

AccessibleArts

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



accessibleARTS
ARTS + DISABILITY NSW

Contents

2	About Accessible Arts
4	Chair's report
6	Chief Executive Officer's report
8	Accessible Arts' people
12	Strategic Outcomes
14	Service
14	Arts programs
16	Training
17	Audience Development
19	Information and Public Relations

About Accessible Arts

VISION A society
in which people with disabilities
fully experience
and participate
in the arts and cultural life.

OUR BUSINESS

We are in the business of arts and disability. We work towards providing the following services across NSW:

- ▷ Expanding Audience Development by acting as a consultant to the arts and disability sectors to assist them with access, marketing strategies and significant initiatives.
- ▷ Supporting people with disabilities who want to become professional artists by brokering supportive environments in which artists can develop their arts practice and acquire business skills and by training arts workers who wish to work with artists with disabilities.
- ▷ Developing opportunities for people with disabilities to express their creativity.
- ▷ Giving voice to the lived experience of disability by providing a forum for work produced for and by people with disabilities and about disability.

OUR STAKEHOLDERS

- ▷ Disability arts workers
- ▷ Donors
- ▷ Partners
- ▷ Arts venues in NSW
- ▷ Arts organisations in NSW
- ▷ Board of Directors
- ▷ Arts NSW
- ▷ DADHC
- ▷ Australia Council for the Arts
- ▷ Subscribers
- ▷ Local councils
- ▷ Staff
- ▷ Artists with disabilities
- ▷ People with disabilities
- ▷ Disability organisations.

SANCHA DONALD, AART.BOXX ARTIST ANDREA MYERS
AND SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE CEO, NORMAN GILLESPIE.



MISSION

To promote full inclusion,
access and cultural opportunities in the arts
for people with disabilities
through advocacy, education and information.

Chair's Report



2006 was another year of steady growth for Accessible Arts. Following clear strategic directions, staff has increased, new projects have commenced and future ones are in planning.

In terms of organisational capacity Accessible Arts' Board of Directors has almost reached its full complement with the valuable addition of Elena Gildina as Treasurer and Josh Dowse. Regarding staffing, long standing staff member Stella Collier resigned, Stella an able administrator was replaced late last year by Mukesh Bhardwaj.

Importantly for the future capacity of the organisation a grant has enabled the funding of an Arts Development Officer for the next 12 months, this allows Accessible Arts to support existing, and identify future strategic model projects. Accessible Arts has had a stable financial year with total funding being enhanced by other smaller philanthropic grants.

Involvement with valuable existing projects continued in 2006 including Intimate Encounters, AArt Boxx, and IDPWD events. Exciting new projects developed including the Cultural Action Plan and the Creatability Project for Western Sydney which secured major funding which enabled the creation of

two new positions. Other exciting future developments are a collaboration with the Sydney Film Festival and a training conference, "The Arts Activated" which is scheduled for late 2007.

The provision of training has increased in the last year and importantly DAWN was expanded into regional areas. The past year has also seen continued improvements in Accessible Arts information and communications with improved website, publicity brochures and posters.

As we start 2007 I would like to thank fellow Directors and the Staff of Accessible Arts for their ongoing commitment to the organisation. The Board looks forward to another successful year with the continuation of current activities and the initiation of new projects.

Maryanne Ireland
Chair

Ceo's Report



PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

We have continued to accomplish much of our work by partnering with organisations, venues and individuals.

Once again we coordinated the arts program on behalf of the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) for International Day of People With a Disability (IDPWD) 2006. This partnership continues to strengthen as does the program which this year included 70 arts events across NSW.

Our collaboration with Noise resulted in a national call out for emerging artists between 12 and 25 years of age. This led to the well received AART.BOXX exhibition in the Utzon room courtesy of our on going relationship with the Sydney Opera House. The high quality of the work and the opportunity to develop relationships with these young artists has encouraged us to include AART.BOXX in our ongoing program.

