

ANNUAL REPORT
1996

ARTS
Access



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***Making the Arts Work
for Everyone***

Cover

Dream Journey - "Ballet Dancing in Paris"
by June Bentley
Photographer - Ken Plebian

China photography - Barbara Doherty

All other photographs by Collin Bogaars
unless otherwise acknowledged.



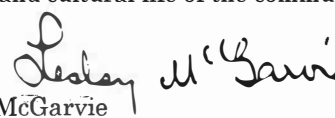
Patron's Message

It is wonderful to see the hard work of major strategic planning undertaken by Arts Access over the last year bearing fruit with some exciting projects taking place and being developed during 1996.

As well as the continuing great work of the Artistic Program and the Library and Information Services, of particular note is the work of EASE in providing information and training to the arts and entertainment community through the Industry Development Program. Through this program EASE raises awareness of the access needs of people with disabilities in accessing cultural events and the responsibility of the arts sector to address these issues.

I also commend the work of EASE in developing the Venue Access Guide which will provide invaluable information about Melbourne's cultural venues, including vital access information. Both these projects are central to the realisation of Arts Access' exciting vision for Victoria of creating the world's most accessible centre of culture.

At the national level, I am delighted to see the very significant steps being taken through the partnership of Disability in the Arts Disadvantage in the Arts Australia (DADAA), the national network of art and disability organisations, and the Australia Council, in addressing some of the major barriers that inhibit access to the arts by people with disabilities. I do commend the hard work and vision of Arts Access in its work with DADAA. I certainly do look forward to the continuing realisation of this vision of equal access to the artistic and cultural life of the community.


Lesley McGarvie
Patron



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Mission

Arts Access is an independent arts organisation which has as its mission the creation of opportunities for all people to fully participate in the cultural and artistic life of the community.

This vision of equal access, choice and active participation is being achieved in partnership with people who are disadvantaged, or who have a disability, and through leadership in the broader arts community.

Arts Access achieves its mission through programs that both deliver a service and work towards structural change.

The Artistic Program provides opportunities for people to explore their artistic/creative potential through:

- collaborative model and pilot arts projects in diverse community settings using all art forms;
- major events;
- an artist development program;
- a cultural exchange program; and
- major programs, such as *Art & Health*, which combine research and model projects and training.

The Entertainment Access Service (EASE) aims to create equal access to cultural events through:

The EASE Ticket Service providing subscribers with low cost tickets and a specialised seating service covering a broad range of art, entertainment and cultural events;

The Venue Access Program promoting the best in access through producing and distributing information about access features of cultural venues;

The Industry Development Program promoting excellence in access and customer service at cultural venues through training and consulting directly with the arts industry on improving access and facilities at individual venues. The role of the **Information and Training Services** is to support the mission of Arts Access and the work of the EASE and the Artistic Program through the provision of specialised information and training to a wide range of individuals and organisations within the arts, health, community services and disability sectors.

Arts Access has adopted the following strategic objective to achieve its mission:

Leadership

As an active leader in the arts in creating awareness of the cultural and civil rights of people who experience disability or social disadvantage.

Programs

By developing new initiatives and extending existing programs for people to participate in, create and access the arts.

Profile

By increasing our profile, being acknowledged as a creative arts organisation, and being recognised as an integral part of Australia's cultural life.

Technology

By being at the forefront of the application of new information and communication technologies and multimedia in the areas of the arts and access.

Finance

By securing the organisations long-term financial viability.

People

By encouraging an interdependent organisation that values and develops its people.

Building

By locating Arts Access in a purpose designed and well equipped premises with room for further growth in all of Arts Access priority areas over the next 5- 10 years.

Executive Director's Report

This year has been one of change and consolidation – laying down some exciting directions for 1997 and beyond.

In looking back over 1996 several projects stand out – the International Cultural Exchange Project with China, which saw two artists travel to China was a particular highlight, as was the exquisite *Dream Journeys* exhibition from the Art Day West Project.

1996 has been a time for laying foundations, building on the strategic planning undertaken in 1995.

Research and writing was completed for the *Melbourne Venue Guide*, funding largely secured for *Body Suits* the National Touring Visual Arts exhibition planned for June 1997. A review of the Artistic Program has been undertaken, a Business Plan for the organisation developed, and a vision for Victoria formulated.

At the national level the consolidation of DADAA with the development of a strategic partnership between the Australia Council and the network in addressing national barriers to participation in the arts for people with a disability or who are disadvantaged by social conditions.

The year has also been one of change. This began with the position of Public Affairs becoming redundant and Vivian Carroll leaving after four years with the organisation. This hard decision was necessitated by a difficult financial situation. A situation which, through savings and through the generation of more income through increased cash

activity we are looking to end the year with a small surplus. (It is interesting to note that turnover has increased by some 20 per cent in the last two years – a testament to the increased level of activity within the organisation).

In July, Bobbie Hodge the Artistic Program Manager, left for a year's leave of absence to await the birth of her son, and then in late August Carol Downey, the Information Services Co-ordinator left after seven years with Arts Access.

With the loss of these valuable staff members has been the arrival of Ruth Whittingham and Martin Wurt who have both brought with them energy and enthusiasm, as well as considerable skill.

During 1996 Steven Scheutz, a consultant employed by the Australia Council, developed a Promotions Plan for Arts Access. The Plan's recommendations will be implemented in early 1997.

It is also planned that a Development Program Manager's position be created, primarily to secure new funding sources for larger scale projects. The pieces are all in place – the organisation has a vision – to see Victoria become the world's most accessible centre of culture – we have some excellent and very exciting projects in development and others such as *Body Suits* and *The Melbourne Venue Guide* – which are ready to go.

1997 promises to be a remarkable year because of the hard work undertaken during 1996.

Helen Bowman

Helen Bowman
Executive Director

Back row: Barbara Doherty (Art Day Projects Co-ordinator), Neil Blenkiron (Administration Volunteer), Carol Downey (Information Services Co-ordinator – to September 1996), Ruth Whittingham (Artistic Program Manager – from July 1996), Jane Trengove (DADAA Co-ordinator), Dean Michael (EASE Program Manager), Jill Cardiff (1996 Annual Report Co-ordinator), Rhona Bester (Administrator).

Front row: Vito Manfredi (Jobskills Trainee), Martin Wurt (Information Co-ordinator – from August 1996), Lisa McKoy (EASE Ticket Co-ordinator), Helen Bowman (Executive Director), Samantha Marsh (Administration Officer).



President's Report

For Arts Access, the past year has once again proved to be a year of challenge and achievements. Our Programs have continued to provide both direct services and also address longer-term structural changes.

The Venue Access Program, introduced in 1995, was greatly enhanced with the development of a vision for the positioning of Melbourne and Victoria as the world's most accessible centre of culture, and a 5 year strategy to achieve this vision. Indeed, with the continuing growth of EASE and a new Melbourne Venue Guide, we are well on the way to making that vision a reality.

The Artistic Program, under the direction of Bobbie Hodge, and Ruth Whittingham, continued to deliver a multiplicity of programs of excellence, creativity and innovation. A highlight of the year was an ongoing International Cultural Exchange Program. Artists, Jennifer McCarthy and Claire Humphrys-Hunt, with Barbara Doherty, spent a month in China working with groups in Jilin and Jiangsu, to create a stimulating and memorable experience for all involved, as well as novel and exciting works of art.

The Information and Training Services provided access to our comprehensive arts and disability resource collection, training opportunities for staff involved in both the arts industry and the community services sector, and the Arts Access Studio reached ever widening audiences.



Back – left to right: Judy Morton (President), Miriam Bass (Junior Vice President), Alan Moor (Senior Vice President), Robyn Charwood, Laurie Reilly (Treasurer), Jo Raphael.
Front – left to right: Samantha Marsh (Administrative Officer and Minutes Secretary), Marg Woollard, Peter Hengstberger, Helen Bowman (Executive Director).

Not in photo: Mark Williams.
Photograph - Martin Wurt

Particularly pleasing during 1996 was the increased recognition and acknowledgment of the significance of Arts Access' work, and the field of arts and disability in general. Considerable progress was made in developing the national network, DADAA. Arts Access is pleased to auspice the organisation in its formative stages, and we look forward to the time, in the near future, when DADAA is formally constituted to provide a strong base for advocacy and co-operative action across Australia; and to address at the national level policies and strategies to increase the participation in all aspects of the arts of people with disabilities and those who are experiencing social disadvantage.

