Australian Government

Creative Australia

Arts Centre Melbourne

Kirstin Clements, Arts Centre Melbourne
Katie Ronson , Creative Australia

September 2026



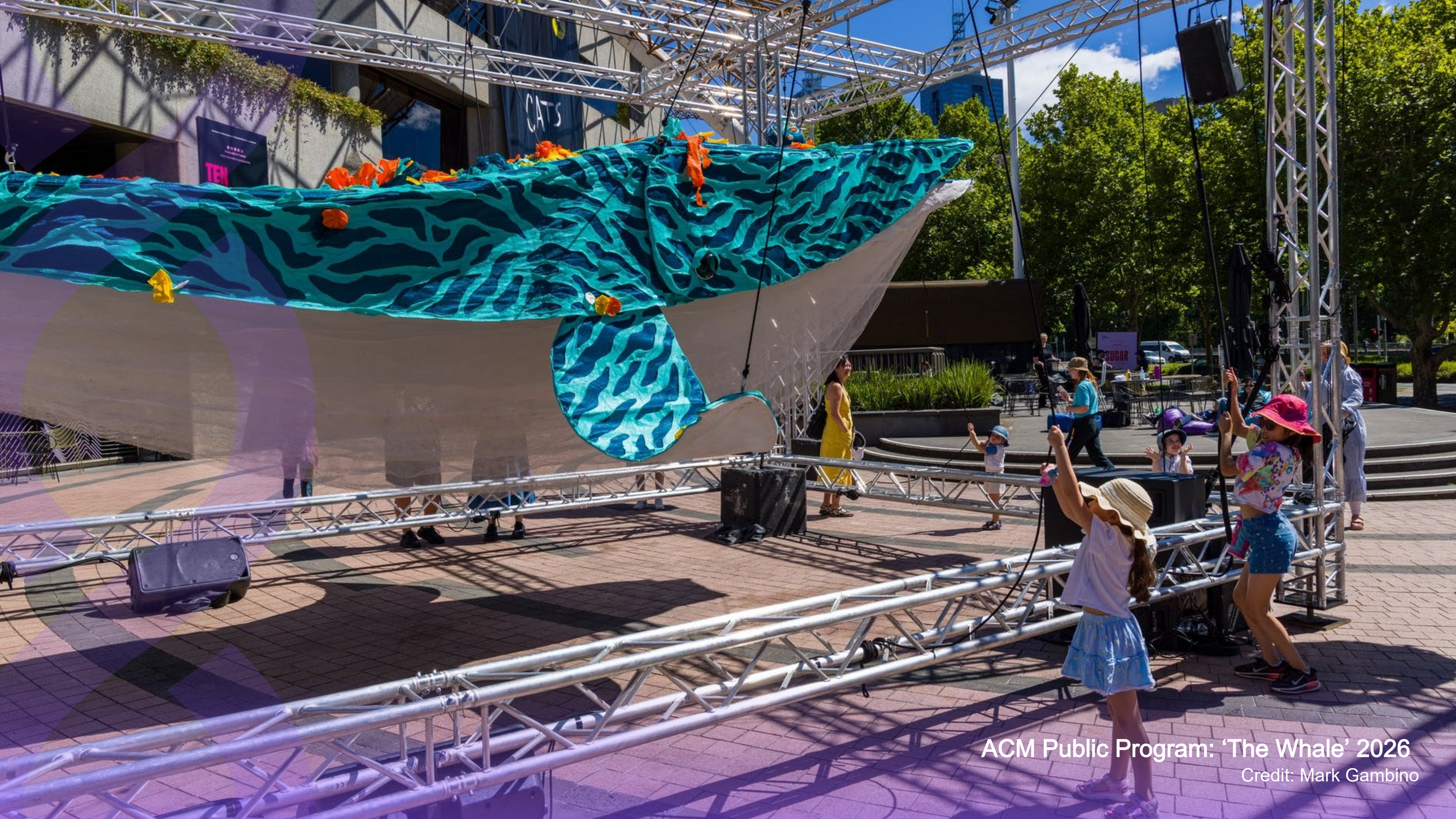
ACM Public Program: ‘HomeBound’ at Asia TOPA 2025

