



Access Arts Inc
Annual Report, 2012



Access Arts Inc Annual Report 2012

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Message from Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC Governor of Queensland and Patron, Access Arts

The visual and performing arts have been a means of human expression since our ancestors learned to draw with charcoal and ochre on rock walls and since the capacity of the human voice to speak and sing was first tested. In the twenty-first century, we are surrounded by art in its myriad forms. Perhaps we take for granted that anyone driven by an inner creative urge to communicate through the arts will be able to do so without serious hindrance, and that those who wish to enjoy the arts as an audience can do so with relative ease.

It is a matter of continuing regret that, for Queenslanders with disabilities, there remain barriers to access, in every sense, to the arts. It is a matter of regret because living with a disability does not, of course, preclude individuals from inspiration by their muse, or from a desire to experience personally the thrill of performance, or from a wish to enjoy art created by others.

Access Arts focuses its energy and dedication on redressing this imbalance, on dismantling barriers and, in a more positive sense, on encouraging expression through and enjoyment of the arts among those living with disabilities. This is achieved through a series of programs that strive to help these artists develop technically and artistically, to reach more and larger audiences, and to raise awareness among the arts community and the broader community of what can and should be done to provide better access to participation and enjoyment of the arts among Queenslanders with disabilities.

The following pages set out the projects and activities of Access Arts in 2012, and record the year's triumphs and challenges. You will find there a wealth of information on everything from circus performances involving the deaf community, to grants for artistic development and success in winning art prizes. You will find also an account of the continuing challenge of maintaining the organisation's financial robustness and the strategies adopted to meet this need. I commend the Annual Report to all those with an interest in further increasing the depth and richness of the arts in this State.

As Patron, I congratulate Access Arts on its achievements in 2012 and I thank the Executive, staff and wonderful volunteers for their unstinting dedication to the organisation's goals, during what President Victoria Lister has termed 'a rollercoaster' year. No doubt 2013 will also offer its share of triumphs and challenges. I hope, however, there will be many more of the former and I wish Access Arts every success in the year ahead in helping to deliver these, for the benefit not only of Queenslanders living with disability or disadvantage, but of all members of our Queensland community.

**Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland
Patron**

2012 held many challenges for Access Arts. In order to bring you a current picture of how Access Arts is progressing, we have included a message from our current President. Thomas Bradley was voted into the position of President, by Members, at the Access Arts Inc AGM on 26th March 2013.

Message from the current President



Thomas Bradley,
Current President

After some turmoil and difficulty, Access Arts has a new Management Committee for 2013. At our first full meeting, on 17 April 2013, the new Committee resolved to formally apologise to members and supporters of Access Arts who were upset or offended in any way by any connection with or perceived endorsement of the beliefs of Universal Medicine. The committee sincerely regrets the hurt caused in this way. The constitution of Access Arts sets out our corporate principles, which commence with the principle that persons with a disability and persons with a disadvantage, whatever the nature, type or degree of disability or disadvantage, are individuals who have the inherent right of respect for their human worth and dignity. Beliefs about disability, illness and disadvantage that, as the new committee understands them, are not only inconsistent with our principles, but are injurious to the well-being of our members, are rejected as completely unacceptable.

The new committee also resolved to deal with other concerns raised by members at the Special General Meeting and the Annual General Meeting over the next few months. This will include a review of changes made to the Constitution over the past six years, procedures for nominations, appropriate venues and scheduling of general meetings and the presentation of financial information. It is important that we get these internal matters right so that we can focus on our objects as an organisation of providing opportunity for persons with a disability and persons with a disadvantage to have access to and participate in the creative arts.

As you know, Access Arts also has an important advocacy role – to advocate for creators and consumers of cultural and artistic work and expression who have a disability or disadvantage; and to seek to remove barriers to participation in cultural and artistic life. That advocacy has been prominently displayed in the targeted and effective criticism of the National Cultural Policy *Creative Australia*, released on 13 March 2013. In response, the offending language about “tolerance” for people with disability has been removed from the policy paper. Whether a more inclusive approach to cultural policy will follow, perhaps through proper resourcing of the *National Arts and Disability Strategy*, remains to be seen. It is a compliment to Access Arts and to our indefatigable Executive Officer that Pat has been invited to

meet with senior Commonwealth Arts administrators about the direction and implementation of government policy.

There are hopeful signs in *Creative Australia*.

- Throughout it acknowledges the richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.
- The statement also acknowledges that the creative endeavours of most artists are subsidised by other jobs, family and friends. This is certainly the case with many Access Arts members.
- The statement calls for the opening of pathways to pursue creative goals professionally or semi-professionally. We support this goal, which has a particular resonance for Access Arts. The pathways to be opened need to be truly accessible.
- The statement calls on Australia to celebrate artistic accomplishment. It reminds us of the importance of celebrating the achievements of our most gifted and dedicated members, and of acknowledging the training, practice, discipline and dedication that is the foundation of achievement.

As the national cultural policy makes clear, technology will play an increasing role in cultural and artistic life into the foreseeable future. The failure of the *Convergence Review* to address accessibility issues for people with disabilities set an unfortunate precedent. Part of our role is to assist or enable our members to take part in these important conversations about technology and culture.

