

Nexus Arts

Annual Report 2024



Damien Shen & Kalani Shen,
Uncle Moogy, 2024.
Image credit: Connor Patterson.

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Huda Fadlelmawla and Reuben Lewis.

Image credit: Josh Todd.

Our Vision

Australian contemporary arts truly represent our intercultural society, promoting social cohesion through diversity and excellence of practice.

Our Mission

Nexus Arts fosters contemporary intercultural creative practices, engaging and developing both artists and audiences.



Steph Teh, Interplay
Performance 2024.
Image credit: Hills House Media.

Chairperson's Report



I am delighted to reflect on the outstanding work of Nexus Arts throughout 2024, and to express my pride in having spent a second year as the organisation's Chair.

Nexus continued in 2024 in our commitment to presenting, promoting and supporting high quality contemporary music and visual arts by culturally diverse and First Nations artists; commissioning new work exploring intercultural artistic practice; developing and nurturing emerging artists; inspiring, stimulating and cultivating broad audiences; and engaging with diverse partners to work collaboratively in these efforts.

Our highlights in 2024 are many: from public programming to new work commissions, ongoing artist support services, and new intercultural collaborations fostered. I'm pleased to see our networks strengthened through re-engagement of previous program artists in other roles within our organisation – a key KPI, and one that works towards an ongoing feedback loop whereby past participants provide direct input into program development. A strong example of this in 2024 was the employment of Interplay program artist, Kultar Ahluwalia, as Marketing Assistant and progressing to Interplay Co-Manager in 2025, working on the program that he had participated in.

I would like to mention the important work undertaken by our dedicated staff in the Development and Philanthropic space, with new sponsors and donors brought into the Nexus family throughout 2024, and a reinvigorated membership program enabling us to more deeply connect with our supporters and community.

Other highlights include a new relationship with the

Ades Foundation a new partnership with City of Port Adelaide Enfield, and continuing partnerships with many of South Australia's most significant cultural institutions, including WOMADelaide, Cabaret Fringe, OzAsia Festival, Adelaide Baroque, Illuminate Adelaide, and the Adelaide Film Festival.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all our hard-working staff whose passion and commitment plays a vital role. Thanks to the 4-year funding by Creative Australia, Nexus Arts will continue to develop, support and promote intercultural artistic works by culturally diverse and First Nations artists. I also acknowledge the wonderful Board members and their support and commitment to Nexus Arts. I extend my sincere thanks to long term Board member and former Chair Dr Adrian Vicary who sadly passed in November 2024. Adrian was a passionate advocate for an intercultural Australia, the arts, and social cohesion.

2024 saw the end of 8 years of service of our former CEO and Artistic Director, Emily Tulloch a long-term staff member since 2017. Emily's commitment, passion and leadership has been instrumental in shaping the success of Nexus Arts over the years.

As we conclude our 40th year, and look to the future, I reflect on the organisation's achievements and the vital role it plays in the South Australian Arts sector.

We celebrate our achievements, and we look to the future and all that we will continue to contribute to our artists, and our society.

**Terri Dichiera,
Chair of the Board**

Co-CEO's Report



Even though I started with Nexus at the end of 2024, I'm delighted to present this report. It's a privilege to work with such an outstanding team and an excellent program of artists from culturally diverse and First Nations communities.

The quality of the programs delivered continue to be strong, and 2024 is no exception. Nexus supported artists through performance opportunities, studio residencies, exhibitions, quick response grants, grant writing services and mentorship arrangements, exceeding our KPI for the number of culturally diverse and First Nations artists presented, as well as the KPI reflecting the diversity of cultural backgrounds presented. We commissioned new work, supported emerging creatives and built connections with established artists and the wider industry. Moreso, the gallery and venue were alive throughout the year with art exploring connections to culture, place and identity and interrogating the environment we are existing within.

A particular highlight of 2024 was the Interplay program, funded by the Music Development Office. Six wonderful artists participated in the year-long program, performing a range of genres including soul, jazz, folk, experimental, indie, and pop. We were pleased that once again our cohort represented a range of cultural backgrounds including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As testament to the both the artists and the strength of the program, two of the six artists, Ms Chipeta and Kara Manansala, were formally programmed for 2025's WOMADelaide after their Interplay showcase

performances. A further two, Vincy Chan and Steph Teh, were also programmed on the WOMADelaide x NSS Academy stage. In their debrief interviews, participants particularly spoke to the benefits of the Creative Intensive week in enhancing their knowledge and creative practice.

On an organisational level, 2024 saw a new three-year commitment of philanthropic funds from Ades Foundation, securing the newly established 40 for 40 quick response grants program into the future. In addition, funding from the Adelaide Fringe and LUMO at the end of 2024 also provides the exciting opportunity to invest in accessibility upgrades to the venue, allowing Nexus to continue their leadership in offering spaces that are welcoming and accessible to all. Together with Creative Australia funding starting 2025, Nexus is well positioned to grow and deepen its impact within culturally diverse and First Nations communities.

Last but by no means least, I extend my heartfelt thanks to outgoing CEO & AD Emily Tulloch, who left the organisation in such a strong artistic and financial position after 7 years' service. Her impact is substantial and lasting.