Credit: Mark Gambino



ACM Public Program : ‘Sunday Markets’

Credit: Mark Gambino



ACM Public Program: ‘The Whale’ 2026

Credit: Mark Gambino

ARTS-BASED EVALUATION METHODS

Australian Government

Creative Australia

Arts Centre Melbourne

Kirstin Clements, Arts Centre Melbourne
Katie Ronson , Creative Australia

September 2026

Arts -based
evaluation
methods



Arts
contexts

OUR HYPOTHESIS



Betty Amsden Participation Program ‘Us and All of This’ at ACM 2024

Credit: Mark Gambino



ColdVoice at ACM 2026

Credit: Mark Gambino



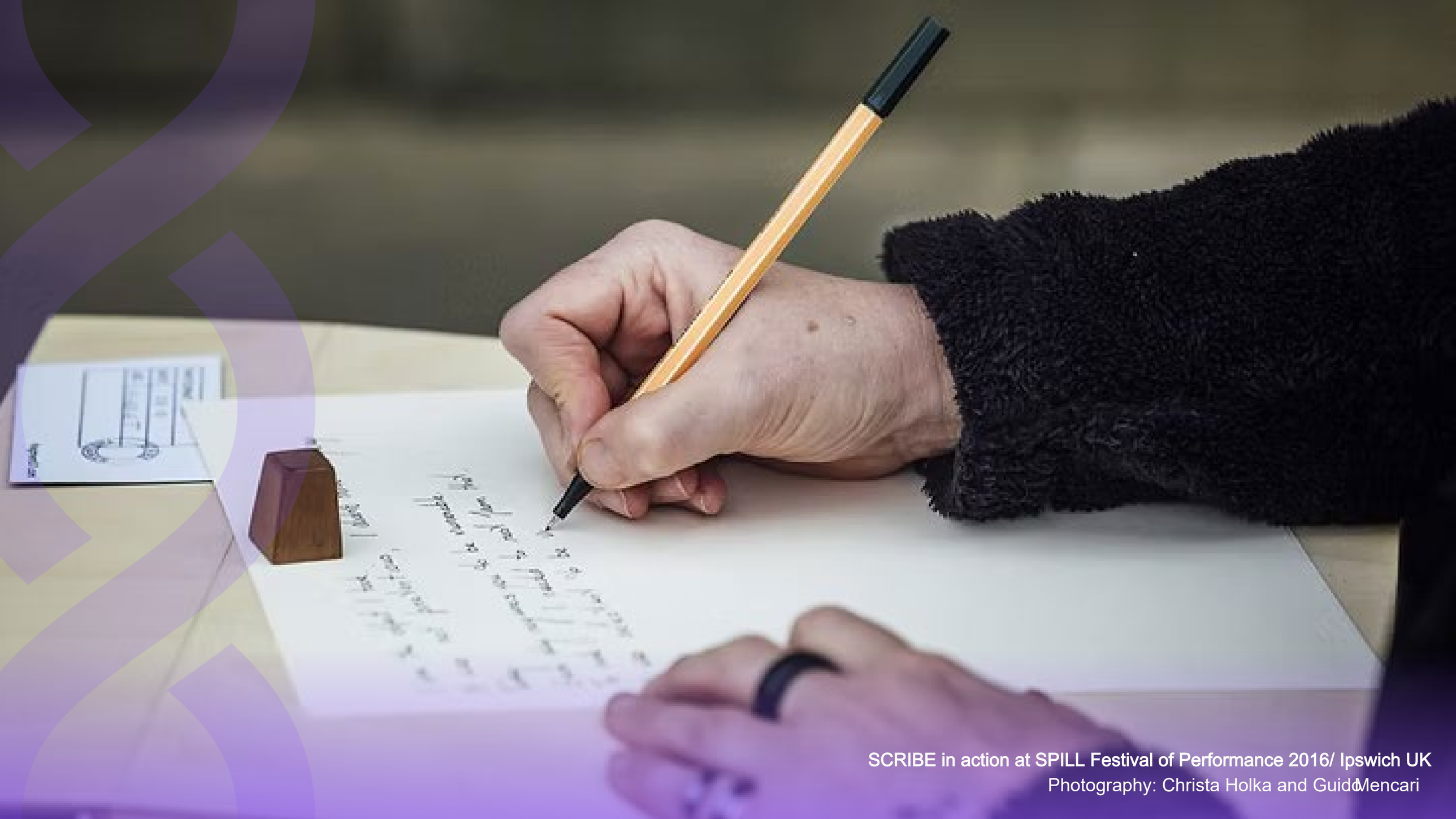
ColdVoice at ACM 2026

Credit: Mark Gambino



ColdVoice at ACM 2026

Credit: Mark Gambino



SCRIBE in action at SPILL Festival of Performance 2016/ Ipswich UK
Photography: Christa Holka and Guido Mencari



SCRIBE in action at SPILL Festival of Performance 2016/ Ipswich UK
Photography: Christa Holka and Guido Mencari

I'm a music student — I really wanted to see this! — .

PARTICIPANT # 032.
DATE 05/03/26
LOC. Arts Centre Melbourne

I was interested in the RANDOMNESS of each instrument

Unpredictable.

It's rewarding when I predict the key + it's right —

The more time I spent the more depth I discovered

You never know what you'll stumble on — they returned to play more —

I really liked seeing this in a public space. It made me wish there were more incentives like this to bring me/us into the community — out of ourselves.

