

NEXUS ARTS



NEXUS ARTS
— **ANNUAL** —
REPORT 2020



APRIL 2021



JONATHAN KIM, RECIPROCITY 2020;
IMAGE CREDIT: AARON SCHUPPAN

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VISION



AUSTRALIAN CONTEMPORARY ARTS TRULY REPRESENT OUR INTERCULTURAL SOCIETY, PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION THROUGH DIVERSITY AND EXCELLENCE OF PRACTICE.

MISSION



NEXUS ARTS FOSTERS CONTEMPORARY INTERCULTURAL CREATIVE PRACTICES, ENGAGING AND DEVELOPING BOTH ARTISTS AND AUDIENCES.



NEXUS ARTS PRESENTED 92 ARTISTS FROM 19 DIFFERENT CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS ACROSS OUR CURATED PROGRAMS.

WE ALSO PRESENTED 158 ARTISTS ACROSS 88 SHOWS IN ADDITION TO OUR OTHER CURATED PROGRAM.

+++++

◆ We launched our online gallery in response to COVID lockdown, resulting in 4671 online visitors and 5400 total visitors across six multimodal exhibitions, a 415% increase on 2019 visitation.

◆ We worked with multiple project partners, including Sanaa, Flinders University Museum of Art (FUMA), Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, fine print magazine, COMA (Creative Original Music Adelaide), Sydney Sacred Music Festival and Change Media.

◆ We supported 35 artists to develop funding applications through our Arts South Australia supported Write Up pilot program.

◆ We maintained cultural diversity among our leadership group, with 78% of Board Members from culturally diverse or First Nations backgrounds, significantly higher than the 10% national average for arts leaders.

◆ We exceeded the number of planned commissions by 300% across both visual arts and music, commissioning five visual arts projects and four new music works across the year.

◆ We grew social media engagement across all platforms, ensuring our programs reached more audience members and raising our artists' profiles.

◆ We actively sought to grow new leaders within the arts sector offering 7 internships, with 4 interns identifying as having culturally diverse backgrounds.

◆ We successfully delivered SA's only development program for 10 contemporary culturally diverse musicians digitally throughout lockdown, and innovating to additionally produce live music videos, thereby obtaining press coverage for the program, including through SBS Arabic online.

◆ We facilitated our annual SALA residency and mentorship program for Makeda Duong both online and offline, resulting in the artist winning the coveted Don Dunstan Foundation Award and significantly increasing her profile through 7 press articles.

◆ We continued important research into audience behaviour, running four focus groups discussing engagement by culturally diverse Adelaide people with the arts.



INTERPLAY ARTIST ZUHIR NAJI,
IMAGE CREDIT: MORGAN SETTE



DR ADRIAN VICARY, CHAIRPERSON

The extraordinary successes of Nexus Arts in 2020 belie the impact of the global pandemic. In the face of the adversity suffered by so many in the arts, the Nexus Arts team increased activity, initiating a number of new projects in our effort to support artists. In addition to our planned programming, we commissioned work from 12 musicians and 7 visual artists, exceeding our planned number of commissions for the year by 300%. Despite periods of isolation, we did not work alone however. As is always the case in the arts, we could not have achieved so much without partnerships, and we far exceeded our goals for co-presentation and co-led projects in 2020, working with Sanaa, fine print magazine, Sydney Sacred Music Festival, Change Media, the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Australia Day Council of South Australia, Flinders University Museum of Art and COMA (Creative Original Music Adelaide) on activities which employed artists and raised their profiles both locally and nationally.

It has been well documented that people with culturally diverse backgrounds have suffered disproportionately throughout the pandemic. Nexus Arts greatly values our audiences and we worked hard throughout 2020 to maintain our connections with, and grow, our community. Thanks to the Arts South Australia COVID-supplement, within weeks of the first lockdown, Nexus Arts launched a digital gallery. This exciting initiative allowed us to reach more than 4500 online visitors across six multi-modal exhibitions throughout the year, increasing our audience by 415% on 2019 visitation. Thanks to the persistence of the entire team, we also met all the milestones of our research into the needs of culturally diverse audience members. This project, which will culminate in 2021 in the launch of a toolkit to support the industry to ensure that we welcome all Australians to participate in the arts, is a truly exciting demonstration of our commitment to ensuring that everyone has access to exceptional contemporary art.