We will continue to have a very important practical role in offering opportunities for participation in cultural and artistic work and expression - as artists and as audiences – to our members and to others in the community. Our community arts program, professional development programs, disability access programs and specific projects, like *Creative Recovery*, continue to attract participants, praise and interest.

The newsletter contains details of the programs and activities of Access Arts. Over the course of the year, I will take the opportunity of each edition to keep you informed of developments throughout the organisation.

Best wishes to you all,

Thomas Bradley
Current President
23rd April 2013

President's Report 2012

From a Management Committee perspective, 2012 was a year of very mixed blessings for Access Arts.

We sadly farewelled our former Executive Officer, Emma Bennison – but joyfully wished her well in her new role as CEO of the national body Arts Access Australia. Equally, we were delighted to welcome new Executive Officer, Pat Swell, to the organisation. Pat brings a wealth of professional and personal experience, having spent her career in the arts in the UK on both sides of the fence, as policy maker and arts manager. She also brings a personal understanding of disability to the role.

From the positive to the not so positive – we hit a rough patch, as did many other similarly affected organisations – with the Fair Work Australia ruling on the Social and Community Sector (SACS) Award, which our permanent staff are employed under. This was a double-edged sword for the industry: whilst it addressed a long overdue pay equity issue, it placed many organisations, including Access Arts, under significant financial duress. Faced with an unexpected budget hole due to back and forward pay obligations, we initially oversaw a reduction of staff hours and later, a restructure in order to make ends meet. It was a difficult time for all as we saw the departure of some long-serving and talented people. All who served during this period, and those who now remain on the staff, are to be congratulated for their outstanding dedication to the organisation and its Members. Their overarching desire to ensure nothing disrupted the delivery of services to Access Arts' participants was exemplary. We wished those who left us well, and can report that some have since moved on to exciting roles elsewhere in the arts.

On the plus side, the SACS Award event – although unwelcome in many respects – did provide us with the opportunity and impetus to review the organisation's position and performance overall. As a board, we had long felt there was more Access Arts could do and be, particularly if we were to truly deliver on our mission state-wide. We also had long-standing concerns about the organisation's financial viability: how long could it survive if a major crisis occurred? For many years, the organisation has only ever had enough in reserve to ensure it would tick over for several months at best, a situation the SACS event highlighted.

As a result, we used the opportunity to really review the landscape ahead and arrived at several goals, which with the help of our new Executive Officer and her team, we are in the early stages of implementing. These involve innovative use of technology, a modern approach to the way we consider our business, and a streamlined operating system – all aimed at enabling us to reach a far bigger cohort of Queenslanders with disability who have a desire to participate in the arts. We started the journey with a strategic planning process lead by an experienced external advisor who kindly donated both time and expertise. In 2013, this will be followed with a second strategic planning session and a thorough program of Member consultation.

In line with our desire to see Access Arts take 'the next step', in late 2012 we undertook a board skills audit and recruitment process, with a view to inviting people

with the knowledge, skills and networks that would help Access Arts move to the next level. As a result, we began to receive interest from business professionals with fantastic backgrounds in finance, law and IT, as well as terrific experience and networks in the arts, non-profit and private and government sectors.

Once again, in 2012 relocation was on the table for Access Arts. Happily, by the end of the year we had a number of options to consider, one of which included the possibility of a co-location arrangement led by our current landlord, Artslink Queensland. We have inspected the site and plans for a fabulous warehouse conversion near the river at Teneriffe, which includes gallery space and a café, open to the public and available for the use of staff and Members. Under this arrangement, our office would be part of an arts hub as several organisations are considering the proposal. This would enhance opportunities for both resource sharing and strategic partnering.

In short, it's been a rollercoaster year – but the good news is we survived the dips; by year end we were in a much healthier place financially; and we used the challenges to take a really good look at where Access Arts is heading and where we really want to be.

In closing, it remains for me to thank all staff, past and present, heartily for their amazing contributions throughout the year. I also would like to thank those Management Committee Members who served in 2012: Cate Farrar, Damian Stewart, Doug Ranie, Evan Jones, Margaret Hughes and Oddur Augustsson. Thank you everyone, for your hard work and on-going support of Access Arts.

Victoria Lister

President until Special General Meeting, February 16, 2013

Postscript from interim President Evan Jones, nominated to the Presidency by Access Arts' Management Committee Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013.

At the Access Arts Inc Management Committee meeting held 9.00 – 10.00am, February 16, the successful Performance Review of Access Arts Inc's Executive Officer, Pat Swell, was unanimously approved, as was the renewal of Ms Swell's contract, under negotiated conditions, for 1 (one) year, beginning Monday March 4, 2013 and expiring Monday, March 3, 2014.

Victoria Lister was stood down from her role as President of Access Arts by a majority of eligible Access Arts Inc members at the Special General Meeting, on February 16, 2013.

In order to fulfil the continuing obligations of the Management Committee, Margaret Hughes was nominated for the role of Secretary and I was nominated for the role of President. These nominations were accepted, seconded and passed by a quorate Access Arts Inc Management Committee meeting Tuesday, February 19. Thank you to Steve Beardsley and Len Bytheway for filling vacant positions on the Management Committee in February 2013.

