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Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres

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Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres (A+G) operate on Ngunnawal Country. We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we work, the Ngunnawal people, as well as the Ngambri, Ngarigu and others who traded on, travelled through and connected with this land, and continue to do so. We recognise all Custodians of Country throughout all lands, waters and territories. We pay our respects to the Elders past and present.

Sovereignty was never ceded.



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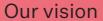
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Purpose and Vision

Our purpose

We cultivate inspiring places that enable creative encounters to happen



To sustain vibrant arts centres as supportive and stimulating places for artists and arts organisations who are committed to excellence



Creative places

To sustain vibrant arts centres as supportive and stimulating places for artists and arts organisations committed to excellence



Shared cultural experiences

To involve more people in shared cultural experiences



Art for our time

To facilitate critical dialogue between audiences and across disciplines



Responsible stewardship

To manage our facilities and resources efficiently and responsibly



Promotion and advocacy

To promote our residents and to advocate on their behalf



Civic engagement

To contribute to the cultural life of our region through innovative partnerships

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About Us

Formed in 2020, Arts Capital is a not-for-profit public company and registered charity working and living on Ngunnawal Country, Canberra, ACT.

Our company is led by a board of skilled, independent professionals with expertise in the arts and our collective knowledge and arts networks span all disciplines of cultural engagement. We capitalise on our connections to the local, national, and international arts sectors and Arts Capital draws on these robust relationships to deliver meaningful projects to the public.

Through the cultural precincts we manage and the urban sites we activate, we are aligned to the needs of our immediate community while connected to a global network of creative cities.

Arts Capital inherits and expands on the work of its predecessor organisation Gorman House Arts Centre Incorporated. Arts Capital is responsible for the management and operations of Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres.

About our centres

Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres are heritage-listed twin arts hubs located in Braddon in the heart of Canberra CBD on Ngunnawal Country and are home to Canberra's largest collective of professional artists and arts companies.

This community of multi-disciplinary artists produces work throughout the entire year and comprises Canberra's most exciting creatives.

From contemporary music to theatre and dance, we have been providing practical and conceptual support to this community for more than a decade. We manage projects from creative inception to delivery in a transparent and ethical way.

We cultivate inspiring places for creative encounters to happen at Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres – and beyond.







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From the CEO

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Who would have thought the pandemic would last this long? Certainly, the past 12 months have demonstrated that creativity cannot be stopped. Our community has adapted, and continues to adapt, to the ever-evolving COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns and demonstrates the resilience and perseverance our community has in creating, developing, and presenting works.

I feel privileged to witness our residents create such amazing, insightful, and sometimes unseen creative work and I am confident there will be many more opportunities to further build on our strong relationships with our arts community at Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres. Thank you for your grace and understanding as we navigate a changing environment, from the pandemic to the upcoming Centenary Renovations.

We started the year embarking on the development of a new Strategic Plan, working closely with our creative partners Ellis Jones and seeking input from our stakeholders through user surveys, co-design groups and one-on-one interviews. By the end of 2021, this research shaped our strategic planning initiatives and led to the development of a new A+G brand and website and tie-in with our forthcoming centenary plans. The initial work concentrated on design and seeking a firm commitment for site-wide renovations in the ACT August 2022 budget. Our intent for capital works has always been to bring both

centres into the 21st century, responding to the needs of users and public expectations, addressing the need for significant and essential upgrades to our heritage buildings, and ensuring both centres have a long-term active and sustainable future.

COVID-19 affected our financial story for 2021 considerably but we reacted decisively to support our artists. We experienced a significant 37% drop in earned income at the beginning of the pandemic, but as we worked to build our diverse income streams back to pre-COVID-19 levels we remained committed to assisting residents and regular hirers financially. This included providing access to larger venues at no additional cost at a time of capacity restrictions and the purchase of additional digital equipment to enable streaming and online activities to operate smoothly. During yet another lockdown in August, we had no hesitation in giving up to two months' rent relief for all residents.

Other areas of income increased, attributed to JobKeeper, COVID-19 support from the ACT Government, and a near 100% success rate at securing project grants. Such grants included the Creative Recovery and Resilience Program, supporting five artist-in-residencies, Amp It Up! supporting live music acts, Surface Urban Art Festival, a street art festival, and the Winter Event Fund, presenting a series of sensory activities for children.



I feel privileged to witness our residents create such amazing, insightful, and sometimes unseen creative work and I am confident there will be many more opportunities to further build on our strong relationships with our arts community at Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres.

I wish to thank the A+G team for their tireless commitment to the centres and our mission. The mental and physical health of A+G staff has been tested, but the supportive work environment, altering of duties, flexibility in work-from-home provisions and additional leave to cover home-schooling and caring responsibilities helped the team pull through.

We welcomed new colleagues and farewelled others. I would particularly like to acknowledge Joseph Falsone, Director and CEO of A+G and Arts Capital Limited for the past 10 years. He departed in March 2022 and will be sorely missed. We wish him and his family all the best. I also acknowledge Adelaide Rief, our former Program Manager, who brought an open enthusiasm and creative energy to the team and ideated many of our memorable events and activities. The Program Manager baton has passed on to Rochelle Whyte and I am confident that she and our other senior managers will steer A+G effectively as the search for a new CEO/Director commences.

Next year promises what I can only describe as an exciting slate of 'go live' moments – a new Strategic Plan published, A+G re-branding, a new website launched, a fully-funded Centenary Works commitment from the ACT Government and an intense schedule of live events and performances.

I appreciate the authentic engagements and relationships we have at A+G as individuals and collectively – staff, residents, partners, and visitors. I have no doubt that we will thrive through adversity and look forward to a bright future.

Addi-Chi.

Adelin Chin
Interim CEO, Arts Capital Limited
Interim Director, Ainslie + Gorman
Arts Centres



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From the Chair

In reviewing the year that was 2021, I am amazed at what we have accomplished despite the disruption of the ongoing pandemic. These achievements reflect the strength of the Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres team and their resilience in delivering during challenging times. The Arts Capital Board is pleased to support this extraordinary team and their pursuit of excellence in cultural management; their unwavering commitment is the heartbeat of the organisation.

