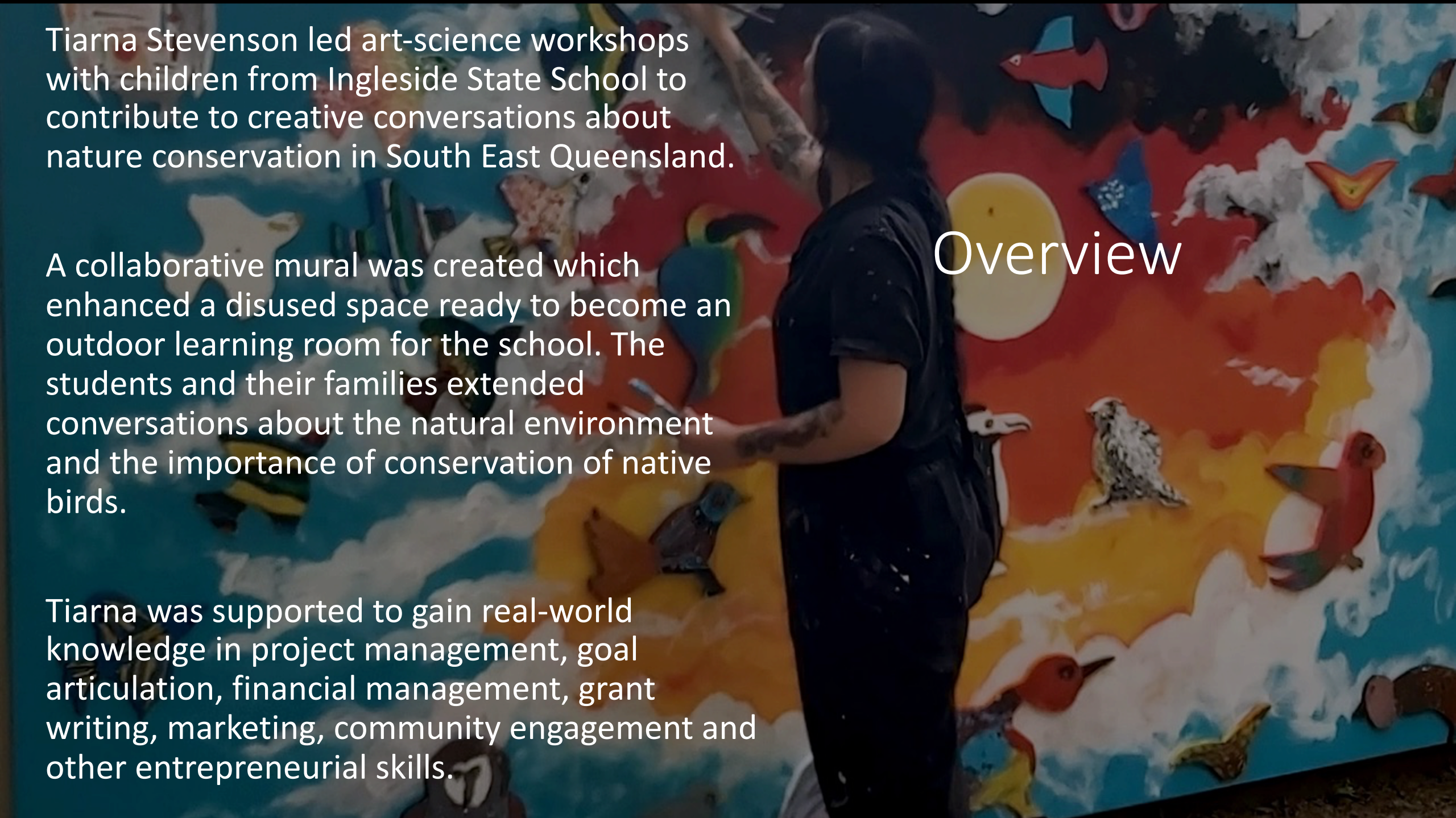


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