



Minutes

Ainslie Arts Centres Resident Advisory Group

Meeting #G-22-003-A

Date: Thursday, 24 November 2022 **Venue:** Room 14, Ainslie Arts Centre

Start time: 10:10 am

End Time: 11:08 am

Meeting Chair: Hugh Withycombe, GAC resident

Residents attending:

AJ America (Luminescence Chamber Singers)

Phoebe O’Leary (Girls Rock!)

Arts Capital board/staff attending:

Adelin Chin, A+G Business Manager

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

Elizabeth Curry, A+G Venue Hire Coordinator

Isabelle Sheppard, A+G Administration and Customer Service Officer

Lachlan Johnson, A+G Major Projects and Strategy Officer

Rochelle Whyte, A+G Programs Manager

Rebecca Worth, A+G Marketing Coordinator

Apologies:

Angela Hannan (Canberra International Music Festival)

Agenda Item

Item 1 Welcome and apologies

Hugh Withycombe (HW) began the meeting by introducing himself and welcome everyone to the meeting, passing over to Carly Davenport Acker (CDA) to acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Ngunnawal and Ngambri Peoples in an Acknowledgement of Country.

Item 2 Strategies – towards fundraising

CDA informed the group of various updates to systems and processes at A+G, including the announcement of Strategic Plan initiatives. One of these initiatives include a focus on sustainability by broadening Arts Capital fundraising strategy. Within these efforts, hearing the need for more pianos, specifically a grand piano for the Ainslie Main Hall. Additionally, CDA shared another significant initiative, a First Nations Strategy. This



strategy will incorporate training and capacity building opportunities regarding programming at A+G.

Item 3 Gorman Arts Centre - Centenary Renovations

Centenary renovations for Gorman Arts Centre has been confirmed to begin in late 2023. With the beginnings of movement and disruption tentatively scheduled for July/August 2023. Within this tentative timeline CDA informed the group that any impacts upon AAC that may arise will be promptly communicated to Residents. Revisiting minutes from the previous Advisory Group meeting, CDA explained that plans for AAC Centenary Renovations remains a priority for Arts Capital.

Item 4 Arts Capital Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan for Arts Capital is in the process of being revisited to align with the results of the recent artsACT Investment Framework Funding outcome. The initiatives announced, have been created with collaboration, partnership and wellbeing at the core of their aim. CDA confirmed that the outcomes of these initiatives have been designed with Resident needs at the forefront. CDA passed to Adelin Chin (AC) to discuss the recent results of the artsACT Investment Framework.

Item 5 ArtsACT Investment Funding Results

AC shared with the group that like many other organisations that applied, Arts Capital did not receive the amount applied for. We received \$360k per arts centre, sustainably less than other arts centres were funded. Due to this, time is being taken to review operations and process so a plan to ensure financial sustainability can be created. Arts Capital were granted the Head-Licence of both Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres and await the Deed and Head-Licence.

CDA informed the group that she hopes to hold a forum in 2023, if there is interest, to engage and compile feedback from residents regarding the needs of the Canberra arts sector, with the intent to involve artsACT and/or document views to artsACT. CDA conveyed her commitment for supporting and communicating feedback. This action ideally will be aligned with the distribution of the forthcoming A New Approach (ANA) report regarding the state of arts investment throughout Australia and the National Cultural Policy being finalised potentially mid next year.

Item 6 Employee Assistance Program (EAP)



Lachlan Johnson (LJ) conveyed updates regarding the implementing an Employee Assistance Program. Arts Capital has engaged Work Happy who will provide up to 4 hours of counselling and wellbeing services per person and will be available to all Residents. Set to go live on December 15 2022, A+G will distribute information on this initiative.

Item 7 Programming, Resident Services & Opportunities in 2023

Rochelle Whyte (RW) shared with the group that A+G have been reframing programming, focussing on a creative approach rather than an event-based outcome. This creative approach allows for programming to centre on collaboration and engagement/support of residents. Initiatives of this include:

- An application process to access up to 100 hours (arts organisations) and 40 hours (individual artists) of in-kind venue hire.
- Networking and collaboration opportunities.
- Opportunities focusing on artistic development and experimentation.

These initiatives will be available in early 2023, more information, including the application for in-kind venue hire will be provided. Venue Hire Policy, including 2023 rates, is being drafted, which will include greater discounts for Residents. The policy and rates will be made available once finalised.

Item 8 Precinct Culture, Systems Reform – Moving Forward

The group discussed the environment at AAC, how the social connection can be improved through various initiatives including a café or kiosk offerings. As well as ways in which professional development opportunities can be created for Residents and others, including the possibility of governance, finance and administration support being included in a Creative Toolkit program.

Without any further discussion points, CDA thanked everyone for their time and valuable contributions, ending the meeting at 11:08 am.