We continue to be energised by the upcoming Centenary Renovations of our art centres and to achieve this project, Arts Capital has been working closely with the ACT Government to realise our vision. We have sought the views of our residents and other stakeholders to ensure the renewal and renovation of the arts centres meets the diverse needs of the ACT community for future decades.

Over the past year, Arts Capital undertook a strategic planning process to guide the organisation; initiated a rebranding project to strengthen our identity; and made plans to launch a rebranded website. These initiatives will support the Centenary Renovation project and strengthen the diverse range of activities undertaken by A+G.

The Arts Capital Board expresses its gratitude to our many resident organisations, program partners, hirers, and supporters for their ongoing contributions to the local and

national cultural community that secures A+G's future as a cultural showpiece in the Canberra CBD. Our shared goals have strengthened our arts community over the past two years of the pandemic.

A major staff change to the organisation occurred with the recent resignation of our Arts Capital CEO, Joseph Falsone. Joseph has been responsible for the care of A+G over the past 10 years and in that time has built an experienced and dedicated team which has transformed the art centres and set the agenda for future growth.

Joseph's departure comes at a time of renewal and promise for the organisation. The new CEO will work with Arts Capital to realise a new era for A+G. We wish Joseph well in his future endeavours and will miss his leadership and camaraderie. I would like to thank Adelin Chin for acting as Interim CEO. Adelin brings extensive business experience and leadership skill to the role.

I am confident that the best for Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres lies ahead.

Mille

Mark Van Veen Chair Arts Capital



Creating Value

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	2017-2021	2021
Value of employment created for arts workers	\$4,343,267	\$1,058,312
Other income generated (excluding COVID-19 subsidies)	\$5,229,221	\$963,724
Key Arts Organisation funding received	\$1,515,074	\$344,506
Value of A+G rental subsidies for artists + arts orgs (based on estimated market rent)*	\$1,721,146	\$261,969
In-kind program support given to artists	\$337,743	\$67,034
Ainslie Arts Centre visitors (door count)	378,424	65,257
Arts and cultural program visitors	430,989	54,848
Cash income generated for artists	\$463,194	\$54,811
In-kind support given to resident programs	\$115,627	\$34,837
Employment opportunities created for Casual Arts Workers	1169	175
Number of artists engaged in programs	3,019	10
Visiting artist residencies (staying on-site)	35	6
New ongoing full or part-time arts jobs created	14	4
New works supported	246	2
Performances and events	376	1





We leverage core funding

From 2017-2021, for every \$1 of Key Arts Organisation funding provided by the ACT Government, Arts Capital generated an additional \$3.45 in income



We grow creative industries

Between 2017 and 2021, for every \$1 of Key Arts Organisation funding provided to us, we delivered:

We create jobs

In five years we have created:

14

New ongoing fullor part-time jobs for arts workers

175

Employment opportunities for casual arts workers Since 2017, our programs have supported

430,989 Event and venue

hire visitors 246

New works

3,019 Artists

376

Public events

35

Visiting interstate/ international artists In 2021 we supported

50

Resident artists and organisations

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Building for the Future

The next chapter of Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres has begun. With the conclusion of our most recent five-year planning cycle, which saw successful governance transition and charity registration, Arts Capital has its sights on significant transformation and renewal at Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres.

Three major initiatives will set the organisation's directives for the next six years: the Centenary Renewal Planning Project, development of a new Strategic Plan, and a new brand direction with the launch of an updated website.

Arts Capital entered a creative partnership with Melbourne/Naarm-based consultancy firm Ellis Jones to design and coordinate a series of engagements with key stakeholders that would inform our plans and actions. Ellis Jones is an established research, strategy and communications firm specialising in social impact projects. It has extensive experience in similar projects with comparable arts and cultural organisations and a sophisticated understanding of the needs of users in heritage-listed, multi-disciplinary arts facilities. Through most of 2021 Ellis Jones and Arts Capital ran a series of co-design working groups, visitor surveys and key stakeholder workshops to discover what the ACT cultural sector and users of the centres needed from A+G. Included amongst these stakeholder engagements were:

- 17 one-on-one interviews with representative stakeholders
- A visitor and community survey
- A survey for resident artists, arts workers and program partners
- A survey for board and staff

- The establishment of a co-design group with a series of co-design workshops
- A series of staff and board workshops
- An opportunity for resident artists and arts organisations to provide detailed written submissions

It became clear that the Canberra community wanted a contemporary networked arts hub, state-of-the-art theatres, contemporary gallery spaces, rehearsal halls and ample opportunities to socialise, engage and brainstorm within an active and thriving arts community. Parents wanted a place for their children that allowed them not only to attend cultural events but to engage creatively with the arts – to learn music and experience theatre and a wide range of arts.

Community was at the heart of discussions and was critical to planning. Our resident artists and arts organisations need to live and work in buildings that foster connections and support both small and large-scale works. With their central location and heritage history, Ainslie Arts Centre and Gorman Arts Centre will be brought into the 21st century, to best service and support a maturing artistic city centre and to retain creative talent in Canberra.

I don't think there is another space like Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres. It's unique in that it provides a hub for the arts community. You can't insert an atmosphere into a place. That's what it has that others don't; an artistic, welcoming feel to it.

Regular hirer, April 2021



The initial work formed the foundation of several distinct but interconnected projects that began in 2021 and will continue into 2022. They will ensure that decision-making about the future of Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres is guided by a shared vision, based on an understanding of user needs and informed by an evidence-based assessment of key opportunities and constraints.

Centenary Renewal Planning

Gorman Arts Centre and Ainslie Arts Centre are nearing their respective centenaries (2024 and 2027). The ACT Government has engaged Philip Leeson Architects to deliver renovation plans for both centres and \$8 million was pledged by ACT Labor in the 2020 Territory election to renovate Gorman Arts Centre by 2024.

This commitment to renovate recognises the crucial role these facilities play in the ACT arts sector and broader community. It also aims to address a raft of underlying safety issues that threaten to compromise the heritage value of the buildings and the continuing operation of the arts centres.

In 2021, the first exciting steps towards renovations were taken with a project control group being formed with representatives from Arts Capital, artsACT, Major Projects Canberra and Philip Leeson Architects.