Nexus Arts' vision is that Australian contemporary arts truly represent our intercultural society. In 2020, we presented artists from 19 different and distinct cultural backgrounds across our programs and created opportunities for authentic intercultural engagement for artists through both our development and presentation programs. While this work is critical, we are aware that equity in the arts cannot be achieved without assuring better access for artists from culturally diverse backgrounds both to make art and to attain leadership roles in the sector. To further our push towards appropriate representation, Nexus Arts established a pilot program to offer grant writing support to artists from culturally diverse and First Nations backgrounds, with support from Arts South Australia. As a result, Nexus supported 34 artists through the process of application development. Additionally, we sought to model equity in both our own leadership and by supporting the leaders of tomorrow. In 2019, Diversity Arts Australia reported that currently less than 1 in every 10 Australian arts leaders is from a culturally or linguistically diverse background, despite the fact that 39% of Australians have diverse backgrounds. Nexus is justly proud of the fact that in 2020, 77% of our Board had diverse backgrounds, including First Nations representation and members who identify as LGBTQI+. We are also proud to be part of ensuring that culturally diverse emerging arts workers gain opportunities to build their careers, with 4 out of our 7 interns, and all three of our new staff employed in 2020 identifying as culturally or linguistically diverse.

There is significant work still to be done to achieve our goal of ensuring that Australia's represented artists and audiences appropriately reflect our population. The tenacity, insight and determination that Nexus Arts' Artistic Director, Emily Tulloch and General Manager, Blythe Chandler dedicate to achieving this goal makes me hopeful for the future. I want to thank them, the entire Nexus Arts team and my colleagues on the Board for all their work during this most challenging of years and I look forward to working with them again in 2021.



EMILY TULLOCH, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

In a year of unexpected challenges, Nexus Arts rose to meet them with an organisational approach loyal to our values of inclusion, excellence, and compassion.

Beginning 2020 with a successful curated program within our broader Adelaide Fringe Festival season, we offered subsidies to 10 artists from culturally diverse and First Nations backgrounds thanks to an Adelaide Fringe Artist Fund grant. These shows were consistently the best attended across the season, highlighting audience demand for quality work from artists from diverse backgrounds telling relevant and engaging stories. Our Fringe exhibition *Kupesi in Colour* from artist BAY introduced audiences to the Tongan traditional practice of kupesi with an interactive, participatory experience, including a sand-covered Gallery floor to create a beach-side atmosphere. The exhibition concluded with a new commissioned musical work from artist Lonelyspeck, performed at an intimate closing night event.

So far, so good, right? And then March arrived! The enormous and wide-ranging impacts of the pandemic are well understood by those invested in the arts. Of course, our programs were affected, largely our flagship Nexus Live music performance series which was due to run from June to December, and which has been re-imagined for presentation in 2021/22. Rather than cataloging the hardships we faced, however, I would like to focus on the incredible work undertaken by the team to provide opportunities for artists throughout the period. It is vital that, as a sector, we recognise the monumental impact experienced by artists in this extraordinary time, and I am proud that Nexus acted promptly to both honour existing engagements and provide new, paid opportunities.

With the first lockdown announced during the installation of our second exhibition, our Gallery was immediately reconfigured towards digital presentation. A new website was commissioned and built, and our staff captured beautiful video and photography of the works, leading to our first -

online exhibition launch in May 2020. From our third exhibition, opening in June, we presented multi-modal exhibitions to in person and online audiences, significantly expanding the audience reach for our artists. In addition to therefore being able to present our full Gallery program, we expanded delivery to provide an additional 5 visual artists with commissions, which saw the creation of two mini exhibitions in our Venue poster box and a composite image to accompany the collaborative project *Exquisite Corpse*, which will be launched with our partners COMA (Creative Original Music Adelaide) in July 2021.

In the absence of live performance, Nexus jumped to alternative activities to support our musicians, commissioning new work from local duo voiceROM, who worked with the recordings of 10 artists who have recently performed at Nexus to create new sampled remixes. This was an incredibly exciting project and great fun for all involved.

Additional to this activity, which provided artists and arts workers with paid work during an immensely unstable period within an already insecure profession, I would like to mention the compassionate approach taken by Nexus staff towards our artistic and professional community through this time. I am deeply proud of the support we were able to offer to individuals from within our community, be they artists, our own team members, and also other members of the arts sector. Nexus upheld our organisational values with trademark dedication to bettering our sector for all.

We returned to live performance in July with two stunning jazz performances by world renowned artists taking refuge in Adelaide during the pandemic, and through the remainder of 2020 we presented artists including Farhan Shah, Gabriella Smart, and our 2020 Interplay cohort. Reduced audience capacities resulted in necessarily intimate performances. While we cannot underestimate the effect that limiting numbers has had across our industry, we've tried to view this as an opportunity to enable the artist audience connection which is core to the experience within our venue to flourish under these conditions.