At this meeting, we carried out necessary business, but all significant decision making was put on hold due to the vote of no confidence in the existing Management Committee by a majority of eligible members at the February 16 Access Arts Inc Special General Meeting.

I, too, thank the Access Arts Inc staff for their outstanding work and wish the organisation prosperity and fulfilment of mission in the years to come.

Evan Jones

President, February 19, 2013 – March 26 AGM, 2013

Executive Officer's Report on 2012

2012 was a year to celebrate the many successes of our Members. Here are just a few highlights.

We had some notable award winners:

- Peter Hughes won the Arts Access Australia Art Prize, the first national Australian art prize for artists with disability, a cash award of \$5,000. His winning artwork was *Eleanor*. Peter also won the PBS Building Award for his painting *Mum and Grandma Have an Argument* as part of the Art from the Margins Exhibition
- Also in the Art from the Margins Exhibition, Colleen Stevenson won the Heiser Gallery Emerging Artist Award for her photograph *Delicate Leaf*, Stephen Corti-Griffiths was highly commended for his painting *House 302* and Magda Labuda was commended for her photograph *Floating Objects*
- Lisa Blake won the 18+ drawing category prize in the Mental Health Association Australia Creative Arts Competition for her artwork *The Great Outdoors 2*.



Pat Swell, Executive Officer

Some members of our Brisbane Outsider Artists group exhibited internationally – in Thailand, Japan and the US - as well as nearer to home: Sydney, Stanthorpe, Kingaroy and Brisbane.

Access Arts' Drumming Group performed to an audience of over 100 people at the Endeavour Foundation's Big Community Day Out at the Southbank Forecourt in October. Also in October Vulcana Women's Circus performed *The Wizard of Auslan*, showcasing their impressive skills including aerials, expression and shadow movement. This was a partnership with Queensland Association of the Deaf, Deaf Sports and Recreation Queensland and Brisbane's Deaf Community as well as Access Arts.

Access Arts was pleased to partner with Kambu Medical Service Ipswich for the *Body Language Project*. This project gave 23 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people the chance to express themselves creatively through participation in weekly creative workshops. The exhibition opening was a great celebration of the success of this project. We are grateful for OATSIH funding from Australia Government's Department of Health and Ageing which supported this partnership.

The mid-year Community Showcase at the Cerebral Palsy League's Pathwayz Hall was a magnificent celebration of Members' performances and arts practice. And the year ended on another high note with a celebratory evening of our Members' achievements in a program called *Reflection in the Forward Direction* that took place at QUT's The Block.

Access Arts awarded seven SAFE grants in 2012. The SAFE grant program was established through a bequest and generous donations to provide fast, flexible assistance to emerging and professional artists living in Queensland.

The SAFE grants were awarded to:

- Colin Cain
- Maureen Connolly
- Teone Reinthal
- Brendan Huddy
- Reg Lovell
- Rachel Tara
- Susan Andrews

And in 2012 Access Arts received the accolade of a clean bill of health in its Annual Quality Systems Audit by Global Mark, undertaken through the Disability Services Standards. No mean achievement!

All this couldn't have happened without the dedication of our staff, our valued volunteers, the commitment of our Management Committee, support from our funders in federal, state and local government, and the generosity of our donors. I have highlighted above just a few examples of the difference all of you made in 2012 to the lives of our Members and the development of arts practice in Queensland. We thank you all.

Pat Swell
Executive Officer

Treasurer's Report

On the back of a favourable financial and operational outcome in 2011 year, the year which followed it has been challenging. Along with many not-for-profit organisations in the disability sector in Queensland, Access Arts Incorporated (AAI) struggled to cope with wage increases to the key staff positions that deliver service and support to members and the wider community.

<u>Year</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Overall	\$8,622	\$15,377	(\$39,372)	(\$78,533)	\$3,033
	surplus	surplus	deficit	deficit	surplus
Equity	\$65,301	\$56,678	\$41,302	\$80,674	\$159,207

Action taken during the second half of 2012 assisted a relatively healthy year-end, though this required difficult decisions and brought a short-term impact to the depth and breadth of AAI's administrative function at year end.

Members are at the top of the organisation chart of Access Arts Incorporated – and their value to us is reciprocated with enthusiastic and heart-felt contributions towards raising funds. The efforts by members in raising funds and the profile of AAI bolster the activities of our Association in the community – that is for both those activities created by AAI and the ones mounted in partnership with other organisations. The *Friends of Access Arts* – equally enthusiastic supporters of our organisation who are not paid-up members – must also be acknowledged for their advocacy and (often anonymous) donations.

The management of AAI's difficult financial situation in 2012 is a testament to the precision and careful oversight of many people besides myself – I wish to particularly acknowledge the Association's 2012 Secretary, our President, both Executive Officers, the General Manager and the Finance Officer. This report, and the hard-won figures which it covers, would not exist if it weren't for your efforts.