The group met throughout the year to discuss the stakeholder engagement findings and conduct preliminary site tours in order to develop an understanding of the needs of the residents, users and visitors of Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres.

The project control group continues to meet, with design work for the renovations scheduled to commence in 2022.

Arts Capital embarked on the development of a Strategic Plan 2022-2027 with Ellis Jones for the future of Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres, considering everything that was learned from the stakeholder engagement process. This planning process also aimed to address:

- the prospect of transformative centenary renovations for both centres
- the promise of a new artsACT Key Arts Organisation funding round
- a variety of new opportunities provided by the governance restructure
- the evolving impacts of COVID-19 on the arts sector and local community

The strategic planning process continues to run concurrently with the renovation design project to ensure alignment of interests. Publication of the Strategic Plan 2022-2027 is scheduled for 2022.

Brand ID + Website

It is part of A+G's DNA to engage with contemporary design best practice. Through conversations, public surveys and workshops with public and internal stakeholders, four key words were used to describe how the users of the centres felt about our spaces and acted as the conceptual anchor to guide design outcomes:

Central

Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres are central to the cultural life of Canberra. Central in terms of geography, sitting in the heart of Canberra CBD and increasingly connected to the heart of city life and redevelopment. Central to the local arts experience for Canberrans, through tuition, programming, performance and as a platform for emergent and established arts practice. Central to Canberra's past as some of the first buildings to stand in a new capital, and central to the future through focused investment by government.

Layered

Our history is rich, layered and continuous, from the traditional owners, through European settlement, past lives of buildings, and the many stories of our communities past and present.



We are not wedged on either side of a 'stucco monument', we are richer and more relevant because of the sum of our parts. The layers of our past are the strong foundations of our future.

Real

We tell it straight, without hubris or spin. We do our best. Our community knows this and respects it. This trait informs all our interaction with our residents, with their communities, with government and stakeholders. We are unapologetic in the pursuit of potential and vision, yet we acknowledge our capacity and resource. We follow through. We do what we say we'll do. We do it with humility.

Transformative

To cross the threshold to A+G is both action and event. While the experience you seek may be specific and unique, you join a common commitment to the transformative, challenging and enticing world of creative endeavour. Enter a community of diverse practices with a uniting spirit of acceptance, access, elevation and engagement. The arts reframe the potential of a participatory, democratic capital as a place for sharing stories, and together realising a better future.

Substantial work was undertaken between Arts Capital and Ellis Jones on bringing this brand to life through the design of a new website that will better service the needs of the A+G residents and the broader community.

Design work on the new A+G website was finalised towards the end of 2021 with development and launch to commence in 2022.

Our history is rich, layered and continuous, from the traditional owners, through European settlement, past lives of buildings, and the many stories of our communities past and present.



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At a Glance

89,522

Visitors to our centres

Performances + events

22,777

Visitors to our website

62,013

Website page views

9,992

Social media following

\$26,550 14

Earned income for artists

32

Number of artists who received an income

New works + creative developments

Artist Residencies

\$76,800

Rent relief delivered

24

Creative partnerships with individuals and organisations

Days closed due to COVID-19

Project Grants won



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Arts + Cultural Programming

While the impacts and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic were continuing and significant, A+G did not waver from our commitment to supporting and creating opportunities for Canberra-based artists and creative communities.

Our programs, many online when they could not continue in person, helped develop new or existing skills and knowledge in arts practice.

We take a multidisciplinary approach to the arts that aligns with the goals of contemporary artists. With lessons learned from 2020, we were able to adapt quickly and respond purposefully to deliver successful programs, acknowledging our important role in creating stimulating spaces for artists and audiences.

A vital part of our work is facilitating the creation of professional networks and skills sharing.

Our Live Art Lab and Kids x Art programs supported the creative development of six artists and their national and international mentors, the Intertwine program brought together local artists and nature-based play facilitators for cross-disciplinary learning and collaboration, and we worked with local and interstate touring artists to present original and cutting-edge music and theatre experiences for audiences.

Through the development of meaningful partnerships, we presented ongoing activities such as the LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club, which offered a safe, intergenerational space for

marginalised communities to gather and socialise. We also worked closely with A+G resident organisations to present programs and events that encouraged artistic development and unique audience experiences.

New funding programs were created for the arts sector by the ACT Government in response to the pandemic. They presented opportunities for A+G to widen our community of diverse artists and networks and continue to build strong relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, artists and cultural practitioners. We secured a competitive tender to deliver five artist residencies as part of the Creative Recovery and Resilience Program, which delivered support to both arts organisations and artists. It will operate to June 2022. The residencies delivered by A+G were designed specifically to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and artists who work in Community Arts and Cultural Development.

We won several key grants in 2021 that provided a total of \$187,000 in additional funding for programming. They included the Winter Events Fund through Events ACT, which enabled a collaborative art-making experience for children and families called Sensory Art Lab; Amp It Up! funding through artsACT to present an exciting and diverse contemporary music program; and a Community Street Art Grant through Transport Canberra and City Services to support the delivery of key program activities for the inaugural Surface Urban Art Festival.





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Creative + Professional Development



Live Art Lab

Live Art Lab was a creative development program for ACT-based independent artists that supported experiential practices and ideas that might otherwise be excluded from traditional art forms. The program offered artist fees, access to studio space, support and guidance from our producers, networking, and professional mentorship. It linked local artists into national and international conversations about arts sector best practice.

In 2021 the program ran between August and December. Due to the high quality of proposals received for Live Art Lab, four artists were chosen to take part, up from three in 2020.

Canberra-based artists Ade Suharto, Cathy Petocz, 莎瑜 ShaYu (Elyshia Weatherby and Zhi Yi Cham) and Zora Pang were the program participants in 2021 with support from mentors Padmini Chettur (India), Willoh Weiland (Hobart/ Nipaluna), Corin Illeto (Melbourne/Naarm), Rory Green (Sydney/Gadigal) and Caroline Woolard (US and Germany).

