

Access Arts

Annual Report 2017



**Empowering Queenslanders
who experience disability or
disadvantage to take part and
excel in the arts**

Access Arts

Annual Report 2017

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Today I Am - Access Arts Singers perform at QPAC Concert Hall Foyer

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT



2017 was a year of great activity by Access Arts members. There is only space to mention a few highlights.

Our second Undercover Artist Festival grew in reputation as Australia's only disability arts festival, again hosted by Queensland Theatre.

On opening night, JUTE Theatre's *Here we all are. Assembled*, starring 2014 Access Arts Achievement Award winner Doug Robins, was one of the most powerful and astonishing pieces of theatre featured on Brisbane stages in 2017.



Doug Robins and Natalie Taylor in JUTE Theatre's production of Here We All Are, Assembled (Stephen Henry Photography)

There were many memorable performances, including by Access Arts members Jeff Usher, David Truong, Alicia J Steele, Karen Roberts, and the Access Arts Singers. Congratulations to festival director Harmonie Downes! Thanks to Festival partners Arts Queensland, Brisbane City Council, Queensland Theatre, Spinal Life Australia, Deaf Services Queensland, Vision Australia and Reclink Australia.

Brisbane artist Alicia J Steele with 2017 Undercover Artist Festival Director Harmonie Downes (Stephen Henry Photography)



The opening night of the festival also saw Di Farmer MP present Freya Toussaint with the 2017 Access Arts Achievement Award, generously sponsored by Life Member Peter Vance.

Our members danced at QPAC with the Royal Ballet in *We All Dance*. Our Theatre Ensemble members had a residency at Metro Arts with Phluxus2 Dance Company. In Townsville, *Dance Unlimited* was a pilot in partnership with CPL and Dancenorth. Back at QPAC, in *Today I Am* our singers honoured the women survivors who, as children, had been wrongly incarcerated in Wolston Park in a project commissioned by Queensland Mental Health Commission, supported by Arts Queensland and delivered in partnership with Open Minds. Our choir members later joined the massed choirs to sing in the Southbank Piazza before an audience of 20,000 in Queensland Music Festival's *You're the Voice* concert.

Our annual visual artists' exhibition at KPMG Fly saw 70% of artworks sold at the private view.

Our Indigenous workstrand supported projects in South East Queensland including Roma, Southbank, Zillmere and Manly.

During the year we developed our Creative Ageing program for seniors, delivered disability awareness training, and made preparations for the National Disability Insurance Scheme which included a Strategic Planning Day for management committee members, expertly facilitated by Theodora Le Souquet.

At the AGM in March 2017, we welcomed a new Life Member to Access Arts: former management committee member and Secretary Susan Ball was recognised for her outstanding dedication to Access Arts. Sadly, September 2017 saw the passing of Life Member and talented musician Damian Stewart. Regretfully, we must also report the sad passing of Access Arts' former Executive Director Ross Barber this March 2018. A professional artist with two decades' experience of working in Australia, Europe and Asia, Ross's entrepreneurial legacy in visual arts development during his tenure at Access Arts lives on.

In 2017, Nicola Leahy joined us in the vital role of Treasurer, succeeding Catherine Black. Communications expert Lorelei Baum joined the management committee and fundraising professional Weston Bruner was co-opted. Stephanie Parkin, who brought important perspectives to the management committee and helped revise significant policies and agreements, stepped down. Patrick Tyro-Burns re-joined the management committee, bringing his deep expertise in the disability sector, until work took him to Sydney. I thank each of them, continuing Secretary Liz Crawford and the continuing management committee members Patrice McKay, Sam Nicolosi and Angela Tillmanns for their dedication and commitment to Access Arts.

In late 2017, Board Matters Managing Director Elizabeth Jameson reviewed our governance, made possible by a grant from

Arts Queensland. The Board Matters report noted: our constitutional brief draws together challenging portfolios of arts, disability and disadvantage; Access Arts operates extremely well in both a governance and a management sense; we are lean in our operations, given our limited funding sources. The Review also commended Access Arts for being extremely fortunate in having such a breadth of relevant skills and backgrounds amongst our high calibre volunteer management committee members, each of whom contributes significantly to the governance of our organisation. The Review identified the NDIS as the key challenge for Access Arts.