During 2012, the partnership term with grant application experts Red Tape Busters expired. The post-partnership evaluation showed that no successful grants were awarded to Access Arts through the partnering arrangement. This occurred in spite of the shared expertise both parties invested into the application process for a range of grant and funding opportunities. This result highlights that 2012 was a challenging

year not only for AAI, but also for many other agencies involved in arts and disability initiatives in Queensland.

Some liabilities carried over from 2011 were converted to direct expenses in 2012. Two out of three long serving employees of the Association departed during the year, requiring a payout of their accrued leave.

In 2013, AAI's administrative base will be moving away from Dutton Park to somewhere with new vigour and a different layout. Much about this undertaking hinges on the ability of AAI to transform operations towards ongoing sustainability, and prove to potential donors, funding bodies and philanthropic trusts that the organisation will be in a position to support people experiencing a disability to participate in the arts in Queensland for a long time to come.

The year-end result for 2012 means that Access Arts Incorporated looks forward from a financially solvent base. There are sizable challenges in view; but the state of the finances of Access Arts at the commencement of the 2013 year position it well to make a transformative leap over these challenges, on towards sustainable staffing levels and delivery of the vital programs that members and the wider community thrive upon.

Oddur Augustsson
Treasurer

Quality Assurance Report

Access Arts receives funding from the Queensland Department of Communities, Disability Services and must comply with the Disability Services Quality Standards. In line with this system, Access Arts was audited by Global-Mark and received recertification on the 25th September 2010. Access Arts subsequently underwent a maintenance review in 2011, and 2012.

At the 2012 maintenance review, feedback was received from the auditor that there were no suggested improvements. All assessed standards were found to be compliant. This was based on policy and procedural updates and maintenance, as well as feedback from a range of members.



Mask by George Delaney

Thank you to Members who were involved in the audit interviews and provided feedback. You provided valuable feedback to the auditors about the services that Access Arts provides to help us improve our delivery and processes.

From 2013, the Department of Communities is implementing a new quality systems framework, so from September 2013, Access Arts will be audited through the Human Services Quality Framework. We will keep you updated on the transition to this new framework.

Community Arts Report

Community Arts Workshops

Access Arts' Community Arts workshops provide members with a supportive, inclusive and creative environment to engage with various art forms, encouraging positive social interaction, a strong sense of community, and artistic expression of each individual. In 2012, our program began with the January - March Art Bites program in partnership with Brisbane City Council, then continued throughout the remainder of the year with a vibrant Access Arts workshop program, providing wonderful opportunities for existing and new members to participate in the arts.



Images by Art Bites workshop Support Workers.

Left: Magical Monotypes workshop; Middle: Fun With Drums workshop;
Right: Same But Different Drama workshop.

Art Bites program

Venue: various throughout Brisbane – Bracken Ridge, Dutton Park, Sherwood, Fortitude Valley, Wynnum, Inala, Upper Kedron, Sandgate, Windsor, South Bank.

Details: various days, times and durations – 29 arts workshops, totaling 74.5 hours of workshop time (Term 1), including: watercolour painting, drumming, Japanese flower brooch making, zine making, music and meditation, drama, origami, arts business, photography, dance, print making, and digital storytelling.

Participation: average of 13 participants per workshop

Drumming workshops

Venue: SWARA – 101 Park Rd, Woolloongabba

Details: Fridays, 2 hr sessions, 1 x 7 week term (Term 1) + 3 x 8 week terms (Term 2-4)

Participation: average of 21 participants per workshop

Performance workshops

Venue: Pathwayz Hall – 217A Lutwyche Rd, Windsor

Details: Thursdays, 2 hr sessions, 2 x 8 week terms (Term 2-3)

Participation: average of 10 participants per workshop

Circus workshops

Venue: Brisbane Powerhouse – 119 Lamington St, New Farm

Details: Thursdays, 2 hr sessions, 1 x 7 week term (Term 4)

Participation: average of 4 participants per workshop

Beginners Visual Arts workshops

Venue: SWARA – 101 Park Rd, Woolloongabba

Details: Wednesdays, 2 hr sessions, 3 x 8 week terms (Term 2-4)

Participation: average of 5 participants per workshop

Northside Visual Arts workshops

Venue: RCA – Lamington Dr, Redcliffe

Details: Thursdays, 2 hr sessions, 3 x 8 week terms (Term 1-3) + 1 x 4 week term (Term 4)

Participation: average of 5 participants per workshop

Community Showcase – ‘Journeys’

The 2012 Community Showcase was held on Saturday afternoon, 23 June at the Cerebral Palsy League’s Pathwayz Hall, Windsor, with some 60 people in attendance. It was a wonderful event!! The Showcase was themed around ‘journeys’ and each art work or performance expressed this theme in some way through painting, collage, photography, drama, dance, drumming, soundscapes, and spoken words.



Images by Magda Labuda

Left: Singer Songwriter Harmonie Downes; Left: Performance Troupe.

DisabiliTea

Access Arts was pleased to again partner with the State Library of Queensland and SWARA in 2012, to host a DisabiliTea in support of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The attendees, from the State Library Qld, and Access Arts staff and members, shared a morning tea, and spoke about how the NDIS has the potential to support artists with disabilities.