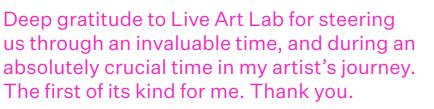
The ideas examined by the artists and their mentors were broad in creative scope. Indonesian contemporary dancer Ade Suharto (2021 Pina Bauch Fellow) and collaborator Alison Currie, a South Australian dance artist, worked with mentor Padmini Chettur to develop a shared choreographic language that addressed the need for new ways to collaborate remotely. Theatre-maker Cathy Petoczs examined ideas and experiences of faith using the structure of the Surrealist game the Exquisite Corpse with mentorship from award-winning artist and producer Willoh S Weiland. Arts producer and community facilitator Zora Pang explored frameworks



for community art-making and collective producing with a focus on breaking down language barriers in facilitated conversations with guidance from US based artist, researcher, and facilitator Caroline Woolard. 莎瑜 (ShaYu), a duo consisting of poet Zhi Yi Cham and electronic musician Elyshia Weatherby, researched techniques of interactive digital spaces for audience engagement, working closely with mentors Corin lleto and Rory Green.

The program has enabled artists from different disciplines to engage in individual and collaborative exploration of their own and each other's creative practice, and to form a community of supportive networks for critical conversation and skills sharing.

Live Art Lab supported the development of their projects with a total of \$12,000 in artist fees and a further \$4,000 for their mentors.



Ade Suharto, dance artist

Coming from a country and context where there is no support either for process or product(!), it's been curious for me to see and understand these valuable spaces of dialogue that residencies like yours make possible, so thank you for this.

Padmini Chettur, mentor

Kids x Art Residency

The Kids x Art Residency supported the development of art for young people. By providing a studio space, stipend, and access to paid mentors, it enabled an individual artist to make new creative works for children and young adults.

Michelle Day, a sculptor and installation artist, was selected to develop a collaborative project that combines science, children's art and artists. The Slow Art Collective (Melbourne/Naarm) was engaged as Michelle's mentor.

The Slow Art Collective's experience in designing art installations that spark children's creative curiosity through play guided Michelle during her residency.

Michelle's on-site residency was delayed until October 2021 due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Fortnightly online meetings enabled discussions to begin and an outcome for the project is expected in 2022.







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Intertwine

A+G embarked on a nature-play program through the Intertwine project. Nature play is child-led activity in which children engage with natural elements such as logs, rocks, water and sand. There are significant health benefits through exposure to fresh air, sunshine and fun a way to exercise fine and gross motor skills.

Intertwine was a professional workshop program for ACT-based nature-play facilitators and artists, designed to encourage skills sharing and the seeding of new collaborations. The program was co-facilitated by artist Bohie Palecek and educator Selina Hardwicke. Five artists and five nature-play facilitators were selected for the program, which was held virtually due to the COVID-19 lockdown in August 2021. A+G worked closely with the facilitators to keep the sessions engaging and collaborative in a virtual space.

Intertwine was enhanced by a Welcome to Country by Ngunnawal elder Wally Bell. His inspiring words about the importance of connection to land reflected our ongoing commitment to meaningful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Intertwine was supported by an advisory group of working professionals from the sector. The input of Wendy Cave, Principal of Ainslie Public School; Dr Cathy Hope, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Play, Creativity, and Well Being Project, Centre for Creative and Cultural Research, University of Canberra; and Elle Greet, Assistant Director of Communications and Engagement, Chief Minister's Directorate were all critical to the success of the project.

Intertwine was supported by Nature Play Grants, Office of Sports and Recreation.

CLUBSCORE

CLUBSCORE was devised by Zev Aviv, Emma McManus, Angus McGrath, Tristan Meecham, and Ketura Budd and was developed out of the Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres program Ahead of the Game with support from artsACT. CLUBSCORE is an original interdisciplinary theatre work and a performance commemorating trans and gender diverse sports heroes. The workshops and ongoing theatre experiments were hosted in F Block Gallery. Further creative development is scheduled for 2022.

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Ainslie Salon + Gorman Sessions

Ainslie Salon + Gorman Sessions was a curated program of contemporary live music presented in Gorman Arts Centre and Ainslie Main Hall. It was designed to showcase diverse genres including indie pop, folk and electronic music. The program offered ACT-based artists opportunities to perform alongside interstate peers, develop professional networks, and earn much needed income. The Ainslie Salon + Gorman Sessions program addressed A+G's commitment to creating cultural vibrancy, artistic opportunities, access to venues and audience engagement.

A+G has a long history of supporting original, contemporary live music and despite the setbacks posed by the pandemic we have been proactive in providing access to our venues to interstate touring acts and ACT-based headliners. In 2021 Ainslie Salon + Gorman Sessions presented John Sharkey III, Hachiku, Mere Women and Brendan Keller-Tuberg with more shows programmed for 2022.

This program is supported by Amp it Up! funding managed by artsACT.

LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club

LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club was a monthly social event for people over 55 from the LGBTIQ+ community, conceived by Melbourne/Naarm-based company All The Queens Men (ATQM). The LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club is delivered in partnership with local health advocacy body Meridian (formerly the AIDS Action Council). This event is specifically for LGBTIQ+ elders to foster social inclusion, create opportunities for new connections and to engage in healthy physical activity. The event was scheduled to take place





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monthly in 2021 but due to COVID-19 disruptions it was possible to hold only seven in-person events rather than the proposed 10. To make up the shortfall, ATQM presented

Canberra/Ngunnawal-based arts producer Ketura Budd and Dance Captain Jordana Mitchell were key drivers of the event.

The success of the Dance Club has led to strong backing for its continuation in 2022.

The LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club was supported by the Seniors Grant Program, Office of Seniors and Veterans.



online versions with support from A+G.

Kids + Their Families

Sensory Art Lab

Sensory Art Lab was a collaborative interactive art experience designed by Slow Art Collective for children, their families and caregivers. With a focus on exploration, play, the use of sustainable DIY materials and creative approaches, the program invited participants to engage and help create through a series of arts-based activities that include tactile textile jungle gyms, glow-in-the-dark play spaces, weaved archilooms and kids' archery.

Sensory Art Lab was originally programmed to be delivered across two weeks in August 2021 but due to COVID-19 restrictions was rescheduled several times. The program is now set to be delivered in April-May 2022.