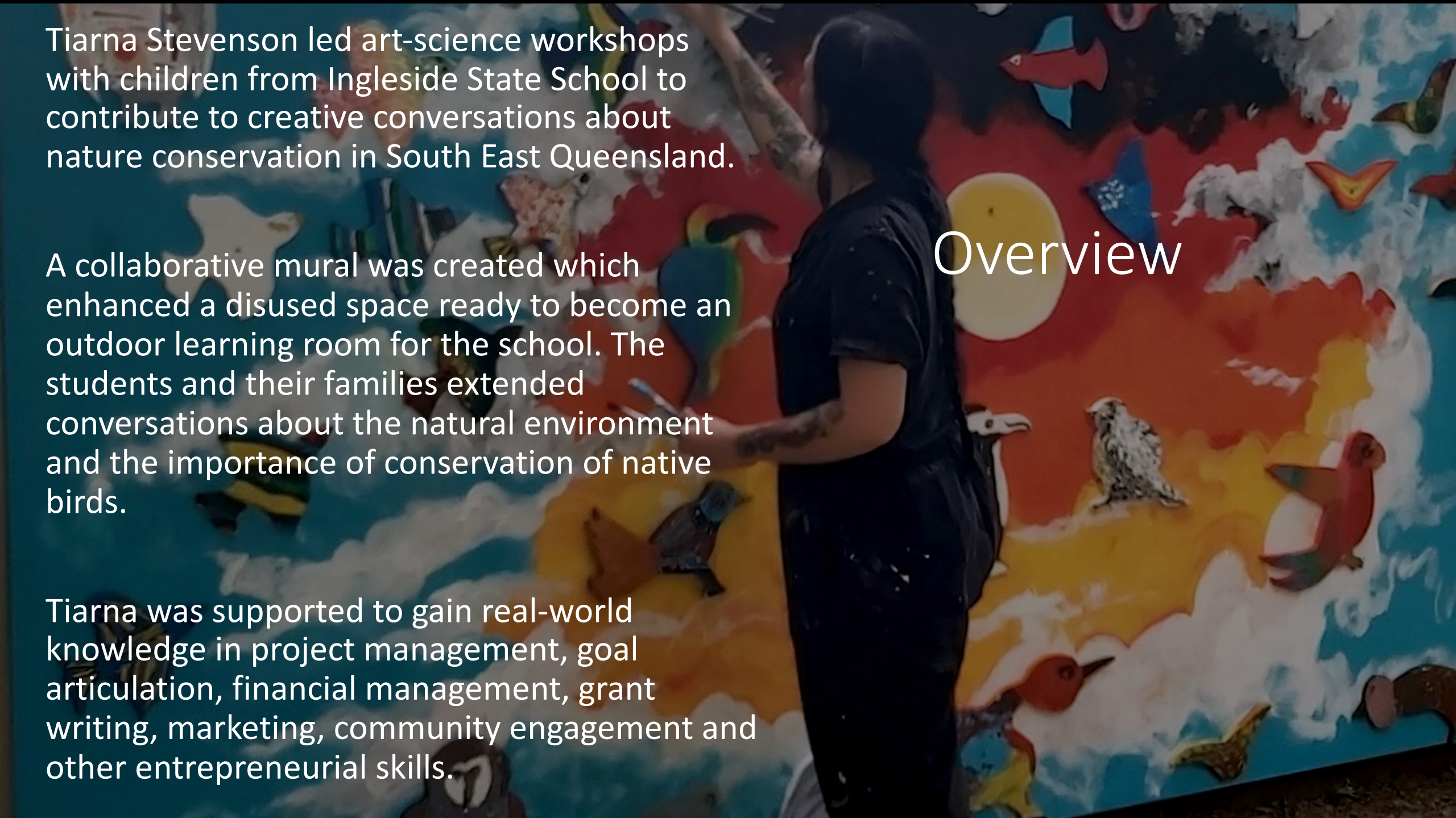