As a consequence of the changes that have taken place during the year, our fundraising activities have had to take a back seat. I was therefore particularly pleased with the substantial anonymous donation to the Arts Access Trust that boosted our funds.

In these times of financial constraint, I am more aware than ever of the efforts and hard work contributed unstintingly by all who share our vision and participate in our work, whether staff, volunteers, board members, artists, client organisations or program participants. Thank you all.

In particular, I would like to thank our inaugural Treasurer, Isi Plack who retired after more than 17 years of service. As a founding member of the Committee of Management, Isi was a key figure in Arts Access' establishment as a legal entity. He joined us at a time when the future of the organisation was uncertain. The survival of Arts Access and its development from a one-person project to a fully professional, nationally recognised organisation is due in no small part to Isi's commitment, hard work and generosity of spirit. I know all of Arts Access joins me in acknowledging and thanking Isi for his contribution.

I have no doubt that 1997, like previous years, will be both challenging and rewarding. I invite you all to play an active part in the year ahead.

Judy Morton

Judy Morton
President

Artistic Program

In 1996, the Artistic Program continued to create opportunities for people with a disability or who are experiencing social disadvantage to develop and explore their artistic/creative potential. The program worked in partnership with a range of agencies and participants covering all art forms. The program:

- Initiated model/pilot and longer term collaborative arts projects between specific target groups and professional artists, enabling exploration and nurturing of creative talents;
- Focused on themes such as *Art and Health* which combine model projects, research, training and resource development;
- Provided training and professional development for artists;
- Included an International Cultural Exchange Program.
- Provided a project management service on behalf of other organisations;
- Co-ordinated major events.



Dream Journey – "Tango in the Town Hall" by Halina Gromek.
Photographer – Ken Plebian.

EXTENDED DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS

These longer term community based arts programs are directed at specific target groups.

ART DAY – WESTERN REGION

This visual and performing arts project for people with intellectual disabilities ran throughout the year from February to December.

During this, the third year of operation, the program continued its unique blend of performance and the visual art, and participants created individual works focusing on the theme of *personal aspirations*. Initially the participants identified and constructed their dreams through performances and then created these in the form of miniature, three dimensional dream boxes.

This work came together with the mounting of the *Dream Journeys* exhibition at the Cafe

Provisions in Williamstown. Twenty seven *Dream Journey* boxes were exhibited. The exhibition was a great success and due to public demand, the exhibition dates were extended. The *Dream Journey* exhibition has since been displayed at the Williamstown Primary School and at Arts Access.

Venue: South Kingsville Community Centre, Spotswood

Length of project: Six hours x 46 weeks

Target group: People with intellectual disabilities (18 years and over)

Co-ordinator: Barbara Doherty

Artists: Lyndsay Mason and Claire Teisen

Guest artists: Chris Lesser, Bolton Theatre School

Support workers: Dee Buman, Janine Cording and Eva Marks

Number of participants: 28

Funding: The Department of Human Services – Adult Training Support Service



The exhibition in Provisions "Dream Journeys" is quite wonderful – absolutely other world. You sit in the cafe, drinking coffee and you are taken into the exquisite spaces, the photos, the clutter of flowers, the colour – they are truly wonderful! So exciting to have an exhibition like this – such a space as this!! Thank you.

To all that have shared so much!

Kate Maynard – 19/9/96

So many stories in pictures, so many different people with different ways of looking and showing what is seen. Congratulations to the artists, and those who put the show together.

Frances Thorsen – 19/9/96

Far right:
'Self Portrait'
- participant
from City of
Stonnington
SRS Arts
Project.

*We all need dreams - without them life is
colourless and futile. Thank you to all
the artists for sharing your dreams with
us.*

*Each time I come to Provisions for a
coffee I look more closely at these works
of art and I feel uplifted and I smile.*

*Well done Provisions for providing the
space for everyone to dream*

Linelle Gibson - 2/10/96

ART DAY PROGRAM - SOUTHERN REGION

This project combines visual arts and performance similar to Art Day West. Throughout 1996 the artists and participants worked together towards the performance piece entitled *Shadowlands*. The performance/exhibition combined shadow puppetry, music, singing with a range of the art works that had been created by the participants.



Right: ART
DAY
SOUTH -
Heather
White with
painted T-
shirt.

Venue: Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre

Length of project: Six hours x 46 weeks

*Target group: People with intellectual
disabilities (18 years and over)*

Co-ordinator: Barbara Doherty

*Artists: Kim Baston, Charles Robinson and
Gali Weiss*

*Guest artists: Tatiana Pajo, Angie Potsch, Tina
Rose and Llewellyn Wishart*

*Support workers: Fran Kelson and Heidi-Ann
Losic-Madden*

Number of participants: 26

*Funding: Department of Human Services -
Adult Training Support Service.*

SUPPORTED RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM - CITY OF STONNINGTON

In 1995, Arts Access, working with a number of large Supported Residential Services (SRS), commenced a multi-year developmental project within the City of Stonnington.

The aim of the program is two-fold:

to establish a number of in-house pilot arts programs which provide opportunities for creative self-expression by the residents; and



to develop networks and partnerships within the municipality to provide ongoing artistic and recreational opportunities for residents. The focus of the program this year has been on two of the more disadvantaged SRSs within the municipality - Anderson House and Langdale House - where all the residents are pension recipients. Artist, Maria Filippow, was residence over a 12-week period.

The theme of her work was to beautify the home. Using silk and other textiles, the residents were introduced to a range of techniques and media including printing and painting.

A diverse range of beautifully vibrant and subtle artworks were created. These were exhibited at the Toorak/South Yarra Library where they attracted considerable interest.

The research and networking component of the project continued, with new links being forged between the SRSs, and with agencies and services within the municipality.

*Venue: Anderson House and Langdale House
supported Residential Services*

Art form: Visual Arts and textiles

Length of project: Four hours x 20 weeks

Co-ordinator: Jedda Bellerjee

Artist: Maria Filippow

Number of participants: 20

*Funding: Department of Human Services -
Psychiatric Services*



Far right:
SRS Project
- City of
Stonnington.

SUPPORTED RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM - WESTERN REGION

This visual arts project builds on work commenced in 1995. Artist, Lynden Bobbitt, was employed to work with frail elderly residents in SRSs in the Western Region. This second stage of the program has enabled residents to explore new mediums and techniques, including working with textiles and building on their achievements in the 1995 pilot project. The art work was exhibited at the Footscray Community Centre, the Department of Human Services, Footscray and Senior's Expo 97.

*Venue: Barkly Gardens and Newport Lodge
Supported Residential Services*

Art form: Visual Arts

Length of project: Four hours x 20 weeks

Artist: Lynden Bobbitt

Number of Participants: 20

*Funding: Department of Human Services -
Aged Care Services*



Right: Artist
Lynden
Bobbitt (left)
with
participant
from Barkly
Gardens
Supported
Residential
Service.Arts
Program.

Far right:
"Put Yourself
In Their
Shoes". A
clay model
surrounded
by found
objects.

MAPPS - MALE ADOLESCENT PROGRAM FOR POSITIVE SEXUALITY

In 1995, Arts Access, in conjunction with the Male Adolescent Program for Positive Sexuality, run through Juvenile Justice Services, established a pilot visual arts project for young sexual offenders.

In 1996, the second stage of this project took place with the theme, *Put Yourself in Their Shoes*, focusing on victim empathy, an important aspect in the rehabilitation of sexual offenders. The participants created clay images of how they imagined their face to be later in life and then surrounded these with found objects. The art work was later displayed in the Parkville Youth Training Centre.

*Venue: MAPPS, Parkville & Acron Camp,
Buxton*

*Length of project: 2 x 3 hour sessions & 3 full
days.*

Art form: Clay and found objects

*Target group: Male adolescents (15- 18 years
only)*

Artist: Eamonn Scott

Number of Participants: 10

*Funding: Department of Human Services -
Juvenile Justice*

MALMSBURY YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE

Stage One, *Write On!*, was a creative writing and skills development pilot for trainees which explored a range of literary mediums, with a focus on poetry. This culminated with the publication of the individual's work produced for private use and for distribution amongst the group.

