

## **Minutes**

### **Ainslie Arts Centre Resident Advisory Group**

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Meeting #G-20-02-A

Date: 19/11/2020                      Venue: Room 13, Ainslie Arts Centre

Start time: 1:35 pm                      End Time: 2:30 pm

Chair: Peter Thomson (Music for Canberra)

#### Residents attending:

Di Miley (Australian National Eisteddfod)

AJ America (Luminescence Chamber Singers)

#### Arts Capital board/staff attending:

Mark Van Veen, Chair

Joseph Falsone, CEO

Adelin Chin, Business Manager

Lachlan Johnson, Strategic Planning Officer

Lara Kissin, Administration and Customer Service Officer

#### Apologies:

Angela Hannan, (CIMF)

# Agenda Item

Item 1 Welcome and apologies

Peter Thomson (PT) began with an acknowledgement of country and introduced Mark Van Veen (MVV) to provide an update on board recruitment and strategic planning.

Item 2 Notes from the previous meeting

Joseph Falsone (JF) advised that copies of past minutes would remain available online for access.

Item 3 Update from the Arts Capital Board Chair

MVV summarised the Arts Capital board recruitment, primarily that a total of 23 applications were received for up to four vacant positions, and that the board had been impressed not only by the quantity of applications but also the quality. Four successful applicants had been chosen and would be announced after the upcoming Arts Capital General Meeting, when their appointment would be finalised. MVV noted all four nominated candidates would bring diverse skillsets and improve gender balance on the board.

MVV advised that the board was now ready to embark on a new cycle of strategic planning that would also inform centenary renovation planning and would be the board's main focus for the first half of 2021.

Item 4 Update from the CEO

JF spoke about the outcome of the ACT election, primarily the increased number of seats held by the ACT Greens and their desire to address structural issues in the arts such as funding transparency, which is included in the Labor/Greens parliamentary agreement.

JF also discussed ACT Labor's \$8 million dollar election commitment for Centenary Renovations at Gorman Arts Centre, which is also referred to in the parliamentary agreement. The meeting expressed hope that a similar commitment would be made before the next legislative assembly election, in time for the Ainslie Arts Centre centenary in 2027.

JF advised that the current head licence with artsACT is set to expire at the end of December 2020. artsACT have advised that they will be offering a one-year extension prior to the expiry and then at the end of 2021 they will offer a longer licence. The service agreements of Ainslie residents should not be affected by this process.

JF also provided several updates on issues raised in the previous meeting. Quotes had been obtained for outdoor furniture for the rear courtyard. Lower-cost options don't meet accessibility standards and a bespoke accessible design was very expensive – we are looking for a middle path but would tend towards including the more expensive option in our asset replacement plan to ensure the furniture meets accessibility requirements.

The Disability and Inclusion Access Plan would be included in the strategic planning process in early 2021, Arts Capital has nominated a new board member with lived experience of disability as well as significant relevant professional experience in arts administration.

JF also noted that he had received feedback from Ainslie residents about booking processes associated with public liability insurance evidence, and acknowledged that it would be more efficient not to require multiple copies from residents throughout the year when making bookings.

## Item 5 Sharing and discussion

PT opened a discussion with the group, inviting reflection on 2020 and sharing of experiences. Gratitude was expressed to A+G for their support during the pandemic, and a sense of optimism and hope for the future was expressed along with an acknowledgment that the future still holds many challenges.

The difficulties of transitioning to digital platforming were discussed, not only in a lack of access to technology but also a lack of expertise within existing organisations and the high cost of gaining access to such expertise.

This led to a conversation around the concept of resource sharing. The idea was floated not only of hardware being made available at the arts centre but also expertise to help facilitate online programming, and it was noted that this was an idea that could be explored in strategic planning and renovation planning. Digital advocacy was also discussed as part of this potential resource sharing, particularly given the large aggregate social media following of the arts centres and their many residents.

JF advised that the centres were about to undertake a Covid Safety Audit with Access Canberra. The group discussed the current processes and policies in place and suggested that the existing COVID-19 related signage now seemed excessive given the conditions on the ACT. JF advised that A+G had undertaken a comprehensive signage review which would be implemented before the end of 2020 to update both the quality of the signage itself and the tone.

## Item 6 Date and Time of Next Meeting

MVV and JF advised that the next meeting would be taking place early February 2021 with exact dates to be advised in the new year. PT drew the meeting to a close.