We continued to auspice the grant which supports the well travelled exhibition of Intimate Encounters – Sexuality and Disability. Whilst the grant comes to an end, the relationship established over the past three years with photographer, Belinda Mason-Lovering will continue through involvement with other relevant projects.

In October, after hosting a visit from multi-disciplined artists from (VSA) New Jersey, formerly Very Special Arts, a sister city

It is my pleasure to report on an other year of achievements by Accessible Arts in forging opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in and appreciate the arts.

Ceo's Report

OPPOSITE PAGE: BIENNALE OF SYDNEY 06
COMMUNITY ACCESS DAY, MUSEUM OF
CONTEMPORARY ART, CIRCULAR QUAY.

SYDNEY'S LORD MAYOR CLOVER MOORE
& PAULA LATOS-VALIER



“Well, it was good to experience a little of the Biennale. This was the first time I had taken part in this event. It was good to have special tours, especially to meet one of the artists. Also, I liked the fact that some members of the Sydney City Council made an effort to come and meet with us...”

collaboration began. The new relationship led to VSA, NJ, holding an event around the time of International Day for People with a Disability (IDPWD) as part of the program that we coordinated in NSW.

Much our support for the sector is by way of encouragement, advice and promotion of programs developed by other organisations. As such we welcomed the opportunity to support a Day in the Theatre event, a range of performance workshops designed for people experiencing disability. This program, launched by the Spastic Centre, received a groundbreaking response across Sydney which culminated in coverage by the ABC's 7.30 report of both organisations.

A key partnership was initiated with the Biennale of Sydney 06 as the focus for the inaugural Lord Mayor's Community Access Day. The day was designated to provide access to contemporary art for people with disabilities and was attended by approximately fifty people with disabilities and included tours for blind, deaf and wheelchair users across three venues.

STRENGTHENING NETWORKS

In order to advocate for the involvement of people with disabilities in the arts we have worked hard to strengthen our networks.

The launch of Making the Journey in NSW by the Minister for the Arts, Bob Debus, MP provided both the arts and disability sectors with a wonderful publication of leading arts and disability programs from around Australia. It also reacquainted a wide range of stakeholders with Accessible Arts.

The Accessible Arts consumer reference group was established with assistance from the Disability Council of NSW to provide innovative and high level responses to issues associated with accessing the arts by people with a disability.

We were pleased to coordinate an arts project for the Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association (MDAA) to celebrate their first ten years of operation.

The project produced a DVD titled Travelling Decades which told the stories of artists with disabilities who had migrated to Australia.

On the national front we have provided increased support to the Director of Arts Access Australia, while various staff have supported and collaborated on projects with sister organisations leading to a stronger network. Finally, many links have been established as a result of staff presenting papers at conferences, attending industry events and opening exhibitions.

ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

Having become a Company Limited by Guarantee in 2005 much of the year was spent altering our constitution and complying with various statutory requirements in order for us to operate as a public benevolent institution.

With the resignation of our treasurer we were fortunate to acquire Elena Gildina, to the position and she has continued

to improve the financial reporting of the organization. Joshua Dowse, also joined the board and brings a background of communications and corporate sustainability to Accessible Arts.

The training room provides a small income and with this in mind a review of all aspects of the facility was conducted. Rates were increased slightly and the facility will be continually improved while remaining as an inexpensive meeting room and rehearsal space.

In addition to the financial and in-kind support provided by ArtsNSW, the Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care (DADHC) and the Australia Council for the Arts, we began to seek financial assistance in other quarters.

We were delighted to receive support from Perpetual Trustee (J S Love Trust and the E B Myer Charity Fund) towards the new position of Arts Development Officer; DADHC for grants to organisations holding IDPWD arts events in rural and regional NSW; and Western Sydney Area

Ceo's Report

Assistance Scheme (WSAAS) provided \$400,000 to develop and extend the CreateAbility program across Greater Western Sydney. Pleasingly we returned a surplus of \$93,592 for 2006.