Stage Two was a visual arts project for young men in the Admissions Unit, whose access to existing programs at the centre was limited.

The aim of the project was to provide an opportunity for the young men to participate in the creative/artistic process, rather than work towards a public launch.

Venue: Malmsbury Youth Training Centre

*Length of project: Write On! project - 2 hours x
5 weeks/Visual Arts project - 4 hours x 12
weeks*

Art form: Writing and Visual Arts

Target group: Male adolescents (15- 18 years)

*Artists: Jenny Bright (Write On!) & Anton
Hasell (Visual Arts)*

Number of participants: 10

*Funding: Department of Human Services -
Juvenile Justice*



NEW PARTNERSHIPS

*The program involves model and pilot arts
projects developed in partnership with other
community-based agencies identifying new
areas of need.*

ST KILDA DROP IN CENTRE - WOMEN'S ART PROJECT

This project was established in partnership with a range of Southern Region metropolitan community agencies services working with isolated women with psychiatric disabilities. This visual/textile arts project culminated with an exhibition which marked the establishment of The Women's Room within the St Kilda

Drop In Centre launched by the Mayor of the City of Port Phillip. The art works are now on permanent display at the Centre.

Partnerships: City of Port Phillip, Recreation Access Group, St Kilda Drop In Centre

Venue: St Kilda Drop In Centre

Length of project: Two hours x 15 weeks

Target group: Women with psychiatric disabilities: (18 years and over)

Artist: Margot Rosser

Funding: Department of Human Services – Psychiatric Services

AUSTIN & REPATRIATION MEDICAL CENTRE

In 1995, Lisa Jacobson worked with the World War II veterans who attend the Rehabilitation Work Group. Lisa recorded and transcribed the stories of the 30 participants. Topics included memories of school days, going into the work place, the outbreak of the war, experiences of war, marriage and family life. In 1996, two students from the RMIT Professional Writing and Editing Course, prepared a preliminary edit of the material for publication.

Venue: Heidelberg Hospital

Art form: Storytelling

Target group: World War II veterans

Artist: Lisa Jacobson

Editors: Bronwen Beechey and Linda Richter

Number of participants: 30

Funding: Heidelberg and the Community Cultural Development Board of the Australia Council

Right: Crossroads/Tranmere St Youth Refuge – Three bright, large, carved and painted shields on display in the garden at Tranmere Street.



CROSSROADS/TRANMERE STREET REFUGE

This exciting visual arts project was established and developed from a partnership between Arts Access, Tranmere Street Youth Refuge and Crossroads – the accommodation and support program for homeless young people run by the Salvation Army.

Artist, Maria Filippow, conducted regular workshops where residents created individual

Venue: Waiora Community Mental Health Service, Malvern

Art form: Visual and Textile Arts

and collaborative works, including three large carved and painted shields and textile works to be displayed at Tranmere Street Youth Refuge.

As a consequence of the success of the pilot, Maria Filippow was employed by Crossroads to continue working with residents and staff at the refuge.

Venue: Tranmere Street Youth Refuge

Art form: Visual Arts

Length of project: Two hours x 20 weeks

Target group: Homeless youth and youth at risk

Artist: Maria Filippow

Number of participants: Up to 20

Funding: Macquarie Bank and the Sunshine Foundation

KINGSTON CENTRE SOUTHERN HEALTH CARE NETWORK

This project commenced in mid 1995 and continued through to February 1996. After initial consultation it was proposed that a sculpture work be created for the garden area. The artists designed this large work consisting of a number of cement structures which were linked and decorated with ceramic pieces created by the participants.

Venue: Kingston Centre SHCN

Art form: Ceramic sculpture

Length of project: Four hours x 20 weeks

Target group: Patients at the Kingston Centre SHCN, particularly long term clients from the nursing home and patients with severe disabilities.

Artists: James Cattell and Anne Riggs

Number of participants: Over 50 patients participated in this project

Funding: Kingston Centre SHCN and the Community Cultural Development Board of Australia Council

INNER SOUTH COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE – PRAHRAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

In 1995, Arts Access conducted a successful environmental design project with participants of the Mental Health Program at the Prahran Centre of the Inner South Community Health Service. Artist, Di Christensen, worked with the group to collaboratively design and produce mosaic and ceramic wall pieces for installation in the public foyer areas of the service. Following on from this successful first stage, Di returned to the centre in 1996 to establish a visual and textile arts project.

Partnerships: Inner South Community Health Service – Prahran and Waiora Community Mental Health Service.

Target group: People with psychiatric disabilities (18 years and over).

Length of project: Two hours x 6 weeks

Artist: Di Christensen

Right: AA China Cultural Exchange '96 – Section from textile mural, Nanjing, Jiangsu, Province.



Far right: AA China Cultural Exchange '96 – section from textile mural Changchun, Jilin Province.

CHINA CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Cultural Exchange Program, conducted by Arts Access in conjunction with a range of Chinese hosts, was a significant highlight of the 1996 Artistic Program. This project was built on reciprocal visits by Arts Access and Chinese delegates between 1993 and 1994.

During May and June, visual artists, Claire Humphrys-Hunt and Jennifer McCarthy, with Tour Co-ordinator, Barbara Doherty, spent four weeks in Jiangsu Province, Jilin Province and Beijing. The focus of the program was to further develop a relationship between Australian artists and Chinese students, educators and disability agencies to explore collaborative and contemporary art practice and techniques.

Claire and Jennifer were based in schools in Nanjing and Changchun and worked with students with intellectual and physical

Right: Arts Access China Cultural Exchange '96 – Arts Access artist, Jennifer McCarthy, with teacher and student at Changchun School for Mentally Retarded Children.



disabilities, teachers and families to create two large textile works, 4 metres by 3.5 metres in size. Both works reflect the themes of cultural identity, icons and place. The Arts Access team also met with a broad range of cultural and disability agencies, artists and performers, including the National China Disabled Persons Federation in Beijing.

Creating together is the best part of these exchanges.

All pictures were placed on the wall and the children delighted in their new found confidence and equality – as usually only the 'best drawings' received this privilege.

Jennifer McCarthy, Artist

They had never used paint, paint brushes or paint rollers before.

We basically merged Australian landscapes with Chinese landscapes and the kids did pictures of their own lives that were then used in the murals.

Claire Humphrys-Hunt, Artist



Venue: Nanjing Special Normal School & Changchun Primary School for Mentally Retarded Children

Length of project: Four weeks

Art form: Visual Arts

Target group: Children with disabilities (10– 18 years of age)

Tour Co-ordinator: Barbara Doherty

Artists: Claire Humphrys-Hunt and Jennifer McCarthy

Number of participants: 80 children in total & 15 teachers in total.

Funding: Community Cultural Development Board of the Australia Council, with sponsorship from Qantas.

THE ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The program supports the development of the artistic practice of artists with disabilities/ disadvantage and artists who work with the Arts Access target groups.

SATURDAY MORNING ART CLASSES

These classes provide creative opportunities for people with psychiatric disabilities to learn and develop skills and artistic techniques in painting and drawing. Participants worked on individual art works with direction from professional artists.

In late 1996, artist, Maria Filippow, was employed to conduct a detailed review of the Saturday Morning Art Classes with former participants and artists. The final report from this consultation overwhelmingly supported the artistic content and structure of the program with a number of specific recommendations which we plan to implement in 1997.

Venue: Arts Access Studio

Art form: Visual Arts

Length of project: Two hours x 8 weeks each term

Target group: People with psychiatric disabilities (18 years and over)

Artists: Term 1 Ev Vyhna; Term 2 Jane Trengove; Term 3 Claire Humphrys-Hunt; Term 4 Maria Filippow

Guest artists: A number of life models were employed through the Life Model Association

Number of participants: 10 each term

Funding: Department of Human Services – Psychiatric Services



Right:
Master Class
Program (self
portrait).

MASTER CLASS PROGRAM

Artists with a psychiatric disability working in isolation, and with limited resources, were given the opportunity to get closer to the art world. The master class provided the opportunity to develop new ideas/techniques with support from professional artists and to utilise high quality materials not generally available to them.