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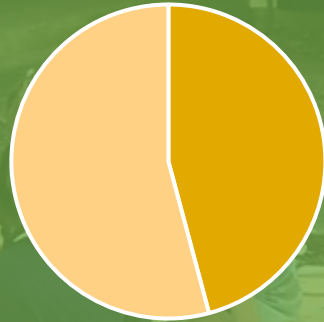
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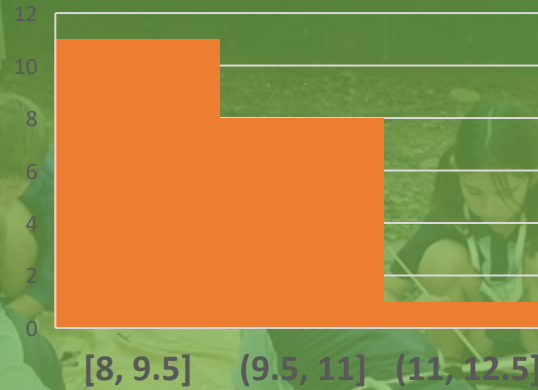
BoSEQ Beneficiaries

Gender



■ m ■ f

Age Range



BoSEQ Stakeholders



Broad Achievements

BoSEQ

- fostered professional **relationships** through the delivery of community art activities that merged health, nature and art.
- established **shared resources and partnership** between Hand Bent Banana and Hands On Art.
- contributed to **career development** for Tiarna Stevenson as an emerging artist.



Improved skills and knowledge to deliver quality art activities that contribute creative conversations to conservation of our natural assets



What happened ?

From October to November 2021. children at the Ingleside State School were encouraged to explore their surroundings through walks, bird watching and tracking. They were encouraged to document the birds they observed through drawing, painting and storytelling.

The birds they drew were cut into wooden bird shapes which they individually painted and collectively glued them to a painted backdrop which became the mural to enhance the outdoor learning space at the school.

The workshop team consisted of Tiarna, Rachel (an art therapy student from Ikon Institute), Rudy (a teacher volunteering) and Karleen, (HBB mentor).

Whilst Tiarna led the art process, mentored by Karleen, Rachel observed the students and helped them to complete the questionnaires.

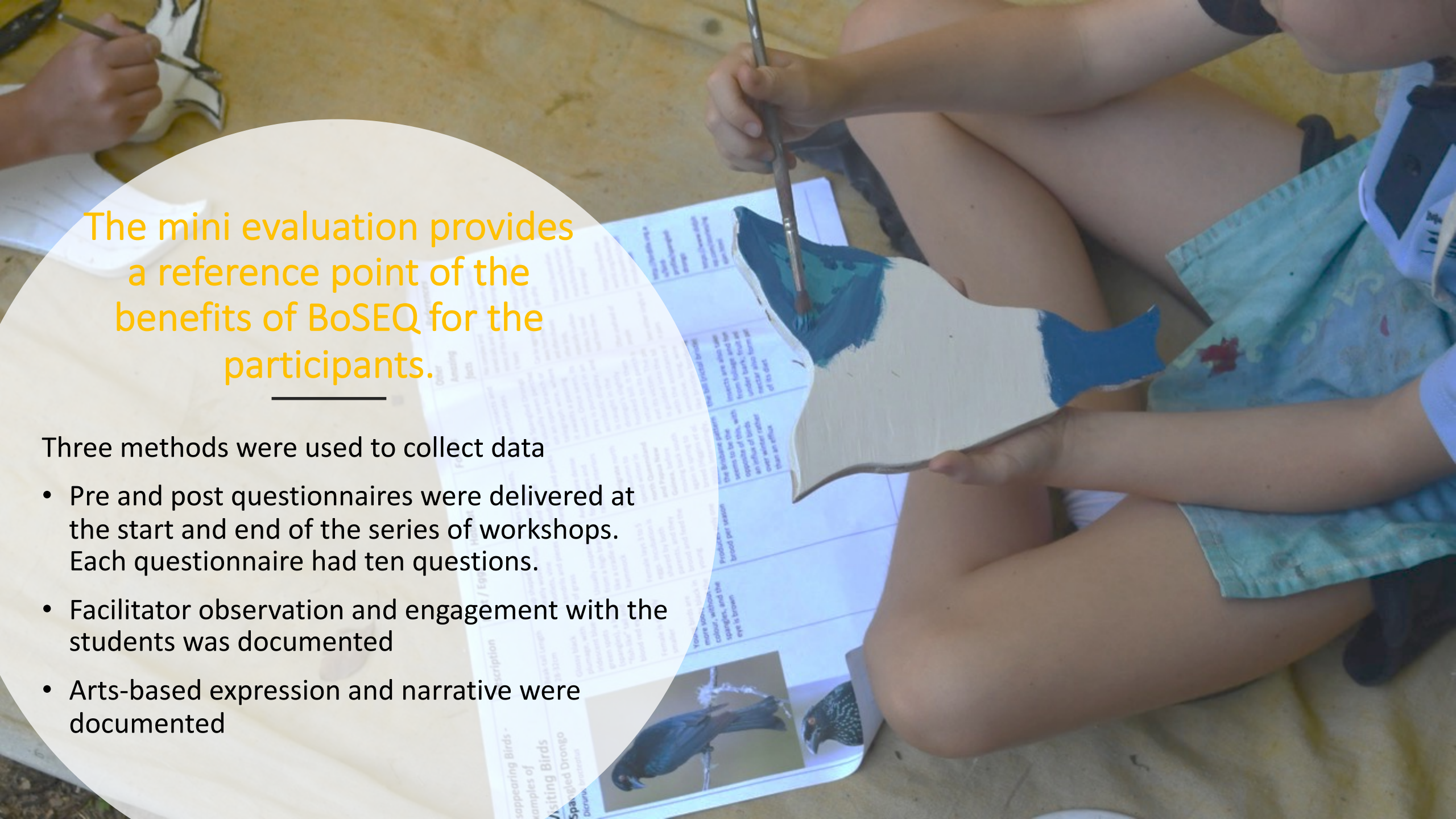
What Changed?