We were very grateful for the on-going support from the Australian Government for our Indigenous partnership work, and from the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland for organisation fund support and project funding and through the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. These vital funds have been augmented by the generous support of corporate partner KPMG, the Queensland Mental Health Commission, workshop sponsor Spinal Life Australia, pro bono partner McCullough Robertson, our philanthropic donors and our other arts and community organisation partners.



*Jeff Usher performing at Undercover Artist Festival Downes
(Stephen Henry Photography)*

I am very pleased to report that 2017 has seen our members' work continue, blossom and attract new audiences and patrons.

Thomas Bradley QC
President

2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



To me, the three stand-out achievements of 2017 are

- The stunning signature activities our members and staff delivered
- The two prestigious awards Access Arts won for our work in mental health
- The strong financial position in which we ended the year, exceeding expectations.

We brokered extraordinary opportunities for our members – and you, our members, rose to the challenge and excelled.

- **Undercover Artist Festival**, the only festival of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, promoted Queensland on the national stage.
- **We All Dance** ended with our members performing publically with ballerinas from the Royal Ballet. How good is that?
- **Today I Am** honoured women who, as children, had been incarcerated at Wolston Park. Just months later it was announced that these survivors received *ex gratia* payments from Queensland Government for their unjust imprisonment and torment.

In 2017 Access Arts

- delivered 69 different activities (that's more than 1 a week)

- from as far afield as Townsville to Tallebudgera
- enjoyed by 543 participants
- exciting 23,820 audience members
- creating paid work for 334 artists
- made possible with \$180,400 pro bono support

The many distinguished guests who enjoyed our members' work included **The Hon Jackie Trad MP** at our edgy Mad Hatters' Dinner Party that preceded the opening of Undercover Artist Festival. Representing the Premier **Di Farmer MP** opened Undercover Artist Festival, and Brisbane City **Councillor Jonathan Sri** introduced the keynote debate.

The Hon Cameron Dick MP, then Minister for Health, spoke at 'Today I Am' as did Queensland's former Mental Health Commissioner **Lesley van Schoubroeck**.

Queensland's current Mental Health Commissioner **Ivan Frkovic** opened our prestigious exhibition 'Fly' at KPMG. Brisbane City **Councillor Peter Matic** visited our Access Arts Singers at their workshop, drawing the lucky ticket to a raffle he donated. The year ended with artists Peter Vance and Karen Lee Roberts co-hosting a delegation from the **Shanghai Disabled Persons' Federation** where we exchanged ideas on practice.

2017 was, perhaps, the best year yet in Access Arts' 34-year history. A big thank you to you, our members, for making 2017 such triumph.

With the implementation of the NDIS in Brisbane, 2018 will be a time of change. During 2017 we laid strong foundations for the future.

Pat Swell
Chief Executive

3. ARTISTIC PROGRAM

Signature projects

Dance Unlimited – April and May

Partnering with CPL and Australia's outstanding Dancenorth we piloted two 10 week programs of dance workshops in Townsville for young children and for teenagers. Our purpose was to test NDIS viability and, with CPL's allied health team, to measure the health and wellbeing benefits of dance. These programs proved participants' muscle strength, balance and memory improved - while a fun time was had by all.

We All Dance - dancing with the stars! June

Opening doors most people would never have thought possible, our partnership with QPAC saw our workshop participants perform onstage with Royal Ballet ballerinas in the South Bank forecourt, a project that was featured in the UK national newspaper *The Guardian*.

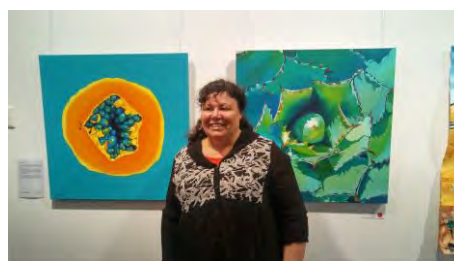


We All Dance – with Royal Ballet ballerinas

Brendan Ross, QPAC's Producer Programming, said: *"We were thrilled to be able to partner with Access Arts on We All Dance. The artistic and community outcomes have been remarkable, and in the words of The Royal Opera House, 'We All Dance has certainly set the benchmark for our future Royal Ballet International Learning and Participation work'".*

Aerial exhibition at Graydon Gallery - June

Our visual artists excelled in this mixed exhibition mounted at one of Brisbane's few accessible professional exhibition galleries: *"The artists involved in the Aerial exhibition created striking and high quality work that looked fantastic in the gallery space. I'm also really glad that there was such a sense of pride and satisfaction for the artists in the process and final outcome."*



BOA artist Suzanne Yule with her artworks, Graydon Gallery

Today I Am – June and July

Iconic musicians Emma Dean and Annie Peterson led singer-songwriting workshops for Access Arts Singers and new members attracted through our partnership with Open Minds. The first performance by the Singers was at QPAC Concert Hall Foyer honouring the women survivors of Wolston Park. A commission by Queensland Mental Health Commission, this brought together for the first time an exhibition of the series of portraits of the women painted by nationally renowned artist Anne Wallace.



