



Caribbean Community Exhibition, Immigration Museum, 2009

### **SWEET! An Exhibition and Festival at the Immigration Museum**

The *Sweet!* project pilots a new approach for exhibitions and festivals at the Immigration Museum. The Museum will work collaboratively with a number of Victorian communities to produce an exhibition and festival themed around sweets, highlighting shared cultural traditions, rituals and contemporary practices.

Opening in March 2012, the exhibition will reveal the stories of participating communities through objects, text, images and film. Also in March 2012, the festival will showcase cultural activities from participating communities including elements such as: food stalls and tastings; cooking demonstrations and workshops with chefs or community practitioners; food rituals or related performances; music; dance; films and displays.

#### **Community Commitment**

We invite your community to collaborate with us to develop the exhibition and festival.

Four individuals from each community are asked to form a group to represent their community. Ideally at least one of these participants should have a strong, practical interest in food, whether professionally or personally.

All are invited to attend a series of meetings and workshops to share their stories and experiences relating to sweets within their own community and to work with other community groups to identify similarities and differences.

Prior to the meetings and workshops, participants will be required to gather sweets-related information

from their own community, identifying cultural practices, stories, objects, images, activities and contacts for the project.

#### **Immigration Museum Commitment**

For the exhibition the Museum provides guidance and assistance in developing the thematic content, selection of objects and images, and the writing of text and labels.

For the festival the Museum, acting upon community recommendations, organises food vendors, performers and demonstrators to appear at the festival. A nominal fee is paid to all performers and presenters. Participation in the committee is voluntary.

The Museum will assist groups to develop the exhibition and festival within an allocated Museum budget. There are no costs to the community connected with the project. The Museum also provides staff, the venue, general equipment, materials, design, marketing and publicity, photography and filming for the project.

#### **Project Timeline**

This project will be produced over the next six months and launched in March 2012 to coincide with the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival that runs from 2 – 21 March 2012.

The exhibition and festival will be planned at regular workshops and meetings – starting in October 2011 and running until March 2012. These will be held at the Immigration Museum at 400 Flinders St, Melbourne, and run for two to three hours each, on a week night. Key dates are:

- First workshop – Wednesday 12 October
- From October – mid November: weekly workshops on a Wednesday evening
- December – mid March: workshops every two to three weeks on a Wednesday evening
- Mid March – exhibition opens and festival occurs

#### **Project Contacts**

**Festival:** Elise Murphy, Program Manager, Community Engagement, 9927 2741 [emurphy@museum.vic.gov.au](mailto:emurphy@museum.vic.gov.au)

**Exhibition:** Emily Kocaj, Community Exhibitions Manager, 9927 2732 [ekocaj@museum.vic.gov.au](mailto:ekocaj@museum.vic.gov.au)