LOOKING AHEAD

2007 promises to be an exciting year as we continue to increase our presence in both the arts and disability sectors. While our regular work continues, one of our key objectives for the year will be to launch our Arts program. This will include a community cultural development project (Sound Circles); an artist's residency and a studio program of visual artists with a disability.

We will be implementing the next stage of the Cultural Action Plan and as a result of the successful Biennale of Sydney 06 access day we will be working closely with a couple of selected festivals in 2007.

Our team in Western Sydney, will be up and running and will provide strategic and creative leadership across the region.

Finally, in the area of training our big event will be The Arts Activated conference. The conference will showcase leading examples of inclusion of people with a disability in the arts. See you there!

Sandra Donald

SANCHA DONALD
Chief Executive Officer

TOP TO BOTTOM
MARYANNE IRELAND
LYNNE HANCOCK
JULIA PUCCI
SARAH-JANE RENNIE
CHRISSIE TUCKER



Accessible Arts People

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maryanne Ireland BA (Hons) Psych, BAVA and Post Grad Dip in Vis Arts, MVA

Maryanne has been a practicing visual artist based in Newcastle for the last ten years. Working predominantly in photo-media Maryanne has exhibited in group and solo shows in both Sydney and Newcastle. In addition to a personal experience of physical disability and its related issues, she works in an advocacy role for ParaQuad NSW.

Lynne Hancock B.Arch (Hons), BA (Hons) (Oxford Brookes), Dip Mgt Studies (PCL), M Phil (Oxon)

Lynne is an urban designer with a background in management and marketing as well as architecture and design. She has experience working in both the public and private sectors. Much of her work focuses on equitable access to the experience of the public realm in our towns and cities. She was a longstanding member and Assistant Conductor of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir, founded a women's singing group, and now performs with the acclaimed ensemble Door In The Wall.

Julia Pucci LLB, BA, MArt Admin

Julia is currently the General Counsel at Sydney Opera House. Julia has worked as a lawyer for about 16 years initially in London, Sydney and New York doing

commercial work. In late 1996 joined Optus – now called SingTel Optus Pty Limited, as a corporate counsel. In 2002 Julia left Optus to begin a Masters of Art Administration at the College of Fine Arts (UNSW) full time and in 2004 joined Sydney Opera House.

Sarah-Jane Rennie B.A. (Hons), B. App. Sci (Cons.Cult.Mat), M.A (Public History)

Sarah-Jane has worked as a conservator in museums, galleries and private settings. In her current role she is involved in managing internal and external research related to specific aspects of the industry. Sarah-Jane manages Mgnsw's Access reference group and coordinates MGNSW's Museum Advisor program. She also holds the position of Alternate Director, Arts Training NSW President, Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials (NSW).

Anita Toft BVA, MArt Admin

Anita has been working in museums and galleries and the education sector for many years and has experience in project and human resources management. Anita is currently working at the Australian National Maritime Museum developing programs for children and families. She has also independently curated and exhibited in a number of exhibitions.

Chrissie Tucker

AHRI Diploma in Human Resources

Chrissie is currently the Manager Diversity, a national position in the Human Resources Division of the ABC, located at Ultimo, Sydney. This position develops, implements, monitors and reports on the ABC's Equity and Diversity Management Plan. The areas covered include: gender, disability, race/ethnicity, Indigenous, work/life balance, age and discrimination, harassment and bullying. She is President of the NSW EEO Practitioners' Association.

Elena Gildina

Elena is a Chartered Accountant and has B.Commerce

She has been working in IT&T industry in the areas of management accounting, commercial analysis and business operations. Elena has been a volunteer with a number of organisations over the years, most notably as a Russian interpreter at Sydney Olympic Games which was the most interesting experience. Elena enjoys making a difference and is committed to helping AARTs grow and succeed.