Tony Dee sings 'Yes I Can' with the Singers at Today I Am



Two Wolston Park Survivors with Queensland's Mental Health Commissioner Lesley van Schooubroeck (left) and artist Anne Wallace (right)

The Singers' second prestigious performance was to 20,000 people at Queensland Music Festival's 'You're the Voice'.

Fly exhibition at KPMG - September

Our visual artists' 2017 annual exhibition in the CBD is strongly supported by KPMG Queensland Chairman Rob Jones: *"Another great night exposing yet more great talent. It's very important work you do and we are very happy to be associated with it"*. 70% of the artists' artwork sold at the private view, creating income for our artists.



Auctioning Belinda Peel's artwork at KPMG

Undercover Artist Festival – October

"A creatively contemporary and relevant festival that fills a genuine gap in the arts ecology and deserves to continue to grow and flourish. Well done." Across two days at Queensland Theatre this innovative biennial disability arts festival 'broke the boundaries, bent the rules' and celebrated Queensland Mental Health Week.



Curated by Festival Director Harmonie Downes the Festival showcased Brisbane as an accessible and inclusive city to artists and audiences drawn intra-state, interstate and internationally, shining a spotlight on Queensland. *"I was engaged by the creators that were given space to perform and teach at Undercover Artist Festival. I connected with the themes of living with mental illness that many showcased in their work and processes. The acts that addressed experiences analogous to my own were compelling."*



Blue Roo performing at Undercover Artist Festival
(Stephen Henry photography)



Brisbane-based artist Ged Maybury exchanges ideas with New Zealand artist Thane Pullan (Stephen Henry photography)

A Festival of this nature requires additional funds. The second disability arts festival this State has ever enjoyed was made possible through the generosity of Arts Queensland Queensland Arts Showcase Program funding, grant-aid from Brisbane City Council Community Development and Capacity Building, sponsorship from Spinal Life Australia, and choir leader Rosalind Perry who named Undercover Artist Festival as her fundraiser beneficiary.



Undercover Artist Festival's keynote debate 'Disability Voices and Mainstream Stages'. Left to right: Morgan Stern Director Goldele Rayment, Mark Taylor Opera Queensland Manager Open Stage, Morwenna Collett CEO Accessible Arts NSW, Associate Professor Bree Hadley and award-winning singer songwriter Donna Dyson (Stephen Henry Photography)

Community arts

Having fun, developing friendships, building artistic talents and life-skills in a safe environment to experiment are all part of our popular year-round community arts programs in singing, drumming and visual arts. *"I look forward every week to seeing everyone!" "I am happy here" "I am more confident and can sing solo now. Before I was too scared" "I have achieved arm coordination and gained more confidence" "I have achieved self-confidence and a sense of independence"* members told us through Survey Monkey.



Brisbane City Councillor Peter Matic draws the winning raffle ticket at Access Arts Singers

The value families and communities place on our programs is beyond doubt: *"Our son attends Access Arts Singers. We always love seeing the dynamics of the group, as all the singers become confident performers. The skill and the warm and capable direction your artists show go way beyond their music abilities as they nurture the talent of their singers individually and as a cohesive group. Each singer is valued and encouraged to produce their best and to feel a vital part of a wonderful whole. We love seeing our son's confidence grow as he has become such a valued member of the choir. This confidence has transferred to other parts of his life too, which is great to see. Well done Access Arts Singers!"*

Professional development

Brisbane Outsider Artists, Camera Wanderers and the Theatre Ensemble form the backbone of our professional development program for emerging artists. One participant, self-described as a 'very shy quiet person' when he started with Access Arts, explained *"My hands were shaking. I had no friends at all. I've been performing for a few years now with the Ensemble. I've changed, it's changed my whole experience, it's changed my whole life."*



Theatre Ensemble performs at KPMG

The highlight for our Theatre Ensemble was a 10 week winter intensive residency at Metro Arts working with Phluxus2 Dance Collective to heighten their dance and movement skills.