With consideration of the scope of the project, a mini evaluation sought to understand the impact the project had on the students participating in the workshops

We wanted to know if the project

- helped promote the role and value of art to inspire the children
- the extent that the students expanded the way they see and explore their natural environments, &
- if BoSEQ helped them observe and promote the importance of birds to our ecosystem.



A child is sitting on a wooden floor, painting a paper bird. The bird is white with blue and green wings. The child is holding a paintbrush and applying paint to the wing. A bird book is open on the floor next to the child, showing a page with a photograph of a bird and some text. The background is a wooden floor.

The mini evaluation provides
a reference point of the
benefits of BoSEQ for the
participants.

Three methods were used to collect data

- Pre and post questionnaires were delivered at the start and end of the series of workshops. Each questionnaire had ten questions.
- Facilitator observation and engagement with the students was documented
- Arts-based expression and narrative were documented

"Are we artists now?"

-the role and value of art to inspire the children.

*'lucky I'm learning this now,
because I want to be an artist when I grow
up'.*

The students were immensely proud of the finished mural rating their feelings at the purple emoji face or the green emoji face.

During the workshops they experimented with colour and designs, worked closely with friends and enjoyed being able to create and being 'sciency'.

It was observed that the value of painting was less about the aesthetic outcome and more about sharing the experience with friends, through co-creating birds together.



Seeing art was rated as making them feel blue through to green emoji



Making art was rated overwhelmingly as making them feel green emoji. Therefore, indicating the important role and value of the students being creators of art.