Partnerships

Access Arts worked with Alzheimer's Australia (Qld), Young Carers Project, Endeavour Foundation, Vision Australia and MS Qld to provide information, workshops and/or performances in 2012.

End of Year Event – 'Reflection In A Forward Direction'

Our 2012 end of year event was a wonderful way to finish off the year! With around 60 people in attendance, the event was held again in The Block at QUT Kelvin Grove on Thursday 29 November, celebrating the year that has been at Access Arts (AAI), while also joining in with the International Day of People with Disability celebrations. The evening included members' visual artworks on display and live performances, reflections on the year's many successes presented by staff and board members, a short inclusive drumming workshop for all in attendance, a presentation and short film from AAI's partner Vulcana Women's Circus, lucky door prizes where member's artwork was given away, and of course, nibbles and drinks!



Images by Magda Labuda and Louis Lim
Left: Drumming workshop; Right: members' artwork on display.

The Wizard Of Auslan, with Vulcana Women's Circus

Vulcana Women's Circus has been working in partnership with Access Arts, Queensland Association of the Deaf, Deaf Sports and Recreation Queensland and Brisbane's Deaf Community to create a circus performance. Women from Brisbane's Deaf community have been involved in some of Vulcana's past projects, and the Wizard of Auslan follows directly on from a series of workshops in 2011.

This project explored the possibilities around creating a unique signed performance that examines the physical languages of circus and Auslan. Developing a Deaf theatre culture in Brisbane has the potential to benefit both the Deaf community and the hearing community, and increase awareness and opportunities.



Vulcana Women's Circus Performance

We thoroughly enjoy collaborating with these women and hope to continue to strengthen our relationship and develop more creative acts in the future.

Joelene Scot
Arts Administrator

Visual Arts Report

Access Arts farewelled Jasmin Jacobson, Visual Arts Coordinator, in August 2012. Jasmin was instrumental in developing the Brisbane Outsider Artists' Studio, and we thank her for the commitment and energy she put into Access Arts and its members.

In 2012 members from the Brisbane Outsider Artists' Studio participated in a range of local, regional and international exhibitions, and were recipients of several awards.

Polyphonic: Many Voices Many Styles

The year began with Polyphonic: Many Voices Many Styles held at the Wataboshi Festival in Bangkok, Thailand. Originally due to take place in 2011, the exhibition was postponed to February 2012 due to flooding in Bangkok. The exhibition was a great success, providing a high quality professional development opportunity, and enabling Australian artists experiencing disability to participate in a curated international exhibition.



Polyphonic Exhibition in the NMAD foyer, Bangkok, Thailand

Fusions

The opportunity arose for Access Arts to exhibit artwork on the walls of the Brisbane Square Library for a period of two months, during September and October 2012. Access Arts proposed an exhibition titled Fusions, bringing together metropolitan and regional 'outsider artists'. This group exhibition showcased original artworks from emerging and established artists from the Access Arts' Brisbane Outsider Artists' Studio and a community arts space in Stanthorpe initiated by the Granite Belt

Support Services, known as Artworks on Davadi. The works reflected a wide range of subject matter and mediums, including acrylic and oil painting, watercolour, drawing, photography, collage and mixed media.



Collection of works by the BOA and Art Works on Davadi artists

Queensland Rail Stencil Project

Brisbane Outsider Artist Studio member Lisa Blake submitted designs for the Queensland Rail positive partnerships mural arts program. The aim of this project was to engage the community to beautify stations using stencil art. Lisa was one of only five talented Brisbane artists to be selected for this innovative project. Selected artists received \$1000 for the use of their design (\$500 per image) and the exposure of having their work displayed at Brisbane railway stations and along the rail corridor.

'I submitted two designs of possums as I thought they are a common sight in Brisbane and would be appropriate to line the rail corridor with. I was very excited that both designs were selected.'

Lisa Blake, BOA Studio member



Lisa Blake's two winning designs for the Queensland Rail's positive partnerships mural arts program.

Arts Access Australia Art Award

Brisbane Outsider Artists' Studio member Peter Hughes won the Arts Access Australia Art Prize for his painting Eleanor. The Arts Access Australia Art Prize is the first National Australian Art Prize for artists with disability, with a cash prize of \$5000. Peter's artwork was selected by a panel of artists and Arts Access Australia board members, and displayed at The Concourse Art Space in Sydney as part of the Arts Activated Conference. Arts Access Australia CEO Emma Bennison presented the prize in Sydney on the 30th October, and a short movie was played capturing Peter's response to winning the prize.



Peter Hughes, Eleanor, acrylic on canvas, 61 x 46cm

McCullough Robertson Foyer Display

In 2012 Access Arts began an ongoing partnership with McCullough Robertson. Members from the Brisbane Outsider Artists' Studio were given the opportunity to exhibit their artwork in the foyer of McCullough Robertson in Brisbane City, on a 3 month rotation basis. This has been a great opportunity for Access Arts visual artists to showcase their work. In 2012 Tanya Darl and George Delaney from the Brisbane Outsider Artists' Studio exhibited their work.