Sensory Art Lab is funded by the Winter Events Fund, managed by Events ACT.

Digital Projects

Do it (home)

Do it (home) is a global project originally conceived by curator Hans-Ulrich Obrist and produced by ICI (Independent Curators International) in 1995 and is a collection of artist instructions on how to create an artwork. In response to COVID-19, a new version of Do it (home) was developed to bring artistic engagement into private homes. In late 2021, A+G joined more than 50 global art spaces to distribute several Do it instructions online, inviting participants to interpret the instructions and develop a work, be it conceptual or physical.







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O Supporting our Residents

A+G continued to work closely with resident organisations to support programming across the centres, providing in-kind support valued at \$17,420 throughout 2021.

Canberra International Music Festival

Canberra International Music Festival brought its annual festival to our centres, using classrooms at Ainslie Arts
Centre as a rehearsal hub for performers across the festival period. The festival once again hosted Up Close at Gorman, a musical journey where small groups of people moved between multiple venues at Gorman Arts Centre to experience a program of short concerts curated by festival artistic director Roland Peelman. All venues were provided in-kind as part of a sponsorship agreement developed by the A+G Programs and Marketing teams in consultation with the festival.

Canberra Youth Theatre

In 2021, A+G again partnered with Canberra Youth Theatre in the delivery of its Emerging Artist Program, which included Resident Artists, Emerge Company, and Creative Developments programs.

The Resident Artists worked with four emerging theatremakers in a year-long residency that provided opportunities to participate in creative conversations, professional collaborations, learning opportunities and to create professional pathways for the participating artists. Alongside this program is Emerge Company, which focuses on ensemble training for young theatre makers and results in public presentations of self-devised work including two script developments.

Luminescence Chamber Singers

A+G continued to support Luminescence Chamber Singers with in-kind access to venue space at Ainslie Arts Centre, where the company held rehearsals for their public programs. In March 2021 Ainslie Main Hall was the venue for Luminescence's open community rehearsal ahead of its collaboration with Pheno for Patricia Piccinini's Skywhalepapa balloon launch, commissioned by the National Gallery of Australia.

Music For Canberra (MFC)

Music for Canberra, based at Ainslie Arts Centre, continued to be an important key resident organisation. After a year of disruptions, A+G worked closely with MFC to support the presentation of a number of end-of-year concerts and helped find appropriate space for larger ensemble rehearsals at both Ainslie and Gorman sites.





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Supporting the Arts Community



1:1 Concerts, Australia

1:1 Concerts offered a bespoke private music experience, lasting just 10 minutes, for one musician and one audience member. The concept was born in Germany in 2019 just before the COVID-19 pandemic and was quickly recognised internationally as a way in which money could be raised for artists who have lost a great deal of income due to lockdowns. A+G supported the presentation of these intimate concerts in Canberra along with Old Parliament House, Canberra Potters Society, the National Carillon, and Wesley Uniting Church. The project raised more than \$20,000 to directly support artists undergoing economic hardship.

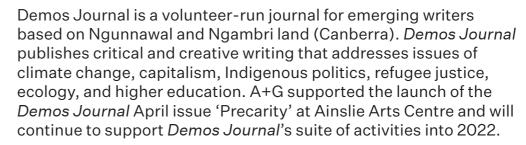
Mt Ainslie Music Club

Mt Ainslie Music Club was a monthly free improvision music event held on the first Thursday of each month. It was facilitated by Canberra/Ngunnawal musician Tom Fell and brought musicians and artists together to play, experiment and foster critical conversation between practitioners in the ACT. A+G supported this project as a host venue and provided Tom Fell a stipend to coordinate the event. Mt Ainslie Music Club's first public session was in November 2021 and sessions will continue into 2022.

Open Studios

Design Canberra presented Studio Stories as a COVID-safe alternative to the successful 2020 Open Studio activities. Gorman Arts Centre residents were filmed in their studios alongside their work and the results shared via A+G social media platforms.

Demos Journal



The Stranger by Chris Carroll

Sell-out performances of *The Stranger*, by Chris Carroll, re-established the Ralph Wilson Theatre as a compelling space for small-scale original, contemporary theatre work. This adaptation of the Albert Camus novella was devised, directed and performed by Carroll, who is artistic director of Bare Witness Theatre Company.

Visiting artists in the Gorman Arts Centre loft

- Peter Polites: ACT Writers Eminent Writer in Residence (Sydney/Gadigal)
- Tony Llewellyn Jones: theatre director and actor (Sydney/Gadigal)
- Gabrielle Carey: writer (Sydney/Gadigal)
- Lloyd Allison-Young: theatre maker and actor (Melbourne/Kulin)
- Isabelle Carmody: writer (Sydney/Gadigal)
- Alison Currie: dancer and choreographer (Adelaide/Kaurna)

I am very grateful for being given the opportunity to make the show happen, the responsiveness from A+G to support it, and the commitment of time, energy and resources, through difficult circumstances, in co-producing it. I believe the project can speak to the immense value of in-kind support for lowering access barriers for artists, and the mutual benefit for artists and arts organisations in working together towards artistic excellence, audience engagement, and an active, vibrant venue.

Chris Carroll







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2021 Resident Spotlight: Tributary Projects

In October 2021, Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres welcomed artist-run initiative Tributary Projects to B Block Gallery, a space that formerly hosted the Nancy Sever Gallery. Acknowledging the impact the pandemic had on the Canberra/Ngunnawal creative community, A+G made the recently vacated gallery space available to other artists.

Tributary Projects is run by a collective of emerging artists, writers and curators, and provides opportunities for creatives in the Canberra/Ngunnawal region to present and discuss their arts practice in any discipline and from any background.

In December 2021, A+G supported Tributary Projects to present a Live Arts Fundraiser at Gorman Arts Centre. Participating artists were given the option of donating all or part of the proceeds to Tributary Projects to help cover organisational overheads as well as free and subsidised exhibition and program access to artists and producers. Through the generosity of 36 local and interstate artists, Tributary Projects raised more than \$3,100.