STUDIO RESIDENT MAKEDA DUONG,
IMAGE CREDIT: MORGAN SETTE

Drawing on some of the many positives within the year, Nexus established some significant new partnerships, notably with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the Flinders University Museum of Art, and the Australia Day Council of SA. These see us continue to consolidate and enhance our organisational recognition within the state, and we look forward to continuing them into the future.

To conclude, my heartfelt thanks go to all our wonderful core staff, and particularly to our brilliant General Manager, Blythe Chandler, for her passion, commitment and partnership throughout the year. I am delighted that she joins me in co-leadership of this organisation as Executive Director in 2021. My thanks also go to our Board for their support, and to our artists and audiences for remaining connected with us throughout such a challenging year.

NEXUS ARTS GALLERY

Nexus presented 6 exhibitions in 2020. The first was an in-person event, presented before the onset of -

the COVID-19 pandemic. The second was a digital presentation, installed just prior to the first Australian lockdown. Exhibitions 3 to 6 were presented multimodally.

1. Kupesi in Colour | Studio Resident BAY the Artist, presented as part of Adelaide Fringe Festival including a closing night event with the premiere performance of a new work from Lonelyspeck, commissioned in response to BAY's work.
2. I AM BECAUSE WE ARE: illustrations of existence | The.Wamala and Tailor Winston, with Sanaa Festival.
3. circles to us | Dominic Guerrero, Curator, in collaboration with the Flinders University Museum of Art.
4. Mixed Race Female | Studio Resident Makeda Duong, presented as part of SALA Festival.
5. Reciprocity | Jonathan Kim.
6. _this breath is not mine to keep | presented by Change Media and supported by Nexus Arts.

Continued

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT



NEXUS ARTS GALLERY CONTINUED

In addition to the main exhibition program above, two mini exhibition curation opportunities were offered which saw work installed in our venue poster box, supporting a further two artists with important paid opportunities during the earlier stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

INTERPLAY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Interplay development program, funded by the Music Development Office, ran from February to December, providing individual and group support, mentoring, and content creation for 10 artists. The program concluded in a performance series which ran as follows:

- 16 October 2020: Jennifer Trijo / Leni
- 30 October 2020: Noni Espinosa / Zuhir Naji
- 13 November 2020: Ronak Sarani / Sofia Torchia
- 22 January 2021 (postponed from 27 November 2020): Sorna Ensemble / Juan Muñoz
- 29 January 2021 (postponed from 11 December 2020): Isabelle da Sylveira and Mike Bevan / Constantine Stefanou

ADELAIDE FRINGE CURATED PROGRAM

Thanks to the support of the Adelaide Fringe Artist Fund, the Nexus Adelaide Fringe Cultural Hub 2020 was able to subsidise performances by ten artists from culturally diverse backgrounds.

- Aghaani Zamaan, presented by the Arabic Language Association of SA
- Drag Supreme (Kultural-Realness/Edition), presented by Kween Kong and the Haus of Kong
- Latin Rock Cassette, presented by Latitude 0°
- Mi Cuba, presented by Lazaro Numa
- The Yorke Band Live, presented by The Yorke Band
- The Guitar Music of South America and Spain, presented by Rafa Godoy and Aloysius Leeson
- Kuko, presented by Kuko
- Sufi Music Highway, presented by Farhan Shah
- Drive that Funky Soul, presented by The Revolution

- Oriental Flair, presented by the Chinese School of Music and Arts

Audiences for our Artist Fund-supported artists were significantly above the venue average, with five shows sold out and others at near-full capacity. We were encouraged to note the attendance of many first-time Fringe-goers, many of whom were also visiting Nexus for the first time. Through support from the Artist Fund, these artists were able to encourage new audiences from within their own cultural networks to experience Adelaide's festival season and build audiences for the future.

voiceROM COMMISSION

Nexus Arts commissioned Adelaide instrumental hip hop duo voiceROM to work with the recorded music of ten artists who have recently performed at Nexus to create an album of new sampled remixes. The appropriately named Nexus Album features the sampled artists Gelareh Pour's Garden, The Three Seas, Zhao Liang, Lazaro Numa, Aviva Endean, Origami, The Letter String Quartet, Sophie Koh, Lonelyspeck, and Eishan Ensemble. This project supported 12 artists/ensembles through commissioning fees and honorariums for the use of samples. It can be heard at www.voicerom.bandcamp.com/album/nexus-album

OTHER PERFORMANCES

4 September 2020: Inner Cities, performed by Gabriella Smart

12 September 2020: Sydney Sacred Music Festival live streamed performance by Farhan Shah

OTHER ACTIVITY

Exquisite Corpse: a collaborative commissioning project undertaken with COMA (Creative Original Music Adelaide), supporting 10 musicians and 3 visual artists to undertake paid creation of new work. The project outcome - a recording of the new musical with accompanying artwork - launching July 2021.



