

## Artistic Support Material

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### 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.

## Artistic Support Material

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### Case Study – The LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club Fostering Safe Communities

*'I like to dance, it's great exercise and you don't have to have a partner to go along, and the dance leaders are great. I live with a mild cognitive impairment and coming along to Dance Club has helped my health improve. It's important to get people moving and socialising with each other, especially as they get older. I'm always spruiking it to my networks and encouraging people to come along with me. I just love it.'* – Robyn Soxsmith, regular attendee throughout 2021

In 2021, Arts Capital partnered with Meridian (formerly Aids Action Council) and All The Queens Men (ATQM) to deliver 7 successful LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club in person events in Canberra at the Ainslie Arts Centre with support from Seniors Grant Program 2020-2021.

The LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club was programmed as a monthly social dance event for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender people over 55 conceived by ATQM. Dance Club is an enjoyable, informal social event specifically for and accessible to LGBTIQ+ elders, fostering social inclusion, new connections and engagement in healthy physical activity.

Completed activities for the program included:

- 7 in-person events in March, April, May June, July, August, and December (with no events able to go ahead during pandemic related lockdown and risk to attendees in September, October or November as planned)
- 4 online events throughout September and October hosted by ATQM and attended by Canberra Dance Club patrons as well as participants from Victoria, NSW and Queensland
- Monthly meetings with project partners ATQM and Meridian, both in person and online
- Ongoing consultation with Meridian to identify needs among LGBTIQ+ elders to improve events month to month
- Employment of project producer for 10 hours a month to manage the series of events
- Employment of event host and dance captain for each event March - August
- Hosting of All the Queens Men in Canberra to run December event and meet the community
- Media and publicity (ABC National, Canberra Times and Canberra Weekly)

### Outcomes

LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club addresses ageism, homophobia, lesbophobia and transphobia by supporting the recreational, artistic and social rights of LGBTIQ+ elders, through creative actions. Central to the project is creating a regular space for LGBTIQ+ elders that is safe and inclusive.

The creative action of dancing encourages and fosters socialising, friendship and a chance for LGBTIQ+ elders to have fun in a safe space. The project helps build and strengthen communities of LGBTIQ+ elders and promotes their visibility. The LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club facilitates the physical, cognitive and emotional benefits that come from regular creative and physical practice.

Key outcomes of this project include:

- Creation of a safe space for LGBTIQ+ Elders (over 55) to express their true, authentic identity
- Opportunity for LGBTIQ+ Elders to meet and connect with other LGBTIQ+ Elders, fostering peer support and social connection
- Development of a committed and regular community of attendees with new attendees every month
- Getting older people moving by providing a fun and healthy physical activity
- Fostering of intergenerational and intersectional connections and respect between elders and allies, friends and family who are also welcome to attend the events
- Promotion of respect for the diversity of the elder population, particularly LGBTIQ+ elders in the broader community
- Connecting elders to community services provided by Meridian and development of respectful relationships and trust between service providers and elders
- Deepened working relationships between all partnership organisations with intent to continue progressing these partnerships in ongoing and meaningful ways and a shared commitment to continue to deliver LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club events in 2022
- Capacity building for A+G to develop community engagement processes
- Collaboration with resident organisation Ausdance ACT by including Dance Club in their 2021 Dance Week program,

Every event attracted a minimum of 30 attendees, half of whom were regular attendees every month and half of whom were new attendees. The regular attendees grew to 2/3 of attendees, demonstrating their enthusiasm for the activity and an increase on previous attendance of one-off LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club presentations.

- We empowered attendees by inviting them to share and lead dance activities, and volunteer to help in the set up and pack up of events, building a community of elders who feel ownership and a deep connection to the program
- A+G partner Meridian was contacted by attendees outside of the event for more information of health services that attendees could access
- With our partner ATQM we were able to deliver on-line Dance Clubs to maintain community connection during periods of lockdown
- A+G and partners have identified opportunities for further community outreach through the Elders Dance Club program.

These key partnerships program with ATQM and Meridian has helped to solidify Arts Capital's reputation as a safe space for diverse and elderly community members to feel

valued and cared for in the Canberra community, surrounding regional neighbours and the broader community of elderly users of Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres spaces. The program has helped build a case for the Elders Dance Club activities nationally as an example of a successful partnership model and case study for successful local delivery of program.