Venue: Arts Access Studio

Length of project: Two hours x 8 Weeks

Art form: Visual Arts

Target group: People with psychiatric disabilities (18 years and over)

Co-ordinator: Jane Trengove

Artists: Anne Ross, Kim Donaldson, Mark Galea, Louise Hall, Kate Reeves, Donna Leslie, Greg Pryor, Colin Duncan,

Number of Participants: 10

Funding: Department of Human Services – Psychiatric Services

ARTIST PRESENTATIONS

Arts Access hosted a series of artist presentations and forums throughout 1996. These were intended to provide an opportunity for information sharing and to promote discussion between artists working within a community context, people working in the health, community services and disability sector and others with an interest in the field.

Maria Filippow

Maria presented the findings of her research into European models of community-based arts programs and projects for people with disabilities.

Sally Marsden

Sally presented *Wanderings and Wonderings*, a personal account of her work as a community based artist over the last 20 years.

Sandra Percival

This presentation was initiated by PLACE and presented in conjunction with the City of Melbourne and Arts Access. Sandra Percival, the founder of the Public Arts Trust of Great Britain, presented an update on public art in England and America.

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROJECT PRESENTATION

Artists, Claire Humphrys-Hunt and Jennifer McCarthy, together with tour co-ordinator Barbara Doherty, provided details on their visit to China. This included background information, preparation, cultural introduction, specific arts projects and customs.

MULTI MEDIA TRAINING FOR ARTISTS

Arts Access, in conjunction with Navigator Interactive Multi Media, ran a training program for artists at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School to provide the artists with an understanding of the potential of new technologies in their work. Most participants had limited experience with computers/multimedia and had the opportunity to learn in a very positive artistic environment. Arts Access has identified new media as a key strategic objective and plan to develop multi media community arts projects in 1997.

As an artist, arts program manager and consultant, understanding this media will enable me to incorporate multimedia into projects on a variety of levels as well as developing arts programs for community groups.

Jedda Bellerjee

Venue: The Australian Film, Television and Radio School

Length of project: weekend workshop

Target group: Professional artists

Number of participants: 10

Funding: Arts Victoria

CREATIVE MOVEMENT CLASSES

The general aim of this pilot project was to provide creative movement opportunities for people with limited access to such activities. Participants were given the opportunity to foster creative skills, develop self expression, confidence and social contacts.

Venue: Arts Access Studio

Length of project: Two hours x 8 weeks

Art form: Movement/dance

Target group: People with psychiatric disabilities (18 years and over)

Artist: Sue Mullane

Number of Participants: 10

Funding: Department of Human Services – Psych Services

EASE

Over the last year the Entertainment Access Service (EASE) continued in its endeavour to create equal access to cultural events through three programs:

The EASE Ticket Service – which provides a low cost and specialised seating service; The EASE Venue Access Program – which provides information on access and facilities and promotes the best in access provided at venues; and

The EASE Industry Development Program – which provides training and a consultancy service on access and the development of access policy.

EASE came into existence in 1987 to provide affordable tickets and a specialised seating service for people with disabilities/ disadvantage by working in partnership with promoters and venue managers.

From modest beginnings – in its first full year of operation (1988), 7,000 tickets were distributed. EASE now sells some 18,000 tickets annually and is the driving force

MAJOR THEMATIC PROGRAMS

The program focuses on themes which combine model projects, research, training and resources.

Development work to secure substantial funding to enable the establishment of the Art & Health program began in 1996 and will continue in 1997. The components of this major program will include a conference, a research project and a major model project.

MAJOR EVENTS

Challenges contemporary, professional artistic practice and innovative major events, with work by artists from Arts Access target groups

Work has continued to secure funding for the national touring visual arts exhibition, *Body Suits*, which is due to open in Melbourne in July 1997.

THE ARTS PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Provides a project management service on behalf of other organisations for arts projects with aims consistent with Arts Access.

During 1996 Arts Access managed the National Co-ordination of Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts Australia (DADAA), on behalf of the national DADAA network.

behind the Arts Access' vision for Victoria that will see the state as the world's most accessible Centre of Culture.

The EASE Ticket Service

EASE offered subscribers a broad range of events during 1996. Ranging from dance, musical theatre and music concerts to tours, ice skating and basketball.

Ticket sales for 1996 were generally strong. However, unlike last year when sales were fairly even throughout the 12 months, this year saw some very busy months, and others less so.

I very much appreciate your courtesy which made it possible for me to accompany my sister Mary to the theatre and enjoy some very delightful shows – she tells me how much she depends on your help to make it possible for her to attend the theatre and opera despite her very low vision.

– Germaine Zaccai, holidaying with EASE subscriber Mary Longman

Whilst it is not possible to be definitive as to the reasons for these fluctuations, a significant factor seems to have been the discounting of cinema tickets by the two major cinema chains during the second half of 1996. Another factor appears to be the higher cost of going to musicals which may account for people attending fewer events. In line with the aim of continued growth in the range and reach of the service, tickets for events in Ballarat and Geelong were included for sale during 1996. There are also plans to expand the offerings in other regional centres during the course of 1997. 1996 saw an exciting collaboration between EASE and the Australian Ballet on their *First Impressions* program. EASE was able to offer 500 EASE subscribers the opportunity to be part of an introduction to ballet at the State Theatre. The morning was a great success and the ballet hopes to be able to make this offer through EASE again in 1997.

Right: Staff at Frankston Cultural Centre checking the access of their venue during the Experiencing Disability Seminar held in September 1996.



Our frustrations, sadly, have continued with some major sporting organisations and concert promoters. Little headway has been made to encourage the Australian Football League and most concert promoters featuring overseas performers to consider EASE ticketing proposals favourably. For the first time, the EASE Ticket Update was offered on audio cassette it was also e-mailed to those subscribers who have that facility.

During the year EASE built on the foundations established through the 1994 strategic review with further development of the Venue Access Program and the Industry

Development Program. Both programs are central to realising Arts Access' vision for Victoria which will see the State acknowledged as the world's most accessible centre of culture.

EASE Venue Access Program

This program has continued to make significant progress in providing up-to-date information on access and promoting the best in access and facilities at venues.

Venue Guide

Lisa McKoy, the EASE Ticketing Co-ordinator, continued to work on collecting information for the long awaited *Melbourne Venue Guide*, a comprehensive guide to Victoria's major venues. This work was carried out during the first half of the year with the support of the VicHealth Foundation through a multi-year sponsorship agreement.

Significant effort was invested in gaining a second sponsor for the guide to enable publication scheduled for mid-1997. An on-

line edition will also be published.

EASE/Arts Access Awards

As the first stage toward establishing awards to acknowledge good practice in the provision of accessible services and progress by the cultural industries, Jean Hunt, a consultant, was employed to formulate a development strategy for the EASE/Arts Access Awards. The next stage, which is to secure sponsorship support, will proceed during 1997.

EASE Industry Development Program

Through this program, aimed at addressing some of the structural barriers to access, EASE has continued to give advice to, and

train workers in the arts, cultural and entertainment sectors, on disability issues and the improvement of access at venues.

Training

The training program was subsidised through funding from ArtsVictoria Leadership Program. There were three successful training seminars held during 1997:

A Disability Awareness Seminar which provided a broad awareness of disability issues and strategies for service provision was held for a general audience at the CUB Malthouse in July;
A Developing An Action Plan Seminar which broadened awareness of disability issues and assisted managers of venues to plan to make their venue much more accessible and inclusive of people with a disability, was held at Arts Access for Museum of Victoria staff; and
An Experiencing Disability Seminar which gave participants direct experience of what it is like to be disabled, was held at Frankston Cultural Centre for their staff.

Excellent seminar. Everyone should do it. It would be great for me also working in the police force to have had such knowledge years ago. Thank you.

- Kathy Edwards, front-of-house worker, Frankston Cultural Centre commenting on the Experiencing Disability Seminar

Participants in the seminars included the Melbourne Park, Nunawading Arts & Entertainment Centre, Olympic Park, City of Hobsons Bay, Shire of Campaspe, Echuca, Gallery of Sport MCG, Arts Access, Epping Plaza Hotel, Museum of Victoria and Frankston Cultural Centre.