George Delaney, River Fire Series, McCullough Robertson Foyer

Additional exhibitions and projects for 2012 included:

- Apple and Grape Retrospective Exhibition in Stanthorpe
- Art from the Margins exhibition in various venues in Brisbane
- Friends of Access Arts exhibition at McCullough Robertson, Brisbane
- Exhibition for the Centre of Excellence in Behaviour Support Conference at the University of Queensland, St Lucia
- Schizophrenia Awareness Week exhibition, King George Square, Brisbane City
- Exhibition at the International Communication Centre for Persons with Disabilities in Japan
- Disability Art Show in Kingaroy
- Alex Crombie's solo exhibition, Art Factory Gallery Brisbane
- Stephen Corti-Griffiths solo exhibition, Discount Art Warehouse Gallery Brisbane
- Painting of Urban Smart traffic signal boxes
- Practice in Motion exhibition, Australia Council for the Arts, Sydney

- Courage Cards Christmas card competition, USA
- Mental Health Association Australia (MHAA) creative arts competition, Brisbane

Additional awards won by Access Arts artists in 2012:

- Lisa Blake won the 18+ drawing category prize in the Mental Health Association Australia Creative Arts Competition. Winning artwork- The Great Outdoors 2.
- Magda Labuda won a Commended Award for her photograph Floating Objects as part of the Art from the Margins Exhibition.
- Stephen Corti-Griffiths won a Highly Commended Award for his painting House 302 as part of the Art from the Margins Exhibition.
- Colleen Stevenson won the Heiser Gallery Emerging Artist Award for her photograph Delicate Leaf as part of the Art from the Margins Exhibition.
- Peter Hughes won the PBS Building Award for his painting Mum and Grandma Have an Argument as part of the Art from the Margins Exhibition.

Rachel Gaffney-Dawson
Visual Arts Coordinator

Professional Development Report

2012 was a creative, productive and eventful year for Access Arts' professional development program.

Access Arts would like to thank and acknowledge Zane Trow's efforts towards Access Arts and its members in his time as Professional Development Coordinator, from April 2010 – November 2012, and wish him every success for the future.

Seminars and Forums

Access Arts hosted a Professional Development artist seminar in March 2012 where members were invited to speak about and present some of their current art work. The intention of the seminar series was to give individual artist members the opportunity to discuss and debate each other's work in a critical and non-competitive environment.



Visual Artist John Briggs, Photographers and Visual Artists Colleen Stevenson and Magda Labuda, Sound Artist Anthea Patrick, and Composer and Performance Artist Damian Stewart all presented their work, explored their inspiration, and shared their artistic journeys with fellow Access Arts artists.

The second Professional Development Seminar offered Access Arts Professional Development members the opportunity to engage in the National Professional Development program – Boost!

Day one included an overview of Boost, a coaching and mentoring program for artists with a disability; a one year national pilot project to demonstrate the effectiveness of a proposed 'brokerage' model for professional development of artists with a disability.

Access Arts professional development members Teone Reinthal, Hayley Kitchener, Magda Labuda and Sue Pearson all had intensive two hour career coaching one to one sessions with John Paul Fischbach from The Auspicious Arts Incubator: a specifically designed, flexible program that enables each participant to gain practical skills and knowledge that will contribute to forming and growing a sustainable small business that can thrive in the competitive market of the arts.

Boost is a partnership between Arts Access Victoria, Arts Access Australia and Access Arts Inc Queensland, made possible by the Australian Government through the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport.

Camera Wonderers

The Camera Wonderers: Stephen Corti-Griffiths, Colleen Stevenson, Reg Lovell, Louis Lim, Mathew Lys, Brendan Huddy, Robert Walmsley-Evans and Magda Labuda had another busy and productive year.

The Camera Wonderers take a look around, and what they find amongst the constant transformation of the world is ... an astounding stillness. Working together and individually the Camera Wonderers create a shifting patchwork of images that question our fixed perceptions of the everyday.

New partnerships were formed, and previous partnerships were continued and further developed. These included:

- A documentation project for the Brisbane Jazz Club's birthday celebrations.
- An installation as part of Brisbane Festival's Under the Radar program
- Working with QCA research student and photographer Mr. Louis Lim on a "portraits of diversity" project.
- Further developing their Red Bubble site to promote and sell their photographs

Artist Space

- Access Arts' Artist Space collective self-supported their first group exhibition at Jugglers Arts Space in October 2012.
- Artist Space members John Briggs and Levi Diball are both working on solo exhibitions and publication projects.



Artwork by
John Briggs

Mentoring Program:

- Six professional development members submitted applications to the Unlimited UK initiative
- Anthea Patrick curated a sound art work "Listen to..." with Access Arts members' soundscapes.
- Magda Labuda took part in mentoring sessions to extend her digital video skills
- Carol O'Reilly worked towards the launch of her "Deaf Australian Story Part 2" book launch for February 2013.
- Kit Loke began mentoring sessions with Donna Dyson to build and manage her own poetry blog.
- Alexandra Jack is planning her long term on-line approach towards a solo exhibition and web business launch.
- Damian Stewart extended his musical composition and improvisation skills (with a new keyboard) and regular performances at the Brisbane Jazz Club jam nights.
- Colleen Stevenson began her Heiser Gallery mentorship in November.