I'm excited by the possibilities that 2025 brings and I look forward to sharing it with you.

Kim Roberts
Co-CEO (incoming)



Alice Hu, 混沌知觉 *Chaostopia*, 2024.
Image credit: Yusuf Ali Hayat.

Artistic Program



Nexus' 2024 Artistic Program across our core supported artforms of Music and Visual Arts was broad, extensive, and impactful. Across our programs, we continued in our support and development of emerging and established artists of culturally diverse and First Nations backgrounds, both ensuring a diversity of perspectives that represent the unique stories within our society and nurturing artists in their individuality as cultural producers. We commissioned and presented 9 new works and facilitated 6 intercultural artistic collaborations, and our work reached audiences of over 7,000.

Our extensive activity as detailed below supports our Vision that Australian contemporary arts truly represent our intercultural society, promoting social cohesion through diversity and excellence of practice, and we are proud to reflect on the outputs of another full and dynamic year of operations.

Music Programs

Nexus Live

Nexus Live provides year-round programming of intercultural contemporary music, with a focus on collaborative practice and artistic risk-taking. In 2024, presented a program of 5 performances. With the support of artists who have secured their own touring funding, we are pleased to nonetheless present 3 leading Australian art music ensembles, ensuring continuity of the Nexus Live programming brand as we plan for a full program of commissioned new work, inbound and outbound touring in 2025 with the confirmed support of Creative Australia four-year funding.

Panghalina

On 6 July Nexus Arts presented double bassist, vocalist, and composer, Helen Svoboda in a Nexus Live performance as part of Illuminate Adelaide. Helen is a truly unique voice in the Australian jazz and art music landscape whose practice explores the melodic potential of the contemporary double bass, intricately weaving extended techniques and overtones amidst abstract song-writing

structures and vegetable-themed compositions. On 5 July Helen participated in a workshop with former Interplay artist Maryam Rahmani, as part of a Nexus Arts supported professional and creative development opportunity.

Reuben Lewis (Melbourne) and Huda Fadelmaawla (Brisbane) with Kultar Ahluwalia

Our Nexus Live presentation on 18 May featured Meanjin-based Sudanese spoken word poet, Huda Fadelmaawla and Naarm-based jazz musician, Reuben Lewis. It was a powerful collaboration of freestyle poetry and improvised sound design. The audience were mesmerised and gave a standing ovation to the duo. Patrons showed their appreciation and purchased several LPs of their latest album on the night.

ZÖJ

On 11 October, we were delighted to present the recent winners of the APRA/AMCOS Art Music Award for Experimental Practice, ZÖJ, as part of Nexus Live. ZÖJ are kemencheh and voice artist Gelareh Pour and Brian O'Dwyer on drum kit, and they describe their practice as neo-Persian experimentalism. Their deep-listening style performance was stunning and well-received.

Chloe Kim

On 29 and 30 October we were delighted to welcome Sydney-based drummer Chloe Kim to Nexus. On the first day of her mini-residency, Chloe worked with Adelaide-based huqin trio Silk Strings in an informal workshop/sharing session designed to facilitate intercultural and inter-genre musical sharing across state borders. This was a preview to a new 2025 activity, where Silk Strings will be our inaugural Ensemble in Residence: an initiative that will pair the trio with multiple touring artists, brought to Adelaide throughout the year as part of our Nexus Live program, to similarly share and collaborate. On 30 October, following a morning workshop facilitated by Nexus at the University of Adelaide, a large audience gathered in our Venue to experience Chloe's incredible solo drum kit improvisations, and

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were treated to a sneak peak of the previous day's workshop, with Silk Strings invited to the stage for part of the performance.

Karolina Beimcik

On 21 November we presented the final Nexus Live performance for 2024 by Polish singer, songwriter and violinist, Karolina Beimcik, with Australian associate artists Jay Dabgar (tabla), and Hugh Stuckey (guitar). This was part of a series of performances nation-wide by the trio, including at the Perth International Jazz Festival, and was a beautiful, intimate, intercultural performance event.

Adelaide Fringe

Also during February, 2024 Interplay artist Simi Vuata wrapped up a sold-out hit Fringe Festival season in the Nexus Arts Venue with his show Music of Colour. Simi's Fringe shows paid homage to the iconic voices of soul music in addition to honouring Australian royalty, Uncle Archie Roach.

Interplay

In 2024, Nexus Arts delivered Interplay: a responsive, supportive, and comprehensive development program for contemporary musicians from culturally diverse and First Nations backgrounds. Interplay provides strong and essential pathways for emerging South Australian musicians from culturally diverse and First Nations backgrounds into the Australian contemporary music industry through targeted activities and the development of a supportive, inclusive and artistically ambitious network within a safe intercultural space.

Monthly connect sessions

In these monthly workshops a creative theme is set, and artists will have discussions around this topic. In 2024, topics included:

- 'The Power of Words', hosted by Nairobi-born, South-Australian Hip Hop artist, Elys Wameyo
- 'Record Labels and Creative Entrepreneurship' hosted by Bianca Nilsson, founder of Renegade Records. Renegade Records is a female, non-

binary, and LGBTQI+-owned and operated independent label based in South Australia.