Interesting to think about what different weather might do — to think about weather generally — Today. it's HOT It's melting — which might be part of it — Maybe.

After sitting with Scribe

PARTICIPANT # 033
DATE 5/3/2026
LOC. arts centre forecourt
Cold Voice acm 2026

I think the music was perfect for the environment. The perfect music for ice.
Both senses engaged — Touch and Sound
The water stream next to the notes was lovely.
Beautiful.
Melancholic.

Of course this is what ice sounds like!

c minor - I'm a music nerd.

Didn't feel like I was in the middle of the city anymore I was camping, the white noise was the running water your hear.
The noises of the city became the white noise of the outdoors
— I didn't even notice the music coming from the cafe.

Example SCRIBE documents from ColdVoice



ColdVoice at ACM 2026

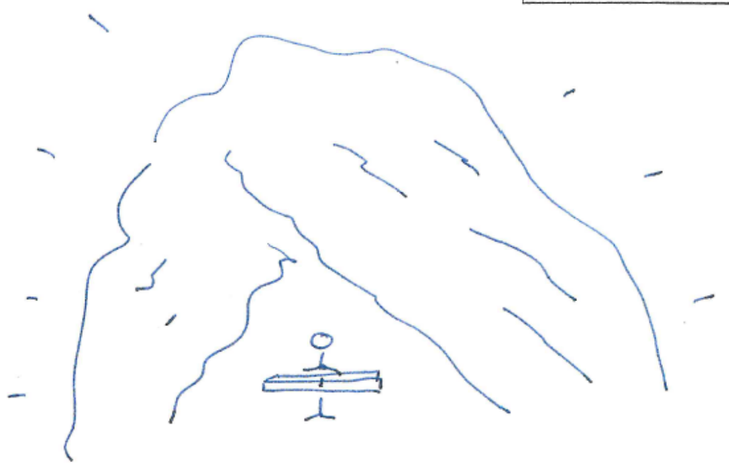
Credit: Mark Gambino

PARTICIPANT # 009
DATE 4/3/2026
LOC. Arts Centre Forecourt
Cold Voice ACM 2026

Very busy, there's a big crowd of us.
Didn't care about the notes or theory, we just wanted to have fun!
How do they replace the ice?
We've got so many people just playing around, meeting each other, creating community.
We've come from the suburbs, the end of the train line — I'm keen to do more of this stuff later in high school - I'm still young.
I'm in a band at high school — percussion, I play 5 different instruments at once, I'm surprised I haven't tripped over yet!

