

ARTS IMPACT WA REPORT



**Coming together to
ignite the arts**

Published 2024

Letter from the Chair, Paul Chamberlain

It is with great pleasure that I introduce our three year Impact report for Arts Impact WA. As the first independent Arts giving circle in Australia. I believe we can be proud of what we have achieved since we launched on the rooftop of AGWA back in 2021

At a time of decreasing funding for the Arts in Australia we have demonstrated how a group of engaged volunteers, supported by multiple donors and a rigorous selection process can have a huge impact on the sector by supporting small to medium sized arts organisations and artists with their projects. Projects that without our funding may never have come to fruition. During this time the sector has embraced what we are trying to achieve and we have learned a great deal along the way.

This initiative, I truly believe, benefits all parties that engage with it. Our donors are able to create real impact and help decide which projects get funding, secure in the knowledge that whoever receives a grant has been thoroughly vetted and democratically chosen from our finalists.

Our wonderful volunteers, whether Committee or panel members, benefit from their engagement with the sector, discovering the quality, depth and variety of arts practitioners and organisations here in WA.

The feedback from our finalists demonstrates how valuable the engagement has been to them outside of receiving the grants. The preparation of the application, considering what the donors might be looking for, the excellent pitch training and finally delivering the nerve-wracking presentation, that may turn their dreams in to reality, all helps to upskill all that are involved and better prepare them for the future.

Finally, magically, we all get to enjoy that incredible moment when the grants are awarded and then over time see what our joint efforts are able to manifest. As you can see from the report we have been able to support an incredibly diverse set of projects, some of which are yet to be fully realised but projects that will be game changers for those that are involved with them as artists, industry workers or audience members.

These achievements have been made possible by our donors and I especially want to thank our Founder Champions that provided encouragement and guaranteed funding for the first 3 years. This community minded group took the risk of funding a fledgeling idea to help support a sector that many of them had not previously supported in a major way. Thank you for your confidence, your support and of course your money!

We would love to have the opportunity to continue the work we have started, especially as there is now interstate interest in mirroring what we have set up here. However, as you can imagine, as a volunteer organisation a lot of work is carried out pro bono to enable us to operate on a shoestring and to ensure that all donations go to artists. To make this enormous effort worthwhile, we need our Founding Champions and donors to remain engaged and continuing to support the mission.

In the next few months we will be in touch with all our supporters asking for commitments to enable us to continue our journey. For now, I hope you enjoy hearing about what you have helped create. Thank you,

Paul



Image Credit: Morgan Farley

ABOUT ARTS IMPACT WA

A New Collective Giving Model Exclusively for WA Arts

ARTS Impact was formed in 2021 by a volunteer committee of arts loving individuals. Together we designed a process that includes high impact \$100,000 grants, rigorous selection but easy application, community engagement, networking opportunities and capacity building. Underwritten by the generosity of our Founding Champions we leverage the simple model of collective giving to bring people together and make great art happen right here in WA.

"It's a wonderful initiative, it's something that creates a community and we're all involved in community"

A. Mostyn, Founder Champion



Image Credit: Morgan Farley

"I'm a passionate believer in the power of the arts to build community, bring people together and make our lives better.... I think it's an extraordinary organisation"

Mark Coughlan - Donor & 2023 Grant Assessment Panel Member

100+

Project applications received

6 Major projects funded

\$100,000 per project

12 Minor grants awarded

\$10,000 per project

130+ Donors

30+ Arts specialists engaged

As Grant Assessment Panelists



Image Credit: Adam Nalapraya

"I really hope that the momentum can be kept up on what ARTS Impact do. It's a layer to the arts ecology that feels really important"

Monica Kane - Donor & 2024 Grant Assessment Panel Member

Major Grant Winner Highlights



CINEFESTOZ - BROOME

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOOLARRI MEDIA

2022 WINNER - \$100,000

Winning enabled the launch of the first CinefestOz Broome event, now an annual calendar fixture having proven the concept viable. This important regional, first nations film festival is still going strong. 2022 statistics:.