- 'The integration of culture in new artistic work' with Pavan Kumar Hari. Pavan works across multiple arts disciplines including composition, performance, dance, acting, and directing. His artistic journey began with immersion in the rich traditions of Indian classical and folk styles of both dance and music.
- 'Stagecraft' with South African singer-songwriter and producer, Cherie De Klerk, who performs as My Cherie
- 'Applying for festivals' with Annette Tripodi, Associate Director of WOMADelaide
- 'Grant applications' with Nexus Arts CEO & Artistic Director, Emily Tulloch
- 'Artist journeys' with Naarm artist, Joelistics

In addition to the connect session workshop presentations, the artists also shared some creative works they have recently created and received feedback from one another. It is this camaraderie and feedback from like-minded peers that we foster through the Interplay program. We have found these monthly connect sessions to be very empowering for our South Australian artists.

To quote one artist in particular,

I must say, the first group meeting was beyond my expectations! It was an absolute pleasure getting to know my Interplay family. Your words gave me hope, good feelings and positive energy. Thank you for sharing your wisdom and for caring about our mental health. I was sure Interplay will help me grow my musical skills, but now I know it is way more than that! I even slept so well and woke up so refreshed! It's been a while since I felt that way! Thank you.

Mahzad Fard

Creative Intensive

During April, our six Interplay program artists took part in a week-long creative intensive, with artists provided with a stipend to enable them to

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forgo other employment and commit to 5 days of creative exploration and group development. Each day featured one guest presenter, a series of skill-share development sessions, and some personal development time. Guest presenters were:

- Keith Kugo (songwriter-producer, and 2023 Interplay artist)
- Josh Morphett (musician and founder of Space Jams festival)
- Michèle Saint-Yves (playwright, Nexus Arts Access Coordinator)
- Gene Phoa (musician-producer, and 2021 Interplay artist)
- Erin Buku (singer-songwriter).

The talks covered a range of topics including interdisciplinary practice, creative accessibility, the art of pre-production, and resilience in the music industry. The artists expressed their empowerment following the week of exploration, with one artist quoting: "In one week, we learned, we grew, we healed, we created, and became the Interplay family. It was an incredible, super well-organised, and nourishing week."

Mentoring

As part of the Interplay program, our six artists are paired up with external mentors who work in the music industry in order to deepen their learning on selected topics. One such mentor is Bianca Nilsson, a First Nations artist and founder of independent record label, Renegade Records. She has been paired with Vincy Chan, a trans singer-songwriter originally from Hong Kong who wishes to learn more about the process of being signed to a label. This is an exciting new connection for us which we look forward to further exploring.

Performances

2024 Interplay program artist Simi Vuata performed a new show, 'Music of Colour' in the Nexus Arts Venue as part of our curated Adelaide Fringe program. Simi was supported by Nexus in a successful Fringe Artist Fund application and performed his celebration of the icons of soul to large audiences.

Though not directly related to our programming, it is worth noting that during May, Interplay artist Simi Vuata (Fijian-Wiradjuri) performed at Eurovision 2024 with Electric Fields to represent Australia in the Semi-Finals. His performance and reflections have been very inspiring to his peers in the Interplay program.

In November, we held our Interplay live performance series in the Nexus Arts Venue. This is an integral part of the Interplay artist development program, facilitating co-headline performances by program artists. Featuring artists Elizabeth Ruyi, Steph Teh, Ms Chipeta, Kara Manansala, LENI, and Vincy Chan, this live performance series was a culmination of the program learnings, and each artist shone in their own right. We were delighted to have strong, warm, and enthusiastic audiences supporting our artists, with series attendance overall the strongest of the last few years.

Videos of the performances can be seen [here](#).

Professional Development

Artists were provided with free passes to the annual IndieCon conference, where some notable workshops included a session on working with AI and record labels working to achieve cultural change. Following this, artists were invited to Music SA's annual showcase event, Scouted, hosted at Nexus. This is an important event on the local contemporary music calendar, with the opportunity to play to and connect with national music industry.

Music Videos

Ms Chipeta, Kara Manansala, and Steph Teh recorded their live music videos at Wizard Tone Studios. Our artists learned about being in a studio environment and working with supporting creatives, such as James Brown (audio engineer) and Aaron Schuppan (videographer).

On 12 December we celebrated our 2024 Interplay artists with a public event in partnership with The Mercury as part of their Heaps Good Cinema program. We premiered the live music videos recording by this year's cohort, and the event also featured performances by program alumni LENI and

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Elizabeth Ruyi and a thoughtful panel discussion between artists Ms Chipeta, Kara Manansala and Steph Teh and program facilitators Jennifer Trijo and Emily Tulloch. The panel highlighted not only the growth of this year's cohort, but also the importance of having a safe and welcoming community checking on one another. The event was well attended and a wonderful closing celebration of the 2024 program.

WOMADelaide co-presentation

Nexus Arts continues our partnership with WOMADelaide in 2024, following successful co-presentation relationships at the 2022 and 2023 festivals. In 2024, we were delighted to present the Adelaide ensemble Slowmango, featuring 2021 Interplay program artist Adrian Schmidt Mumm. In addition, WOMADelaide provided the incoming 2024 Interplay program artists with 4-day festival passes, and offered other program support including a workshop-discussion on festival applications led by Associate Director, Annette Tripodi. This relationship is of great benefit to Nexus and our artists, with WOMADelaide being a "dream gig" for the majority of the artists we support. This relationship is confirmed to continue for 2025.