Josh Dowse BA (Hons) LLB MEnvLaw&Econ

Josh is a director of Kinesis, a climate change and sustainability consulting firm, working in both the public and corporate sectors. He has worked as a communication consultant with McKinsey & Co, a publisher with Allen & Unwin, and a solicitor with Minter Ellison. He co-convenes the Sustainable Business Forum in Sydney, and serves on the Manly Sustainability Management Committee.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

ELENA GILDINA

ANITA TOFT

JOSH DOWSE

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Auditor

Ernst & Young
Chartered Accountants
Honorary Solicitors
Minter Ellison

STAFF as at December 30 2006

Chief Executive Officer

Sancha Donald BEd, Dip Ed, MEd

Administrator

Stella Collier MA (UK) left 15/12/06

Audience Development Officer

Alison McLaren BA (Hons)

Training Officer

Katy Mercer BEd Grad Dip Counselling,
MEd Adult Ed, Cert IV workplace Training
& Assessment

Information Officer

Nadia de Ceglie commenced 14/06/06

Arts Development Officer

Josie Cavallaro BA (Hons) commenced
12/06/06

Creative project coordinator

Alison Richardson commenced 12/12/06

Strategic Outcomes

ADVOCACY

Aim

The service aims to be an effective advocate for people with disabilities in the arts and cultural life in NSW.

Achievements

- ▶ established reference group of 10 members with disabilities to provide high level consultation on matters of strategic importance
- ▶ significant partnerships were formed with:
 - VSA (formally very special arts) New Jersey, USA to provide leadership, international dialogue and exchange of ideas and programs.
 - Sydney Biennale 06 to provide guided tours for sight and hearing impaired at three venues.
 - Noise to hold national call out, AART BOXX exhibition, small grants and develop ongoing links with 17 artists.
- ▶ worked closely with Sydney Opera House - Access Strategic Plan and Access Guide at; Historic House Trust - Access Strategic Plan; National Trust - Access Guide; Glen Street Theatre - accessible facilities.
- ▶ secured inclusion of access considerations into some funding applications and guidelines for 2007 by Regional Arts NSW.
- ▶ coordinated arts program for People with Disabilities involving 68 arts/disability orgs in metropolitan and regional areas.
- ▶ provided contributions to ACROD National Community Participation Conference; Articulate; Art Sydney 06; and Signature of Sydney; and presentations to: Macquarie University Museums Studies Masters Students; Arts Law Week NSW; Museums Australia National Conference; and Regional Arts Australia National Conference.
- ▶ continued to auspice the grant for Intimate Encounters; participated in panel discussion associated with exhibition at the St George Regional Gallery, and promoted exhibition regularly in AARTs newsletter.
- ▶ continued representation on Artstart funding sub-committee and advisory committee, Access Reference Group Mgnsw, Accessing the Arts Group (ATAG), City of Sydney Inclusion Advisory Group and Access Forums.

Strategic Outcomes

TRAINING

Aim

To provide the most relevant and up-to-date training and educational outcomes to the arts community in response to identified needs.

Achievements

- ▷ increased enrolments in Disability Awareness and Access training by 250% from 90 to 248 with participants from at least 150 different organisations across various art forms.
- ▷ conducted six customised sessions for specific arts organisations.
- ▷ extended training in Newcastle and ACT.
- ▷ increased training room income by 42%.
- ▷ held seminar & workshop for disability arts workers (DAWN).



SOUND CIRCLES WORKSHOP AND TRAINING DAY
AT ACCESSIBLE ARTS 2006

INFORMATION

Aim

To share relevant up-to-date resources with all of our stakeholders and the community at large.