SAFE Fund

Access Arts awarded seven SAFE grants in 2012, which is a quick-response grant program established through a bequest and generous donations to assist emerging and professional artists living in Queensland. The SAFE grants were awarded to:

- Colin Cain, sculptor, to assist with attendance at the Regional Arts Australia Conference in Goolwa, South Australia
- Maureen Connolly, for a laptop to help her compile her scripts
- Teone Reinthal, for a small hand held video camera to help capture life on the go, such as her subsequent trip to India
- Brendan Huddy, for his first digital camera and tripod to capture some new angles of his favourite rural landscapes
- Reg Lovell, for a new camera with special features to hone his artwork
- Rachel Tara to assist with production and promotion of 2 children's books that she has written and illustrated
- and Susan Andrews to assist her dance work.

Indigenous Projects Report

In 2012, Access Arts was very pleased to partner with a range of organisations, to link their members in with our workshops and professional development programs.

Artist Space member Roy says, “I first went to Geelong University to learn to be a painter. I painted snake and saddle drawings, but left the class because of my drug abuse. Over a decade later I’ve found myself and I have cleaned up my life. I have found that art relaxes me; it has helped me during times in hospital.

I no longer have the need to take drugs or alcohol. I am now a member of Artist Space to simply draw and paint and learn to present good work using different designs.”

Some of the organisations Access Arts partnered with in 2012 included Australasian Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health, Kambu Health Service Ipswich and Boys Town.

2012 also saw the final stage of the ‘Creative Recovery to Creative Livelihoods’ project, which has now been completed. Access Arts has valued the long and fruitful partnership with the Australasian Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health, project officer Michelle Leenders, and the communities in Lockhart River, Aurukun, and Mornington Island.

Body Language Project

Access Arts was delighted to support Kambu Health Service and Boys Town to deliver “The Body Language Project”. This project involved Creative Art Torso Workshops to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people the opportunity to use art to express what they feel on the inside, and artistically expressing it on the outside of a body torso, using art as their voice. Twenty-three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people created and decorated their own plaster torso, exploring different issues that affect them and their general health and wellbeing.

These Indigenous young artists creatively covered topics and issues way beyond their years but that are affecting young people today: issues like bullying and depression, physical and verbal abuse, culture and religion, the treatment of aboriginals, destruction, suicide, drug and alcohol addiction, anger and fear, violence and heartbreak... but they also covered emotions like love and peace, hope and joy and the dreams of a brighter future.



My Pride by Aaron Locke

Each young person throughout the “Body Language Project” grew emotionally in their own way. They learnt team work, compassion for each other, inner strength and confidence. They all realised that everyone had a story and that they were not alone in their life journey.

This culminated in an exhibition of the artworks, and an opportunity for the young people to share their stories with family and friends.

Creative Livelihoods

Creative Livelihoods began as a programme called *Creative Recovery* over 4 years ago in the remote Indigenous community of Lockhart River in Far North Queensland. Weekly visual arts workshops for people in the community experiencing mental health problems were coordinated by a local artist. Slowly but surely the numbers of participants grew and people noticed positive changes. Other communities heard about the programme and eventually *Creative Recovery* was extended to Aurukun, Mornington Island and Doomadgee. *Creative Recovery* evolved into *Creative Livelihoods* as the artists and their works found commercial outlets. Many workshops, arts residencies, exhibitions and community launches later, the artists and their communities found they had a means of generating livelihoods - *Creative Livelihoods*.

In 2012 the Australasian Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health (ACRRMH) received funding from the Queensland Government Department of Communities, with support from Access Arts assisted with the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Queensland funding to continue this initiative in Lockhart River and Aurukun. In Lockhart River we partnered with the Art Centre to deliver a public art mural project which engaged a much broader cross section of the community. The original *Creative Livelihoods* participants have been joined by groups of young people from the local school, men from the men’s shelter and trainees from the CDEP. Under the guidance of the professional artists at the Art Centre, large scale group artworks on boards have been created to beautify the community.



Mural in progress



Finished mural for the Men's shed group

In Aurukun, Gina Allain has delivered three arts residencies with the elder women who were originally involved in the project. These residencies developed the participants' art skills and marketing networks. Gina has been assisted by senior artist, Mavis Ngalametta, who is passing on traditional cultural techniques such as sourcing ochres from local clay pans and gathering and dying pandanas leaves for weaving.



"Knox River" By Janet Koongotema



Mavis Ngalametta and Janet Koongotema

BELONGING - Stories of connection to land, culture and identity

BELONGING exhibition was coordinated by the Australasian Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health (ACRRMH) with funding provided by Queensland Health in partnership with Access Arts Inc. and the ER Hayles Trust. It provided an opportunity to promote the Centre's Artist in Residence, Margaret Chatfield (M.Henry), and the arts outcomes our Creative Livelihoods program. The exhibition was launched as part of the Mental Health Services (TheMHS 2012) Conference at the Cairns Convention Centre - 21st to 24th August 2012. The Conference theme of "Recovering Citizenship" resonates with the theme of BELONGING.