Nexus Art Orchestra

Members of the Nexus Arts Orchestra met on Tuesday 6 February to creatively develop two new compositions by Jack Overall. Overall, under the mentorship of Julian Ferraretto, is composing new works for this multi-cultural ensemble who've performed together since 2021. This project will continue with a view to develop further compositions and created a live performance within which to showcase these new works and the Nexus Arts Orchestra.

OzAsia Festival Performances

In 2024, we continued our co-presentation relationship, broadening Nexus' audience reach through partnership with this well-aligned festival.

On 20-21 August we were delighted to support Kultar Ahluwalia in a 2-day final creative development of his

show 'The Mixed-Race Tape' which will be presented at Nexus Arts as part of OzAsia Festival 2024. Kultar was supported by Joel Ma, stage name Joelistics, who travelled from Naarm/Melbourne for the period. Joel was a mentor for Kultar in the 2023 Interplay program and this opportunity for Kultar to spend 2 days working with him on refining the theatrical presentation of his show was warmly welcomed.

2023 Interplay artist Kultar Ahluwalia debuted his show *The Mixed-Race Tape* in front of a large and extremely warm audience, for a season of 2 shows. Kultar's performance included special appearances from Parvyn and another Nexus Arts friend, Farhan Shah, and was extremely well reviewed, with InReview's Kyron Weetra writing "*To put it plainly, The Mixed-Race Tape is the most nuanced and dynamic hip-hop gig this reviewer has ever seen*".

Parvyn launched her sophomore album, *Maujuda*, to a full house. We were delighted with the season of performances across October and November, which drew very strong audiences.

Nexus was also a partner in OzAsia's Artist Lab, with our CEO and Artistic Director Emily Tulloch delivering a workshop on grant-writing for the cohort as well as meeting one-on-one with 3 of the participants to discuss and support them in their individual artistic career trajectories. Nexus is delighted to have been a partner in this Lab since its inception. We believe it provides a truly valuable opportunity to Asian-Australian artists to connect and develop, and we hope that it continues to be a core part of OzAsia's programming.

Visual Arts Programs

Exhibition Program

Nexus Arts delivered a program of 7 exhibitions in our Gallery. The program included two studio residencies and our annual co-presentation with OzAsia Festival. The visual arts program continued to have a presence at the Adelaide Fringe Festival and the South Australian Living Artist (SALA) Festival, two of the State's highest attended arts festivals.

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witness/ tree - Jennifer Eadie & Adrienne Semmens

witness/ tree was developed during a Nexus Studio Residency in 2023. As part of this residency, the artists Adrienne Semmens (Barkindji/Australian) and Jennifer Eadie (Italian/Australian) were generously guided by the consultation and ceremony of Senior Kaurna Man, Uncle Mickey Kumatpi O'Brien and the mentorship of Narungga poet, artist and researcher, Natalie Harkin.

witness/ tree is the first iteration of a durational, site-responsive body of work that interrogates individual and collective relationship to place. The artists consider what it means to authentically bear witness to a recently fallen tarma [eucalyptus blue gum] whose age pre-dates invasion. In doing so, their work seeks to simultaneously honour, disrupt, and (re)connect with, the histories and stories of Tuthangga, Kaurna Country [Park 17, Adelaide].

The exhibition also included a new sound commission by Barkindji songwoman, Nancy Bates. You can view the digital gallery [here](#).

Mga gamit ng isang makata - Matcho Makata

Matcho Makata is a Filipino actor, writer, performance poet, movements artist & teacher. He is a force of spoken word and poetry whose works demonstrate the transformative power of language. Matcho's work sheds light on the challenges and struggles of growing roots in a foreign land while sharing your identity from your homeland.

On 15 February we opened *Mga gamit ng isang makata* (*Gamit*). *Gamit* is a reverse ekphrastic look into the migrant mindset of Filipinx diaspora living on Kaurna land through the lens of a poet. Matcho has focused on crafting their artwork through entering Filipino households to explore, document and collect remaining clutter. He considers what it means to come from a migrant mindset of needing to survive, to constantly realign purposes and what the limits could be. The exhibition includes pieces of visual poetry/in response to objects that might be deemed past their utility such as leftover wood. In 'Gamit' discarded doors from Filipinx homes become

supports for different forms of creativity and cultural (re)production.

During the last week of the exhibition, two workshops were held in the Gallery. Firstly, a Poetry Movement Workshop was hosted by Luke Baker, designed to push boundaries using movement and elicit a creative connection between mind and body. Using sound as the prompt participants were invited to write a poem with their body and translate their movement into words in the safety of a guided space. The workshop was well attended and expanded the kinds of public programming offered in the Gallery. The second was a Baybayin Writing Workshop hosted by Abegail Del Rosario. Abegail is an emerging artist born in the Philippines, who creatively explores and studies Baybayin; an indigenous writing script abundantly used in pre-colonial Philippines. This workshop was aimed at the Filipinx diaspora. Conversations during the workshop examined histories of colonialism, cultural revival and translation. Matcho hosted the workshop and provided Filipino dishes for lunch for the participants.