Achievements

- ▷ provided support to the Spastic Centre' for Unlock Your Creativity culminating in coverage of the program and Accessible Arts on the ABC's 7.30 report in January 2007.
- ▷ achieved regular coverage of Accessible Arts in arts and disability media.
- ▷ increased readership of newsletter by 15%; events listed on AArts website by 40%; number of general enquiries 55% and website hits by 35%.
- ▷ upgraded the website, improved the e-newsletter layout; developed a powerpoint for special events and produced signage for events.
- ▷ developed battery of statistical information to be collected about the services we provide.
- ▷ received 45 written submissions from organisations in regional and metropolitan NSW in relation to the Cultural Action Plan research.
- ▷ brokered opportunities for artists with disabilities to showcase their work (Studio Artes at ACROD National Community Participation Conference and free entry for artists with a disability into Signature of Sydney).

ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

Aim

To establish a sustainable, well-managed organization that effectively supports the staff and stakeholders.

Achievements

- ▷ recruited new Treasurer, new director from Communications sector and accountant on resignation of administrator.
- ▷ maintained funding from Arts NSW for core activities and the Audience Development Officer; DADHC for regional grants; as well as new support from individual donors.
- ▷ successfully applied for grant of \$400,000 from WESROC for western Sydney project over four years.
- ▷ secured \$30,000 for Arts Development Officer from Perpetual Trustee.
- ▷ assisted by Artssupport in relation to fundraising assistance when required.
- ▷ achieved surplus of \$93,592 from tight control over expenditure and increased revenue.
- ▷ developed general policy framework and OH&S policy.
- ▷ engaged volunteers, supported work placement and interns through the year to provide additional administrative and project management skills.
- ▷ undertook comprehensive review of training room equipment, hirer's needs, promotion and rates Increased usage by 22%.



“I really appreciate all the support and information you have given me over the last 6 months to make my film become a reality.”

KATE STARR FILMMAKER WITH A SIGHT IMPAIRMENT

Service

ARTS PROGRAMS

With the help of a grant from Perpetual Trustee we were able to employ an Arts Development Officer to provide valuable creative guidance to the existing and planned projects.



AART.BOXX

This project was a joint visual arts initiative between Accessible Arts and NOISE. The project was ignited by a nationwide call out to artists under 25 who were experiencing a disability. Artists were invited to submit work as part of a competition, which saw 23 finalists receive cash prizes. From this pool of emerging talent 16 artists were selected for exhibition. The AART.BOXX exhibition was held at the Utzon Room of the Sydney Opera House and was launched by Norman Gillespie, CEO, SOH. AART.BOXX was a huge hit with approximately 360 visitors viewing the exhibition over a

two-day period. The AART.BOXX audience came from a diverse cross-section of the community and stirred the imagination of many visitors.

IDPWD

2006 marked the 25th anniversary of International Day of People with a Disability (IDPWD). Once again Accessible Arts was the program partner to the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and was responsible for the program of arts events. 2006 was also the 3rd year of the Don't DIS my ABILITY campaign. The official arts programs for IDPWD consisted of 68 events. There were 35 events as part of the Metropolitan program and 33 events that contributed to the Regional Program. This is an increase of over 10% from 2005. Accessible Arts provided a small grants scheme of up to \$500 to IDPWD events in regional and rural NSW. There were 21 IDPWD arts projects that received funding from this opportunity. The grant also put us in contact with a number of organisations that have been running quality arts and disability programs for a number of years, but have never participated in IDPWD.

Whilst there has been an increase of events, some organisations worked collaboratively to combine their events

to enable a higher quality, more diverse program. This has positive affects as it ensures that arts and disability organisations are actually working together on a single IDPWD project. An example of this was seen in Up the Road a Bit; this arts initiative was a shared cultural event between disability and arts organisations in the Bega Valley Shire and Eurobodalla Shire. Eighteen performance and visual artists with a disability, presented Up the Road a Bit. The event was well supported by the local communities with over 200 guests attending the exhibition and performance. Based on the success of this event, plans are already in place for joint ventures between disability service providers and local artists for 2007.