INTERPLAY ARTIST SOFIA TORCHIA,
IMAGE CREDIT: EMMA LUKER

TREASURERS' REPORT



ROLAND AH CHEE & BRENDAN CONNOLLY, CO-TREASURERS

Alongside so many small to medium Australian businesses, particularly those operating in the arts sector, 2020 presented a range of challenges for Nexus Arts. Earned income was reduced by 56% on 2019, due to COVID-19 lockdowns, audience capacity restrictions and limitations on the operations of major event partners, such as OzAsia. We were fortunate, however, to have concluded a highly successful Fringe Festival season in the Venue (headlined for the first time by our own curated program) prior to the first wave, which saw audience numbers up by 10% on 2019 and bar sales increase by 17%, before the impacts of the pandemic took effect.

2020 was the third year of our triennial Department of Premier and Cabinet – Arts Organisational Funding Agreement. We were advised mid-year that DPC-Arts would be extending this Agreement for a fourth year in order for the department to focus on its pandemic recovery programs. We are grateful to DPC-Arts for its ongoing support of our organisation. The receipt of an unforeseen COVID-Supplement in March enabled us to commission our highly successful Nexus Arts Digital Gallery during the first lockdown period. Through this platform we maintained a connection with our audiences, significantly increased visitation numbers and facilitated continuity of our exhibition output, vital to keeping our artists in work. While overall grant funding was down from 2019, Nexus Arts successfully delivered projects within budget that were funded by grants from Department for Innovation and Skills – Music Development Office, Department of Premier and Cabinet – Multicultural Affairs, City of Adelaide, and Adelaide Fringe Festival. We also received notification of successful grant applications from the Arts Recovery Fund and Music Development Office in late 2020 which will support programming outputs in 2021, in addition to a successful grant from the Australia Council for the Arts which will fund activity postponed to 2021/2022. Importantly, throughout 2020, we also initiated relationships with organisations such as Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the Australia Day Council of South Australia,

and the Flinders University Museum of Art, raising the profile of Nexus Arts within the broader community and supporting the immensely talented artists with whom Nexus is privileged to work.

The Board is committed to improving financial stability through increased income generation from sponsorship, fundraising, and further promotion of Nexus Arts' events. We sought to diversify our income streams in 2020 through an unfortunately unsuccessful EOI to the Ian Potter Foundation presented in partnership with Flinders University Museum of Art. Nexus Arts will nonetheless continue to seek avenues to increase our sustainability and reduce costs through partnering with other likeminded organisations.

Nexus Arts remains committed to optimising the use of our performance venue to benefit Adelaide's artists and audiences. With our 200-seat capacity, we are almost unique in the Adelaide arts landscape, and our professionalism and versatility render us a sought-after location. Despite the pandemic's impact on operations, in 2020 we presented 88 performances, with 158 artists using our Venue, in addition to the performers presented in our curated programs. While ensuring robust income streams is a priority for Nexus Arts, it is vital for brand recognition that we prioritise support for artists who broadly align with our mission.

The Association recorded a net surplus for the year amounting to \$156,787 compared to a net surplus in 2019 of \$12,441. The Federal Government's Cash flow Boost and JobKeeper program contributed significantly to this result. Accessing JobKeeper was critical to Nexus Arts' ability to support our pool of loyal Venue front of house, bar and technical staff, upon whom the organisation relies to deliver our high-quality program and services. Critically, this additional cashflow enabled Nexus Arts to increase our planned artist commissions by 300%, providing vital work to many individuals working within the arts industry who were ruled ineligible for JobKeeper. Ongoing, higher-level funding for the arts would have immediate, tangible results for all those working in the sector and the community audience members our work supports.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
SALES REVENUE	84,214	151,584
GRANT REVENUE	436,497	471,448
COST OF SALES	(151,972)	(298,730)
GROSS PROFIT	368,739	324,302
FINANCE INCOME	35	65
DONATIONS	797	239
MARKETING EXPENSES	(8,359)	(8,084)
OCCUPANCY COSTS	(11,034)	(25,443)
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	(144,713)	(213,190)
OTHER EXPENSES	(48,070)	(64,093)
FINANCE EXPENSES	(608)	(1,355)
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	156,787	12,441
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	156,787	12,441