1800+

Attendees

350+

Children engaged in Cinesnaps program

110+

Young people engaged in film making

"We are incredibly grateful to you as a Committee and the donors for the amazing opportunity to be part of the first ARTS Impact WA grant process. To be selected for our joint project (with Goolarri Media) is an amazing outcome"

Malinda Nixon, CEO Cinefest 2009 - 2023



Image Credit: Nic Duncan

"Thank you to ARTS Impact WA for the funding boost that allowed me to fly as well as for walking alongside me. Our relationship is important to me beyond just the provision of funds."

Vivienne Robertson - Artist, 2022 Major Grant Winner & Donor

Major Grant Winner Highlights

Vivienne Robertson - RECLAIM THE VOID 2022 WINNER - \$100,000

This important regional project hit the zeitgeist for meaningful reconciliation through art with its huge scope and vision. Community engagement has been phenomenal, with interest from all over the world.

The rugs are now assembled and ready to be installed, followed by an exhibition at the WA Museum.

3500+

Rug dots made by communities across Australia & Worldwide

111

Schools engaged in residencies

150+

Organisations & Communities ran rug making workshops



Image Credit: Nic Duncan

Major Grant Winner Highlights

FREEZE FRAME OPERA The Little Prince

2023 WINNER - \$100,000

Based on the 1943 book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Rachel Portman's opera was presented for the first time in WA to enchanted audiences, expect more performances to come.

1300+

Attendees

4 AWARDS

2024 Performing Arts WA

40+

Children performing



Comment from a Performer.

"It has been an utter joy working with FFO & WAYV on this special production. It was a huge task but you did it! Congratulations!! We need more shows like this that bring collaboration and joy to audiences and I am so happy ARTS Impact could see that their money was well invested. Everyone I spoke to was blown away by what FFO managed to achieve and I am sure they, the young WAYV choristers and I will never forget this experience."

Comment from West Australian Young Voices (WAYV):

"Working with Freeze Frame Opera on this production has truly been a dream come true. It has provided WAYV choristers with a platform to hone their performance skills and boost their confidence. It has also been a great privilege to work alongside industry-professionals at the peak of their game, and to learn from their vast skill and experience. We are extremely grateful for the generous support of ARTS Impact WA which has allowed this production to go ahead. This experience has opened so many doors for WAYV choristers and helped to foster in them a love and passion for Opera"

Major Grant Winner Highlights

REVIVIFICATION

2023 WINNER - \$100,000

The ground breaking project of growing organoids from composer Alvin Lucier's stem cells is nearing completion. Brass panels have been pressed and hand hammered into shape for installation at AGWA. Systems for remote feeding and hygiene have been designed and artists Guy Ben-Ary, Stuart Hodges and Nathan Thomson are developing a symposium to run alongside the planned exhibition at AGWA in early 2025.



Comment from Colin Walker - AGWA Director

"Next year AGWA will show Revivification, an astonishing installation by artists Guy Ben-Ary, Nathan Thompson, Stuart Hodgetts and Matt Gingold. The installation asks "What happens to a legacy after the creator's death?" Revivification aims to immortalize the late composer Alvin Lucier by creating his "surrogate performer" - a living, autonomous entity created from Alvin's tissue cells that creates art continuously after his death. It is a project of stunning ambition made possible thanks to the support of ARTS Impact that has enabled artists to take unimaginable risks in the name of art.

Comment from Phil Thistlethwaite - donor since 2022

"I am so excited to be a part of helping this project be realised. Some phenomenal work is happening in WA that the rest of the world is watching and we wouldn't have known about it if it wasn't for our involvement with ARTS Impact WA"

Comment from Guy Ben-Ary

"The funding we received from ARTS Impact enabled us to thoroughly explore the unique materials, development processes and discourse of Revivification. We deeply appreciate ARTS Impact's support and guidance. This project would not have been possible without their assistance."

Minor Grant Winners 2022-2024

We appreciate the effort involved in submitting an application and the nervous energy spent in pitching to our donors. We work hard to ensure they are supported and rewarded for their time and effort, by awarding minor grants, providing important visibility and peer recognition.

Congratulations to all who made the final 6 in each of our three years.