混沌知觉 Chaostopia - Alice Hu, Studio Resident

Alice Hu is an emerging visual artist who works across many mediums such as glass, ceramics, sculpture, illustration and also working as a tattoo artist. Her works are often inspired by the idea of acculturation and her unique aesthetic from personal experience.

Throughout her residency, Alice has been mentored by South Australian artists Datsun Tran and Mark Valenzuela. An accompanying essay to this exhibition was written by SA-based artist and writer Ena Grozdanić, which can be found in the gallery and on the Nexus Arts website.

The exhibition opened in March and continued until early May. The closing event in May saw a commissioned improvised performance response by musician David Wei-Han Dai. David improvised on the Huqin after spending some time in the exhibition, based on the two artists' shared understanding of the concept of "hundun" – an untranslatable Mandarin word loosely meaning a state of 'deep

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chaos'. It was a stunning performance that brought together two artists with a shared cultural background in a meaningful artistic exchange.

A comprehensive review by Chris Reid was published in the Barefoot Review on 2 April and can be read [here](#).

The digital exhibition can be seen [here](#).

Neva-gu dyugurpa, From West Coast to City Centre - Jayda Wilson

Jayda Wilson (she/they) is a proud Gugada and Wirangu woman who is also of Thai decent. Jayda's artistic practice addresses concepts of individuality within Aboriginality through notions of text, language, installation and sound.

Jayda is a recent graduate from the University of South Australia. Their work has been exhibited at Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA), Adelaide Contemporary Experimental (ACE), Carclew, and FELTspace.

'Neva-gu dyugurpa, From West Coast to City Centre' by Jayda Wilson opened on Thursday 30 May. The exhibition brings together multiple works that explore the (re)telling of family history through archival material found locally in South Australia and internationally in Osaka, Japan. These documents of Jayda Wilson's mama-gu ngundyu Neva Wilson (b.1934 – passed 2016) explore ideologies of blood memory and sovereignty through sound, photography and print.

On 1 July, Nexus Arts held a private screening of 'From West Coast to City Centre', the documentary held in the archives of a Japanese Museum in Osaka and describing the life of Neva Wilson (b.1934 – passed 2016), our June exhibiting artist Jayda Wilson's mama-gu ngundyu. Jayda's exhibition, which closed on 5 July, brought together multiple works that explore the (re)telling of family history through archival material. These works explored ideologies of blood memory and sovereignty through sound, photography and print. The screening for invited members of Jayda's family and community was an important outcome for her project.

SALA FESTIVAL Root and Fruit - Shenshen Zheng, Studio Resident

Shenshen Zheng is currently a student at Adelaide Central School of Art. Shenshen's studio proposal *Root and Fruit* is based on her home garden where she grows vegetables that are otherwise unavailable in most supermarkets. The studio project is a contemplation of both nostalgia and artistic practices of emplacement.

In May, Shenshen Zheng installed garden beds in the Nexus Arts courtyard, beginning her 3-month residency period and undertook mentorship with SA based ceramicist Sam Gold and curator Nanette Orly, based on Wiradjuri Country, to develop her concept as she works towards a Gallery outcome as part of SALA.

Root & Fruit opened in July to a warm reception.

Digital exhibition can be seen [here](#).

Watch and Listen – group show curated by Carly Tarkari Dodd

Carly Tarkari Dodd is a Kaurna, Narungga and Ngarrindjeri artist and curator based in Tarntanya (Adelaide). Within her artistic practice Carly mixes traditional and contemporary techniques, to produce works that are conceptually and culturally driven.

Working at JamFactory as the First Nations Engagement Coordinator and Assistant Curator she has worked closely with First Nations artist and art centres on many projects. Highlighting and amplifying Indigenous voices and culture is a strong passion in her curation practice.

Opening on 6 December to a full gallery, *Watch and Listen* embodied the continuation of cultural knowledge through art, capturing the essential role of passing down traditions to our young ones, who are naturally curious, observant, and eager to learn. This exhibition underscores the importance of fostering self-determination in the next generation, empowering them to understand who they are and where they come from. Featuring three unique collaborations father and daughter, father and son, and aunty and niece, the artists have woven their

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connections into works that span painting, weaving, and carving. Each piece symbolises the beginning of these young people's journeys into their culture, opening a space for them to explore and define their identities. *Watch and Listen* invites us to witness the flow of knowledge from one generation to the next, honouring the strength and resilience found in these familial bonds.

The featured artists are Carly Tarkari Dodd, Harper Dodd, James Tylor, Sam Mapu Selleck-Tylor, Damien Shen, and Kalani Shen.

Digital exhibition can be seen [here](#).

Studio Residency Program

Nexus delivered 2 visual arts studio residencies, Alice Hu and Shenshen Zheng. As outlined above, the selected residents each received 3 months of studio access, a funded mentorship facilitated with a mentor of their selection, a materials budget, an exhibition outcome and guidance and support from Nexus Arts staff including a series of conversations with Michèle Saint-Yves (Nexus Arts Access Coordinator) to embed access considerations from the outset and development of their work. Residents will also be connected with a First Nations artist to discuss the considerations and implications of being cultural producers in places of culture. Studio residents in recent years have achieved strong public outcomes and recognition, including being awarded and shortlisted for the SALA Don Dunstan Foundation Award, and winning Adelaide Fringe weekly awards.

