




DISABILITY ARTS HISTORY AUSTRALIA

Is an online archive that documents the transformative impact of artists, arts organisations, and allies working in Disability Arts in Australia from the 1970s to the 2020s.


It is the outcome of a research project funded by the Australian Research Council, Creative Australia, Queensland University of Technology's Centre for Justice, and Curtin University's Centre for Technology and Culture.


ABOUT THE WEBSITE


Created in collaboration with over 100 d/Deaf, Disabled, and Neurodivergent artists and allies, the website includes

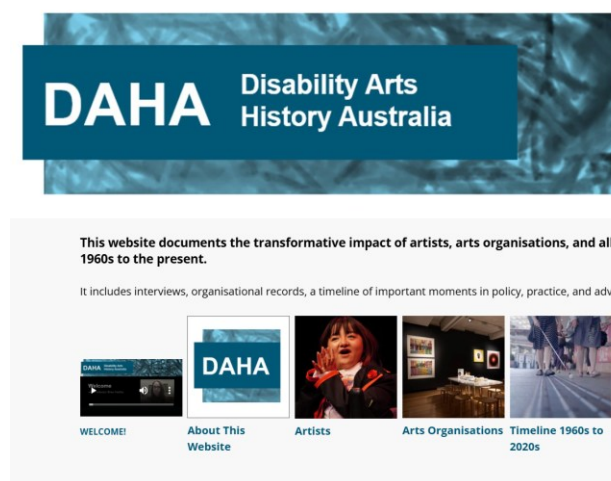
-  **1661 Archival Records:** Annual Reports, Programs, Promotional Flyers and Cards and more, available via URLs or PDFs.
-  **49 Interviews:** With d/Deaf, Disabled and Neurodivergent artists and allies, with Auslan interpretation, captions, and transcripts for each video
-  **Search Tools:** To explore 10,864 people, organisations, and works associated with

Australia's peak Disability Arts organisations, and filter for location, artform, or topics such as Access, Education and employment, Participation in public and political life

 **Timeline:** Important moments in Disability Arts practice, policy, and activism

 **Reference List:** Books, articles, reports and other helpful resources

 **Curated Histories:** Pages focused on specific themes such as Disability Arts Festivals or Government Policy, Strategy, and Funding



WAYS TO USE THE WEBSITE

- ☒ Browse to discover the rich history of Disability Arts in Australia over the last 50 years
- ☒ Learn about the early leaders in the field, current innovations, and future aspirations
- ☒ Search for artists and arts organisations to learn more about their work
- ☒ Create tailored reports, training programs, or public events about specific topics

The Disability Arts History Australia website celebrates the work artists, arts organisations, policy makers and researchers have done to create change over time.



The Other Film Festival showcases the development of Disability-led screen production in Australia. From an international program with a local section in 2004, to increased programming of short films – particularly documentaries – in 2006, 2008, 2010, to programming feature length works by Australian filmmakers by 2012.



Seeing Ourselves (2016), and **Seeing Ourselves 2** (2023), commissioned by Screen Australia, highlight continued gaps in inclusion of Disabled artists on screen and behind the scenes of Australian film and television production.

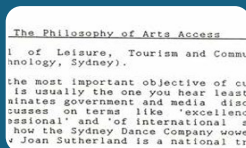


Launched in 2017, the Sydney Film Festival's **Screenability** program seeks to create platforms for Disabled filmmakers.

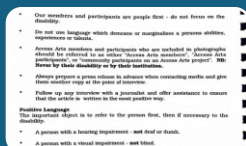


In 2023, Screen Australia launches an access coordinator training program, to improve representation, and address continued barriers to accessing work, in the screen industry.

The Disability Arts History Australia website also documents the areas where d/Deaf, Disabled, and/or Neurodivergent artists have argued – and continue today to argue – that work is still required to create a more inclusive arts, media, and sector in Australia.



Create Ability: A Conference on Creativity and Disability 1989 Report, by Accessible Arts NSW – in a talk on 'The Philosophy of Arts Access' Gay Hawkins (University of Technology Sydney) says "For me ACCESS is the most important objective of cultural policy. Unfortunately it is usually the one you hear least about. ... In speaking to a conference focusing on creativity and disability I am struck by the very bottom line of access, and that is the immense physical difficulties that some people face when trying to either consume or produce culture."



The **Access Arts - Artworkers Guidelines** from 1997 include a User Rights statement, emphasising self-determination, along with other advice – for example, a Media Policy to act to ensure inclusive language in communications. It concludes with diagrams of key Auslan signs.



The Australia Council for the Arts publishes a report on **The Arts and Disability** in 1995, **Fact Packs** highlighting attitude, access, and inclusion issues for Disabled artists in each state in 1998, **Access All Areas: Guidelines for Marketing the Arts to People with Disabilities** in 1999, **Snapshots** of current practice in 2003.



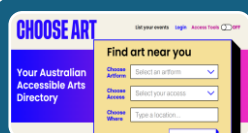
Arts Access Australia and Australia Council for the Arts release ***Making the Journey: Arts and Disability in Australia*** in 2005, to highlight ways to include Disabled people as leaders, artists, and audience



Following the release of Australia's first ***National Arts and Disability Strategy*** (2009), Australia Council for the Arts and other funding agencies commit increased funding to support Disabled artists development and practice over the next decade – including, with Arts Access Australia, leadership awards



Australia Council releases ***Creating Pathways: Insights on Support for Artists with disability in 2018***, Meeting of Cultural Ministers releases ***Research Overview: Arts and Disability*** in 2018



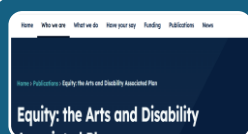
The ***Choose Art*** directory of accessible arts is launched in 2019, an initiative of Arts Access Victoria, with Arts Access Australia, Access2Arts, Access Arts, Accessible Arts, Arts Access Darwin, Belconnen Arts Centre, DADAA, and Incite Arts



With funding from Australia Council, Arts Access Australia undertakes consultation to develop Guidelines for a National ***Code of Conduct for Access in the Arts*** in 2022



Disability Arts History Australia project interviewees comment on continued barriers to accessing education, employment, and presentation opportunities in interviews conducted 2022-2024.



Australian Government publishes ***Equity: The Arts Disability Associated Plan***, Creative Australia publishes ***Building on Strong Foundations: Research on Arts and Disability Needs and Opportunities*** in 2024, commits to fund Guidelines and national events

IMPACT OF OUR WORK

- ☑ Connecting arts organisations, government agencies, academics, and students
- ☑ Advancing knowledge of d/Deaf, Disabled, and/or Neurodivergent artists participation, inclusion, and profile in dance, theatre, music, film, creative writing, and other fields
- ☑ Creating tailored reports, training materials, and publications to support current and future inclusion policies, initiatives, and guidelines

ENQUIRIES – MEDIA, TAILORED REPORTS, TAILORED TRAINING PACKAGES



Visit the website at: <https://disabilityartshistoryaustralia.net>



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