

Shifting Homes

Creating a virtual village to capture history and culture

Shifting Homes is a Virtual Reality (VR) experience that is all about creating a Virtual Environment to bring a Samoan village to life, recreating its past and present in an immersive and vivid way. The project will document rising waters and further dramatic outcomes indicated through scientific data, and will present the impact of Climate Change on a village. Shifting homes will also explore future solutions in how the village will need to adapt in terms of housing and settlement. The contemporary VR artwork and experience will preserve and archive heritage and culture, and will provide new technology, mentorship, and up-skilling to Samoan youth and communities.

Pacific Connect - Offering a powerful platform for cross-Pacific collaboration and relationship building. Creating informal, consultative environments that encourage positive, fresh-thinking and personal interest in achieving practical results.

Engagement with Pacific Connect

The project came to life at the *Pacific Connect* Network Dialogue on Creative Industries (Samoa, May 2019), bringing together Australian company, DP Immersive with a team of Samoan academics, historians and digital media and culture experts involved with the *Pacific Connect* Community network.

ICDP assisted with R&D financing of the project during initial scoping assessment, which involved many weeks of research and community collaboration, including the Samoan Arts Centre.

The project team was invited to present the experience at The Australian Pavilion at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale Di Venezia in 2020. Shifting homes will be demonstrated at the Ideas Exchange and the GAP Summit for the South Pacific and Small Island Nations.

Project phases

- 1) *Stage 1 (completed)*: R&D, photogrammetry data collection, interviews with High Chief, mayor and community members of Poutasi village.
- 2) *Stage 2 (May - August)*: Post production and completion of work in VR and accessible formats.
- 3) *Stage 3 (July-September onwards)*: Commercialisation of work through Venice Biennale initiatives, tourism marketing with government and private agencies, and demonstrations through 'VR For Good' activities.
- 4) *Stage 4 (September onwards)*: Development and delivery of a Pacific AR/VR training program in Samoa.

Through Pacific Connect, ICDP brings together Australian business and emerging leaders with Pacific Islander counterparts to deliver locally led solutions to challenges, and to create an active network of engaged change makers.