Fact Book Development

The development in 1996, of a guide to access issues relating to provisions of the *Disability Discrimination Act* aimed at the Australian arts sector is a major milestone towards the greater recognition within the arts community of the needs and rights of people with disabilities. The information package is being produced by Arts Access on behalf of DADAA (Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts, Australia) and the Australia Council, and will go out to all major cultural agencies and institutions nationally.

Much of the research for the publication was undertaken by Noelene Gration of the Disability Discrimination Law Advocacy Service (DDLAS) on behalf of EASE.

Consultancies

Throughout the year, a broad range of organisations obtained advice from EASE about improving access to their venues:
Next Wave Festival on improving access to Fitzroy Town Hall;
Mechanics Institute on the access requirements for doorways and toilets;
Melbourne Workers Theatre on access at the Lonsdale Street Power Station;
Melbourne Fringe Festival on better street access for the Brunswick Street parade;
VicHealth on their guidelines for funding agreements in relation to people with a disability;
Frankston Cultural Centre on their toilet facilities;
AAV on their Antarctic Display centre in Tasmania;
MOOMBA on making their events more accessible;
Victorian Arts Centre on access to all auditoria, toilets and parking for people in wheelchairs;
Australian Contemporary Art Fair on improving access at the Exhibition Centre in Carlton;
Museum of Victoria on disability agencies;
Local Government Association of Tasmania on checklist development for exhibitors.
The EASE Program Manager, Dean Michael, was also part of a panel that was convened to give advice on access to Major Projects, who are responsible for the new Melbourne Exhibition Centre and Museum.

Milestones

In June 1996, EASE passed the \$1 million mark in ticket sales;
The Association Times Gold Award for Excellence in Program Development presented to EASE in Brisbane and collected on our behalf by Belinda Kirkwood who conducted the original feasibility study for the EASE Ticket Service;
Stage One of the EASE Award Program was completed.

EASE Advisory Committee

This year the committee consisted of Jan Doran, EASE subscriber; Kathie Massey, Deputy General Manager, Corporate Resources, Victorian Arts Centre; Warwick Cavanagh, CEO of MOIRA, and Miriam Bass, change consultant and member of the Arts Access Committee of Management.

They gave invaluable support and advice to EASE staff in setting goals for the year and monitoring the work of the program.

ACHPER Conference

In January, Dean Michael spoke at the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER) conference, held at Melbourne University. Dean Michael gave regular interviews on 3RPH, an interview on the 3CR disability program, an interview for the NFBCA newsletter and an article in the Carers' Association newsletter.

Melbourne Festival

Once again EASE/Arts Access received support from the Melbourne Festival in its main brochure and the speedy guide. We look forward to further developing this good relationship.

Melbourne Comedy Festival

The Melbourne Comedy Festival continued to support EASE by sending out EASE

Ticket Service information in its producer's packs which encourage producers of shows to enter into ticket arrangements with EASE.

Seniors' Card Guide

An entry for EASE has been included in the Seniors' Card Guide enabling EASE to reach many new potential subscribers.

Staffing

Rochelle Brown returned to work as the EASE Ticket Co-ordinator while Lisa compiled the Venue Guide

During the course of 1996, Vito Manfredi and Kate Allison worked with EASE through the New Work Opportunities Program. In 1997, EASE will be celebrating its tenth year of operation. Already the coming year is shaping up as one that sees the realisation of a number of key objectives and brings us closer to realising our vision for Victoria, which would see the state become the world's most accessible centre of culture.

Arts Access Studio

The use of the Arts Access Studio has increased by 60 per cent during 1996.

The studio is a multipurpose workshop and exhibition venue suitable for a variety of arts-based activities.

The priority users of the studio were artists with a disability or those disadvantaged by social conditions. However, other groups and individuals, including major arts and community organisations, used the studio thereby providing valuable income to support the studio's aim of making the space financially accessible to priority users. The studio also continued as a key facility for Arts Access programs, including training

workshops, artistic projects, in-house meetings, and special events.

Hiring Policy

Hire costs are set on a sliding scale based on the hirer's financial means, with priority groups – artists with a disability, or unfunded artists – being charged less than commercial hirers.

Developments in 1996

Samantha Marsh continued to co-ordinate studio bookings and promoted and developed awareness of the studio among fine arts students and community groups.

With the separate public entrance via the Malthouse laneway, and the provision of a



key allocation system, an increasing number of bookings were able to be made outside Arts Access office hours.

The introduction of three separate four week exhibition seasons, spread throughout the year, has enabled Arts Access to target potential exhibitors and offer dedicated dates. It has also facilitated more effective planning and scheduling of Arts Access and other groups' programs.

1996 Bookings

A wide range of artists, students, performing arts companies and other groups chose to use the Arts Access Studio during the year. Bookings included:

- June Jago – workshops
- Cherry Blaskett – workshops
- Arts Management Advisory Group – presentations
- Richard Endzins – exhibition
- Playbox Theatre Company – auditions and rehearsals
- Miro Sindik – exhibition
- Annie Danby – exhibition
- Chameleon Castings – rehearsals
- Victorian Arts Centre – performance workshops

- Janice Florence – dance class
- Fred Collia – exhibition
- Eastern Domestic Violence Outreach Service – meeting
- Somebody's Daughter Theatre Company – rehearsals
- Association for the Blind – exhibition
- GBS Productions – theatre workshops
- Typo Stations, Youth Opportunities Program – exhibition
- Victorian College of the Arts – rehearsals
- Kylie Waters – exhibition
- Writers Festival – book launches
- Melbourne Festival – rehearsals
- National Performers Conference – seminars
- Rock and Roll Circus – rehearsals
- Jacqui Riva – exhibition

Arts Access projects held in the Studio included: Training workshops, Saturday Morning Art Classes, Creative Movement Classes and Artist Forums.

Library and Information Services

The Library and Information Services supports the aims of both EASE and the Artistic Program.

The Service includes:

The Arts Access Reference Library, containing a unique collection of information resources, including printed and audio visual materials on art and disability/ disadvantage and access;

The development of targeted information

resources to support the Artistic Program, EASE, the Training Program and Arts Access advocacy and community education projects;

The provision of information and consultancy services to assist communities and individuals to establish their own arts activities;

The initiation of research and development projects on cultural access issues based on identified needs;

The provision of a direct information service to professionals within the arts, health and community services, recreation and education sectors, tertiary students and the general public



Photographer – Carol Downey.

Library and Information Services 1996

1996 saw the further consolidation and development of the Information Service. There have been some significant milestones – most notably the publication of the *Work Guide: How to Establish an Artist in Community Project* and of the *Factsheets*, a series of information sheets providing answers to commonly asked questions on

arts project, funding development and management.

A major change in the Service came in August 1996 with the departure of Carol Downey, Arts Access' foundation Information Services Officer. Carol has made a tremendous contribution to Arts Access during her seven years with the organisation, most notably through the development of the reference library into the nationally significant collection it is today.

The new Information Coordinator, Martin Wurt, began in September. The key issues for the Library and Information Services to address are:

Developing promotion and the marketing strategies for Arts Access publications. Maximising the resources and enabling the services to reach their full potential. A promotions strategy is currently being developed which will be used to address these matters in 1997; and Developing the technology strategy to further develop the capacity to deliver information on-line.

A number of new data bases have been created to assist in the compilation of statistics about the library and information services. These include a data base on users of the service and a data base to track publication sales and to assist in targeting future sales. Cataloguing of newsletters and periodicals has been started to make management of this area of the library more effective and accessible.

Reference Library

The Reference Library forms the core of the document-based information service, holding over 2,000 items including books, audiovisual materials, newsletters, journals, project reports, conference papers, monographs and directories.

The collection focuses on the arts in relation to disability, health care, social disadvantage, prisons, youth/aged care, rehabilitation, access, cultural planning and other associated issues.

The collection supports and informs individuals and organisations on issues of arts practice, project management and development, training, access and policy issues for people with a disability/social disadvantage.

The library also specialises in materials that examine access and discrimination issues within a cultural context. It is a valuable resource for any person or organisation

wishing to implement disability access policies under the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

The collection is open to the public during office hours, however it is advisable to make an appointment with the Information Coordinator on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday morning. There are limitations on physical loans from the library and this can be discussed with the Coordinator.