Sound Circles

2006 saw the migration of Sound Circles from Queensland to Sydney. Sound Circles originated from Access Arts QLD and aims to create a meeting of people through creative activities in voice/sound and performance, in such a way that it develops a sense of 'belonging and place' for all involved. Cali Vandyk-Dunlevy was instrumental in bringing Sound Circles to Sydney as part of her student placement at Accessible Arts. As part of her placement she conducted an

introductory workshop attended by 100 participants, including arts workers, carers and performing artists with a disability. This Sydney initiation aims to expand and shape Sound Circles to the unique needs of all who engage with it across NSW.

Looking ahead

A major focus will be to further develop the network for disability arts workers (DAWN) and to provide services to artists with disabilities. AART BOXX, Sound Circles and IDPWD projects will also continue and hopefully grow stronger.



MICHAEL, DURING MY SPACE, MY PLACE PERFORMANCE AND IDPWD 2006 EVENT. PHOTO CREDIT ALISON RICHARDSON.

ABOVE: PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT BY ARTIST DANIEL H. KOJTA

“The exhibition has inspired me to dust off my coloured pencils and get back to drawing”

DAVE FAWETT, A VISITOR FROM THE U.K

TRAINING

In 2006 the TAFE Accessibility Awareness training module was held seven times. A total of 109 people participated and received their TAFE Statement of Attendance. Participants vary in roles from ushers and security staff to arts administrators, managers and practising artists and represent approximately 150 different organisations. Some participants travelled from interstate to do the course, for example from Canberra (National Portrait Gallery), Rockhampton (Cerebral Palsy League of Qld) and Melbourne (Arts Access Victoria).

In June Disability Awareness and Access training was conducted in Canberra for 22 staff from a wide variety of Canberra based arts organisations.

In addition 6 customised training sessions were also held with a total of 66 people participating.

Arts and cultural organisations that have participated in training this year include Ensemble Theatre, MCA, Historic Houses Trust and the Sydney Opera House.

In total 248 people have attended training run by Accessible Arts. This is a 250% increase on numbers from 2005 of 90 participants.

Key organisations in Newcastle and Maitland (Newcastle Community Arts Centre, Life without Barriers, the Samaritans, Newcastle City Council, Maitland City Council and Maitland Regional Gallery) were visited to discuss organisational training needs and to promote the kind of training Accessible Arts can offer.

As a result of this visit 21 participants from the region participated in TAFE accredited awareness and disability training.

A Disability Arts Workers Network (DAWN) seminar and workshop was held at the new Campbelltown Arts Centre for 25 participants in March and was very well received. This program will now be managed by the Arts Development Officer.

Looking ahead

Plans for 2007 include the development and production of a training and promotional DVD, taking the disability awareness training to Alice Springs and the big event - a two day conference in September titled 'The Arts Activiated'. This conference will provide leading examples of inclusion of people with a disability in the Arts.

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

Cultural Action Plan

We began our process in developing a Cultural Action Plan for People with a Disability with receipt of 45 written submissions from individuals, arts and disability organisations. 40% of submissions were received from regional areas and 60% were received from metropolitan areas (including organisations that represent both regional and metropolitan communities).

A diverse range of organisations provided submissions including Opera Australia, the Powerhouse Museum, Australian Theatre of the Deaf, Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association, Regional Arts Development Officers, a number of local councils and sister organisations. These written submissions have been useful in identifying current issues that will need to be addressed in consultations throughout 2007.

Biennale of Sydney 06

Accessible Arts was invited by City of Sydney to work in partnership with the Biennale of Sydney to deliver an Access Day. The Access Day consisted of Auslan interpreted tours of exhibitions at Pier 2/3 and the Museum of Contemporary Art in addition to a descriptive touch tour of the exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW.

LISMORE ARTIST JULIE BARRETT: BRAILLE ARTIST BOOK 2006. PHOTO COURTESY JULIE BARRETT.



