



# **Sugar vs the Reef?**

**Sunset Symphony  
in the Sunflowers**



universidade  
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**Universidade de Aveiro  
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**Aliona Babcsinski  
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## **Promoter(s).**

**Simon and Sue Mattsson**

## **Funder(s).**

**Lucas Ihlein and  
Kim Williams**



## **Aknowledgements.**

**Kim Williams and Lucas Ihlein (artists), Simon and Sue Mattsson with Sophie and Luke (farmers), Kim Kleidon (media maker and MC), John Sweet (community activator), Sakwolo Islander Dancers and Mackay Youth Orchestra and Jazz Band (performers)**



## **Context.**

**Have we ever considered the intensive farming side effects?**

**The removal of trees, slash and burn techniques, and the clearing of forest areas to create room for agriculture has led to massive deforestation and soil erosion.**





## **The project.**

**Sunset Symphony in the Sunflowers demonstrated that diverse communities can be brought together through socially-engaged art events, to improve public understanding of intensive farming problems.**





## The design process.

**Mattsson planted a dual crop of sugar cane and sunflowers, out of which they carved a large amphitheatre space for a celebration of music, dance, food and regenerative agriculture.**

**Music not only connects people, but it makes connections in the brain, so if you're also working at changing thinking, having music as part of that process while enjoying local food and drinks increases the results.**





# Governance and Policy Making



**Socially Engaged Farming**

**Industrial Monoculture**

The project mission is to improve public understanding of the contribution of regenerative agriculture methods, and to encourage transformations in industrial monoculture farming practices. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australian Council of Agricultural Research (ACR).

# Social Interactions and Relations



**Social Interaction**

**Sustainability Education**

The artists' passion is working for and with communities and their desire to develop ethical relationships between humans and land through their collaborative processes.



# City and Environmental Planning



**Natural Resources**

**Culture Agriculture**

That land is not just a resource to be used in a mechanistic way, but an entity to be respected in its own right. It's not just how you use a plough or put on fertiliser, but it's also about how you acknowledge cultural histories in relation to the land that you're working with. So what the public is seeing are the intersections of culture and agriculture.



# Production, Distribution and Consumption



**Local Food Production**

**Tasting Experiences**

The visitors can enjoy local food tasting and participate in educational workshops about sustainable growing products



# Skill Training and Design Education



**Public Education**  
**Sustainable Growth**  
**Socially Engaged Art**

Agriculture has too long been thought of as a technical issue involving the application of science, and the transference of outputs from that science via a top-down process of technology transfer. It is not. Agriculture is farming, and farming is people.



# Job Creation



**Local Farms**

**Social Programs and Experiences**

The project created an opportunity for artists and farmers to collaborate, in order to explore the connections between their different practices and investigate the role socially engaged art might play in complex environmental management situations.



# Storytelling and Visualisation







**<http://lucasihlein.net/Sunset-Symphony-in-the-Sunflowers>**

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