Selling artworks at Live Large

We ran stalls at CPL's major Live Large Festival on the South Bank at Easter, and again in July at Multicap's Festival, providing further opportunities for our visual artists to promote themselves and sell their artwork.

Visual artist Levi Diball received two mentorships in preparation for her first solo exhibition in June titled 'Until Now', showcasing her artistic journey in the professional environment of Graydon Gallery.

Grants and awards

\$10,000 Access Arts Achievement Award

Begun by philanthropist and Access Arts Life Member Peter Vance in 2014 who offered funding for a five year time-frame, the Award aims to catapult forward the career of one Queensland artist with disability each year.

At Queensland Theatre in October the extraordinary artistic journeys this Award has made possible for the four award-winning recipients to date were showcased:

- 2017 award-winner visual artist Freya Toussaint received her Award for her visual arts proposal 'The Ripple Effect'.



Left to right: Peter Vance, Cindy Ranger, Freya Toussaint, Di Farmer MP (Stephen Henry photography)

- 2016 award-winner Alex Procopis was 18 when he won. The Award is enabling Alex to work with specialist artists to develop an 'elephant whispering' symphony called Giant Hearts. His performance that night demonstrated his exceptional talent originally uncovered through our regular community arts program which the Award is now taking to the next level. Both the Courier Mail and Sunday Mail featured Alex's exceptional story during 2017.



*Alex Procopis and Joseph Surawski in performance
(Stephen Henry photography)*

- 2015 award-winner Emma Le Strange performed a visual and vocal journey of the children's book 'Tea Parties and Pillows' she is creating with her Award.



Emma Le Strange (Stephen Henry photography)

- 2014 award-winner Doug Robins won our inaugural Award. This enabled Cairns-based JUTE Theatre to work with Doug to create 'Here We All Are. Assembled', a powerful play that took three years in development. The spellbound audience saw the Brisbane premier in the Bille Brown Studio feature Doug as lead actor in this complex and layered story by Kathryn Ash which, through symbolism and metaphor, refers to our unrelenting journey towards the grave.



*Cairns actor Doug Robins in the Brisbane premier of JUTE Theatre's Here We All Are. Assembled
(Stephen Henry photography)*

Sponsored for five years, 2018 will be the final year of the \$10,000 Access Arts Achievement Award unless a further sponsor is forthcoming.

SAFE Fund

Grants of up to \$1,000 assist Queensland artists, artworkers or producers who experience disability. This rapid response scheme assisted two recipients in 2017. One grant supported theatre practitioner Daniele Constance to create the first development of a new work and test it at Melbourne Fringe Festival which "pushed her experience and skills as a performer and director". The second grant to visual artist Levi Diball contributed towards her Graydon Gallery solo exhibition costs.



Levi Diball's solo exhibition at Graydon Gallery

Projects with First Australians

Our arts programs supporting First Australians' social and emotional well-being in South East Queensland are delivered in partnership, made possible with funding from Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Roma

First Australian artist Michael McGuane ran a 9 week program for under 5s and their parents. This strengthened Roma Indigenous Children's Playgroup, helped recruit more members and raised their standing in the community.



Michael McGuane at Roma Indigenous Children's Playgroup

Playgroup Queensland said: *"This project has been a fantastic show of the collaboration that different agencies, with seemingly different purposes, can work towards one shared purpose for communities".*

Zillmere

10 week program led by First Australian visual artists Wendy Rix and David Riley saw the local Murri Connections Group re-connect with Nandjimidji artists from the Sunshine Coast as they transformed three recycled table tops into public art. These artworks are now proudly displayed at Zillmere Community Centre.



Nandjimidji Aunty, Aunty Betty McMahon, commended our partnership with Suncare Community Services: *'It is very good how we have been able to come down and meet up with the Brisbane group. It is important to connect the two groups and keep doing it'.*



Murri Connections Aunty Vicky with Nandjimidji Aunty Betty McMahon yarning at the Zillmere arts workshop

Manly

Led by visual artist Patrick Ketter our Indigenous Art Program in partnership with Career Employment Australia and advice from the Indigenous Youth Mobility Program and Wynnum's Yulu-Burri-Ba Indigenous Health Centre had significant impact: *"I've been stifled creatively since I came to the city and coming to this Indigenous art program has reconnected me to my ancestral roots. I've started doing more paintings in my home studio, and producing art to sell. This program has really inspired me to get going with my own business."*



Manly Indigenous Art Program

Brisbane

We invited the **Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts** (ACPA) to partner with us for 'We All Dance'.