Other Activity and Services

BIGSOUND

During July, Nexus successfully sought strategic funding for Interplay artist Simi Vuata to attend BIGSOUND in September 2024. Simi had been given a pass by the conference and festival as an emerging First Nations artist of note, but needed financial support to travel to Brisbane and fund accommodation and living expenses for the 4-day conference. We were pleased to support Simi to secure these funds on his behalf, and Nexus staff

member Kultar Ahluwalia also attended to provide additional support on the ground.

Write Up

From August 2020, Nexus Arts has delivered the Write Up funding application assistance program with strategic investment funding from Arts South Australia. Write Up is a personalised grant-writing support service for artists from culturally diverse and First Nations backgrounds, providing significant one-on-one support to apply for arts grants and opportunities both local and national. Success rates for submitted grants across 2020/2021 are above 50%. From 2023, Write Up has been incorporated into our ongoing services, and will continue into 2025.

There were 25 participants in the Write Up program in 2024.

40 for 40 quick response grants

In 2023 Nexus Arts was successful in applying to participate in the Creative Australia's Plus1 program. Plus1 assists small-to-medium not-for-profit arts and cultural organisations develop their fundraising capacity, attract private sector support, grow stronger and broader networks and build supportive partnerships. Nexus ran a fundraising campaign '40 for 40', which will enable Nexus Arts to establish a future fund for South Australian artists from culturally diverse and First Nations backgrounds.

We are delighted to report that in April we reached our fundraising target of \$20,000, raised as part of a Creative Partnerships Plus1 campaign. With a significant donation from the Adès Family Foundation, contributions from across our community, and the matched funding from Creative Australia, we have raised \$40,000 to establish the 40 for 40 Future Fund: a quick response small grants fund for artists from culturally diverse and First Nations backgrounds to access where other funding opportunities are unavailable. This fund will launch in July and will provide grants of \$1,000 on a rolling basis until funds are expended. We intend to utilise this fund as an ongoing fundraising tool, encouraging donors to contribute directly to artists.

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Over the remainder of 2024, 10 artists successfully applied, with \$1,000 each for a range of activity, including attendance at performances interstate and associated meetings, and participation in the Australian Art Orchestra's Creative Music Intensive program.

Other partnerships

Adès Foundation

Nexus is delighted to report that we have secured a 3-year philanthropic funding agreement with the Adès Family Foundation, to a value of \$90,000 (\$30,000 per year). The Adès Family Foundation was established in acknowledgement of the precarity of funding in the Australian arts sector, with a particular understanding that artists operating outside the mainstream face additional challenges. The Foundation was established to “endeavour in some small way to make a difference to the arts sector, particularly those at the periphery”. Following an initial meeting with the Foundation in December 2023, Nexus was invited to submit a proposal for funding, and we are delighted that the Foundation will support Nexus with this additional funding to be used at a core level across a range of projects. This is a significant outcome for our organisation, and along with newly secured Creative Australia Multi Year Investment funding from 2025 sees us more strongly financially positioned than ever before in our 40-year history.

Creative Australia

In addition to our upcoming multi-year funding agreement commencing 2025, Nexus Arts is one of 16 national organisations invited by Creative Australia to take part in a pilot project as part of their series of Climate Active initiatives for the sector. Nexus will work with Pangolin Associates who will perform a carbon audit of our 2024 activity, funded by Creative Australia. This will advise us on our current carbon output as an organisation, enabling us to implement change processes to reduce our impact.

The audit has been completed and we are awaiting the final report, to be delivered in 2025.

Illuminate Adelaide

Fill the Earth - Juha Vanahuato

During July, Nexus Arts acted as Venue Partner for the presentation of *Fill The Earth* by Juha Vanahuato as part of Illuminate Adelaide. Running over 6 performances, this multi-disciplinary work featured numerous key South Australian creatives including Thom Buchanan, Paulo Castro, Jo Stone, Alison Currie, Bridget Currie, Cazna Brass, Lina Limosani, Rowan Rossi, Adrianne Semmens, Caleena Sandbury, and Stephen Sheehan.

Nexus Live - Panghalina

See page 9.

City of Port Adelaide Enfield

Throughout July, Nexus Arts' Visual Arts and Community Engagement Lead, Yusuf Hayat worked with emerging photographer Liam Tang to develop a newsprint photobook and banner series documenting people and places in the Port Adelaide Enfield Council area. Liam was also mentored by Ngarrindjeri and Kaurna writer Dominic Guerrera, who helped Liam consider the stories shared with him by the people he photographed, selecting text to present alongside the images. The project has been supported by PAE Council and will be launched at Melt Fest in August.

In partnership with the City of Port Adelaide, Nexus Arts facilitated a 'Songwriter Speaks' workshop on 22 November featuring 2024 Interplay artist, Ms Chipeta. This free, public event was promoted to any artists interested in applying for Interplay and exchanging ideas about creative processes. It was a great opportunity for reflection, and it afforded us great insight on the value of the music programs at Nexus from an artist's perspective.