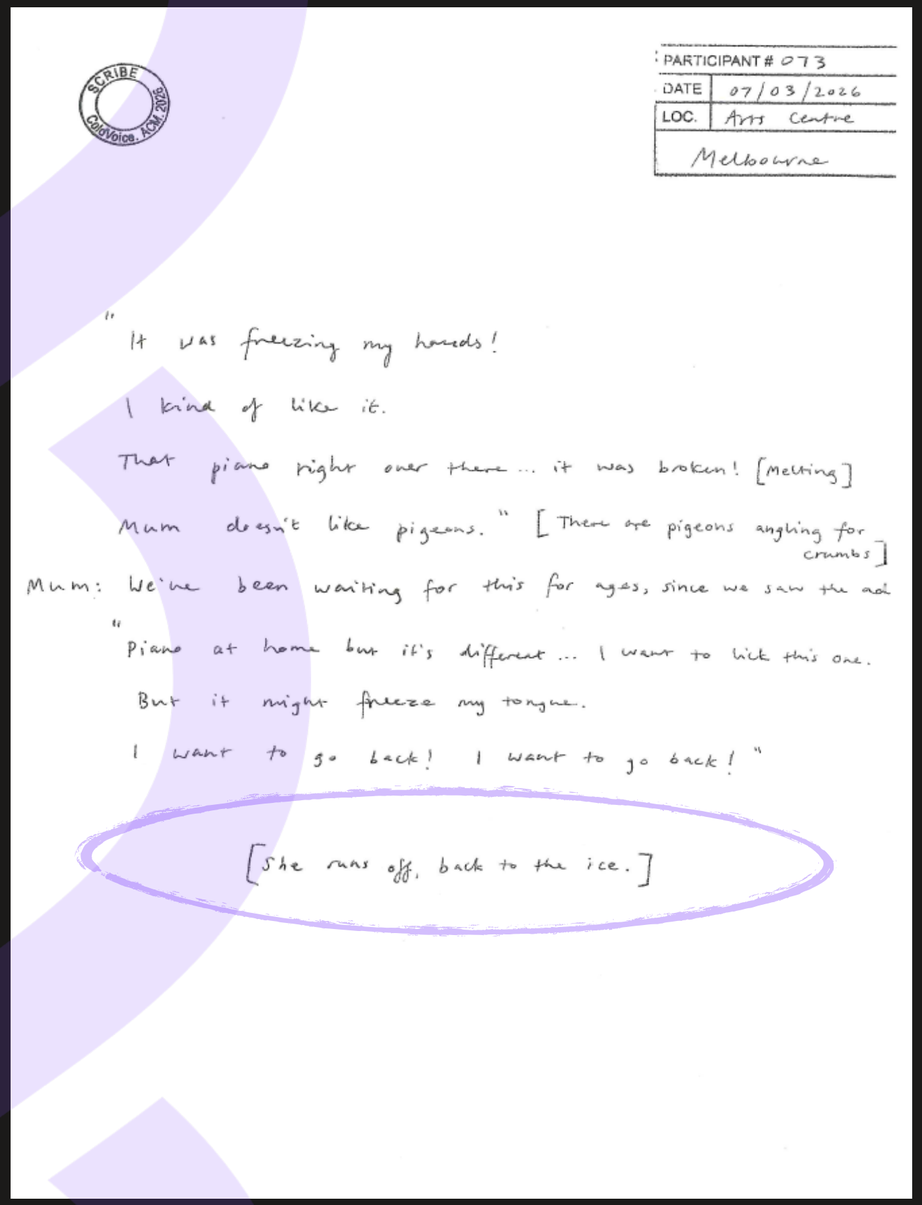
I got to feel like I was part of something.