Artists during the pandemic have suffered, and it can be difficult, especially for emerging artists, to pay expensive gallery costs as well. Tributary Projects is a wonderful opportunity for artists to exhibit work, get their name out in the Canberra community, but also be involved within the arts community, in a place that's affordable.

Tributary Projects member Faith Stellmaker, The Canberra Times



Tributary Projects Fundraiser Photograph by Andrew Sikorski

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3 Our Place



Health and Safety

As both Ainslie and Gorman centres approach their centenary it was likely that lead dust contamination found in other old Canberra/Ngunnawal buildings would also be detected at A+G. This proved to be the case in early 2021. Robson Environmental tested window seals and confirmed the presence of lead dust at levels that were of minimal risk provided the windows were kept closed. Some doors were also found to be contaminated. Residents at both centres were immediately informed and a decision was quickly made to clean all window seals and doors at A+G, a task that was completed in early 2022.

In early 2021, A+G was audited for Work, Health and Safety and licence compliance as required by artsACT. Our maintenance team contributed to a smooth process by guiding artsACT staff and independent auditors through our heritage buildings. Several issues were identified such as slip and trip hazards, cluttered areas that posed a risk and items that required testing and tagging. The maintenance team promptly resolved all issues identified and were compliant with artsACT's requirements.

In mid 2021 the maintenance team noted that fire extinguishers were missing in several key locations at Gorman Arts Centre alongside out-of-date evacuation maps and safety manuals. A+G notified artsACT and worked closely with artsACT staff to identify a new evacuation training supplier. ArtsACT authorised a full fire extinguisher audit with Gorman Arts Centre missing fire extinguishers in most of its kitchens, including the restaurant. A+G maintenance team and artsACT moved quickly to replace the missing fire extinguishers and fire blankets.

From the audit it became evident that our maintenance team was overstretched and to maintain both sites adequately, especially during the autumn and winter months, a second maintenance officer was recruited to manage Ainslie Arts Centre.

With the maintenance team now in a good position to maintain both sites, we looked at improving our Work, Health and Safety systems and in late 2021, with the assistance of the Technical and Production Manager, who had previous experience using WHS systems, A+G purchased WHS Monitor.

Crisis Management Team + COVID-19

The Crisis Management Team (CMT) was first established during the bushfires in late 2019 when Canberra was shrouded in smoke for nearly month. In 2020, when the first wave of COVID-19 hit, the CMT acted swiftly to establish a set of protocols and COVIDSafe Plans in order to mitigate risk to the centres, A+G residents, the staff and the public.

In 2021, despite COVID-19's impact on our ability to deliver productions there was a successful management of COVID-19 through our ongoing COVIDSafe Management Planning, put into practice by our CMT. The CMT closely monitored ACT government restrictions, updating the COVIDSafe Plans to ensure that A+G residents, our staff and the public were provided with accurate information. Significant resources were spent to ensure that both centres were regularly cleaned and sanitised with a 100% compliance rate on every ACT Government Health inspection.

The measures that were put in place during this dynamic period were constantly changing but the outcome was that we were constantly compliant and there were minimal disruptions onsite due to actual virus spread.

In the past year production has been dramatically affected by COVID-19. There was a strict lockdown due to the Delta strain but the Omicron strain, which had less severe effects, meant some in-person activity could continue. Nevertheless, there were still many postponements and cancellations.



The delivery of our Ainslie Salon events was a success during the Omicron outbreak and the decision to divert resources away from some programming and commit to delivering the festival in full proved a success.

Connectivity at A+G

Arts Capital is committed to improving and delivering services to residents and users of Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres. The move to online events and higher usage of Wi-Fi due to COVID-19 made an upgrade of our internet capabilities at both centres timely. Our internet speeds increased from 100mbps to 400mbps and we continue to provide generous subsidised rates to all our residents of 50% off the costs for VOIP (internet phone system) and 65% off the costs for internet access.

Wi-Fi access was enabled in the Performance Wing and foyer at Ainslie Main Hall. High-speed streaming allows the successful delivery of online performances or hybrid theatre works. Gorman Arts Centre's B and F Block had two new access points installed, providing Wi-Fi to both blocks. By the end of 2021, we migrated third-party IT support providers, ensuring value for service and transparent stewardship of assets.

The Centenary Renovations Project will see the implementation of site-wide Wi-Fi coverage at both arts centres.

Keeping Us Green

Our century-old Hawthorn tree, located in a prime position in the heritage West courtyard, required continuing attention after storms in late 2020 lashed the capital. The tree was carefully trimmed and the trunk secured by skilled arborists to ensure structural integrity. In early 2021 the courtyard was opened for public enjoyment.

Gorman Arts Centre hosted Floriade: Reimagined and bulbs were delivered to our Maintenance Officer, who landscaped and designed the Tulip Garden located on the corner of Ainslie Avenue and Doonkuna Street. A+G engaged staff and residents to assist in the planting with spectacular results.

Floriade: Reimagined was initially introduced in 2020 as a community engagement initiative to create a tulip trail through Canberra's suburbs and engaged more than 100 schools, community groups and organisations. As an arts centre that takes pride in our heritage gardens, we were thrilled to participate in this community-led gardening initiative.

For Ainslie Arts Centre we commissioned timber recycling cult furniture-makers Thor's Hammer to craft a table for use in the Ainslie Arts Centre courtyard. We will look into acquiring more for use by Ainslie residents and the public. The purchase was made possible through the ACT Community Support and Infrastructure Grant.







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Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres

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Financial Reporting

2021 at a glance

\$1.5m

\$1.7m

Earned income*

Expenditure

\$104,001

Net deficit

We also received additional support of \$215,000 from the ACT Government for ongoing maintenance and operations of Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres

\$142,000

Federal Government COVID-19 support (JobKeeper)

\$76,800

Rent relief extended to residents

\$16,800

Rent subsidies applied to residents

17%

Increase in expenditure spent on COVID-19 facility cleaning, PPE and sanitising stations

^{*}Excludes COVID-19 support.

