



Minutes

Gorman Arts Centre Resident Advisory Group

Gorman
Arts Centre

Meeting #G-24-001-G

Date: Thursday 21 March 2024
Start time: 10:04 am
Meeting Chair: Phoebe Porter

Venue: Gorman Main Hall
End time: 11:49 am

Residents attending:

Andrew Sikorski
Ben Drysdale, Rebus Theatre
Cathy Adamek, Ausdance ACT
Emma Batchelor, QL2 Dance
Franki Sparke
Helen Wojtas, Canberra Youth Theatre
Hugh Withycombe
Kimmo Vennonen
Lucy Alexander
Luke Rogers, Canberra Youth Theatre
Natalie Wade, QL2 Dance
Phoebe Porter
Ruth Osbourne, QL2 Dance
Stuart McMillen

Arts Capital Staff/Board attending:

Andreo Esguerra, Marketing and Partnerships Manager
Carly Davenport Acker, CEO Arts Capital, Director A+G
Isabelle Sheppard, Business Administration Assistant
Jeremy Christian, Board Member, Arts Capital Board
Lachlan Johnson, Business Administration Assistant
Lauren Honcope, Chair, Arts Capital Board
Mauro Aviles, Facilities Manager
Pedro Ribas, Chief Financial Officer
Rebecca Worth, Lead Digital Storyteller and Content Coordinator
Sia Ahmed, Creative Development Manager

External Stakeholders attending:

Libby Gordon, artsACT
Toni Bailey, artsACT

Apologies:

Kirsten Biven



Agenda Item

Item 1 Welcomes, apologies, introductions, and Acknowledgement of Country

Phoebe Porter (PP) began the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country, welcoming all attendees and stating apologies.

Item 2 Previous Meeting Minutes & Action Items

PP provided a summary of the action items from the previous meeting. Arising from the survey sent in the previous year, training priorities were identified. Including First Nations engagement, mental health, and LGBTQIA+ inclusivity. Suggestions were made for specific training programs such as dance-specific intimacy training and access to free or low-cost resources for residents' well-being. Carly Davenport Acker (CDA) reflected on the successful activities conducted this year, including the wellbeing and resilience workshop with Work Happy, LGBTQIA+ awareness and Inclusion workshops with Meridian ACT and artist talks with the A+G Summer Artist Residency Program.

Mauro Aviles (MA) reminded the group of the duty of care training that will be held in the coming week. Emphasising the importance of duty of care in future initiatives, stressing the significance of how residents and other stakeholders fit into the cycle of activities.

ACTION: Publish suggested training topics in the Resident Portal

Rebecca Worth (RW) provided an update on resource-sharing efforts. It was noted that a two-way portal for document uploads and log-ins was not feasible within the tech resources available to A+G. PP provided feedback on the benefits of a resident profile update form, RW agreed that would be a beneficial addition to the Resident Portal.

Andrew Sikorski (AS) entered meeting.

ACTION: Create a resident profile update form for the Resident Portal

Lauren Honcope (LH) addressed the cultural heritage discussion invitations, sharing that she reached out to multiple organisations and Boards to initiate discussions. It was noted that while the item was being removed from the action item list due to being actioned, the invitation remained open for residents to engage in discussions about cultural heritage with her.

LH shared positive outcomes from recent activities, including an invitation to speak at the ACT Heritage Festival Launch, highlighting Gorman's recognition within the cultural heritage sphere.

Kimmo Vennonen (KV) entered meeting.

Moving on to other action items, LH stated that the Board are still in discussion surrounding what information is applicable and relevant from Board meetings to be shared with Residents. Additionally, LH confirmed that a standing agenda item re: strategic direction, Resident specific has been added to Board meetings. Lachlan Johnson (LJ) informed the group that the Venue Hire and Car Park policy remain in progress, sharing that the possibility of using the Ainslie Arts Centre Elder St car park for Residents to use is in discussion. Additionally, the bundling of services is also still in progress, although the issue of Resident's receiving two invoices monthly for core fees and usage fees has been actioned and now is on the same invoice, this update received positive feedback from the group. To conclude this item, MA informed the group that both the Gorman Emergency and Evacuation Procedures Manual and the summary of key information has been added to the Resident Portal.

Item 3 Arts Capital Operational Updates

PP passed to A+G staff to provide operational updates on various initiatives.

RW reflected on the positive outcome of the recent ACT Heritage Festival launch held at Gorman. Noting the positive audience engagement and welcoming speeches by LH and Minister for Heritage, Rebecca Vassarotti. RW encouraged the group to seek out more information on the program, highlighting Canberra Youth Theatre's involvement with their 12 Hour Theatre Project.

Isabelle Sheppard (IS) shared with the group, the successful finalisation of A+G's Disability Inclusion Action Plan. The plan has been in progress since 2019, IS took upon the completion of it in 2022. Working with former Board member Morwenna Collet, current Board member Eric Martin and A+G Residents, Liz Lea, Ben Drysdale and Daniel Savage, IS noted thanks and gratitude to all who helped finalise the document. In line with the publishing, a presentation of the plan will be held by Liz Lea on April 10th at Gorman.

LH provided an update on resident and board communications. Gorman renovations are set to commence in July and encouraged Residents to reach out for any feedback or questions. Additionally, discussions regarding centenary renovations were highlighted, CDA noted that artsACT will be joining the meeting



Gorman Arts Centre

for a renovation related Q&A. LH expressed appreciation for residents' patience and understanding during the uncertain relocation process.