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

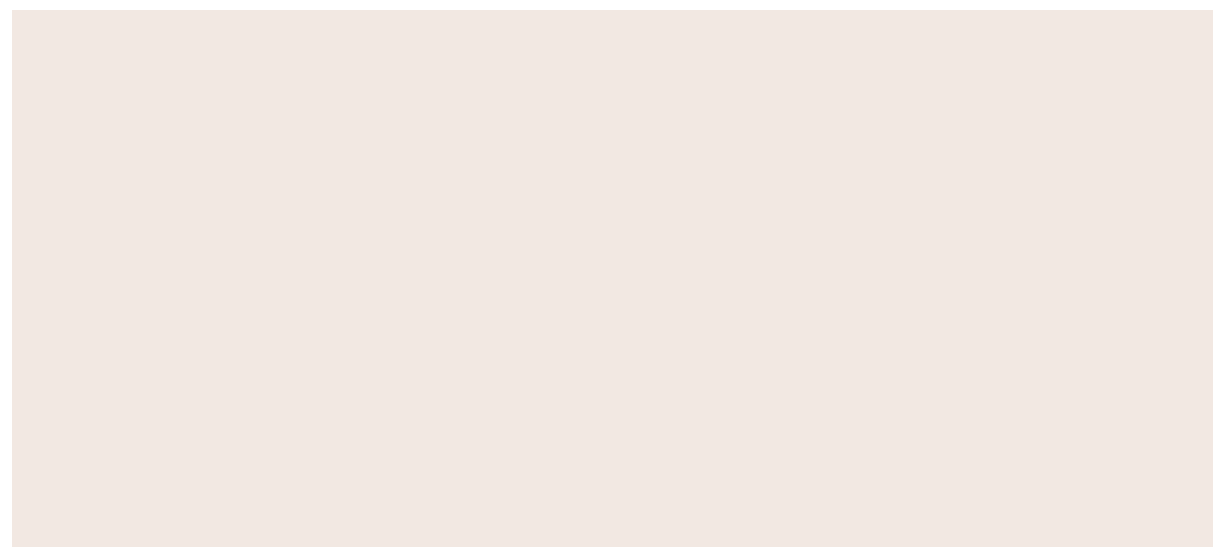
	2020	2019
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS	\$	\$
Cash & Cash Equivalents	409,582	98,968
Trade & Other Receivables	786	29,602
Inventory	8,059	6,605
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	418,427	134,635
NON CURRENT ASSETS	\$	\$
Property, Plant & Equipment	49,018	68,395
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	49,018	68,395
TOTAL ASSETS	467,445	203,030
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$	\$
Trade & Other Payables	28,138	33,321
Employee Benefits	20,714	9,778
Other Financial Liabilities	126,078	83,730
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	174,930	126,829
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$	\$
Employee Benefits	135	-
Other Financial Liabilities	58,883	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	59,018	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	233,948	126,829
NET ASSETS	233,497	76,201
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$	\$
Retained Surplus	233,497	76,201
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	233,497	76,201

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$	\$
Receipts from customers and funding agencies	647,041	515,531
Payments to Suppliers & Employees	(321,253)	(580,509)
Net Cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	325,788	(64,978)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	\$	\$
Acquisition of Property, Plant & Equipment	(15,174)	490
Net Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(15,174)	490
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH & CASH EQUIVS HELD	310,614	(64,488)
CASH & CASH EQUIVS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	98,968	163,456
CASH & CASH EQUIVS AT THE END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	409,582	98,968



BOARD OF GOVERNANCE



NEXUS ARTS TEAM

Adrian Vicary (Chair)

Diana Glenn (Member January - December; Deputy Chair April - November)

Roland Ah Chee (co-Treasurer)

Brendan Connolly (co-Treasurer; Member from May 2020)

Michael Pagsanjan

Kate Moskwa

Terri Dichiera

Neha Madhok

Suhail Bhardwaj

STAFF

Emily Tulloch - Artistic Director

Blythe Chandler - General Manager

Aaron Schuppan - Venue & Media Manager

Alice Castello - Visual Arts Coordinator (from October 2020)

André Lawrence - Visual Arts Coordinator (until April 2020)

Isabel Souter - Marketing Coordinator (until April 2020)

Lisa Catinari - Office Administrator

Naomi Keyte - Artist Development Officer

Noni Espinosa - Head Technician (until November 2020)

Zach Caporale - Head Technician (from November 2020)

Zeina Abdul Karim - Marketing Coordinator (from October 2020)

Nexus Arts



Government of South Australia
Arts South Australia



Government of South Australia
Department of the Premier
and cabinet



Australia
Council
for the Arts



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Government of South Australia
Department for Innovation
and skills



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