An artist talk by Ruark Lewis and Clover Moore's launch of the Access Day were also Auslan interpreted. An accessible bus was provided to assist people in travelling between venues.

Western Sydney Project

Accessible Arts was successful in securing \$400,000 funding from the Department of Community Services over the next four year period. Inspired by the Holroyd CreateAbility project, the two staff will: a) deliver creative programs and professional development opportunities for people with a disability across the Greater Western Sydney region. Staff will

Service

PERFORMER DAVID SIMPSON OF EDEN STREET PLAYERS & BEGA TULGEEN ACCESS SERVICE.



work collaboratively to establish networks to support Disability Arts Workers, disability organisations, arts organisations and staff working in the 11 Local Government areas that make up Greater Western Sydney.

b) work with Local Government, disability and arts organisations to incorporate access needs in cultural policy and creative and artistic opportunities in disability and access frameworks.

This Western Sydney Project will enable Accessible Arts to gain a presence in one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse regions of Metropolitan NSW.

Supporting the Sector

Accessible Arts has continually supported the arts and disability sectors with various access and audience development projects. Approximately 10 support letters were provided to arts and disability organisations for specially selected arts and disability projects and initiatives.

We provided input to four major access policies and guides developed by key arts organisations such as Sydney Opera House and the Historic Houses Trust.

We were invited to work in partnership with Australian Theatre of the Deaf to coordinate a talk titled "Invading the Mindset" at Australia Council for the Arts. An interactive debate adjudicated by Caroline Conlon was established between

Carol-lee Aquiline, previous General-Secretary of the World Federation of the Deaf and Breda Carty, Senior Lecturer at The Renwick Centre, University of Newcastle. A passionate audience made up of key members from the Deaf community engaged in the event that raised issues of access through advancing technology and the need for the preservation of Auslan as a language and culture within the arts community.

Advocacy and Representation

The following presentations and committee representations were made as part of our sustained role in advocating for the access needs of potential audiences with disabilities:

- ▶ Museums Australia National Conference
- ▶ Regional Arts Australia National Conference
- ▶ Arts Law Week Sydney
- ▶ Macquarie University Museum Studies program
- ▶ Accessing the Arts Group (ATAG)
- ▶ ArtStart Committee
- ▶ ArtStart Funding Sub-Committee
- ▶ City of Sydney Inclusion Advisory Group

Other key results include the inclusion of access considerations into some of the funding applications and guidelines for 2007 by Regional Arts NSW and the expanding number of members of ATAG (Accessing the Arts Group) which

provides a formal and informal network for educators, program coordinators and curators regarding disability access issues.

Looking ahead

Building on the Biennale access day, and recognising the special characteristics of festivals, 2007 will see the availability of Access Packages that can be provided to assist Festivals and other temporary arts events in delivering greater access to audiences with a disability.

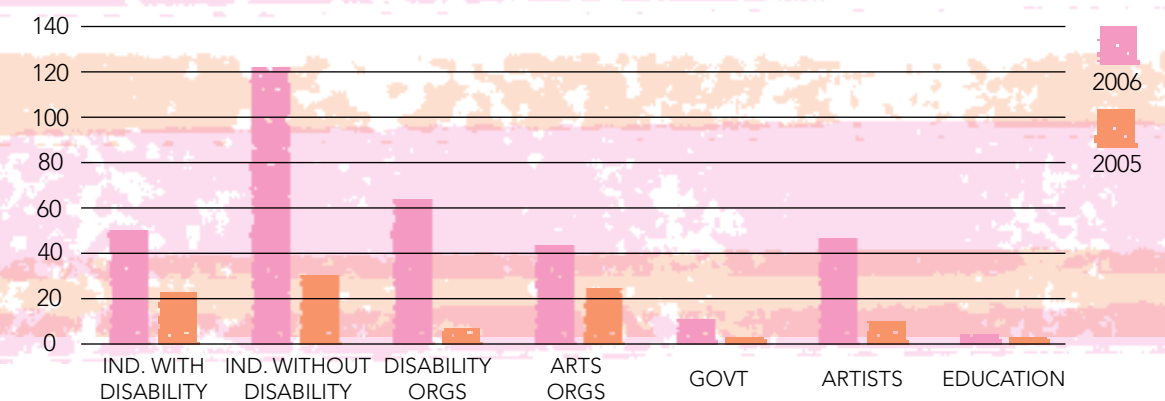
The cultural action plan consultations will be conducted in the second part of the year in Sydney and regional areas; an audience development stream will be part of The Arts Activated conference; the Western Sydney arts and disability network will be developed and there are