- the way they see and explore the natural environment



Skills of a Artist

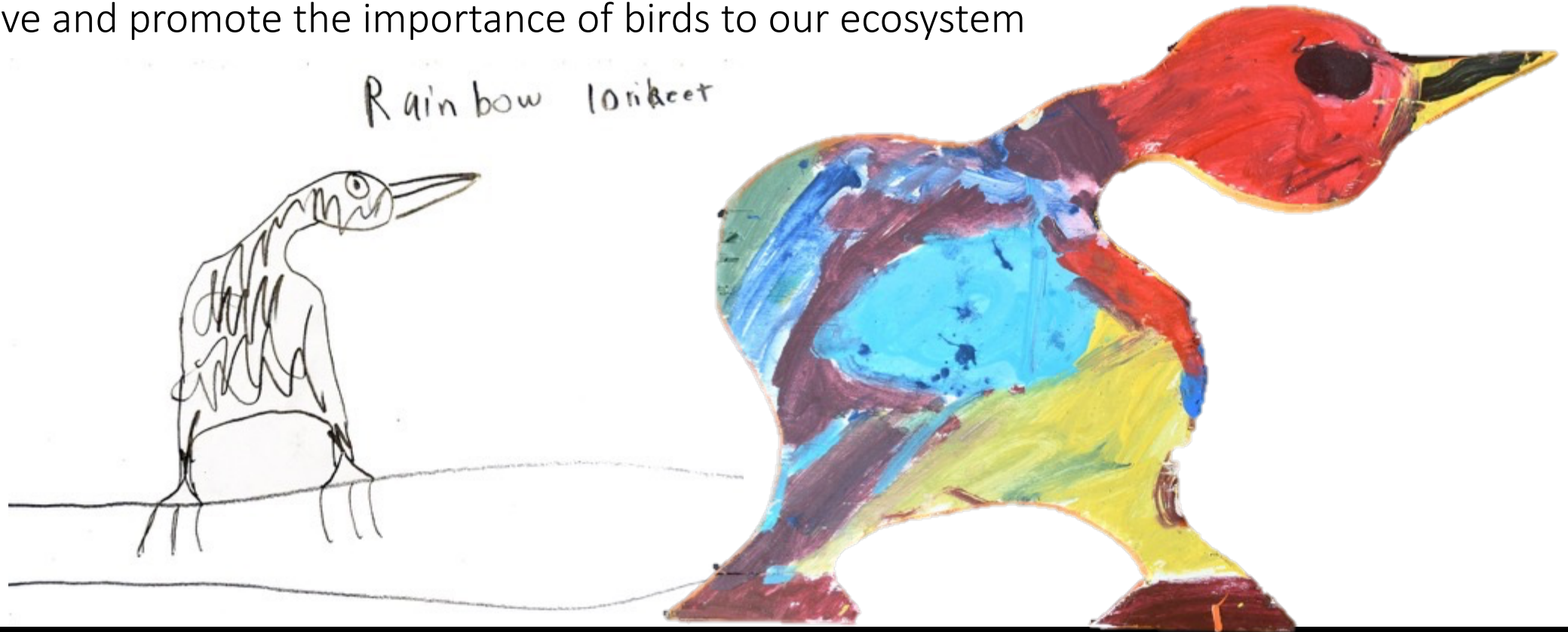


Skills of a Scientist

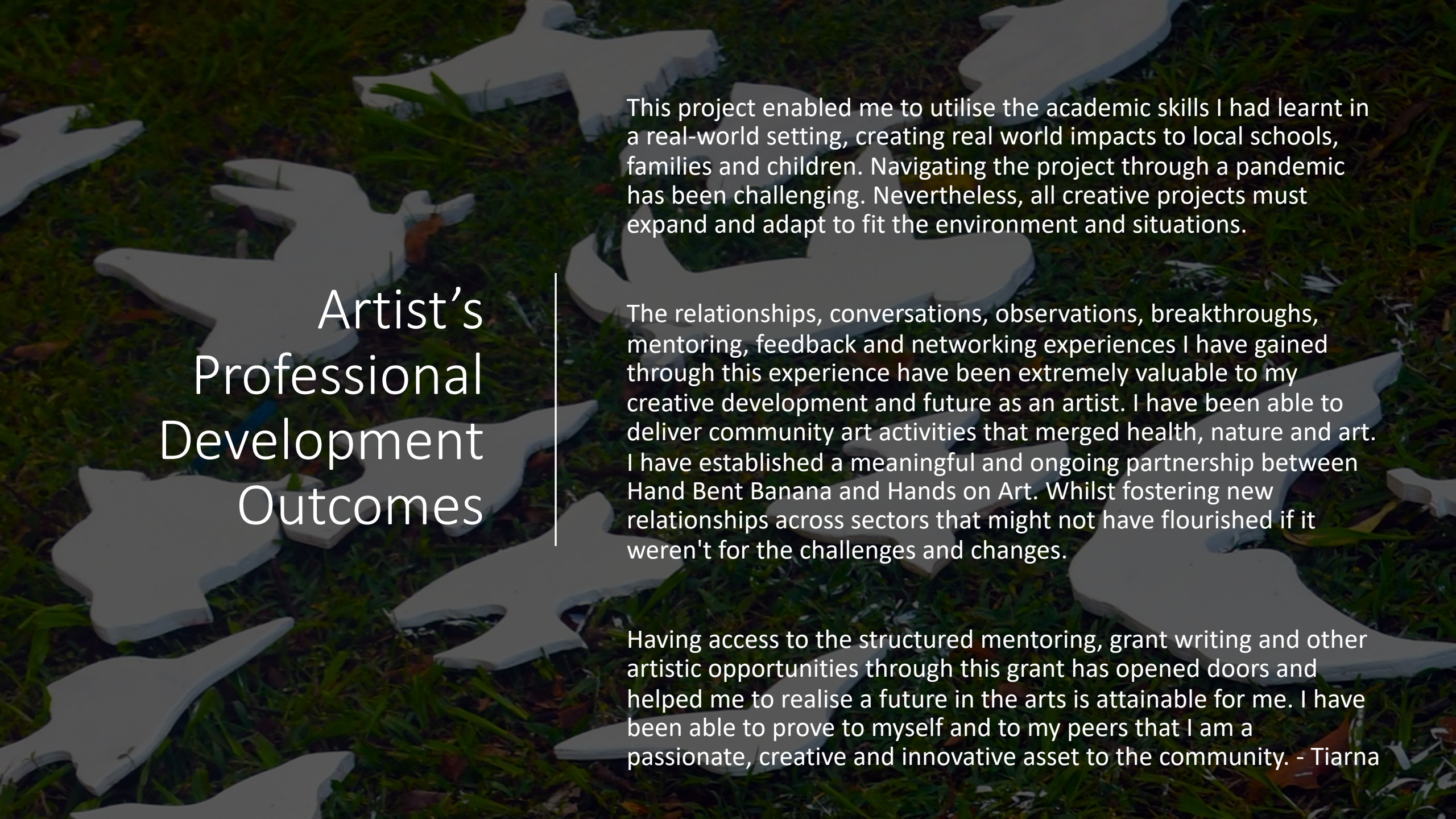
When asked to list the skills of an artist and a scientist, the students perceived a slight difference in skill sets— with scientist needing to be ‘brainy’ more so. Perception of the difference in skills narrowed in the post survey.

Why are birds important? *"Because birds like flying"*

- observe and promote the importance of birds to our ecosystem



A majority of the students felt that they knew more about birds than they did before the project began. The birds in their local area could be clearly identified by the end of the project. Some of the students displayed more emotional connection with the birds and related these connections with people. Out of 24 records, 4 students drew and painted the bird they named as their favorite bird. 7 did not draw or paint the same bird they named as favorite. 8 students did not mention a favorite but drew and painted a bird they had seen in the local area. The remaining 5 drew and painted their own creation or chose to paint a pre-made bird.

The background of the entire image is a photograph of green grass with several white handprints scattered across it. The handprints are of various sizes and orientations, some appearing to be part of a larger pattern. The text is overlaid on this background.

Artist's Professional Development Outcomes

This project enabled me to utilise the academic skills I had learnt in a real-world setting, creating real world impacts to local schools, families and children. Navigating the project through a pandemic has been challenging. Nevertheless, all creative projects must expand and adapt to fit the environment and situations.

The relationships, conversations, observations, breakthroughs, mentoring, feedback and networking experiences I have gained through this experience have been extremely valuable to my creative development and future as an artist. I have been able to deliver community art activities that merged health, nature and art. I have established a meaningful and ongoing partnership between Hand Bent Banana and Hands on Art. Whilst fostering new relationships across sectors that might not have flourished if it weren't for the challenges and changes.

Having access to the structured mentoring, grant writing and other artistic opportunities through this grant has opened doors and helped me to realise a future in the arts is attainable for me. I have been able to prove to myself and to my peers that I am a passionate, creative and innovative asset to the community. - Tiarna