



7 September 2022

Dear Assessment Panel,

I write to extend my support for Arts Capital's application to the ACT Arts Organisations Investment Fund.

All The Queens Men (ATQM) has had an incredibly positive and generative creative partnership with Arts Capital over the past 4 years and is excited to continue this into the future with our confirmed ongoing partnership for the presentation of LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club in Canberra in 2023.

All The Queens Men (ATQM) collaborate with communities of all shapes, sizes, and identities to produce transformative creative experiences that champion equality, social health, and human connection. Led by Tristan Meecham and Bec Reid, the Company co-designs creative experiences enabling diverse communities improved access, not only to the arts, but broader community and social services. ATQM presents the LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club nationally in Melbourne, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Adelaide and Canberra.

ATQM has been successfully collaborating with Arts Capital to deliver the LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club at the Ainslie Arts Centre since 2019. They have been a committed and professional partner throughout our collaboration, deeply engaged with the social mission of the Dance Club project. Arts Capital are also well-equipped to meet the needs of the LGBTIQ+ community through accessibility of their venues and communications as well as the quality of their community engagement and programming. In our work with Arts Capital we have observed they have a strong reputation in the LGBTIQ+ community as cultivating safe spaces for social and cultural engagement, particularly through their long-term relationships with Meridian, A Gender Agenda and grassroots collectives like DEIFY.

In an environment where COVID still disproportionately affects LGBTIQ+ elders, Arts Capital's work in supporting the Dance Club is vital. This project fills a gap for much needed free social activities for LGBTIQ+ elders, encouraging socialising that results in meaningful wellbeing outcomes as well as fostering intergenerational engagement, and providing work for local artists and arts workers.

ATQM are proud to continue our collaboration with Arts Capital, ensuring spaces for social inclusion, acceptance and belonging; increasing social and emotional well-being; and positively contributing to building a wider community that values LGBTIQ+ elders.

We strongly encourage you to support Arts Capital's application.

Regards,

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