## Artistic Support Material

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### Case Study – Sensory Art Lab by Slow Art Collective Children and Families

*'Just wanted to say we took our 4 1/2 year old to the Sensory Art Lab on Friday. We loved it! We loved all of it - the interactiveness of it, the use of all senses, the fun for all ages! We'd love to see more of these events and more widely advertised. I work at a specialist school and would love to take students to similar events in the future. Loved it all!! Looking forward to similar events in the future.'* **Sensory Art Lab attendee parent**

Sensory Art Lab by Slow Art Collective was a free interactive art play installation presented by Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres, located in the F Block Hall, Gorman Arts Centre, Friday 29 April - Sunday 1 May, and Wednesday 4 May - Sunday 8 May 2022. The project was originally slated for August 2021 but due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related state border closures it was postponed to October 2021, then January 2022, and finally presented in April 2022.

Arts Capital at Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres (A+G) commissioned Melbourne-based Slow Art Collective to deliver a range of play based activities, transforming the F Block Hall at Gorman Arts Centre into an art space that invited children, their families and their carers to explore creativity.

This project supported Arts Capital's organisational goals of creating great experiences for children, their families and their carers, enriching their experience by positioning them as key collaborators with the artists.

With a focus on environmental sustainability, material ethics culture, activism, and collaboration, Slow Art Collective created an experience that was open and accessible to all participants. Participants could stay for as little or as long as they liked to explore all the activities on offer and with the artists on hand to engage and interact with participants in a gentle and playful way, guiding and assisting when appropriate, and ensuring participant safety.

Activities included:

- Archiloom – a large-scale woven installation on bamboo scaffolding, made from mixed materials including recycled wool
- Sonic Archery– firing soft archery arrows to target drum sets, creating great sounds and beats
- Audible Touch Space – creating collaged sound worlds by touching and feeling electronic musical devices
- Fluorescent large scale marble run - staged in a dark space, visitors are invited to make old tennis balls run through a series of fluorescently lit plastic tubes to land on a sound making objects.

The members of Slow Art Collective were also joined by ACT visual artist and Ainslie and Gorman's 2021-2022 Kids x Art Program resident artist, Michelle Day, to assist in the delivery of the activities and as part of a mentoring opportunity to learn about the execution of large-scale installation work for children and families. Day also assisted with invigilation of the work. A duty manager was employed across all event days, to check in participants and help manage the venue, and for continuity of event delivery.

The project enabled the professional payment of 3 artists, including one local artist who was mentored by the visiting artists through direct engagement; Arts Capital committed to paying artists at a critical time with the impacts of COVID-19 being felt across the sector. This opportunity would not have been possible without project funding. All artists reported an overwhelmingly positive experience, with interest in furthering the partnership with Arts Capital. It also provided a significant networking opportunity, specifically with National Gallery of Australia.

Arts Capital worked closely with Ainslie Primary School to provide special sessions for their students to engage with Sensory Art Lab in the second week. The project provided a fantastic opportunity for Arts Capital to further build on the relationship with Ainslie Primary School and provided them with the opportunity to enrich learning programs with arts engagement, all within walking distance to the Centres.

During the two Saturday sessions, local business Stephanie's Donuts sold milkshakes and donuts onsite and thus allowed us to foster a robust partnership with a much-loved Canberra business. The food offering was set up in the Gorman Main Hall with participants invited to stay and relax in the heritage gardens and courtyards as part of their event experience with both venues adjacent to the F Block Hall at Gorman Arts Centre. The project enabled Stephanie's Donuts an opportunity for the business to reach new customers and to experiment with a new business delivery model. Stephanie's Donuts reported a positive experience from the opportunity and will be working again with Arts Capital on future events.

The project enabled new audiences to engage with Arts Capital programming and to explore Gorman Arts Centre as a place of community value and to feel welcomed. The project also contributed to the vibrancy of the Canberra CBD, where audiences also had opportunities to engage with other activities taking place at Gorman Arts Centre adjacent to Sensory Art Lab session times.

Arts Capital saw the Winter Events Fund as opportunity to successfully partner with Events ACT to deliver a high-quality arts experience for Canberra children, their families, and their carers. The funding was approximately 50% of the total cost of the project, and was instrumental in Arts Capital being able to commission Melbourne's Slow Art Collective to deliver a unique and specifically crafted experience for the ACT community - Sensory Art Lab.