ACPA students with Access Arts members at We All Dance

Working with our members their students developed new skills, naming their highlights and learnings as: *"Having a unique opportunity to work on a community project whilst being up close and personal with inspirational, professional dancers"* *"Understanding different people's perspective and willingness to share their personal achievements and creativity has been incredible"* *"This has improved my social communication with others by working at a slow pace"*.

Mentoring Bert was a six month partnership with Flying Arts led by respected arts professional John Armstrong: *"Personally, John has been really supportive through some tough times with me and I really appreciate that a lot as he has given me a new perspective on my troubles. This was a great experience and helped me realise what to do with my art in the future and the way it fits into my life and culture. The tax and marketing information was good and I hope I can now work in a proppa way."*



Bert now plans to apply to study at Queensland College of Art.

Creative Ageing

When Tallebudgera seniors at Lutheran Services residential home heard that Access Arts was to deliver a performing arts project, 58% of them decided to take part. And so 'The Garden Party' started.

They came "to see what it was all about" "to meet and get to know more people" "to try something new". And the result was they "enjoyed being with other people" "the company" "friendships" "lots of laughter". The residents performed an amazing show they had created through the 10 week workshop program, which they called 'The Garden Party', to staff, their families and friends.



The Garden Party

Through this Lutheran Services found their residents made new connections, increased communication and relationships, built community, experienced purpose and joy. They particularly noted residents with dementia experienced multiple opportunities to engage with others at a high level in an activity. The project, which received a small grant through Queensland Seniors Week, also brought pride to staff, family and friends when they saw their residents and loved ones excel at the performance.

Access and Inclusion

Our Access and Inclusion program encourages mainstream services to be more accessible to people with disability. It builds skills and confidence within their workforce. In 2017 we delivered Disability Awareness Training to 116 people who appreciated the benefits: "Very valuable training both for myself and for our visitors. Thank you" "I feel very privileged to do this. Informative, engaging, fun, friendly, welcoming, involved."

We delivered services to Logan City Council, Lutheran Services, Queensland Mental Health Commission and Redland City Council.

We advised State Library of Queensland on their Disability Service Plan, welcomed a Vision Australia trainee on a four-month work placement, and with two of our practicing artists Peter Vance and Karen Lee Roberts hosted a delegation from the Shanghai Disabled Persons' Federation.



*Karen Lee Roberts as MC at Undercover Artist Festival
(Stephen Henry photography)*

4. ENGAGEMENT, FEEDBACK AND EVALUATION

Access Arts engages and gains feedback from our members and stakeholders in many ways. Two particular 2017 highlights were our Stakeholder Focus Group and Culture Counts.

Stakeholder Focus Group

In May stakeholders representing different workstrands of Access Arts met for an in-depth focus group, led by management committee members Weston Bruner and Lorelei Baum. The group noted the very positive experience people have with Access Arts, the transformative effect on individuals from a range of backgrounds and disadvantage, the empowerment, ability to spark independence and confidence, and to change lives on a number of levels. Consensus was that Access Arts is not an end in itself: long-term participants often enjoy careers, independent living and other benefits that flow from the effects of Access Arts' programs.

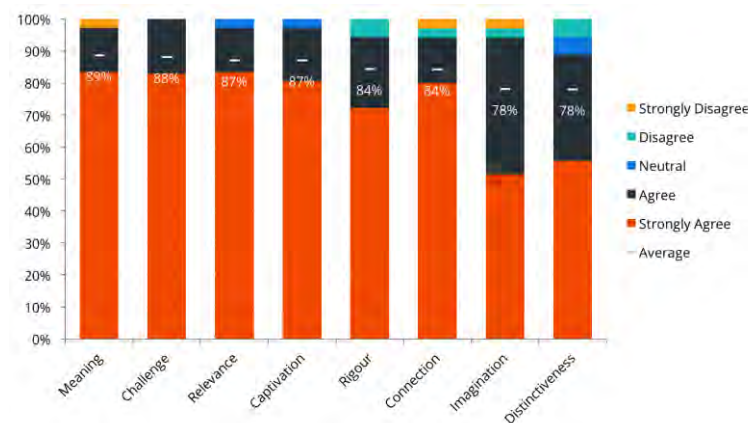
A central theme was the importance Access Arts places on 'inclusivity'. There was agreement that Access Arts' work is not limited to people with disability but is broader, having a powerful impact on people experiencing disadvantage such as members of the aged care sector. Their suggestion was that Access Arts should embrace the term 'disadvantage' more widely as this is less limiting relative to those whom Access Arts seeks to serve.

