



**Gorman
Arts Centre**

Minutes –Gorman Arts Centres Resident Advisory Group

Meeting #G-22-002-G

Date: Thursday, 18 August 2022

Venue: Main Hall, Gorman Arts Centre

Start time: 12:06 pm

End Time: 1:27pm

Meeting Chair: Carly Davenport Acker, Director, A+G/CEO, Arts Capital

Residents attending:

Alison Plevey (Australian Dance Party)

Amélie Langevin (QL2 Dance)

Andrew Sikorski (Art Atelier)

Franki Sparke

Ham Darroch

Hugh Withycombe (Musicale)

Kimmo Vennonon

Kirsten Biven

Lucy Alexander

Luke Rogers (Canberra Youth Theatre)

Miranda Scott (Musicale)

Olivia Fyfe (Australian Dance Party)

Phoebe Porter

Robin Davidson (Rebus Theatre)

Ruth Osborne (QL2 Dance)

Stuart McMillen

Yamile Tafur

Arts Capital Board/staff attending:

Adelin Chin, Business Manager

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

Isabelle Sheppard, Administration and Customer Service Officer

Mark Van Veen, Board Chair

Rochelle Whyte, Programs Manager

Apologies:

Zora Pang (Tributary Projects)

Agenda Item**Item 1 Welcome and apologies**

Carly Davenport Acker (CDA), new CEO and Director of Arts Capital and A+G respectively, began the meeting by welcoming everyone, stating received apologies and introducing herself. CDA gave a brief relay of her background, experience, working life and living in Canberra.

CDA opened the floor and asked residents to introduce themselves and a brief explanation of their practice.

CDA thanked the residents for sharing and stated a sincere thank you to previous CEO and Director, Joseph Falsone, and thanked Mark Van Veen (MVV) and Adelin Chin (AC) for their support and leadership during the interim period and through her commencement.

CDA acknowledged Traditional Owners, the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples.

CDA followed on from the previous Gorman Art Centre Resident Advisory Group in May. Acknowledging the previous minutes' key points and need for more information and certainty as to proposed renovation plans and impact of this regarding the Arts Organisation Investment Funding deadline. Noted the strength and work involved in the advocacy letter sent to artsACT on behalf of the residents. CDA informed the residents that artsACT were holding a Q&A session regarding the Investment Funding and centenary renovations later that afternoon. CDA encouraged residents



to stay on for this and asked who is attending, however, it was noted that the artsACT invitation, sent the week prior did not seem widely circulated with many residents saying they were not aware of it.

Item 2 Centenary Renovations & Investment Funding

CDA informed the residents that one of her priorities is to obtain clear information to be passed to residents from artsACT regarding renovations. Noting the delay in information increases the shared feelings of frustration and anxiety.

A+G have proactively proposed a timeline for centenary renovations to artsACT that is to be reviewed and awaiting confirmation. CDA explained that this proposed timeline is one of the ways A+G is attempting to be involved and collaborate in the decision-making process with artsACT so we can provide clarity for residents

CDA explained that Arts Capital have drafted and proposed a stakeholder engagement plan to artsACT, which will ensure at least four meetings between now and April 2023. The aim of these meetings are to ensure there is shared communications surrounding renovations with artsACT, A+G and residents or ideally, a working group to plan for pending disruption. This proposed plan is also not yet confirmed.

Following on, CDA noted another priority of actioning was aiding in the wellbeing and mental health of residents. Acknowledging the significant, long ongoing strain and anxieties of residents in facing potential renovations and, dealing with much uncertainty and in challenging times of COVID. CDA confirmed that an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for the support of residents is a priority that is being investigated.

MVV emphasised the long-term goal of centenary renovations being to ensure the longevity, safety and sustainability of Gorman Arts Centre; to ensure artistic opportunities continue to be provided into the future.

Arts Capital's proactive advocacy for residents' mental health in the proposed EAP was commended by residents. Hugh Withycombe (HW) and Kimmo Vennonen (KV) stated appreciation for the proactive advocacy and active consideration of ways to further communication with artsACT.



Item 3 Emergency Planning & Work Health and Safety

CDA emphasised her goal of leading collaboratively, striving for more fluidity and collaboration between A+G and residents. CDA briefly described how A+G will increase events with residents on site, that the team has many innovative ideas for facilitating social, fun, community building events that involve food and that families are welcome.

CDA passed to AC to provide information on Work Health and Safety as well as emergency planning. AC explained that A+G has created an Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) in line with the Australian Standard for Emergency Planning. The purpose of the EPC is to ensure the development, implementation and maintenance of the emergency manual for both Centres. The EPC has an Arts Capital Board Member, Arts Capital CEO, Facility Manager, Production & Technical Manager, one resident each from Ainslie Arts Centre and Gorman Arts Centres and an artsACT representative. AC noted that ACT Property Group declined their invitation to have a representative on the EPC.

Currently, the emergency manual for the Centres is being finalised before approval from the EPC and being distributed to residents.

AC explained that A+G send bi-annual Work Health and Safety reports to artsACT and, reminded residents to please inform an A+G staff member if they wish to raise any Work Health and Safety concerns.

Item 4 Gorman Arts Centre Strategic Planning

CDA shared with the residents the four aims in Arts Capital's draft strategic plan and asked for any feedback from the residents.

There was a general consensus amongst the residents that the strategic plan should state a clear vision of what the Centres represent in the past, present and future. As well as a commitment of change and growth.

MVV sincerely stated that A+G want the input and involvement of all residents in all aspects of centenary renovation processes, as all residents are integral to the growth and improvement of the Centres.

CDA explained the tentative next steps in centenary renovation proceedings. Firstly, the artsACT drop-in session occurring shortly after the advisory group meeting. Secondly, to collate the shared concerns of the



Gorman Arts Centre

residents. Thirdly, to continue appropriate and strong advocacy on behalf of residents to artsACT, and finally, to seek more information regarding the status of engaging an artsACT renovation project manager. Noting that in all steps, collaboration between artsACT, residents and A+G is integral to navigate the upcoming months.

CDA ended the meeting at 1:27pm and thanked all residents for their time, support and input. Noting that she is looking forward to engaging more with each resident and organisation.