

COMMUNITY MUSIC THERAPY IN HONG KONG: COMMUNITY MUSIC THERAPY IN UMBRELLA REVOLUTION

Chau Suet Yan, Cat

Centre for Community Cultural Development, Hong Kong

Ng Man Kei

Centre for Community Cultural Development

Abstract

During Umbrella Revolution, the presenter, a music therapist, cooperated with community artists to collect stories of the whole community, in which the storytellers were from different political stands. Throughout the process of songs co-writing, dance movements and drawings with the community members, the presenter witnessed the power of community music therapy.

Description

In 2014, a huge pro-democracy political movement — “Umbrella Revolution” took place in Hong Kong. The movement adversely affected Hong Kongers through its influences on local transports, businesses, social media, and schools, etc. The society had different voices, and people had mixed-feelings and emotions towards the revolution. They lost confidence towards the government, experienced some unexpected situation while they might face challenges on their relationship with family and friends due to different political stands. Owing to this, public neglected and suppressed their voices in the fast-moving city with overwhelming news.

“Community Music Therapy in umbrella revolution”, which was initiated by a registered

music therapist and a group of local community musicians and artists from different backgrounds, was a way out for the suppressed voices from different backgrounds in the community. With the record of the real life stories under umbrella revolution by songs co-writing, dance movements and drawings and performance outside the occupied areas, the voices could reach out to the public in the creative way while the project also encouraged open discussions among the society with the echo of social media coverage.

The project finally became a bridge and a collective memory of Hong Kong that linked up citizens with different point of views in the society with no judgement, in which the community experienced the magic power of community music therapy together.

Multimedia & Releases





References

Eyerman, R. & Jamison, A. (1998). *Music and Social Movements: Mobilizing traditions in the twentieth century*. UK: Cambridge University Press.

Pavlicevic, M. & Ansdell, G. (2004) *Community Music Therapy*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Elliott, D. (2009). Defining and exploring community music. *International Journal of Community Music*, 7, 6-7.

About the Authors

Ms. Suet Yan, CHAU, the first music therapist and social worker applied community music therapy approach to work with underprivileged groups including sex workers, low income groups, mental health etc. to enhance social awareness and express their concerns.

Email: catchau812@gmail.com

Mr. NG Man Kei is a community artist, organizer and workshop facilitator, advocating arts empowerment through participatory pedagogy for Society of Justice.