

Artistic Support Material

Case Study – Creative Recovery and Resilience Program Engaging with First Nations and CALD Artists

“I think that to have access to my own studio at Gorman Arts Centre was one of the most important things of this residency. To have a place to work in my paintings and at the same time deliver some community work surrounded by incredibly supportive people gave me so much benefit.” Yamile Tafur Rios, CRRP Artist in Residence.

The Creative Recovery and Resilience Program provided creative opportunities and financial support to artists, arts workers, and cultural practitioners during COVID-19. The residencies supported 5 artists with financial, creative, and career opportunities tailored to their specific practice needs and goals, including access to a variety of working spaces and a strong residency framework. The residency activities included research, mentorship, ideation, experimentation, conversation, exploration, and creation.

Arts Capital’s program vision for the residencies was to:

- create enriching artistic and cultural experiences
- connect respectfully with ACT’s diverse communities including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, LGBTQIA+, Disability communities
- build capacity in the ACT arts sector in the face of uncertainty and change
- engage our creative and cultural communities in critical thinking and discussion

These residencies built a strong community of artists that were collaborative and supportive of each other’s practices and the broader community in the following ways:

- connected the CRRP artists to the existing Gorman Arts Centre community of resident studio artists and organisations by facilitated introductions at the Centres
- connected the artists to professional local, interstate, and international mentors to develop their individual practices at Gorman Arts Centre alongside Gorman Arts Centre residents
- engaged the artists in creative and critical discussion and connected Arts Capital and the resident artists to Ngunnawal Elders and community
- built the capacity of Arts Capital to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and communities through Cultural Awareness Training and Cultural Consultation
- set up networks for community engagement through the establishment of an Advisory Group
- supported the artists to engage in forum activities and extend their creative networks
- and supported the artists to reach their residency goals.

Feedback from all stakeholders was that they felt a stronger sense of connectedness to the wider ACT arts community. Participants said learning from peers and professional mentors was of significant benefit to their creative development, and overall artists and cultural practitioners felt they were receiving proper support during the challenges of COVID-19.

This residency program provided access to individual studio spaces, and access to other venues at both Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres for workshops or community meet ups which had a significant positive impact on the artist's work and to the resident artists at A+G. Continuing to provide access to space for artists will continue to be a priority for Arts Capital through core programming initiatives.

Designing the program to be flexible for an artist-led approach is key to meaningful engagement, particularly if the artist is part of a culturally diverse demographic. Having the flexibility to respond to the individual artist's needs was an important part of this residency, particularly for artists who had accessibility and inclusion requirements. Arts Capital will always endeavour to support flexible creative practices and artist led approaches to allow creative outcomes to thrive.

The Advisory Group were closely consulted in the early stages of the project to design a program relevant to our targeted communities. Feedback from advisors was that they felt invested in the success of the program and the artist's experience. Brokering relationships and meaningful engagement takes time and more time is specifically needed in consultative processes with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. A knowledgeable and passionate Advisory Group, and well-connected mentors, are an invaluable resource for artists and arts organisations to be able to engage in meaningful ways.

Having a cohort of artists travelling the journey together was of huge benefit to the artists, fostering a community and enabling informed discussion and peer to peer learning especially with Gorman Arts Centre residents who benefited from the residency program through the workshops and public discussions.

Arts Capital relished the opportunity to provide meaningful artist-led engagement to build the knowledge, skills, and practice resilience of the resident artists and their connected communities. We will continue to nurture and sustain relationships with the artists, mentors, advisory group members and traditional custodians.

Though efforts were made to make the application process as inclusive and accessible as possible, online platforms and form submissions have limitations and would have been a barrier for some applicants. Understanding barriers to access and testing processes is vital to access and inclusion. More research is required to make the application process more accessible and user friendly as possible.

The Creative Recovery and Resilience Program was a successful pilot model of delivery for all those involved, and the program's outcomes provide a valuable framework for sustaining and strengthening artists and the ACT arts sector into the future.

Resident Artists

- Samia Goudie - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mid-career/ established
- Jackson Taylor-Grant - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander emerging
- Sarah Loynes - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander emerging
- Jacqui Malins - Community and Cultural Development Practice mid-career/established
- Yamile Tafur Rios - Community and Cultural Development Practice emerging

Mentors

- Kylie Fitzpatrick – Samia Goudie
- Krystal Hurst – Sarah Loynes
- Alysha Herrmann – Jacqui Malins
- Nicole Barakat – Yamile Tafur
- Margaret Dimoff (established but not continued)- Jackson Taylor-Grant

The Advisory Group

- Shona Coyne - Senior Curator and Manager of Repatriation and Community Engagement at the National Museum of Australia. Menang/Nyungar woman with cultural connections to Yamatji Country in WA and the Scottish Highlands.
- Caroline Hughes - Ngunnawal Executive Director at AIATSIS and Ngunnawal Elder
- Dean Cross - Visual artist, dance artist and Worimi man born on Ngunnawal/ Ngambri Country
- Shannyn Palmer – Community Arts engagement practitioner
- Hangama Obaidullah - An ACT based multidisciplinary artist who came to Australia from Afghanistan as a refugee.
- Samantha Faulkner - Director of Ethics and Research Leadership at AIATSIS and published writer, Torres Strait and Wuthuthi/Yadhaigana woman and member of the ACT Government's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts Engagement Network.