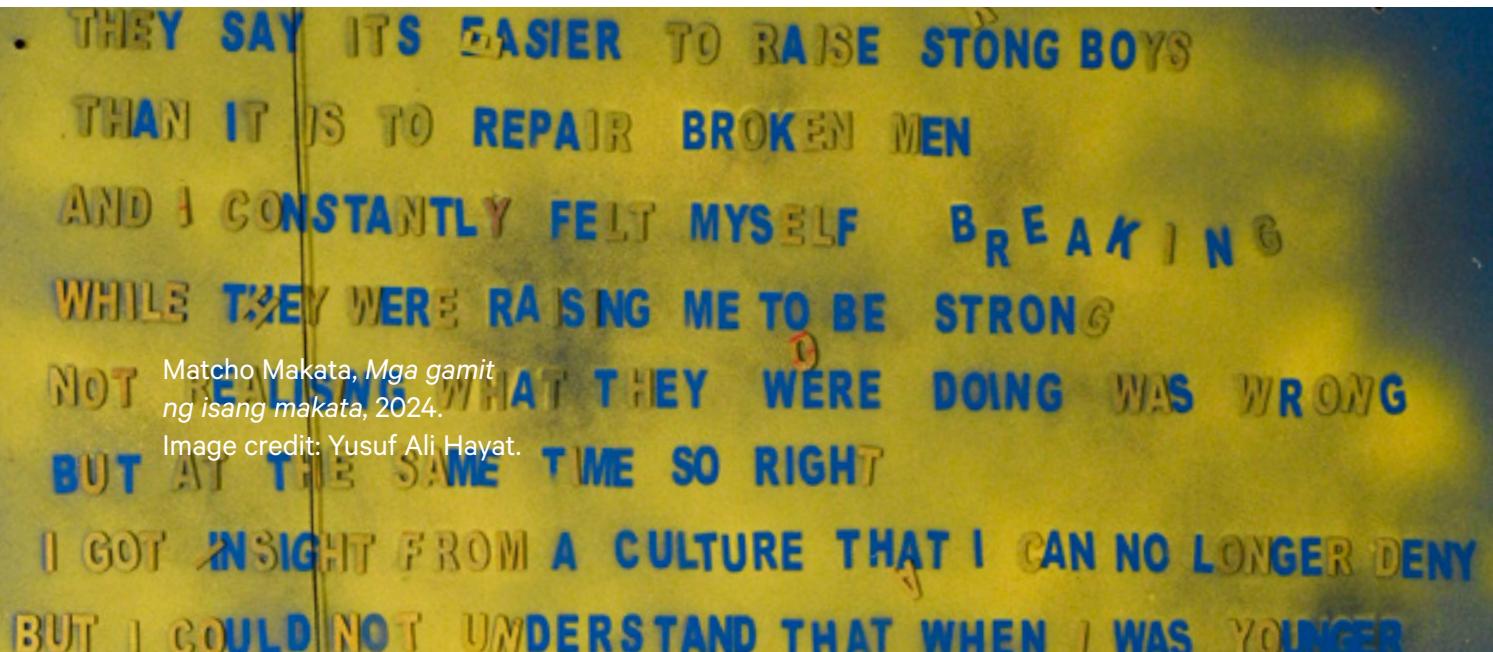
Country Arts SA

On 13 August, Nexus hosted a Fire Talks workshop

Artistic Program



led by Country Arts SA. Over the past few months, CASA has been working with Narungga/Kaurna performance artist Jacob Boehme to deliver Fire Talks facilitator training. Jacob has been meeting weekly with a group of seven local Aboriginal people to train them to become facilitators. Fire Talks is a 'talking circle' that engages visitors in critical conversations about art on display. Participants go beyond personal opinion and a thumbs-up/thumbs-down verdict by developing shared meaning and a deeper relationship to the work of art they have viewed. Ngarrindjeri, Ngadjuri, Narungga and Wirangu artist Sonya Rankine led Nexus staff and other Fire Talks program participants through a process of response to Nexus' SALA exhibition, 'Root and Fruit' by Shenshen Zheng.





Ms Chipeta, Interplay
Performance 2024.
Image credit: Hills House Media.

Treasurer's Report



I am delighted to present my first Treasurers Report as a new incumbent board member of Nexus Arts being appointed to the role in August 2024. Being appointed as a board member of Nexus Arts is a privilege and I look forward to contributing to the long-term financial success of a historic South Australian powerhouse of intercultural contemporary arts connecting both artists and audiences alike.

In 2024 Nexus Arts has continued to strengthen our financial performance with increases across a range of income streams, strong cost control and bolstering of our balance sheet.

Diligent budgeting, fiscally responsible decision making and higher levels of accountability have seen us deliver another year of strong financial performance with the 2024 position landing with a \$34K surplus. This is a reduction on prior year due to no longer receiving short term grant funding which expired in 2024 however, offset by other operating revenue lines which saw increases year on year most notably in Philanthropic and Venue Hire income which we expect to continue in future years.

To commence 2024, Nexus Arts started the year with confirmed funding from Arts South Australia (Arts Organisation Program, Music Development Organisational and See it Live funding), City of Port

Adelaide Enfield and the Music Development Office (SA). Additional funding was awarded during 2024 through successful grant applications by the team as follows:

- Creative Australia Plus 1 funding (\$20K)
- Ades Foundation Funding (\$30K)
- Adelaide Fringe Fund: LUMO energy grant (\$10K)
- Illuminate Adelaide (\$1K)

This successful funding enabled strong program and services delivery throughout 2024 for our artists and audiences at Nexus Arts.

We ended the year with a strong balance sheet with net asset balance of \$460,917, the strongest in our organisation's history. With confirmed Multi Year Investment from Creative Australia commencing from 2025, Nexus Arts enters a new phase with its strongest financial outlook with secured funding since incorporation.

**Christopher Chen CA,
Treasurer**



Financial Statements



Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Grant revenue	454,316	528,954
Sales revenue	143,501	143,606
Cost of sales	(195,796)	(241,933)
Gross profit	402,021	430,627
Finance income	45	37
Other income	21,122	25,305
Marketing expenses	(20,889)	(22,937)
Occupancy costs	(21,190)	(17,002)
Administrative expenses	(335,753)	(345,324)
Other expenses	(11,171)	(10,801)
<u>Surplus for the year</u>	<u>34,185</u>	<u>59,905</u>
<u>Other comprehensive income for the year</u>	-	-
<u>Total comprehensive income for the year</u>	<u>34,185</u>	<u>59,905</u>

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position As At 31 December 2024

		2024	2023
Assets	<u>Current assets</u>	\$	\$
	Cash and cash equivalents	648,668	497,616
	Trade and other receivables	31,508	29,738
	Inventories	3,864	4,150
	<u>Total current assets</u>	<u>684,040</u>	<u>531,504</u>
	<u>Non-current assets</u>	-	-
	<u>Total assets</u>	<u>684,040</u>	<u>531,504</u>
Liabilities	<u>Current liabilities</u>		
	Trade and other payables	37,105	17,341
	Employee benefits	15,777	12,003
	Other financial liabilities	168,795	62,231
	<u>Total current liabilities</u>	<u>221,677</u>	<u>91,575</u>
	<u>Non-current liabilities</u>	-	-
	Employee benefits	1,634	11,596
	Other financial liabilities	-	1,789
	<u>Total non-current liabilities</u>	<u>1,634</u>	<u>13,385</u>
	<u>Total liabilities</u>	<u>223,311</u>	<u>104,960</u>
	<u>Net assets</u>	<u>460,729</u>	<u>426,544</u>
Equity	Retained surplus	460,729	426,544
	<u>Total equity</u>	<u>460,729</u>	<u>426,544</u>

Financial Statements



Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

<u>2024</u>	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
<u>Balance at 1 Jan 2024</u>	426,544	426,544
Surplus during the period	34,185	34,185
<u>Balance at 31 December 2024</u>	460,729	460,729

<u>2023</u>	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
<u>Balance at 1 January 2023</u>	366,639	366,639
Surplus during the period	59,905	59,905
<u>Balance at 31 December 2023</u>	426,544	426,544

Financial Statements



Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
<u>Cash flows from operating activities</u>	\$	\$
Receipts from customers and funding agencies	726,218	608,798
Payments to Suppliers & Employees	(568,904)	(650,904)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	157,314	(42,106)
<u>Cash flows from investing activities</u>		
Acquisition of Property, Plant & Equipment	(6,262)	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(6,262)	-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents held	151,052	(42,106)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	497,616	539,722
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	648,668	497,616

To request full copy of the audited financial statements, please contact info@nexusarts.org.au

Board of Governance & Staff ◆

Board of Governance

Chair: **Terri Dichiera**

Deputy Chair: **Boram Lee**

Treasurer: **Christopher Chen**

Blythe Chandler

Diana Glenn

Victoria Falconer

Dr. Adrian Vicary



Staff

CEO and Artistic Director: **Emily Tulloch** (outgoing)

Co-CEO: **Kim Roberts** (incoming)

General Manager: **Alice Castello** (outgoing)

Development Manager: **Rebecca Meston**

Visual Arts and Community Engagement Lead: **Yusuf Ali Hayat** (outgoing)

Acting Visual Arts Lead: **Makeda Duong** (incoming)

Venue Manager: **Damien Storer**

Interplay Program Coordinator: **Jennifer Trijo**

Access Coordinator: **Michèle Saint-Yves**

Graphic Designer: **Raed Hanifie** (incoming)

Marketing Assistant: **Kultar Ahluwalia** (incoming)

Head Technician: **Keira Simmons**

We would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of outgoing CEO and Artistic Director, Emily Tulloch during her tenure. Her contribution was substantial and will be felt at Nexus for years to come. We also acknowledge the work of General Manager, Alice Castello and Visual Arts and Community Engagement Lead, Yusuf Hayat, and wish them the very best for their future endeavours.

We offer a warm welcome to incoming Co-CEO, Kim Roberts, Acting Visual Arts Lead, Makeda Duong, and were delighted to be joined by new team members, Kultar Ahluwalia and Raed Hanifie.

Nexus Arts
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info@nexusarts.org.au

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