Kimberley Aboriginal Law & Culture Centre

The Law Bosses

Julia Hales & Bron Batten

The New Bachelorette

Annette Carmichael with Gondwana Link

The Stars Descend

Sensorium Theatre Inc

Wonderbox

Nagula Jarndu

SKUTTA

Creality

Creatura

Comunity Arts Network WA

Now Sounds Port Hedland (2023) & Unfinished Business (2024)

Danielle Freakley

Imaginary Friend

JC

Queer Monuments

WA Youth Theatre Company - WAYTCO

A Comprehensive A to Z of Missing Persons Australia

Encounter Theatre

When the Stars Begin to Fall

MINOR GRANT WINNERS FEEDBACK

While one key focus is delivering more art into our community from the small to medium sized arts orgs and early career artists, one of our other main focuses is on building capacity, networking and upskilling applicants. Our process has been specifically designed to help artists develop the necessary skill set to 'present' their projects and ideas to private supporters and potential funders. Albeit a competitive selection process, we assist our finalists both pre and post Grant Awards night by offering info evenings to potential applicants, guidance in completing our application forms, pitch training to all finalists and ongoing check-ins with all finalists. Many of the minor grant winners go on to deliver their projects in one way or another, finding additional funding to the seed \$10,000 they receive from ARTS Impact and/or reducing the scope of their project. Being selected to compete as a finalist in itself is a sign of recognition among industry peers, validating their ideas and ability to execute them .

ENCOUNTER THEATRE - WHEN THE STARS BEGIN TO FALL

"Thank you for such a beautiful evening; it was truly heartwarming to see such strong support for the arts and a testament to the power of collective effort. We met some incredible people and received a lot of great support, contacts and advice on how we could continue with the project. There is quite a bit of excitement around the project now and we are grateful to the ARTS Impact team for making it more visible."

WA YOUTH THEATRE COMPANY - A COMPREHENSIVE A-Z OF MISSING PERSONS AUSTRALIA

"On behalf of all of us at WAYTCO, THANK YOU so much for the incredible opportunity and for the grant. We will make that \$10,000 dollars go far! The ARTS Impact process was a great learning for us and it was also very exciting to be a part of the Awards night."

INDEPENDENT ARTIST - DANIELLE FREAKLEY - IMAGINARY FRIEND

"Also just wanted to say how valuable for the Arts Impact team to provide pitch training! I've learned a lot..."

INDEPENDENT ARTIST - JC - QUEER MONUMENTS

"Can you also pass on my thanks to all the team at Arts Impact for considering my work sufficiently strong to be included as a finalist? It's been an extraordinary experience!"



"Thanks for the vision and hard work of you and all the committee members and volunteers. It was such an inspirational night. I know I felt happy and grateful to be up there with such great company & it was fantastic to feel the support in the room."

Michelle Hovane - Artistic Director Sensorium Theatre - Winners 2024

Major Grant Winner Highlights

SENSORIUM THEATRE - SNUGGLEPLAY **2024 WINNER - \$100,000**

This new multi-sensory work for babies with disability and their families will be a warm, playful hug that nurtures and supports parents whilst focusing on each child's strengths to build neurological connections through creative multi-sensory play. The work, which will premiere in October 2025, will have a highly mobile version which can be performed in community spaces and a more elaborate set for theatres and festivals aimed at inclusive performances for all families and their babies.

"What a great night! Nail biting to the end. I'm utterly delighted that Michelle and the Snuggleplay team can now power into their Creative Development without worrying about the funds."

Carol Millner - General Manager - Sensorium Theatre

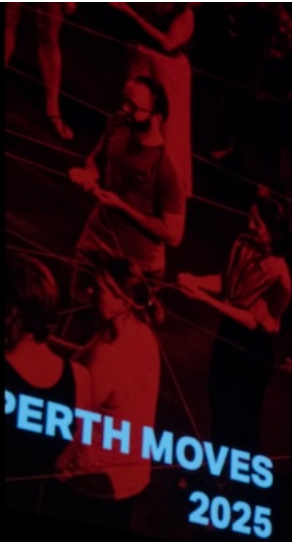


Image Credit: Steph Hayes

Major Grant Winner Highlights

STRUT DANCE - PERTH MOVES 2025

2024 WINNER - \$100,000

"A dream come true. The STRUT team and board are all so thrilled. We can't thank you enough for providing this incredible opportunity, and we can't wait to deliver PERTH MOVES in 2025 for all of us to connect with each other and move together! Last night was one I will treasure for a very long time - it was a beautiful and thrilling evening full of all your care and generosity. We all felt very supported by your collective kindness as we navigated the nerves and anticipation."

