



**Ainslie
Arts Centre**

Minutes –Ainslie Arts Centre Resident Advisory Group

Meeting #G-22-002-A

Date: Thursday, 18 August 2022

Venue: Room 14, Ainslie Arts Centre

Start time: 10:36 am

End Time: 11:40 am

Meeting Chair: Mark Van Veen, Board Chair, Arts Capital

Residents attending:

AJ America (Luminescence Chamber Singers)

Di Miley (Australian National Eisteddfod)

Leah Blankendaal (Musica Viva)

Phoebe O’Leary (Girls Rock!)

Arts Capital Board/staff attending:

Adelin Chin, Business Manager

Carly Davenport Acker, A+G Director, CEO Arts Capital

Isabelle Sheppard, Administration and Customer Service Officer

Mark Van Veen, Board Chair

Rochelle Whyte, Programs Manager

Apologies:

Angela Hannan (Canberra International Music Festival)

Shane Dobbin (Music for Canberra)



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Agenda Item

Item 1 Welcome and apologies

Mark Van Veen (MVV) began the meeting by introducing himself, welcoming everyone to the meeting and stating the received apologies. MVV passed to Carly Davenport Acker (CDA), recently appointed new CEO and Director of Arts Capital and A+G respectively. CDA introduced herself to the group and gave a brief relay of her background experience in her work and life.

Leah Blankendaal (LB) joined the meeting.

CDA opened the floor for the residents to share their organisations' background, practice and recent activities and achievements.

Phoebe O'Leary (PO) joined the meeting.

Item 2 Resident Supports and Needs

CDA asked the residents to share if and how they would like support in the upcoming Arts Organisation Investment Funding opportunity. Rochelle Whyte (RW) explained that herself and Adelin Chin (AC) have been responding and working with residents who have requested support. CDA and RW extended this offer to the group.

CDA emphasised that despite the recent media attention surrounding Gorman Arts Centre's centenary renovations; A+G are continuing to plan for improvements to Ainslie Arts Centre.

Item 3 Ainslie Arts Centre Strategic Planning

Following on, CDA asked the residents to share thoughts and suggestions of the future of Ainslie Arts Centre. AJ America (AA) and LB noted the lack of, and clear need for more dedicated music performance spaces in Canberra. Di Miley (DM) shared positive reviews from recent and past Eisteddfod's held at the Centre. Relaying the feedback from Eisteddfod participants regarding the unique, unmatched architecture and atmosphere of the Centre, in comparison to other venues in Canberra.



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AC noted that in the lead up for renovations to the Centre in a few years' time, there is a focus on minimising risks relating to Work Health and Safety. All residents are asked to please raise any maintenance and Work Health and Safety issues to any A+G staff member.

Moving onto funding strategies, CDA raised that investigating a variety of options for alternative funding is a priority for both Centres. Clarifying that improvements to the Centres are included in this priority. DM and AA raised the need for more pianos at Ainslie Arts Centre to support musicians and allow for more dedicated rehearsal and performance spaces. RW and MVV agreed and noted that with improvements to the Centre, it will be increasingly suitable to house more instruments.

PO raised that there is room for improvement in the support of emerging musicians, especially in the administration side of organising performances. PO explained that the various requirements, paperwork, and documents that are involved in the organising of performances may be daunting to emerging musicians. CDA raised the possibility of looking further into ways emerging musicians can be supported in the development of their practice.

CDA ended the meeting at 11:40am and thanked everyone for their time, support, and input. Noting that she looks forward to engaging more with each resident and organisation.