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Financial Reporting

•	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Core grant	\$281,400	\$285,628	\$291,701	\$298,264	\$304,975	\$558,792
Sub-licence fees	\$284,120	\$299,840	\$363,455	\$354,157	\$115,185	\$251,630
Co-working fees	\$45,000	c\$47,973	\$62,141	\$68,803	\$35,962	\$84,795
Other grants	\$66,407	\$65,015	\$78,111	\$95,924	\$107,763	\$123,364
Venue hire	\$205,716	\$253,865	\$249,270	\$272,737	\$181,189	\$246,096
Programs	\$148,720	\$227,457	\$197,651	\$180,541	\$59,638	\$106,927
Ainslie car park	\$80,253	\$94,900	\$103,336	\$111,542	\$95,891	\$81,720
Fundraising	\$-	\$-	\$60,000	\$20,000	\$547	\$-
Cost recovery	\$32,794	\$36,905	\$66,833	\$170,380	\$76,744	\$39,574
Admin services	\$21,397	\$26,624	\$24,877	\$24,261	\$24,261	\$28,605
Other	\$2,692	\$1,812	\$2,105	\$1,858	\$1,434	\$1,013
	\$1,168,499	\$1,340,019	\$1,499,480	\$1,598,467	\$1,009,133	\$1,522,516



COVID-19 Financial Support

ATO – JobKeeper	\$364,500	\$142,000
ATO – Cash flow boost	\$100,000	
ACT Government – Rent relief	\$358,094	
ACT Government – Crisis support	\$187,777	

\$1,010,371 \$142,000

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Employment	\$586,989	\$720,336	\$751,272	\$886,855	\$942,586	\$1,058,314
Building services	\$105,602	\$136,201	\$156,781	\$221,341	\$138,251	\$210,136
Utilities	\$114,430	\$142,498	\$157,696	\$142,963	\$105,309	\$101,486
Administration	\$116,104	\$97,714	\$120,035	\$177,023	\$188,198	\$208,555
Programs	\$190,383	\$233,393	\$188,739	\$72,941	\$49,739	\$73,158
Other grant expenses			\$1,455	\$-	\$30,949	\$5,262
Sponsored projects & fundraising	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Depreciation	\$35,478	\$33,145	\$38,204	\$34,889	\$38,081	\$35,136
Marketing	\$-	\$36,294	\$15,374	\$28,521	\$42,489	\$64,533
Equipment	\$4,153	\$9,654	\$4,911	\$13,263	\$10,856	\$11,937
Asset write-offs			\$13,122	\$1,310	(\$2,351)	\$-
	\$1,153,139	\$1,409,235	\$1,447,589	\$1,579,106	\$1,544,107	\$1,768,517
	\$15,360	-\$69,216	\$51,891	\$19,361	\$475,397	-\$104,001

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15 Financial Overview

Our financial story in 2021 echoes the agility and resilience demonstrated in 2020. Arts Capital continued to seek new opportunities to remain financially viable while advocating for better facilities and financial support for A+G residents. Increased investment towards government-owned arts centres would greatly contribute to the viability of A+G and the broader cultural community that we serve.

The first half of the year saw an exciting season of artistic programming and events, with plans in place for the Ainslie Salon + Gorman Sessions music series, Sensory Art Lab and Surface Urban Art Festival alongside resident and community events in late 2021. However, the lockdown in August meant another round of rescheduling, refunds and working from home arrangements.

Drawing on our previous experience with ACT Government-mandated lockdowns, the A+G team was able to respond quickly to the sudden announcement. Minimal staff worked onsite to ensure the safety of our centres. We rescheduled room and event bookings with artists, residents and external hirers. We issued refunds where necessary, with A+G forgoing \$90,460.66 in earned income. Staff whose regular tasks were not required were redeployed to work on the organisation's strategic planning and many staff members used the lockdown as an opportunity to undertake professional development and training. Despite our best efforts, many of our casual events team were affected by venue cancellations and core staff working hours were reduced to minimise expenditure.

During this time, the Board extended rent relief to all A+G residents, including Gorman sub-licensees, Gorman Commons and Ainslie co-working residents and advocated for sub-licensees to be considered for additional rent relief via ACT Property Group.

We undertook a review of our ongoing suppliers, considering options in market that best aligned with our needs, budget and shared values. After many years with OPC, formerly Sennell, we transitioned to MCR to manage our IT operations.

Our continued lobbying to the ACT Government for the centres resulted in additional funds, acknowledging the operational resourcing required to maintain two heritage arts facilities. The opportunity also arose to engage Ellis Jones to undertake broad stakeholder research and engagement, and we are working with artsACT to develop a design brief for site-wide comprehensive renovations to both centres based on their insights report. Centenary renovations will enable Arts Capital to meet our mission, in line with the Minister's Statement of Ambition, to provide space to support the creation of work by artists, arts organisations and aligned creative industries, develop our own artistic program, and present engaging work across all artistic disciplines, attracting audiences and building on diverse cross-sector partnerships.

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16 Summary of Trends

In 2021 our income streams were substantially affected by the COVID-19 lockdown measures. Function hire was down by 15%, reflecting hesitancy for large-scale in-person functions and events. Income from Ainslie Arts Centre car park hire also dropped by 15% in response to CBD-based employees working from home.

At the same time, venue-hire income increased, demonstrating the desire for in-person workshops, classes and education programs to continue, where possible. Our Creative Program also had close to a 100% success rate in application for project grants. This enabled our team of producers to develop works such as Sensory Art Lab, a series of child-specific activities and Nature Play, a professional development opportunity for local artists and art program facilitators.

As with 2020, support through the JobKeeper Scheme enabled staff retention and continuation of services to residents. We also secured a utilities rebate to the value of \$15,000.

The ongoing pandemic resulted in an increase to our operational expenses. Cleaning and hygiene services and products expense increased by 17% to address additional cleaning requirements, hand sanitiser stations and to provide PPE to staff. We expect this expense to be ongoing and will continue to absorb these costs, noting that we do not increase rental or venue hire fees to cover this.

Nearly \$100,000 in sub-licence and co-working rent relief and rent subsidies were also provided to assist A+G residents during the lockdown period.

\$50,000 was spent to resurface the carpark, recognising the earned income from Ainslie carpark that goes directly to the centre's operations and subsidies provided to residents.