PARTICIPANT # 012
DATE 07/03/2026
LOC. Arts Centre Forecourt



- A little magical
- Very cool
- Felt like I was playing a melody on the ice.
- I Felt like I was INSIDE The ice, an ice cave
  COLD & CALM
- It's like if I was inside a STORY ☺

Example SCRIBE documents from ColdVoice



PARTICIPANT # 073
DATE 07/03/2026
LOC. Arts Centre
Melbourne

"It was freezing my hands!

I kind of like it.

That piano right over there ... it was broken! [Melting]

Mum doesn't like pigeons." [There are pigeons angling for crumbs]

Mum: We've been waiting for this for ages, since we saw the ad

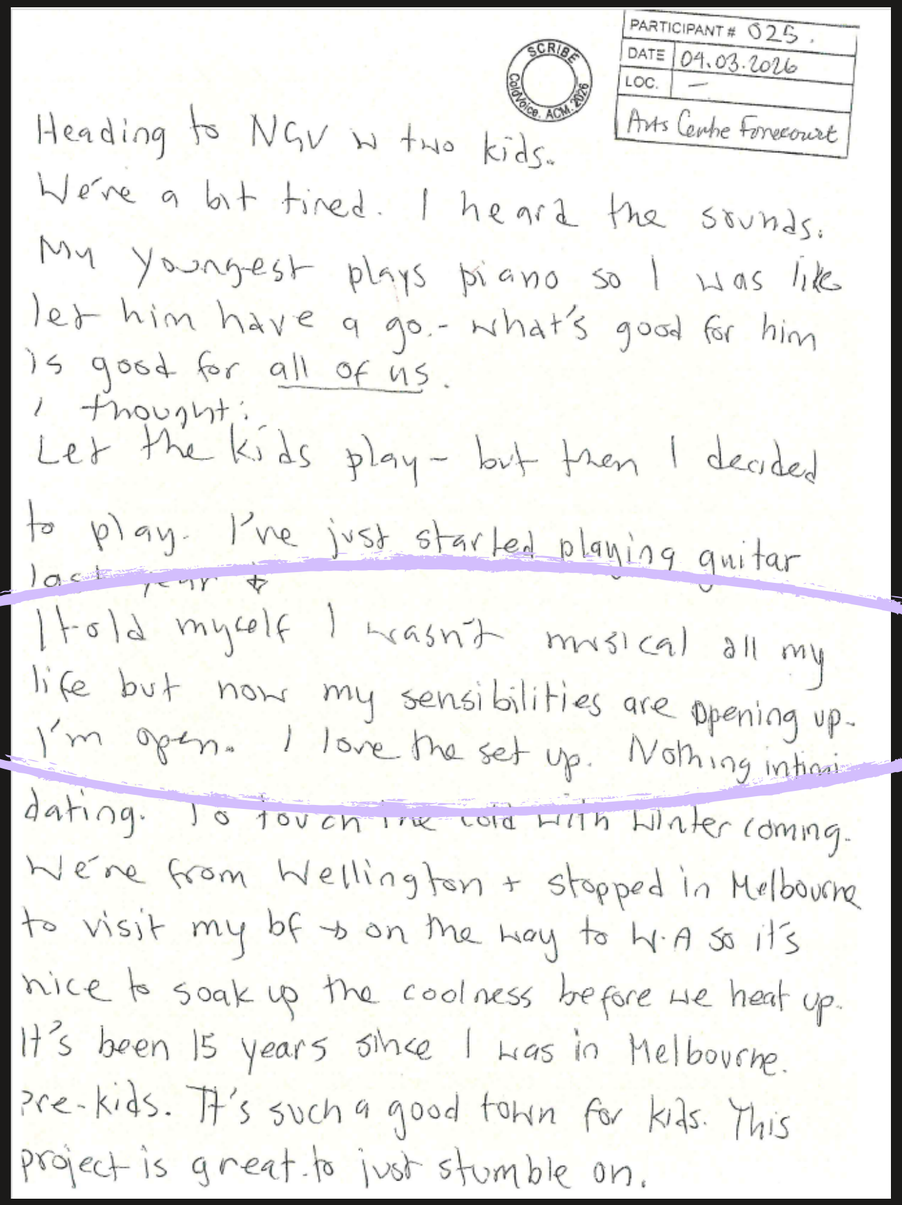
"Piano at home but it's different ... I want to lick this one.