Andreo Esguerra (AE) discussed post-renovation vision and updates to the resident portal. Positive feedback was noted, with increased viewership on the resident portal since December-January. AE showcased changes to the portal, including views from both computers and phones, emphasising the importance of the portal to evolve with the needs of residents and to reach out for any and all feedback. PP raised concerns about maintenance issue processes and their visibility on the portal. MA provided an update on the MYBOS platform, indicating that upgrades were in progress to provide individual logins for all residents. He emphasized the importance of utilising MYBOS for maintenance requests and clarified its integration with the new CSA system for workplace health and safety issues in the future. Further clarifying that in the mean-time and whenever in doubt to contact the A+G team and/or himself for any maintenance and WHS related issues.

CA exited meeting

Toni Bailey (TB) and Libby Gordon (LB) entered meeting.

ACTION: Conduct Mybos training post-system upgrade

Item 4 ArtsACT Renovations Presentation Q&A

Moving on, TB began the next agenda item by clarifying if all members have been receiving the regular renovations email bulletins. To ensure the emails are being received, residents were encouraged to check their spam folders and to contact TB if their emails have recently changed. The meeting was then opened to all attendees to ask questions and begin discussions.

The topic moved to the development approval (DA) of the renovations project, TB stated there was no outcome as of yet, although approval is expected to be soon but a date cannot be confirmed. Luke Rogers (LR) asked if DA approval was required for all stages of the project. In response TB clarified that all areas require heritage approval prior to works beginning, whereas only certain areas require additional DA approval. Further clarifying that this is due to some planned works will interact with the physical building and heritage aspects of it where other areas are planned for aesthetic/internal changes only.

Concerns were raised regarding the inconsistency of planning documentation available by artsACT to residents on the portal. Discussion ensued with TB acknowledged that artsACT has provided plans with out-of-date proposals, thus leading to confusion in understanding the plans. She assured the group that the

plans available to them are correct and encouraged the group to reach out if they would like to go through the plans with herself or LB. Discussions relating to specific proposed plans to additional amenities and costings of them, such as heating, cooling, walls being removed or added ensued. LG confirmed that plans with the amount of specific amenity related detail were unable to be provided prior to the tender process. In response to questions raised regarding costings, LG confirmed that there is 20% budgeted for contingencies. To allow for unknowns that may arise in the investigative process, rising costs of construction and other unknowns. Regarding ongoing maintenance of possible additional amenities post-renovations, MA asked if there was budgeted amounts for A+G to continue that work. LG acknowledged the ongoing need for improved arts-related funding in the ACT, stating there is consistent advocacy for this. Additionally, she understood and acknowledged the ongoing requirements for maintenance upkeep of the Centres is an issue. SM asked if a list of current and historical maintenance issues were provided to artsACT prior to planning for renovations. LJ and MA confirmed that a comprehensive list was supplied alongside the annual maintenance reporting from A+G to artsACT.

Franki Sparke (FS) exited the meeting.

The conversation relocation and returning processes. Hugh Withycombe (HW) raised concern surrounding the timing of relocation processes coinciding with the start date of works. TB stated her confidence in relocation processes being finalised with appropriate amount of notice prior to works. Confirming that possible relocation spaces have been finalised for residents and will be communicated soon. Regarding the possibilities of residents returning to their original spaces or new spaces, CDA confirmed that those details are currently in conversation, although without confirmation on final renovation plans an answer is not available as of yet.

Moving on, physical accessibility and inclusion concerns were raised. Swipe card access to communal kitchen spaces as noted as a solution to allow access for residents to access kitchen spaces within their blocks. In response to detailed accessibility questions, TB stated she will confirm more information to be distributed regarding improvements to evacuation alarms, lighting and ramp access. LJ noted that confusion and questions raised all relate to requiring access to detailed and accurate planning documentation. LG confirmed she will investigate re-issuing planning documentation with updated and accurate information and book in a plan with A+G to discuss it further.

ACTION: conduct meeting with artsACT regarding updated and detailed plans

Noting the time, CDA sincerely thanked artsACT's TB and LG for facilitating a Q+A and thanked PP for Chairing and for all attendee's time and contributions, concluding the meeting at 11:49 am



Gorman Arts Centre

Summary of Action Items

#	Meeting	Action Item	Owner	Status
1	G-24-001-G	Publish resident training suggestions on resident portal	Arts Capital	New
2	G-24-001-G	Create resident profile update form to be put on the resident portal	Arts Capital	New
3	G-24-001-G	Conduct Mybos training post-system upgrade	Arts Capital	New
4	G-24-001-G	Conduct meeting with artsACT regarding updated and detailed plans	Arts Capital	New
5	G-23-002-G	Arts Capital Board to consider publishing applicable information/minutes from Board meetings.	Arts Capital Board	In Progress
6	G-23-002-G	Investigate bundling of service offerings.	Arts Capital	In Progress/ Ongoing
7	G-23-003-G	Request feedback from Residents re: draft Car Park and Venue Hire Policies	Arts Capital	In Progress
8	G-23-003-G	Add agenda items re: strategic focused item for Resident feedback on and 'Advice from Resident Advisory Group'	Arts Capital	Actioned
9	G-23-003-G	Invite Residents to chair and develop Advisory Group agenda for future meetings	Arts Capital/ Residents	Actioned
10	G-23-003-G	Add Emergency and Evacuation Manual summary to Resident Portal	Arts Capital	Actioned
12	G-23-003-G	Hold a separate meeting to discuss Cultural Heritage concerns in relation to renovations	Arts Capital	Actioned
11	#G-23-001-G	Investigate resource-sharing possibilities within the Resident Portal.	Arts Capital	Actioned
12	G-23-002-G	Arts Capital Board meetings to consider ongoing agenda item re: Resident needs and concerns.	Arts Capital Board	Actioned