



**Gorman
Arts Centre**

Minutes –Gorman Arts Centres Resident Advisory Group

Meeting #G-22-001-G

Date: 11/05/2022

Start time: 12:01 pm

Meeting Chair: Ham Darroch

Venue: Main Hall, Gorman Arts Centre

End Time: 12:40 pm

Residents attending:

Amelie Langevin (QL2 Dance)

Gabriel Sinclair (QL2 Dance)

Ham Darroch

Luke Rogers (Canberra Youth Theatre)

Natalie Wade (QL2 Dance)

Robin Davidson (Rebus Theatre)

Stuart McMillen

Arts Capital board/staff attending:

Adelin Chin, Interim CEO

Isabelle Sheppard, Customer Service and Administration Officer

Lachlan Johnson, Strategic Planning Officer

Suzie Campbell, Arts Capital Board Member

Apologies:

Cathy Mauk

Franki Sparke

Kimmo Vennonon

Mark Cranfield

Samia Goudie



Agenda Item

Item 1 Welcome and apologies

Ham Darroch (HD) started the meeting by introducing himself, welcoming everyone to the meeting and stating the apologies to the group.

Item 2 Arts Capital 2021 Annual Report

HD invited Adelin Chin (AC) to introduce the Arts Capital 2021 annual report. AC noted the annual report is the first official document with the new A+G logo. Explaining that the updated design and logo is a part of Arts Capital's ongoing strategic planning. Alongside the annual report, an upgraded A+G website will be launched later in the month.

AC reflected on 2021 and how it impacted both Arts Capital and the residents and their practices. Noting that Arts Capital has been impacted by the pandemic has and is continuing to affect the residents, their practices, and organisations. Although Federal and ACT government COVID-specific supports were ending in 2021, Arts Capital continued to provide in-kind support, rent and program subsidies to residents. In-kind support was highlighted in the annual report, and one example was cited; the welcoming of Tributary Projects to B Block in late 2021, continuing Arts Capital's goal of supporting emerging and mid-career artists.

Due to demand for programs, workshops and other activities provided by residents and A+G, earned income was better than predicted showing an end-of-year deficit of a little more than \$100K. It was reported that every \$1 of artsACT Key Arts Organisation funding received, Arts Capital generated \$3.45 back. The 2021 annual report shows the positive outcome of the centres and the invaluable contribution of the residents after the difficulties COVID has provided

Robin Davidson (RD) joined the meeting.

AC went on to ask residents if they had any reflections of 2021, they wished to share of which HD raised the positivity in returning to A+G after lockdown. Sharing that the vibrant space provides a positive change in environment for his practice.

Stuart McMillen (SM) noted that one of the standout features of A+G is the ongoing studio space and asked if studio spaces will remain ongoing into



the future. AC explained that due to head license being on a month-to-month basis, long-term sub-licences are unable to be currently offered, although this opens the opportunity to revisit the length of terms for studios post-renovations. SM stated there is a benefit in seeing new studio residents around the centre, and it was good to see some of the vacant studios used by artist-in-residences. The current new residents are a part of the Creative Recovery and Resilience Program (CRRP), a paid 10-week residency for 5 artists. SM and HD stated their support for the program and suggested looking into similar programs in the future.

RD also reflected on 2021 and the beginning of 2022, stating a large thank you to former Arts Capital CEO, Joseph Falsone and to AC for stepping in as interim CEO. Of which the group agreed is a big change for the centres and expressed support of his work at the centres over the last decade. Suzie Campbell (SC) agreed and commended the work and effort Joseph contributed towards the centres, specifically regarding centenary renovations.

SM and RD raised concern regarding the tone of the letter sent informing residents about Joseph's resignation, noting that the letter implied a negative connotation surrounding the resignation. SC confirmed that she will action this with Arts Capital board chair, Mark Van Veen and assured the group Joseph's resignation was for personal reasons and he elected against a public farewell.

Moving on, Amelie Langevin (AL) asked for confirmation regarding AGM invitations. AC confirmed that the CEO, board, and auditor attend the Arts Capital AGM. Explaining further, the reason why there is a resident advisory group no later than 2 weeks following the AGM is so residents are informed of the proceedings. Luke Rogers (LR) raised the benefit of sharing the AGM minutes with residents to provide transparency. SC confirmed she will look into the possibility of sharing the minutes and emphasised that residents are welcome and encouraged to raise matters with the board.

Item 3 Centenary Renovations

RD raised the topic of Gorman Arts Centre's centenary renovations and any updates surrounding it, the group discussed it at length.



Gorman Arts Centre

- AC explained that until the expected release of the budget in August, artsACT are in a holding pattern until that time.
- AL expressed concern surrounding the running of their organisation without knowledge around the renovation plans. AC confirmed that artsACT has been made aware of resident concerns surrounding the disruption to organisations and practices during the renovation period. There is conversation around relocation logistics and financial support for residents between Arts Capital and artsACT.
- LR raised concern with the level of clarity provided to residents regarding preliminary renovation plans. It is difficult to plan for the future as there is little clarity to the current renovation plan or a secondary plan depending on information provided by artsACT. SC agrees that this knowledge is integral for the future plans of resident organisations and will follow up with the communication to residents.
- SM asked if the resident feedback around renovations previously given to Arts Capital will be shown back to residents. AC confirmed centenary renovation meetings on how stakeholder research will inform design brief are planned for June/July 2022.
- LR and RD suggested the possibility of residents communicating directly with artsACT in order to express concerns. The current wait until August for more information provides too little information for residents to plan accordingly. Renovation information must be available from artsACT in order for residents to start planning. If the artistic community at Gorman is displaced due to renovations, there is possibility for pressure to be put on the wider community to provide spaces. AC and SC suggested the possibility of talking to MLA's as well. HD suggested the possibility of talking to the cultural council. SC noted the concerns raised and stated she will look into making time and opportunities for concerns to be raised and discussed.

HD thanked the group and ended the meeting at 12:44pm as no other points of discussion were raised.