Administration expenses decreased compared to the previous year. Persistent work by our Facilities team to address risk and public safety resulted in a 50% premium decrease for public liability insurance. Furthermore, many of our ongoing suppliers continued to provide high-quality service, value for price and, most importantly, meet the varied needs of our community.

Equity remains at more than 10% of revenue; this consists of a combination of cash, maintenance and asset replacement reserves, and exceeds the threshold determined by artsACT.



Ainslie Arts Centre Photograph by Andrew Sikorski



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7 Board + Staff

Established in 2020, the Arts Capital Board has an equitable gender balance and is made up of members who possess valuable skills that serve the needs of our organisations and community.

In 2021 the Arts Capital Board supervised the instigation and development of three major initiatives: the new Strategic Plan, a new brand direction with a launch of a new website, and the Centenary Renewal Planning Project. These initiatives are scheduled for implementation in 2022.

In 2021, the Board also initiated a Safeguarding Policy that aims to protect the welfare of vulnerable people who work in and visit the centres. As a registered charity, the Arts Capital Board is committed to these safeguarding measures and encourages Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres Residents to work with A+G on ethical risk management.

In 2021, the following members served on the Board:

Mark van Veen - Chair

- Arts and business management
- Curatorship and public programs
- Arts policy
- Artist (visual)

Suzie Campbell - Deputy Chair

- Director of Marketing, Development + Publications at National Cultural Institutions
- Marketing + brand development
- Strategic planning in cultural institutions



John MacCulloch - Company Secretary

- · Chartered Accountant
- Small business management
- Succession planning
- Business planning and restructuring



Sheridan Burnett

- Governance
- Exhibitions
- Grants and donations
- Insurance and risk management



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Morwenna Collett

Arts Policy

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- Disability + Inclusion
- Strategic planning
- Arts programming



Eric Martin OAM

- Architecture
- Heritage
- Building conservation
- Access + universal design



Dr Jodie-Lee Trembath

- Senior Policy Analyst at Universities Australia, former Director of Research at A New Approach Cultural Policy Think Tank
- Arts Policy + Research
- Strategic planning
- Risk management

Elizabeth Harris

- Lawyer (practicing)
- Contracts and negotiation
- Digital Arts Advocate with Agora



*Tim Langford

- Marketing Manager, national cultural institutions
- Arts Marketing
- Event Management
- · Sponsorship and fundraising

*Tim Langford resigned in 2021. Arts Capital would like to thank Tim Langford for his contribution to the Board.



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2021 Casual Event Staff

Kelsey Bagust

Ketura Budd

Lea Collins

Clare Coman

Jonathan Corcoran

Miriam Ellen-Barwell

Minna Featherstone

Samantha Fox

Tegan Garnett

Jayne Hoschke

Christian Huff-Johnston

Jeremy Christian

Talisha Jackson

Timothy Penkethman-Boxshall

Sarah Pritchard

Camille Struzina

Kylie Walsh

Madeleine Warner

Anni Wawrzynczak

Liam Wong

Natsuko Yonezawa

2021 Core Staff (at 31 Dec)

CEO + Director Joseph Falsone

Business Manager Adelin Chin

Program Manager Rochelle Whyte (Adelaide Rief*)

Marketing + Communications Manager Kristi Monfries

Facilities Manager Mauro Aviles

Technical and Production Manager Jeremy Christian (Rebecca Poulter*)

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Finance and Administration Officer Janam Shah (maternity leave replacement for Dolly Prajapati)

Strategic Planning Officer Lachlan Johnson

Weddings and Corporate Events Officer Jenni Curry

Administration and Customer Service Officer Lara Kissin* Isabelle Sheppard

Creative Producer (previously Venue Development Officer) Sia Ahmad

Assistant Producer Claudia Hogan

Marketing Coordinator Rebecca Worth

Technical and Venue Support Officer John Carberry

Venue Hire Coordinator Elizabeth Curry

Maintenance Officer – Gorman Arts Centre Jason Burgess

Maintenance Officer - Ainslie Arts Centre Matt Kristaly

Customer Experience Coordinator Kylie Walsh

2021 PROJECT-BASED AGAC STAFF

Creative Recovery and Resilience Producer Nyssa Miller

*Left in 2021



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Residents

We farewelled long standing Gorman Arts Centre resident ACT Writers Centre, who transitioned to a digital workspace and You Are Here Festival moved to a new office in Fyshwick. The departure of the Nancy Sever Gallery in B Block meant that A+G was able to welcome artist-run initiative Tributary Projects, who through COVID-19 had found themselves in need of a new home.

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Gorman Arts Centre also farewelled internationally renowned comic book artist Jon Sommariva, who moved from his studio to work from home. We also farewelled visual artist and former board member Genevieve Swifte, and we would like to thank her for the years of voluntary service to the A+G arts community and to the organisation.

Gorman Arts Centre

ACT Writers Centre (left in 2021)

Art Atelier

AusdanceACT

Australian Dance Party

Bryn Evans

Cameron Smith

Canberra Youth Theatre Inc

CAPO (left in 2021)

Cathy Mauk

Cherylynn Holmes

Franki Sparke Gorman Commons Residents Jan-Dec 2021

Genevieve Swifte (left in 2021) Greg Cassagne

Halstead Press You Are Here (left in 2021)

Ham Darroch Liz Lea

Jon Sommariva (left in 2021) Naractiv

Kirsten Biven **Design Community**

KV Productions Baha Agency

James Judge (left in 2021) Lucy Alexander

Mark Cranfield Steople (left in 2021)

David Barr Architects (left in 2021) Michael Desmond

Lillian Patterson (left in 2021) Michelle Dickerson

Musicale Pty Ltd

Ainslie Arts Centre Nicci Haynes

Pat Campbell CIMF (Canberra International Music Festival)

Australian National Eisteddfod Paul Summerfield

Girls Rock! Phoebe Porter

QL2 Dance Inc. Adelaide Rief (left in 2021)

Rebus Theatre Inc Musica Viva Australia

Sage and Mint Pty Ltd Luminescence Chamber Singers

Music For Canberra Sonic Light

Stuart McMillen

Tributary Projects

Weft Productions

The 2021 Annual Report was produced by the Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres Marketing Team

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