But it might freeze my tongue.

I want to go back! I want to go back!"

[She runs off, back to the ice.]

"[she runs off, back to the ice]"

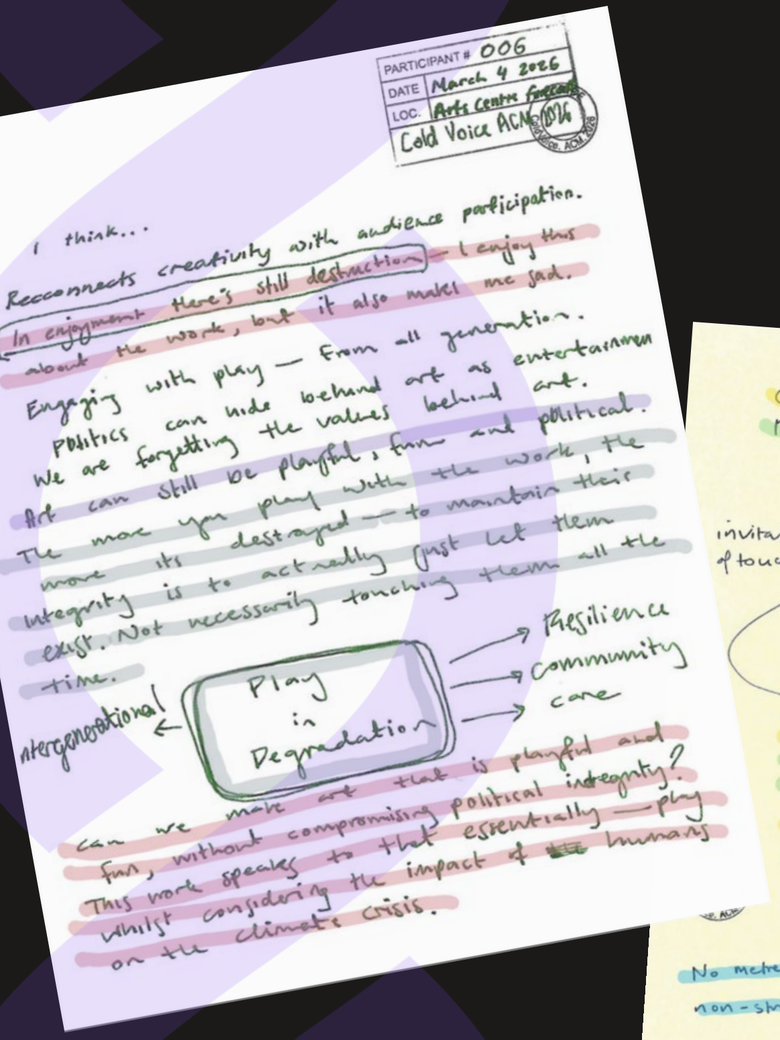


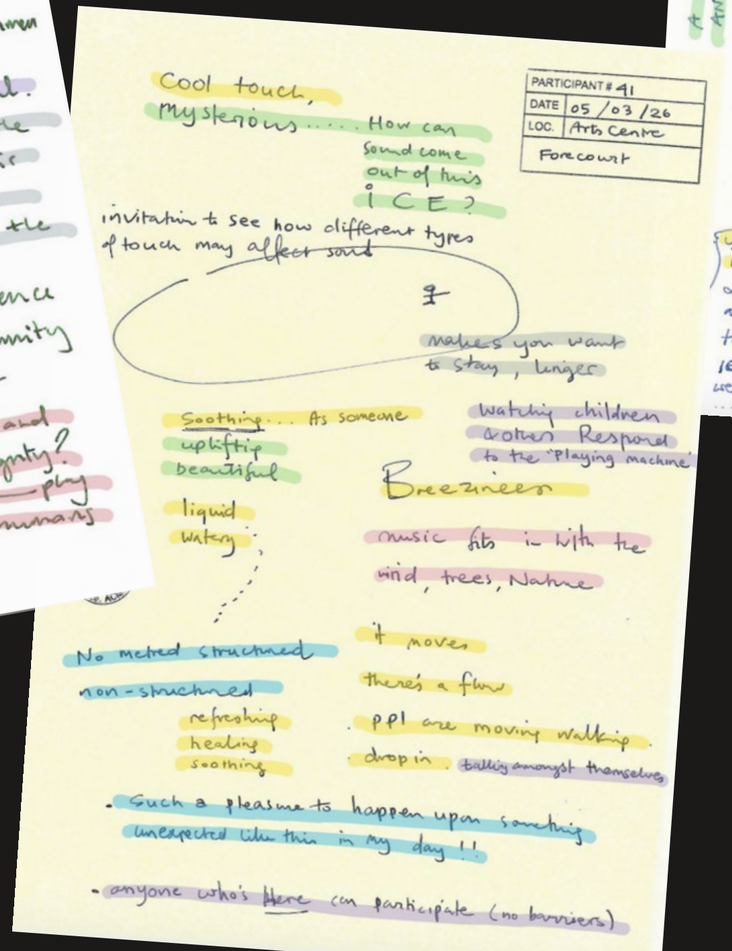
PARTICIPANT # 025.
DATE 04.03.2026
LOC. —
Arts Centre Forecourt

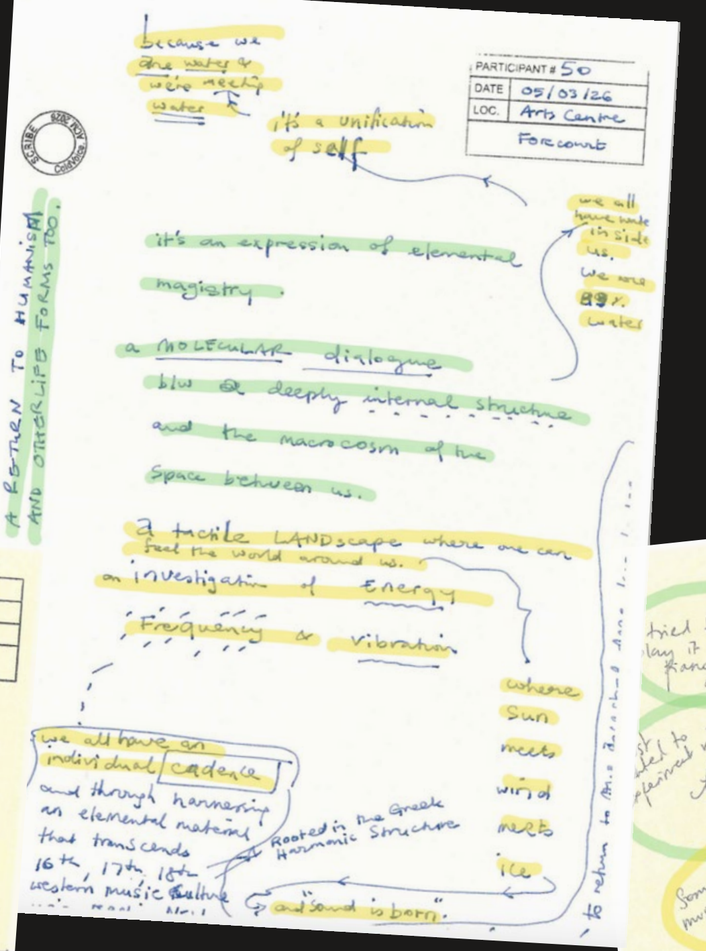
Heading to NGV w two kids.
We're a bit tired. I heard the sounds.
My youngest plays piano so I was like
let him have a go. - what's good for him
is good for all of us.
I thought:
Let the kids play - but then I decided
to play. I've just started playing guitar
last year +
I told myself I wasn't musical all my
life but now my sensibilities are opening up.
I'm open. I love the set up. Nothing intimi-
dating. To touch the cold with Winter coming.
We're from Wellington + stopped in Melbourne
to visit my bf → on the way to W.A so it's
nice to soak up the coolness before we heat up.
It's been 15 years since I was in Melbourne.
pre-kids. It's such a good town for kids. This
project is great to just stumble on.