Artistic Project Reports

The collection holds all reports written on completion of Arts Access artistic projects. Each report documents the establishment and progress of an individual project, thereby providing useful information on the artistic process, evaluation of the progress and outcomes of projects, photographic documentation, and the comments of participants and staff of host agencies. The reports are invaluable for artists, host agencies or funding bodies wishing to gain insight into the practicalities and benefits of conducting arts projects.

Collection Development

In 1996 over 150 new items were added to the collection, with another 92 items awaiting cataloguing. A process has begun to have the library catalogue on-line and available via the Arts Access home page. This development will enable a wider audience to access the library and will also provide an alternative method for people with a disability to access the catalogue. It is envisaged that the catalogue will be on-line by early 1997.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Publications

In August, the *Work Guide: How to Establish an Artist in Community Project* was republished. This Arts Access publication takes the reader through a logical sequence of project development from an initial concept, the organisational and financial considerations involved through to the selection and employment of an artist. The guide contains a series of insert sheets giving further contacts for peak art and legal organisations, unions, funding bodies and material suppliers. The *Work Guide* was developed to answer the most frequently asked questions of groups, organisations and artists. Originally published by Arts Victoria, this is a revised and updated edition.

Copies are available through Arts Access for \$10 (including postage).

Fact Sheets

During 1996 a series of fact sheets were produced to answer the most frequently asked questions addressed by Information Services. These include issues such as fund raising, submission writing, peak organisation lists and material sources.

These fact sheets are currently available in printed form but will be accessible on-line via the Internet in 1997.

Display Kit

Arts Access purchased a Multi Screen Display Kit in 1996. This display kit allows us to mount professional displays at both events hosted by Arts Access and at community expos and other public events. Funding for the kit was made available through the Office of Psychiatric Services.

Internet And Homepage

The Arts Access homepage has now been up and running for over 12 months. In that time visits to the site have been growing and a new, updated homepage is planned for 1997. The Internet has proved to be an invaluable tool for research, information-

gathering and assisting with information requests. Electronic mail is increasing in popularity as a method of contacting the organisation.

A key requirement for the development of the new home page will be accessibility. Simple measures, such as including a written description of graphics, enables a blind or vision impaired person to decide if the image is significant in the context of the written information or purely aesthetic. Use of background colours must also be considered in relation to lettering and patterns.

These issues for our web presence are now being addressed, and with thanks to the assistance of volunteer, Neil Blenkiron, a totally new, expanded, updated and accessible homepage will be on-line in early 1997.

Arts Access Internet Addresses:

Homepage:

<http://vicnet.net.au/~artsacc>

Electronic mail:

artsacc@vicnet.net.au

Training

During 1996, the Arts Access Training Program remained focused on providing specialised arts training for people who currently work within the health, community services and disability sectors, or who plan to do so.

As such, the program was designed to provide knowledge of the role the arts can play in enhancing programs within these sectors and to develop practical skills in the planning, development and management of arts programs with people experiencing disability and social disadvantage.

During the first half of 1996, Abigayle Carmody worked with Arts Access to develop and co-ordinate the training program. In August she left to take up a position with the Overseas Service Bureau and was replaced by Jedda Bellerjee.

A highlight of the program was the further development of the arts/recreation component of the Advanced Certificate of Residential and Community Services (ACRACS) training course into a program

providing specialised training in the arts and disability and access.

Arts Access' registration as a Private Provider of Training, covers, among other things, delivery of the recreation/leisure components of this accredited course. Titled *Resourcing and Researching an Arts Program*, and *Planning, Developing and Facilitating an Arts Program* these accredited modules – Modules 7 and Module 11 – have been customised to have a strong arts focus and to provide a thorough grounding in the planning and delivery of community based arts programs. Since 1995, they have become core components of the Arts Access Training Program.

In 1996, accredited training was financially supported by the Office of Training and Further Education through their Government Funded Training Places Program.

Other training activities included a number of artform specific short courses, focusing on the performing arts:

- Movement and Dance for Older/Frail Adults;
- Acting and Physical Theatre;
- Everyone Can Dance – disability and Dance;
- Performance and Clowning;

The delivery of the Training Program recognised the range of preferential learning styles and combined the practical and experiential learning process within a strong theoretical framework. This combination produced a dynamic and innovative form of delivery by experienced arts and disability trainers.

Tutors for the Training Program continued to be drawn from practitioners from within

the Artistic Program who combined both substantial practical experience of community cultural development together with training ability. Tutors for the 1996 program included Siobhan Wynne, Jedda Bellerjee and Naomi Aitchison.

A number of other training activities were delivered by Arts Access through EASE and the Artistic Programs and have been reported on separately within other sections of the report.

During 1996 Arts Access Training Program ran a total of 18 training days delivering over 1392 student contact hours.

DADAA

1996 has been a very significant year for Disability in the Arts Disadvantage in the Arts Australia (DADAA).

DADAA is the national network of organisations and individuals concerned with promoting the participation in the arts of people with disabilities and people disadvantaged by social conditions, either as practitioners, workers or as consumers.

In April the National Committee of DADAA met in Melbourne. The focus of this two-day meeting was to develop a business plan for DADAA and a response to the Action Plan developed by the Australia Council to address barriers to participation in the arts by people with disabilities.

This followed an initiative by the Australia Council in 1994, to research the area of art and disability. Drawing on the recommendations that came out of this research, and in response to the provisions of the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, Council developed an Action Plan to increase access and participation in Council by artists with disabilities.

A key component of this Action Plan was the development of a partnership between DADAA and the Australia Council to assist and consult on the access and participation process.

The Australia Council recognises DADAA as the peak authority in the field of Arts and Disability. It therefore sought a submission from the DADAA network on the formation of a partnership to assist in the implementation of the Action Plan.

Work on this submission was carried out in June 1996 and notification of its success was received in August. The Council has funded DADAA's co-ordination until June 1997. Funding has also been provided for the network to connect to the internet so as to improve communication within the DADAA membership.

Included with the co-ordination funding is provision for a National Meeting, scheduled to be held in Canberra in April 1997.

National Communications Strategy

As part of the Australia Council's partnership with DADAA is the development of a National Strategy which will communicate the needs of the arts sector in relation to people with disabilities and people who are socially disadvantaged.

The first stage of this strategy is the production of a Fact Pack, a booklet which will outline issues relating to the provisions of the *Disability Discrimination Act*, of direct relevance to the Australian arts sector. Work on this project is currently nearing completion and once published it will go out to all arts and cultural agencies throughout Australia.

Administration

The Administration Team has continued to maintain the high standard of arts management delivered by Arts Access by providing stable administration services.

The Team consists of the Administrator, Administration Officer, supplemented by JobSkills employees and volunteers.

1996 Developments

- Review of computer strategy and up-date of administrative requirements;
- Continued liaison with computer systems consultant, Graeme Thorn;
- Installation of File Server computer with magnetic tape back up system, providing a more integrated computer system with security of documentation and efficient administration management. All files are now accessible via the File Server, rather than restricted to a particular computer;

- Installation of Scanner. This enables in-house development of high quality design, printing and photographs;
- Installation of CD ROM in File Server computer;
- Development of a customised data base with a core group of students from Swinburne University of Technology, Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering. Planning, interviews between Arts Access staff and students and the initial development progressed during late 1996. The final data base program should be in operation by the middle of 1997;
- Continuation of JobSkills trainees at Arts Access. The trainees employed during 1996 were, Rishi Kashyap, Kate Allison, Michaela Williams and Vito Manfredi;
- Review and expansion of Arts Access Procedures Manual;
- Development of the first stage of a health and safety strategy

Application of Grants

The application of grants and donations received during 1996 is detailed below. It is not, however, a comprehensive breakdown of received from projects in 1996 as it does not include projects funded through consultancies, workshop fees, or user pays contributions. Projects carried forward into 1996 are transferred as Grants in Advance

GENERAL GRANTS

Arts Victoria	75,000
Australia Council	45,000
Department of Human Services	137,221