Access Arts was commended for 'aiming high' and not being content with the status quo. People agreed that the range and depth of programs available through Access Arts is impressive. The desire for term-based workshop programs to have longer terms was expressed, and so with immediate effect from

term 3 Access Arts extended term-lengths from 8 to 10 weeks. Participants said they welcomed being consulted and surveyed, and so in November through 'survey monkey' we consulted our workshop participants and then re-designed our 2018 programs in the light of the findings. Focus group members also said they were actively interested in receiving more news from Access Arts, and so we started an e-Newsletter.

Culture Counts

Culture Counts is a stakeholder consultation tool that provides us with independent external validation of our work and its impact. Culture Counts are global leaders in cultural measurement. Their Director Georgia Moore said of the year's findings: *"You're doing amazing work and have been able to capture a lot of data on the important cultural and social outcomes you generate across audiences, participants and peers"*.



This Culture Counts chart evaluating our event 'Today I Am' shows exceptionally high average scores. The majority of the 45 respondents agreed that the event had meaning, challenge and relevance; that it was captivating, had rigour, connection, imagination and distinctiveness. The highest average scores were for meaning and challenge, indicating that 'Today I Am' moved and inspired audiences and challenged them to think in a different way.

5. ORGANISATION

Awards

Our contribution to mental health was publically recognised when the much coveted Queensland Mental Health Week Achievement Award in the category of small not-for-profit for 2017 was awarded to Access Arts. Open Minds also highly commended our contribution to mental health when their Board named Access Arts as the recipient of their Partnership Award.



Quality systems

Made possible with a grant from Arts Queensland, Board Matters undertook a Governance Review of Access Arts led by Managing Director Elizabeth Jameson. Board Matters' subsequent Report commended our governance and management.

Access Arts operates under the Human Services Quality Framework. Our last external audit by Global-Mark showed no areas for improvement.

Studio relocation

In 2017 we relocated our visual arts' studio from Woolloongabba after many happy years based at SWARA as they needed to reclaim this space, to the Attigo Centre in Multicap's Head Office, Eight Mile Plains. We thank many of our loyal members who made the transition with us.

Workforce



Staff at NDIS training led by specialist Angela Tillmanns

Training in disability awareness and the NDIS were part of our staff professional development programs.



Staff and volunteer planning meeting

Volunteers

We thank our committed volunteers who supported us in 2017 including Lyn Hair and Vision Australia trainee placement Lanie Heath.

Undercover Artist Festival volunteers were Megan Ashdown, Sarah Briece, Anawin Chokplod, Ana Collins, Leone Crayden, Aaron

Dora, Alice Gittins, Maria Hutchinson, Rebekkah Law, Peyton Leahy, Greeshma Matthews, Madalyn Orr, Monroe Scott and Keziah Young. *“Volunteering at UAF provided me with many learning opportunities. It gave me the opportunity to experience what it is like to work in a genuine, fast-paced festival environment. I also gained valuable experience in working under pressure. I can now apply my newfound industry knowledge and skills to any future occupation”.*



*Alice Gittins volunteering at Undercover Artist Festival
(Stephen Henry Photography)*

Artswokers and past office staff

The artists who lead and assist our programs bring skills in both arts and disability. Their specialist expertise is transformative to our members' lives. We thank them, and the office staff who left during 2017: Brooke Austen, Sophie Banister, Emma Bannerman, Genevieve Butler, Francesca Co-Beng, Cate Collopy, Daniele Constance, Leah Cotterell, James Cunningham, Amy Davidson, Rebecca Dostal, Harmonie Downes, Sarah Dunstan, Sarah Gall, Eleonora Ginardi, Sarah Greenwood, Catriona Holland, Annika Keefer, Felicity Kelly-Cruise, Alexandra Lawton, Saskia Levy, Katie Martin, Noble Tichawona Mashawa, Marty O'Hare, Velvet Pesu, Annie Peterson, Sophie Rawlinson, Carolyn Robinson, Carla Sanzone, Samantha Smith, Walter Stahl, Allycia Staples.