Other organisations and individual artists involved in TheMHS Conference 2012 organising committee were invited to participate in the exhibition to enable a wider representation of the regions art to the conference delegates and the general community. The Yarrabah Worklink Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) program included the work of 8 local artists in BELONGING and 3 Cairns Artists from the Centacare Art Recovery Group are also exhibiting work.

BELONGING exhibition also travelled to Perth, where it was launched at the Perth Concert Hall in late October, through to the end of November 2012.

BELONGING embraced the notion of a deeper sense of connection that can be generated through art making. The artists represented in the exhibition shared personal stories of how the art making process has enabled them to make those connections. By reinvigorating their cultural, spiritual and personal identify through art they have transformed their lives. The effects have rippled through to their

friends, family, carers and communities who have travelled with them on their road to recovering citizenship.



Artist M.Henri – in-residence at the TheMHS Conference and Artworks from the Aurukun artists

Pandanus Weaving – TheMHS Conference delegates were invited to sit with the Master Weavers Mavis Ngalametta and Janet Koongotema from Aurukun and create their own artworks (baskets, mats, armbands etc.) during the conference. This was an opportunity for sharing stories in a relaxed, casual setting.



The journey of the Creative Livelihoods project was presented at the following forums and conferences in 2012:

- North Queensland Mental Health Forum – Cairns, March 2012
- The Mental Health Services Conference – Cairns, August 2012
- The 7th World Conference on Mental Health and Behavioural Disorders – Perth, November 2012
- 4th Annual International Arts and Health Conference – Fremantle, November 2012

Access Arts acknowledges the support of the Federal Government through the Department of Health and Aging, Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Queensland.

Access Arts looks forward to working further with these organisations, and to develop new partnerships in 2013 to ensure that all Queenslanders are free to participate, create and work in the arts.

Access Services Report

In 2012 Access Arts further developed and marketed its Access Services, which included Disability Awareness Training, Access Assessments and Disability Action Planning with arts and cultural organisations.

In 2012 Access Arts delivered training to:

- Arts facilitators, through Brisbane City Council's Art Bites program, January 2012
- Queensland Writer's Centre, April 2012
- Cirque du Soleil front of house staff, July 2012
- Brisbane City Council Creative Communities team, November 2012

Access Arts also delivered quarterly training sessions with a range of arts organisations.

Thank you to Members who assisted in the co-facilitation of these sessions: Peter Vance, Harmonie Downes, Donna Dyson, Elizabeth Navratil and Jack Murphy.

Access Arts would like to thank Brisbane City Council for funding the Access Services program through the Community Development and Capacity Building Grant 2012 - 2013.



Candy Pink blossoms on blue with white dots by Alex Crombie

2012 Volunteers

Access Arts would like to extend a big thank you to all of our volunteers for your generous contribution to our workshops, programs, events and administrative tasks.

In 2012 approximately 35 volunteers helped out with our workshops, events, programs, mail-outs and office administration.

We were pleased to work again with Vision Australia's 'Stepping Forward' program to provide a work placement in 2012. We also partnered with QUT, to provide placement opportunities for their Human Services program, and Southbank TAFE through their Community Services Certificate course.



Radiating by Tanya Darl

2012 Management Committee

Victoria Lister – President (until February 2013)

Doug Ranie – Secretary (resigned February 2013)

Oddur Augustsson – Treasurer

Cate Farrar – Ordinary Member (resigned November 2012)

Margaret Hughes – Ordinary Member; Secretary February – March 2013

Evan Jones – Ordinary Member; President February – March 2013

Damian Stewart – Ordinary Member (resigned December 2012)

Steve Beardsley – Filled Casual Vacancy (February - March 2013)

Len Bytheway – Filled Casual Vacancy (February - March 2013)

2012 Staff

Emma Bennison – Executive Officer (until July 2012)

Pat Swell – Executive Officer (from September 2012)

Angela Jaeschke – General Manager

Jasmin Jacobson – Visual Arts Coordinator (until August 2012)

Rachel Gaffney-Dawson – Visual Arts Coordinator (from August 2012)

Zane Trow – Professional Development Coordinator (until November 2012)

Nick Reilly – IT Administrator (until December 2012)

Joelene Scot – Community Arts Administrator

Genevieve Hinds – Administration Officer (until December 2012)

Jan Spinks – Finance Officer

Thirty-six casual staff were contracted in Access Arts' workshops, professional development programs, projects and events.



Artwork by John Briggs

Access Arts would like to acknowledge our funding partners for 2012:

- Queensland Government: Arts Queensland; Department of Communities - Disability Services.
- Federal Government: Department of Health and Ageing - Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Queensland.
- Brisbane City Council – Art Bites administration; Community Development and Capacity Building Grant
- Donors and supporters of Access Arts Inc.



Access Arts Inc. (Queensland)
ABN: 82 066 160 761

Street Address:
8 Lochaber Street
Dutton Park, QLD 4102

Postal Address:
PO Box 6495
Fairfield, QLD 4103

Phone:
(+61 7) 3844 5897
1300 663 651 (local call cost for regional callers)

www.accessarts.org.au
info@accessarts.org.au