PROJECT GRANTS

Australia Council	
DADAA National Co-ordination	5,880
International Cultural Exchange	23,350
DADAA National Conference	6,901
DADAA On-line Projects,	4,209
Nat. Art & Disability Partnership	13,773
Nat. Communications Strategy	5,237
Arts Victoria	
Training Leadership	11,700
Multimedia Training	3,700
Human Services	
Intellectual Disability Services	
-Southern Region	62,818
-Western Region	69,215

HACC Program	
-Western Region SRS	7,735
Poster project	583
Psychiatric Disability Support Services	33,936
Minor Equipment Allocation	11,029
Juvenile Justice	
MAPPs	2,773
Malmsbury	7,522
Philanthropic Trusts	
R.E.Ross Trust	1,266
Macquarie Bank	1,010
Sunshine Foundation	1,000
Austin Hospital	2,617
Kingston Centre	1,112
Prahran Com. Health Centre	300
Victorian Health Promotion Foundation	24,956

Adult Community and Further Education	3,190
Professional Development	500
Equipment Grant	898

Acknowledgements

Arts Access sincerely thanks the following government agencies, community organisations, companies and individuals for their generous assistance and support during 1996:

Funding

Commonwealth Government

The Australia Council
– Community Cultural Development Board
– Literature Board

State Government

Department of Human Services
– Disability Services
– Psychiatric Services
– Juvenile Justice Services
– Western Region, Disability Services
– Southern Region, Disability Services
Home & Community Care
Arts Victoria
Department of the Premier & Cabinet
Adult Community & Further Education
Office of Technical & Further Education

Municipal

City of Stonnington
City of Melbourne

Philanthropic Trusts

ANZ Executors & Trustees
Macquarie Bank Charitable Foundation
The R E Ross Trust
Sunshine Foundation
Victorian Health Promotion Foundation

Corporations

Macquarie Bank

Organisations

Austin Hospital
Ausdance Victoria
The Australia Foundation
Australian Embassy
• Cultural Department, Beijing, China
Australian Film, Television & Radio School
Changchun Primary School for Mentally

Retarded Children, Jilin, China
China Disabled Persons Federation
David House
Department of Culture, Foreign Affairs, Jiangsu Province, China
Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre
Epilepsy Foundation
Footscray Community Arts Centre
Foreign Cultural Exchange Association, Jilin Province, China
Heidelberg Hospital
Kingston Centre
Nanjing Special Normal School, Jiangsu, China
Navigator Interactive Pty Ltd
South Kingsville Community Centre
Sunshine ATSS
Swinburn Design Centre
Wimmera Community Care (Paul Denson, Leisure Options Coordinator)

In-Kind Sponsors & Supporters

Acme Food
Australian Film Institute
The Australian Opera
Consolidated Paper Pty Ltd
The Craftsman Press Pty Ltd
Grant Gittus Graphics
Luscombe & Partners Advertising
Maribyrnong Library
Media Wise
Millmaine Entertainment
Pratt Paper
Provisions Cafe Gallery
Qantas Airlines
Spicers Paper (Brian Longmore)
• The Strategy Team (Helen and Kieran Woods)
Typographical Services (Graham Berry)
Village Roadshow Corporation

Individuals

Judi Anderson
Graham Andrews
Peter Bennett

David Commins
John Coe
Warren Hogan
Peter Ingham
Sue Knight
Phil Lukies
Hon. Richard McGarvie
Mrs Lesley McGarvie
Zaiga Marshall
John Myers
Stephen Schuetz
Howard Stoney
Graham Thorn

EASE – Entertainment Access Service

Arts Access thanks the following companies, organisations, promoters, individuals and the management and staff of venues and ticketing agencies for their support of EASE in 1996:

Adrian Bohm Productions
Alexander Theatre
Andrew Denton
Australian Chamber Orchestra
Back-to-Back Theatre
Circus Oz
Clifford Hocking P/L
Duet Productions
Edgley International
Elston, Hocking & Janes
Essgee Entertainment
Frankston Cultural Centre
Frontier Touring Company
Geelong Performing Arts Centre
Geminiani Chamber Orchestra
Great Sights Tours
Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat
Hoyts Corporation
Jon Nicholls Productions
Lynda Gibson & Paul McCarthy
Melbourne International Comedy Festival
Melbourne International Festival
Melbourne Tigers Basketball Club
Melbourne Symphony
Michelle Wild
Music Theatre Australia
Opera Australia
Palace Cinemas
Paul Dainty Corporation
Playbox Theatre Company

PLOS Productions
Promoters of "Beijing Wushu '96"
Robert Ginn
Ross Mollison Marketing
Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria
Shane Hewitt
Sidney Myer Music Bowl
South East Melbourne Magic Basketball Club
State Theatre Company of SA
Stewart & Tricia MacPherson
Sydney Dance Company
Tennis Australia
The Australian Ballet
The Australian Ballet School
The Australian Pops Orchestra
The Ford Australian Open
The Last laugh Theatre Restaurant
The Melbourne Theatre Company
The National Theatre
The Really Useful Company
The Sandybeach Centre
Victoria Chorale
Victorian Arts Centre Trust
Victorian Cricket Association
Victoria State Opera
Athenaeum Theatre
Comedy Theatre
The CUB Malthouse
George Jenkins Theatre
Her Majesty's Theatre
Booking Hall, Melbourne
Melbourne Park
Sidney Myer Music Bowl
Melbourne Sports and Entertainment Centre
The Princess Theatre
The Victorian Arts Centre – Programming
Ticketek
Ticketmaster BASS
Universal Theatre
The Victorian Arts Centre – Art-Ed

Committees

Management Committee

President:
Judy Morton

Senior Vice President:
Alan Moor

Junior Vice President:
Miriam Bass

Treasurer:
Isi Plack (to Nov '96)
Lawrance Reilly (from Nov '96)

Secretary:
Mark Williams

Members:
Robyn Charlwood
Jan Doran (to Sept '96)
Peter Hengstberger
Jo Raphael
Margaret Woollard
Gavin Wright (to Mar '96)

Finance Consultant:
John Paxinos

Finance Committee
Bryce Hamley
Judy Morton
Isi Plack (to Nov '96)
Lawrance Reilly (from Nov '96)

Arts Access Trust Appeal Committee
Patron:
Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC

Chairman:
Creighton Burns AO

Fundraising Consultant
Helen Woods, The Strategy Team

Legal Adviser
Elizabeth McCallum (Corrs Chambers Westgarth)

Members:
Diana Downie
Ian Haig
Alan Moor
Judy Morton
Isi Plack (to Nov '96)

Arts Access Trust Advisory Committee
Creighton Burns AO
Diana Downie
Bryce Hamley
Judy Morton
Lawrance Reilly FCA
H.E.P. Steel LLB, Bcor

EASE Advisory Committee:
Jan Doran
Warwick Cavanagh
Kathie Massey
Miriam Bass

Auditor
John Waters FASA, FCPA, FCIM

Honorary Solicitor
Henry EP Steel LLB, B.Comm

Honorary Financial Advisor
Bryce Hamley

Honorary Property Adviser
John Coe

Bankers
ANZ Executors & Trustees
Commonwealth Bank
Macquarie Investment Management Ltd

Staff
Executive Director:
Helen Bowman

Artistic Program Manager:
Bobbie Hodge (to Aug '96)

Ruth Whittingham (from Jul '96)

Public Affairs Manager:
Vivian Carroll (to Jan '96)

Administrator:
Rhona Bester

Administration Officer:
Samantha Marsh

Relieving Administrative Assistant:
Rishi Kashyap (Jul to Sept '96)

EASE Program Manager:
Dean Michael

EASE Ticketing Coordinator:
Rochelle Brown (to Jun '96)
Lisa McKoy (from Jun '96)

EASE Melbourne Venue Guide Project Officer:
Lisa McKoy (to Jun '96)

Training Program Coordinator
Abigayle Carmody

Information Services Coordinator
Carol Downey (to Sept '96)
Martin Wurt (from Aug '96)

Coordinator, Art Day Programs:
Barbara Doherty

Coordinator, SRS City of Stonnington Program:
Jedda Bellham

DADAA National Coordinator:
Jane Trengove

China Exchange Project Tour Coordinator:

Barbara Doherty

Art Day - Support Workers:
Dee Buman
Janine Cording
Fran Kelson
Katherine Kistas
Lew Lewis
Heidi-ann Losic-Madden
Eva Marks