plans to re develop our access tools into an easy guide advocacy pack for use by arts organisations.

INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

2006 was a year of substantial growth for Accessible Arts in providing information and resources to better address the needs of the arts and disability sector. The website was revised and improved to establish itself as a '24 hour' free resource and the e-newsletter was reformatted to standardise the categories of news items. Information was provided to the public within a timely two-day period and we established some media partnerships with arts and disability organisations both nationally and internationally with great results.

PROVIDING INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



Service

The website has continued to develop as an accessible resource but has also been used to create a consistent 'brand' for Accessible Arts. Some key improvements include the addition of an Events and Opportunities section and an updated resources page with relevant articles and media releases from external organisations that are making strides in the arts and disability sector. However this has led to an overall review of the website and the requirement of an Artist Gallery for 2007.

The newsletter continues to be our most popular communication tool. The new format of categorising the news in the monthly newsletter has received some great feedback. Other improvements include a reduced amount of copy for easy reading and accessibility, improvement of layout, and a dramatic increase in the use of links to other pages on our website.

We also continue to build upon our access resources library, to provide a broad range of information from best practice of individual companies and organizations, to documentaries discussing issues relating to the arts and disability communities in Australia and overseas.

Promoting arts and disability

Promotion of arts and disability programs in NSW has been growing at a fast pace thanks to additional branding, sustainable programs and increased resources. With the involvement in events such as

Biennale of Sydney, Art Sydney 06 and Signature of Sydney we have been able to offer more opportunities for people with disabilities, including free entry to events & programs, discounted ticket sales, competitions and free submissions to art prizes.

We have has an outstanding year in securing over 50 articles in various magazines throughout the year featuring our dynamic projects and promoting arts and disability in general.

Our support for the sector has led to increased media interviews culminating in our contribution to the ABC's 7.30 report that featured the Unlock Your Creativity program developed by The Spastic Centre.

Looking ahead

Whilst the year ahead will be one of continual improvement a particular focus will be the development of the online gallery to show case the work of emerging artists with a disability. Looking forward to it!

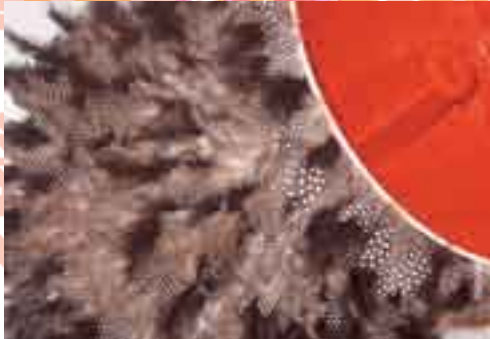


AUSTRALIAN ARTIST LUIS VIDAL
WITH HIS PASTEL DRAWING 2006



LEFT TO RIGHT:
MIROMA ARTIST VICTOR TOMBS AND SANCHA DONALD
SOUND CIRCLES WOOSH 2006!

'TRICKSTER' TACTILE ARTPIECE BY ROLANDE SOULIERE AS PART OF THE
IDPWD 2006 TACTILE EVENT AT TIN SHEDS GALLERY CAMPERDOWN.





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ARTS + DISABILITY NSW

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