James O' Hara - Director

STRUT's one of a kind, 3 week dance festival includes a dance workshop series, an exceptional international collaboration, and a FREE Summer dance hub for ALL. The workshop series is for dance artists from the Asia-Pacific region who will travel to Perth and participate in workshops that facilitate skills development, professional employment, and peer-to-peer networking.

MORE ABOUT OUR GRANT ASSESSMENT PANELS

Each year we invite a new panel to convene for the finalist selection process. Each individual invited to join a panel contributes a valuable aspect to the broad discussion and evaluation of applications. The panel voluntarily give their time to read upto 30 applications and then a half a day together, with all members, to discuss and rank them. They determine the final 6 and recommend them to the Committee who then followup with further due diligence. The panel members are drawn from industry and our core supporters.

PREVIOUS PANEL MEMBERS

Leonie Baldock

Jodie Bell

Alexandra Burt

Marcus Canning AM

Mark Coughlan

Andy Farrant

Michela Fini

Annie Fogarty AM

Minali Gamage

Liesbeth Goedhart

Catherine Henwood

Helen Hristofski

Tania Hudson

Randall Humich

Monica Kane

Carolyn Karnovsky

Peter Kift

Grace Lam

James Legge

Harriet Marshall

Hannah Matthews

Tabitha McMullen

Ella McNeil

Amanda Morrison

Duncan Ord AM

Gillian O'Shaughnessy

Gemma Pepper

Leon Pericles

Mike Rees

Felicity Ruse

Narelle Thorne

Helen Turner

Tim Ungar

Bourby Webster

"The model of giving of ARTS Impact is one that demonstrates the power that a committed group of individuals can have to fundamentally change the lives of artists, organisations and communities."

Tania Hudson - Donor & 2023 Panel Member

FOUNDING CHAMPIONS 2021-2024

From the very beginning ARTS Impact invited key potential supporters to join the initiative and underwrite our \$100,000 grants by committing their giving for 3 years. This support has been the bedrock of our success and has enabled ARTS Impact to attract the individual \$1,000 donors who closed the gap to the second \$100,000 and provided \$40,000 for our minor grant winners each year.

Spinifex Trust	Fogarty Foundation	Andy Farrant
Wright Burt Foundation	Randal & Monique Humich	Warwick Helmsley AO
Ungar Family Foundation	Le Messurier Charitable Trust	Cecile Crochu & Alan Ng
Mostyn Foundation	McCusker Charitable Foundation	Fini Foundation
Minderoo Foundation	Darryl Mack & Family	Anonymous x 2
Feilman Foundation	Felicity & Tony Ruse	
Simon Lee Foundation	Phil & Kareena Thistlethwaite	
Wind Over Water	Adam Levin & Adi Gordi	
Jam & Jelly	Rob & Amanda Morrison	
Quercus Foundation	Jock Clough	

CHAMPIONS 2021-2024

We have been lucky enough to have received significant donations on an annual basis from a number of generous people who believed in our concept and gave generously to make it happen.

"I am very glad to be a small part of the large and great work you all do."

Donor to ARTS Impact, 2024

Alan Duncan	Paul Kotsoglo
Private Wealth Network (PWN)	Arthur & Megan Criddle
Barry & Adrienne Marshall	Spinifex Trust
Lorraine Copley	Stewart Family Foundation
Paula Rogers & Phil Thick	

Our Generous Partners & Supporters

We are so grateful to our pro bono supporters who collaborate with us to deliver this initiative, we really couldn't do it without them.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has made this possible.

WEB DESIGNERS & TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

FORGE STUDIO

VIDEOGRAPHER:

INSPIREFLIX

DRINKS SPONSORS:

SILVERSTREAM WINES, THE OTHERSIDE BREWING CO

VENUE HOSTS:

THE RECHABITE, LAWSON FLATS, FREQ SOCIAL & THE GOODS SHED

PITCH TRAINER:

DR JENNIFER HALTON

GRANTS AWARDS EVENT PRODUCER:

BOURBY WEBSTER

ACCOUNTANCY SUPPORT:

HALL CHADWICK