Contribution to the local economy

Access Arts employed 30 staff during 2017 and contracted a further three specialists. During the year we contracted 82 local businesses to provide services for Access Arts. The total value of these contracts was \$162,200. Our 2017 turnover was just under \$1 million when both cash (\$800,000), and pro bono support (\$180,000) from 22 different organisations, are included.

Partners

Our 2017 partners were the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts, Accessible Arts NSW, Career Employment Australia, CPL (Choice Passion Life, formerly the Cerebral Palsy League), Dancenorth, Deaf Services Queensland, Flying Arts Alliance, InsideOutside Theatre, JUTE Theatre, KPMG, Metro Arts, Multicap, McCullough Robertson, Open Minds, Phluxus2 Dance Collective, Playgroup Queensland, Queensland Music Festival, QPAC, Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble, Queensland Theatre, Roma Children's Playgroup, Spinal Life Australia, Suncare Community Services, and Vision Australia.

Donors

Access Arts is deeply grateful to our 2017 donors who made this program possible: Lorelei Baum, Tony Blake, Thomas Bradley, Weston Bruner, Andrea Carroll, Sheila Clark, Elizabeth Crawford, Brad Daniels, Cr Vicki Howard, Michael Gilmour, Gerrard and Gwyneth Jolly, Kate Steph and Letts Kerin, Racheal Missingham, Sam Nicolosi, Open Minds, Rosalind Perry, Emily Reynolds, Maggie Sardie, Glenn Schloss, Phoebe Skuthorpe, Alicia J Steele, Andy Stephanos, Pat Swell, Angela Tillmanns, Patrick Tyro Burns, Karl and Semah Wischki.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT



I am pleased to present the Audited Financial Reports for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2017.

Revenue for the 2017 year was \$779,546 (2016: \$709,815). The increase is due to delivery of Undercover Artist Festival with Arts Queensland funding and 'Today I Am' a partnership with Open Minds and supported by Queensland Mental Health Commission.

Profit for the year as shown in the Statement of Profit and Loss and Comprehensive Income was \$8,585 (2016: \$43,437). This 2017 result includes expenditure for projects commenced in the prior year. The organisation continued to review all expenditure for savings opportunities and worked to maximise in-kind contributions from partner organisations in delivering the festival and projects.

At the end of December 2017, the Balance Sheet shows a cash and cash equivalents total of \$339,470. These items include the funds set aside for the annual Access Arts Achievement Award (\$34,475) and the SAFE Fund (\$89,940). The funds for the Achievement Award and SAFE Fund are held for the purposes of providing the annual Award and grants respectively, so these funds are not available to meet general operating costs of Access Arts.

The net assets of the organisation at 31 December 2017 were \$287,182 (2016:

\$285,648) comprising the Access Arts Achievement Award and SAFE Funds restricted reserves \$124,415 (2016: \$131,466) and retained surpluses of \$162,767 (2016: \$154,182).

In 2017, the organisation undertook a good governance exercise and changed auditor to Wessels and Co Pty Ltd, after many years of excellent service from Brian Tucker Accounting.

2018 will be a year of transition for our members and challenges for the organisation due to the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme which replaces all of the organisation's Queensland government disability services funding. We have undertaken intensive financial modelling and options analysis work which will continue into 2018 as we seek to maintain our commitment to providing high quality access to arts activities to people with disability and disadvantage.

Nicola Leahy
Treasurer

Staff with Deputy Premier the Hon Jackie Trad MP at the Mad Hatters' Dinner Party, Undercover Artist Festival (Stephen Henry Photography)





**We believe the arts
are for everybody**

8. ACCESS ARTS

Patron

**His Excellency
the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC
Governor of Queensland**

Management committee members at December 2017

President: Thomas Bradley QC

Treasurer: Nicola Leahy

Secretary: Liz Crawford

Members: Lorelei Baum, Weston Bruner,
Patrice McKay, Sam Nicolosi, Angela Tillmanns

Office staff at December 2017

CEO: Pat Swell

Business Manager: Narelle Hill

Services Coordinator: Angela Witcher

Project Coordinator: Tim Brown

Visual Arts Coordinators: Rachel
Gaffney-Dawson, Jasmin Coleman

Finance Officer: Andy Stephanos

Administrators: Mary Schneider,
Carla Sanzone

7. OUR FUNDERS



**Queensland
Government**

Access Arts is supported by
the Queensland Government
through Arts Queensland

**Proudly Supported by
Australian Government**

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