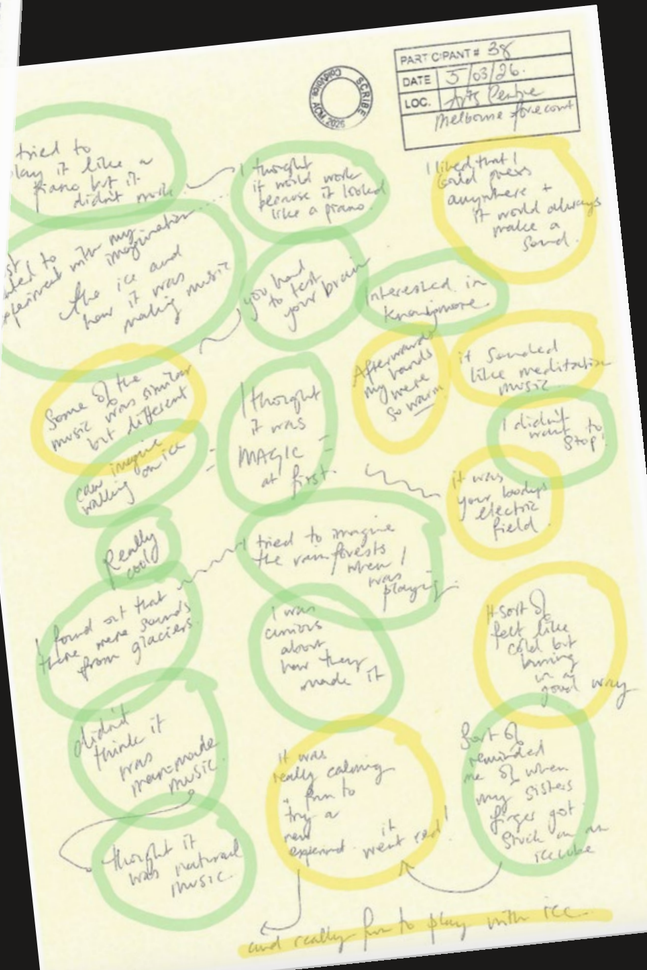
"I told myself I wasn't musical all my life but now my sensibilities are opening up – I'm open. I love the set up. Nothing intimidating"

Thematic coding of SCRIBE documents









Shared themes

Sensory Experience

Activated Imagination

Surprise Encounter

Place-based Connections

Divergent themes

Access and Belonging

Temporariness

Climate Reflection

Ir l
c o n s id e r a t io n s

Data gathering

- Specific artistic skill
- Cost
- Production support

Data interpreting

- Artefact -based analysis expertise
- Approach to interpretation
- Time

Reporting

- Openness to different kind of methods and reporting



ACM Public Program: ‘The Whale’ 2026

Credit: Mark Gambino



ColdVoice at AM 2026
Credit: Mark Gambino

THANK YOU