Program Artists:
See listings under Artistic Project Details and Training

Trainees:
EASE

Katherine Allison (to May '96)
Vito Manfredi (June to Dec '96)

Project Volunteer:
Diane Zacanovsky

Volunteer Office Assistants:
Neil Blenkiron
Angie Joost
Adrian Salter
Bianca Spooner
Jill Cardiff (from Nov '96)

EASE Volunteer Assistants:
Wenda Edwards
Sharin Hart
Roisin Johnson
Peter Maley
NADRASCA Volunteers

Cleaner:
Garry Morgan

Trainees Arts Access:
Rishi Kashyap (to Jun '96)
Vito Manfredi (Jun to Dec '96)
Micheala Williams (April to Sept 96)

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY
for the year ended 31st December 1996

	1996 \$	1995 \$
INCOME		
H & CS Grants	322,171	329,286
Other State Government Grants	112,550	113,886
Commonwealth Govt Grants	113,035	43,912
Local Government		890
Client Fees	8,012	8,080
Charitable Contributions	10,045	24,037
Income from Investments	8,208	10,812
Fundraising Income	10,636	16,577
Business Undertaking Income	42,526	69,024
TOTAL INCOME	627,183	616,504
EXPENSES		
Salaries – Services Provision	315,202	357,019
Salaries – Administration	121,168	113,877
Business Undertaking Costs	71,818	49,491
Finance Costs	111	1,066
Depreciation	16,474	16,701
Office Costs	29,582	32,426
Fuel/Light/Power	6,354	6,250
Motor Vehicle Expenses	6,174	5,293
Property/Equip/Maintenance	39,797	39,383
Staff Related Costs	5,302	2,441
Volunteer Costs	810	878
TOTAL EXPENSES	612,792	624,825
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	14,391	(8,321)
Transfer to Fundraising Reserve	(10,410)	(16,250)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	3,981	(24,571)

Independent Auditor’s Report

Scope

We have audited the accounts of Arts Access Society Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 1996. The Management Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information contained therein. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the accounts are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the accounts, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the accounts are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Concepts and Standards and statutory requirements so as to present a view of Arts Access which is consistent with our understanding of the Society’s financial position and the results of its operations.


The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

BALANCE SHEET
as at 31st December 1996

	1996 \$	1995 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
ANZ – V2 Account	152,091	134,383
CBA Deposit Holding	10,456	
Mortgage Investment	21,000	
Petty Cash Imprest	200	200
Sundry Debtors	12,857	13,053
EASE Ticket Debtors	33,849	27,732
Less Provision for Doubtful Debts	(1,000)	(1,000)
ANZ Cheque Account	24,226	6,852
Prepayments	8,387	17,485
Total Current Assets	262,066	198,705
ADD NET FIXED ASSETS		
H & CS Assets	23,768	20,190
Leasehold Improvement – At Cost	3,710	4,432
Motor Vehicles – At Cost	1,579	3,951
Office Furniture & Equip – At Cost	7,449	11,830
Total Net Fixed Assets	36,506	40,403
TOTAL ASSETS	298,572	239,108
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	4,190	7,441
Provision for PAYE Tax	(21)	
Provision for Holiday Pay	12,646	14,560
Provision for Fundraising	44,159	33,749
Income in Advance	170,398	132,066
Capital Grants Unexpended	201	800
Total Liabilities	231,573	188,616
NET ASSETS	66,999	50,492
MEMBERS FUNDS		
Surplus/(Deficit) at Start	(108,390)	(83,819)
Surplus/(Deficit) This Year	3,981	(24,571)
Capital Grants – Prior Years	158,882	143,170
– This Year	12,526	15,712
	171,408	158,882
Total Member’s Funds	66,999	50,492

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the foregoing Balance Sheet and the Notes to and forming part of the accounts present a true and fair state of the financial position of Arts Access Society Incorporated as at 31st December, 1996 and the accompanying Statement of Income and Expenditure is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and fair view of the revenues and expenses for the year.


 John Leslie Waters *FASA, FCPA, FCIM*
 Waters, Williams & Co.
 347 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn, VIC 3122

At their meeting on 25 March, 1997, the Arts Access Management Committee made the following resolution in adopting the financial accounts of the Society for the year ended December 31, 1996:

In the opinion of the Management Committee of Arts Access Society Incorporated:

(a) the Statement of Income and Expenditure, the Balance Sheet, and the Notes to and forming part of the Accounts are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the result of the Society for the year ended 31st December, 1996 and the state of the affairs of the Society at that date; and

(b) at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Society will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Dated: 3 April, 1997



STATEMENT of CASH FLOW
for the Year Ended 31st December 1996

	1996 \$	1995 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Income	627,183	616,504
Less Operating Expenses	(612,792)	(624,825)
Add Back Non-Cash Items		
Depreciation	16,474	16,701
Provision for Holiday Pay	(1,914)	(1,165)
Provision for Doubtful Debts	-	1,000
Net cash provided from operating activities	28,951	8,215
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING		
Fixed Asset Purchases	(12,578)	(15,668)
Capital Grants	12,526	15,712
Increase (decrease) in creditors	(3,272)	2,980
Decrease (increase) in debtors	(5,921)	(24,410)
Decrease (increase) in prepayments	9,098	(9,631)
Increase (decrease) in grants in advance	38,332	25,832
Increase (decrease) in Capital Grants Unexpended	(599)	(2,154)
Net cash provided (used) from investing	37,586	(7,339)
Net increase (decrease) in cash on hand	66,537	876
Cash at beginning of financial year	141,435	140,559
Cash at end of financial year	207,972	141,435
MAKE UP OF CASH		
ANZ V2PLUS – Term Deposit	162,547	134,383
Mortgage Investment	21,000	-
Petty Cash	200	200
ANZ Cheque Account	24,225	6,852
	207,972	141,435

Statement of Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared and presented in accordance with applicable Statements of Accounting Concepts and applicable Accounting Standards, and the Corporations Law, including the disclosure requirements of Schedule 5. The Accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation of the accounts.

(a) Income Tax

The Society holds an exemption and therefore is not liable to income tax on any surplus that accrues.

(b) Fixed Assets

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The carrying amount of fixed assets is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount of these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to their present value in determining the recoverable amounts.

Motor Vehicles

Motor vehicles are recorded at cost and are depreciated using the straight line method over their estimated useful lives of 10 years.

Leases

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

(c) Moneys Held for Specific Purposes

Unexpended grant or trust income in respect of specific projects and activities are treated as deferred income (a liability) at year end to enable matching with related expenditure in subsequent financial years.

(d) Employee Benefits

Provision is made in respect of the economic entity's liability for annual leave and longservice leave at balance date. Long service leave is accrued in respect of all employees with more than 10 years service with the Society. Contributions are made by the Society to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred. The economic entity has no legal obligation to provide benefits to employees on retirement.

1996 Performance and Participant Profile

	1996
Artistic Program	
Total Number of Projects	28 projects
Number of Extended Projects	4
Number of New Partnerships	5
Artist Development Program	
Number of training workshops	7
Number of artist forums/presentations	4
Number of Project Weeks	317
Number of Direct Participants	647
Number of Project Artists	47
Other participants (support staff and audience)	1538
Number of Artists Employed (F/T Equivilant)	6.4
EASE	
EASE Ticket Service	
Number of Subscribers	
Individual	221
Group	152
Number of Tickets Distributed	16,000
Value of Tickets Sold	
\$160,980	
Industry Development Program	
Training Participants	31
Number of Training Workshops	3
Number of Student Hours	202

Training Program

Training Participants	48
Number of Training Days	18
Number of Student Contact Hours	1,392

Information Services

Visits and Serviced Enquiries	415
Phone Enquiries	580
Resource Development	7
Number of Studio use days	224
New Library Titles	150
Volunteers	6
Trainees	5



Supported Residential Program – Western Region. Residents at Newport Lodge participate in a collaborative art work.



Supported Residential Program – Western Region resident at Barkly Gardens participating in the arts program.

ARTS Access



This Annual Report was produced with the generous assistance of Craftsman Press and Spicers Paper



Arts Access is assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body; Arts Victoria - the Department of Premier and Cabinet; and the Department of Human Services. The EASE Venue Access program is sponsored by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation.