



ARTS ACCESS VICTORIA

Annual Report 2018

First Peoples' acknowledgement

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the first people of Australia. They have never ceded sovereignty and remain strong in their enduring connection to land and culture.

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Cover image: Adam Knapper, *Difficult Pleasure*, acrylic on canvas, 90cm x 90cm.
 Artwork included in AAV's *Ignite* sale and leasing catalogue 2018.
 See more of Adam's work: adamknapper.com.

About Arts Access Victoria

Established in 1974, Arts Access Victoria (AAV) has since become the state's leading arts and disability organisation.

AAV is dedicated to an ambitious agenda of social and artistic transformation for people with disability, mental health lived experience and/or who are Deaf/deaf, the communities in which they live and the arts sector in which they aspire to participate without barriers. We achieve this through:

- disability-led advocacy;
- the delivery of outstanding community arts and cultural development programs;
- professional development programs and mentoring aimed at securing employment outcomes; and
- best practice industry development services that drive the engagement of organisations across the arts, disability and community sectors.

We put equality at the centre of the arts.

Image: Tess McDonald, untitled, collage, Art About, 2018.



Reports

Chairperson's report



Brad Sadler

First and foremost, on behalf of the Board of AAV, I would like to congratulate all our artists for an outstanding year of artistic output across so many artistic forms.

2018 has been a most remarkable year for AAV as we have transitioned from one passionate, inspirational leader to another, and continued to not only create but demand space in all aspects of the arts for every body! Any time of change brings both opportunities and risks. The skill with which Caroline and Veronica have negotiated the leadership transition this year has realised more opportunities than we could have hoped for and negated all the risks.

As a board, we are delighted with how the leadership transition has progressed and we are so thankful not only to Caroline and Veronica but also to the directors, Nikki and Danielle, and all the AAV staff for the courage, skill and resilience they have demonstrated this year.

My personal thanks go to my fellow volunteer board members for giving so freely of their time, energy and expertise.

I look forward to working with you all throughout 2019 to continue to build on the momentum and inspiration of 2018.

Image: Photography by Pippa Samaya

Chief Executive Officer's report



Caroline Bowditch

It has been an incredibly busy time since I joined the AAV team in July 2018. I have spent the last ten months developing an understanding and appreciation of all that AAV does, and it is vast!

The organisation has evolved and changed significantly since I was the Training Coordinator 20 years ago. I have had the huge luxury of having a generous and thorough handover process with Veronica Pardo, who has been regularly at my side whilst I find my way through this new landscape.

Having come from Scotland, where I was working as an artist and choreographer, I have very much been enjoying connecting with those working in the arts industry and learning more about the work of artists with disability that AAV supports and engages with.

We are operating in a dynamic and evolving environment with the NDIS transition still very active, and AAV remains committed to supporting artists through this process and working with them to ensure that art is an integral part of their plan.

It has been a privilege working with and getting to know the incredible staff team that engages, harnesses and supports such brilliant artistic talent.

Thank you to the AAV Board, especially Brad, and all our funders for your ongoing support.

I'm very excited at what the future holds.

Image: Photography by Pippa Samaya

Leadership transition



We thank Veronica Pardo for the visionary leadership she has shown in her nine years in the role of Executive Director, and for providing a smooth transition for Caroline and the team over 2018.

Image: Photography by Pippa Samaya

Some of the outstanding achievements accomplished during her tenure include:

- instigating the Arts Disability Action Plan Training (ADAPT), which has trained hundreds of Victorian arts organisations in disability planning;
- forming a basis for the very successful disability awareness and equality training Open Your Eyes (OYE), which has had a widespread positive effect on the arts industry;
- leading the Beyond Access and Last Avant Garde research projects with The University of Melbourne and The University of Sydney, investigating the creative and aesthetic strategies of the Australian disability arts sector;
- igniting strategic projects, such as ARTfinder, Connecting the Dots and the Delta project, among others; and
- recognising in the early stages how essential it was to come to grips with the new climate under the NDIS and her solid preparations at AAV.

Veronica's passion as a fearless and articulate advocate for the human rights and equality of people with disability will be missed.

We wish her well in her new role as CEO at Multicultural Arts Victoria and look forward to continuing collaborating and fighting for the art-making and human rights of those treated as 'other' by our society.

We advocate. We shake things up. We call out discrimination. We expect inclusion.

Everyone has a right to take part in arts and culture. This right is included in two important documents that protect the rights of people with disability, mental health lived experience and/or who are Deaf/deaf:

- the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and
- the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Article 30).

Current approaches to arts and disability in Australia overwhelmingly privilege the therapeutic benefits of art-making, but do little to recognise the creative, cultural and aesthetic contributions artists with disability make to Australian cultural life. AAV firmly believes Australian society benefits when the wider community understands and values the creative contribution of artists with disability and their cultural aspirations.

18.4% of Victorians have a disability, equating to **1,065,544 people**. By 2031, this is set to rise more than 1,500,000. The incidence of mental health issues in the Victorian population currently sits at 5% or **289,550** and is expected to rise to around **400,000** by 2031.

The work of AAV is to ensure that the needs and interests of this significant group are embedded within a cultural context. We work with more than **150 cultural** organisations each year to raise awareness of access and inclusion, build capacity of organisations to be more responsive to people with disability, and present a compelling program of work by artists with disability as essential contributors to the artistic ecology.

2018 overview

AAV exceeded or met all **21** of our KPIs.

More than **1,300**
artists supported

97 new works produced

124 exhibitions and
performances

108 strategic partnerships

4,320 subscribers
to monthly eNews

42 lectures and seminar

46,335 audience
members engaged

14 research projects

134,234 website page views

12,275 social media followers
Top tweet had a reach of **1,547,155** people

545 creative workshops

21,646 information
requests

NDIS transition

**Art is the reason I get up in the morning.
Art is who I am. It is how I communicate and express myself.
Art is my passion. It is how I make a living.
It connects me to the community.** Art, NDIS & You attendant.

As the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) takes effect throughout Australia, AAV is committed to helping individuals include artistic skill and professional development in their individual NDIS plans.

In 2018, we focused on transitioning current arts program participants into the NDIS, growing the new Artist Engagement (AE) mentoring and professional development program and consolidating new business systems. All our programs, (except for three currently transitioning in the west) have successfully transitioned to the NDIS and AAV's new models of service.

We delivered **40 Art, NDIS & You information sessions** and workshops across Melbourne and regional Victoria, worked with over **100 individuals** to assist with initial planning and advocacy and responded to more than **1,640 information requests**.

AAV is currently undertaking an Arts and Disability Business Model Research Project to guide disability arts organisations on best practice program and business design in an NDIS environment.

AAV is a registered NDIS provider.

Case Study

Ryan (name changed for privacy) lives in metropolitan Melbourne and paints every day. He lives with an anxiety disorder and over the years has become quite isolated due to a lack of support. Since having his NDIS plan, Ryan has been able to employ a support worker and has funds to access pursuits and passions within the community.

Ryan's support worker contacted AAV after some months of unsuccessfully looking for a NDIS registered art studio program. We have now linked Ryan into one of our studio arts programs and, despite the distance, they are thrilled at finding a supportive program where he can develop this interest and talent in a communal and supportive environment.

Art is a
fundamental
human right.

Plan for Art co-design participant.

In 2018, AAV's arts programs involved more than **1,300 artists with disability** and produced more than **25 multi-artform projects** to advance and showcase the work of artists with disability across all levels of artistic endeavour.

Arts Services Programs

Art About

Art About is a supported visual arts studio connecting and developing the visual arts practices of local artists with disability on the Mornington Peninsula.

Strengthening individual practice, Art About affords artists time and space to integrate skills developed over the year primarily working in 2D mediums. Art About artists are working towards **exhibiting** a body of work **in 2019**.

Mural

Art About artists were invited to collaborate with Mornington Peninsula based inclusive arts studio **Outcrop** on a public art mural at **91 Wilsons Road, Mornington**. Drawing inspiration from colour, texture and form of the Mornington Peninsula, each Art About artist created their work on individual panels that were brought together to create a greater whole.



Image: Art About collaborative mural, paint and paper on fabric (detail 3), 2018.

Arts Services Programs

Art Day South

Art Day South is one of AAV's flagship programs and a model of inclusive cross-disciplinary contemporary arts practice where artists work collaboratively to explore, develop and produce new work.

2018's creative development focused on music and animation, with individual short films woven together to create a visual tapestry of the lived experience of disability.

Go Have a Look

The *Go Have a Look* exhibition took place at the Kingston Arts Centre over August and September. The exhibition was a culmination of painted sets, wall works, and multiple video and sound works – a highly saturated immersive environment that juxtaposed the multiplicity of skills and interests that the artists bring to the studio. The gallery entrance became a stage for community announcements and artists used it as a **platform to express their frustrations of the world.**



Image: *Go Have a Look*, exhibition by Art Day South at Kingston Arts Centre.

Arts Services Programs

Artstop

Artstop is a pop-up studio for local artists with disability and/or mental health lived experience to explore and expand their arts practice.

Over 2018, supporting partners Brunswick Uniting Church and the Olive Way Drop In have been running sessions during the Artstop breaks, which gave local artists the opportunity to delve into an **ongoing suite of artistic connection**.

Get Out!

Get Out! is an artist-centred, interactive visual and performing arts program for people with disability which provides interactive arts-based workshops that encourage creative development, exploration, skill development and works towards public outcomes.

Get Out! artists spent 2018 developing their skills in visual and performing arts, working towards their **open studio** titled *Art is Messy, Exciting and Happy* in March 2019.

I think art is
messy, exciting
and happy. Get Out! artist.

Echo Collective

Winners of the Maribyrnong Inclusive Recognition Award 2014 for Best Inclusive Art Group, Echo Collective is a performance group which brings together young people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who share a commitment and passion for inclusive theatre, film and music.

The artists spent 2018 developing their improvisation skills focusing on comedy and humour. Echo Collective is in the process of **recruiting new members** and will present a **performance** public outcome in the **second half of 2019**. Stay tuned!

Arts Services Programs

Nimbus

In partnership with Bundoora Homestead, Nimbus art studio is a rare opportunity for artists with disability to create work under the guidance of practicing contemporary artists.

The studio is situated within **Nebula** – our unique, portable and fully accessible arts space – within the grounds of the **Bundoora Homestead Gallery** offering artists in the studio access to gallery exhibitions and professional development opportunities.

Throughout 2018, Nimbus offered artists a space to experiment with various visual artforms, including printmaking, drawing, painting, watercolours, landscapes, photography and digital art.



Image: Aleshanee Faery, *Nimbus 3*, gelatin print, Nimbus, 2018.

I just do it
because I love it.
It was put in my
head and it won't
go away.

SRS studio participant.

SRS Studios

AAV's SRS Studios provide arts programs to over **70 residents** with disability and/or mental health lived experience in ten Supported Residential Services (SRS). SRS Studios run in various locations in Melbourne's northern and western suburbs where residents can engage in visual arts, creative writing and performing arts.

Turning the Page

Three female artists – **Jing, Kate Simms** and **Sammy** – were mentored by AAV artists in visual, sound and performance to create an exhibition in Nebula as part of the **Melbourne Fringe Festival**.

The exhibition incorporated artwork and sound created over the weeks as a response to the distinctive shape of the Nebula set in the gardens of the Bundoora Homestead. Being part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival gave the artists a great energy and sense of connecting to a larger, artistic community.

Picture in My Head

Picture in My Head was a group exhibition that showcased the work of artists from ten SRS studios and was part of **Neon Parlour's first Community Month**. The exhibition brought together a unique and idiosyncratic collection of portraits, sculpture, abstract paintings, sound and film.

Arts Services Programs



Image: Tony Dowling, untitled, pencil and watercolour on paper, SRS Studios Fusion, 2018.

Way Out West

Way Out West is a visual and performing arts program for people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds living in the west region of Melbourne. The program showcases art-making through theatrical performances, as well as visual arts exhibitions.

After a very productive year in 2017 with two successful public outcomes, 2018 was the first year of Way Out West as a **Company in Residence at St Albans Community Centre (STACC)**. Through the success of this partnership and residency, STACC proposed Way Out West to present a new project for the **2019 Be Bold festival**. The group has begun the early stages of this new project, and an amazing production will be shown to the world at the Bowery Theatre in October 2019.

Arts Services Artist Engagement

Artist Engagement (AE), which was previously called Pathways, has expanded due to the high demand and success of the program in raising the profile of artists and building capacity of the arts industry. The AE Pilot Program will be rolled out in three stages over 2019.

More than **60 artists** with disability, mental health lived experience and/or who are Deaf/deaf and more than **20 arts organisations** have engaged with us through this program in 2018.

Case Studies

Employment outcomes are a focus with most artists clearly articulating and working towards this in their Artistic Development Plans. In 2018, **Greg Muir**'s solo exhibition, *I Ride my Wheelchair on my Ancestors' Land*, funded by City of Melbourne was a big success; **Walter Kadiki** was commissioned to collaborate with NOW:ID—a well-known arts organisation in Salt Lake City, US; **Larissa MacFarlane** was

commissioned to create and deliver her powerful advocacy project titled *Disability Pride is Back*; **Chelle Stefano** was funded to present her visual artwork in various festivals and exhibitions; **Heidi Everett** was employed in 2018 by AAV to deliver the new youth professional development program Nexus and will continue in 2019; and **Gordon Trill** was employed as a photographer for the Invictus games!

Image: Walter Kadiki, *Tonal Caress*, 2018.



Arts Services Artist Engagement

Skin Gallery

Skin Gallery is a partnership between AAV and the Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc that provides local artists with disability, mental health lived experience and/or who are deaf/Deaf with the opportunity to display and sell their works, and a creative outlook for Foundation patients and staff.

In 2018, we exhibited the work of **five artists** in **three exhibitions** with **great sales outcomes**: Latest works by **Chelle Destefano** and **Luke King**; *Sensorial* by **Sarah Lumley**; and *The Future is Yesterday, The Past is Tomorrow* by **Paul Henry** and **Laurence Flegg**.

In 2019, we look forward to opening more wall space in other public spaces and expanding on the success of the Skin Gallery model.



Image: Laurence Flegg, *Ice Dragon* (detail), acrylic on canvas, 2018.

Nexus



Nexus is a professional development program launched for the **first time in 2018** consisted of eleven emerging artists and producers with diverse lived experiences of mental health recovery, **nine guest speakers from arts organisations** and two AAV staff members.

Since forming, Nexus artists have forged strong bonds and are working on arts advocacy projects together. The Nexus 2018 artists were also artists in residence during The Other Film Festival last November. They created visual art in response to themes raised in films/panels and they also staged an Instagram takeover.

Nexus will continue in 2019!

I learnt
people with
disability
can be strong.

Art About artist about The Other Film Festival.

Arts Services Artist Engagement

Stella Young Award

The Stella Young Award of \$3,000 was **first launched in 2018**. This award is for young artists with disability—Australia wide—who have demonstrated significant impact in disability activism through their artistic practice in comedy, performing arts or screen culture.

It is an absolute honour to be awarded the inaugural Stella Young Award. AAV provides the most amazing support and I am so overwhelmed with gratitude. It has already strengthened my confidence as a disabled artist and my drive and passion for disabled-led arts practice.

The aim is to support their professional development and build the **next generation of activists** driven by creativity, honouring the late Stella Young's call to action around disability pride: **"You get proud by practicing."**

The 2018 Stella Young Award went to **Madeline Little**.



Arts Services Artist Engagement

Lesley Hall Arts and Disability Scholarship

Since its first year in 2014, this scholarship has given us a view into artists we may not have engaged with otherwise, as well as the presentation of new work and possibilities.

The 2018 Lesley Hall Arts and Disability Scholarship went to **Clareo O'Shannessy**, who won with her idea for a Queer Disability Showcase: *Periphery No More* – an evening of performative storytelling through the mediums of dance and spoken word poetry that will be presented in 2019.



Image: Prue Stevenson (2016 winner) and Clareo O'Shannessy (2018 winner) volunteering at TOFF 2018. Photography by Paul Dunn

Arts Services *Ignite*



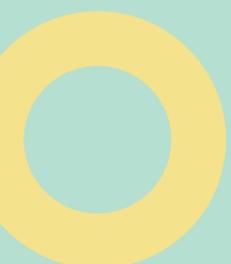
Ignite is AAV's new sale and leasing catalogue in partnership with **Rotary Club of Melbourne Inc.** The catalogue features selected works from over 20 artists with disability that can be **leased or purchased**. All artworks currently in the catalogue were presented as part of the event launch on 25 October 2018.

The initiative has seen a steady uptake of sold and leased works by organisations and individuals, and we will be expanding the number of artworks included. Further artworks will be available for sale and leasing from the AAV's website on an ongoing basis, with artists also being available for commissions.

Image: Jocelyn Lee in front of her artwork *Untitled Diptych* at the *Ignite* launch, 2018.



Arts Services Nebula



Nebula is **Australia’s first fully accessible mobile art studio**. Devised by AAV participants, Nebula **travels across Victoria** offering creative opportunities for artists with disability and can be transformed into a **gallery, workshop space or performing arts venue**.

Based at the grounds of the Bundoora Homestead, Nebula has played host to the Nimbus program in 2018. It also hosted the SRS exhibition at the Melbourne Fringe festival during September and travelled to the grounds of the Malthouse Theatre in November during The Other Film Festival to provide additional venue space.

The two main goals for Nebula in 2019 include becoming **an income-generating venue for hire** for accessible and community-based arts projects, exhibitions and performances, and travelling within regional areas to allow for wider access to both workshops and outcomes.



Image: Photography by Paul Dunn.



Arts Services

The Other Film Festival 2018

Produced by AAV since 2004, The Other Film Festival (TOFF) has been a trailblazer, becoming the **first international disability film festival in Australia**. In 2018, TOFF took place at The Coopers Malthouse, Beckett Theatre in Southbank, along with Nebula positioned in the forecourt, offering a vibrant arts precinct experience in the heart of Melbourne from Thursday 22 to Saturday 24 November 2018 to **over 1,000 audience members**.

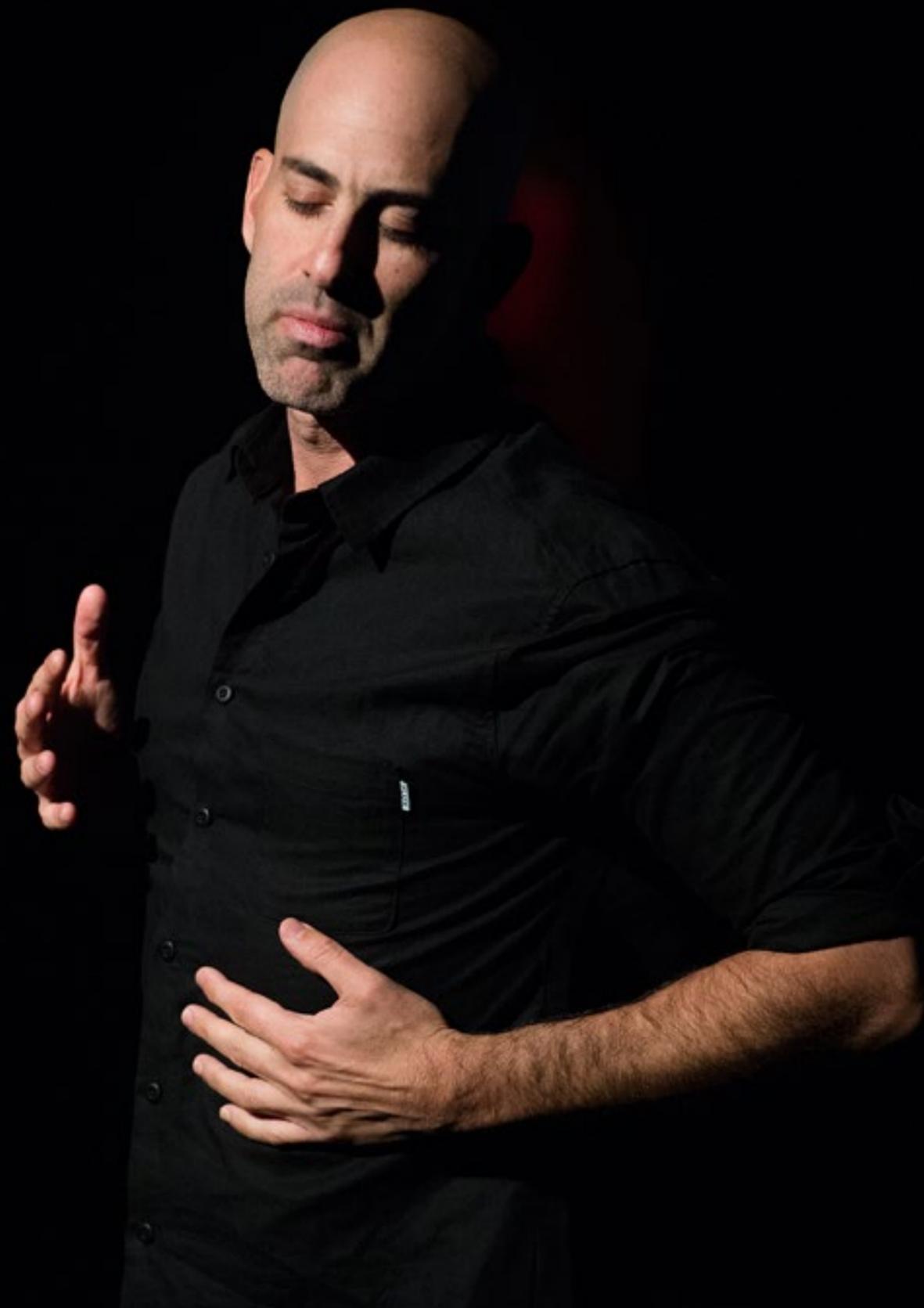
This year's program included local and international films selected by a panel made up entirely of people and artists/filmmakers with disability and/or who are Deaf. To help place the festival in a wider critical screen context, there was a series of industry panels and **commissions by writers with disability**. Part of the aim with the writers' commissions is to start new conversations and invite audiences to reflect on what they experienced at the festival.

TOFF Tour Program

TOFF is a recognised leader in the growing conversations and programs for diversity and inclusion in the Australian screen industry. In 2018, the TOFF Tour Program travelled outside Victoria for the first time. In September, **Fiona Tuomy** (Executive Producer -

The Other Film Festival) facilitated the Film Futures panel at **Meeting Place in Alice Springs**. And in October, the TOFF Tour Program travelled to **DADAA, Fremantle**, for a three-day festival in partnership with Screenwest.

Image: Douglas Ridloff, acclaimed American Sign Language poet and visual storyteller from New York City, performing at TOFF 2018. Douglas was the international guest at TOFF 2018 and FLOW Festival thanks to the generous support of the US Embassy. Photography by Paul Dunn.



When I first heard of Bandmates

I jumped for joy! Seeing live music really boosts your confidence up. It makes you want to see more and mix with friends and meet new ones.

Peter Tolhurst, Bandmates.

Bandmates Victoria is a contemporary program that matches volunteers with people over 18 with disability and/or mental health lived experience to go to live music events. In 2018, Bandmates went into **regional areas** for the first time. We continue working with our lead partner, Maribyrnong City Council, to support individuals to achieve community and cultural participation.

Industry Development Services

AAV has become a touchstone for how to create equity for people with disability in the arts and cultural sectors. Whether through our **training programs, consultations, collaborations** or **partnerships**, we provide advice, resources, audits and education based on more than **four decades of experience**.

In 2018, we connected with more arts and cultural organisations than ever before through our professional industry services. AAV has offered training and consultations to not only frontline customer service staff, but more and more to the executive leadership, who realise they don't want to miss out on the transformation taking place in our sector around access and inclusion.

Through AAV's ongoing leadership and guidance in this area, many organisations are starting to explore the value and importance of collaborations with artists with disability, presenting their works and employing them. A genuine shift is taking place and AAV is excited to see where it leads in 2019.

Image: Photography by Pippa Samaya



Industry Development Services

The ADAPT training shook me to my core, as I realised that, whilst I thought I was an advocate for social equality, I have spent my professional years unconsciously keeping certain barriers in place that excluded people with disability from attending and enjoying the events my team produces and promotes. [...] I felt completely empowered to use my leadership position to effect real change, both with the tools I could implement immediately, and with a commitment to ensure access is a 'front and centre' topic at every check point in our projects. [...] I recommend that all people in leadership positions attend training with Arts Access Victoria, and then send their teams in for the training too, so that awareness and advocacy is shared. This is mandatory education with an associated action plan to create equality throughout our community.

General Manager, Melbourne Fashion Festival.

ADAPT

An Australian first, our innovative model of Arts Disability Action Plan Training (ADAPT) is a leadership program of support and practical resources that enables organisations to plan for access, make long-term change and provide equality for people with disability.

In 2018, with the goal of increasing participation in cultural life by all Victorians, Creative Victoria commissioned AAV to deliver ADAPT to the leaders of **23 key arts and culture organisations**, including **Arts Centre Melbourne, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, The Australian Ballet, ACMI, Footscray Community Arts Centre, Melbourne Fashion Festival, Circus Oz, Koorie Heritage Trust and Film Victoria.**

We are encouraged by the impact ADAPT has made on participants. For some, it is a wake-up call, for others, it is a deep dive into the complexities of what true access and inclusion means while removing all the platitudes, box ticking, and stigma associated with disability access and inclusion. For those who believe in equality and want to be part of bringing this paradigm into reality, ADAPT is the blueprint that gets them there. Due to the response received, AAV will be running ADAPT again in 2019.

Industry Development Services

Open Your Eyes

Open Your Eyes (OYE) is AAV's comprehensive introduction to disability awareness and equality.

It provides an understanding of the needs of people with disability, along with skills and knowledge that can be immediately implemented in any organisation. OYE engages and challenges participants in such a way that it transforms fear into confidence.

We delivered OYE workshops to **36 arts and cultural organisations** throughout the year. Organisations included **Melbourne International Film Festival, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Arts Centre Melbourne, Melbourne Recital Centre and Melbourne International Comedy Festival.**

Open Your Eyes [...] places access and inclusion within a social context and in a very short time allows the participants to dismantle preconceived ideas about disability [...] and rebuild their understanding based around the Social Model. It's a mix of educating about what practical steps and processes can be taken to build a more accessible and inclusive society, along with [...] imagining a world where all barriers to participation have been removed.

Festival Producer, Melbourne Fringe.

Publish-ability

In November 2018, AAV delivered the first of a series of OYE workshops to relevant mentors, manuscripts assessors, editors, tutors and staff at publishing houses as part of this new pioneering project between AAV and Writers Victoria.

Over the next two years, Publish-ability will provide four writers with disability with mentoring, editing and financial support to develop their manuscripts to publishable standards. The writers will be selected from among the talented alumni of our previous project partnership with Writers Victoria, the Write-ability program, which has supported emerging writers with disability since 2012.

Industry Development Services

Lived Experience Consultations

Our depth and expertise in consultations provide information and support to create improved access and to remove barriers for people with various types of disability to attaining the full cultural participation that is the right of all citizens.

In 2018 we provided bespoke consultations to a growing number and variety of Arts organisations including some larger statutory bodies such as **ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image), Melbourne International Film Festival, Circus Oz, Chunky Move, City of Melbourne, Bunjil Place, Malthouse Theatre and The Corner Hotel group of music venues**, among others.

Working Together for Equal Opportunity

Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF), an iconic institution in Melbourne's cultural calendar, requested a broad-reaching consultation on how they could improve services at the 2018 festival.

With extensive advice from AAV and working together, we built a detailed plan for the next four years with more long-range targets. Achievements have been very positive so far in both films (a gradual increase in audio description, captions, sensory friendly relaxed showings, with captioned film clips prominent at the official Launch of the 2018 Festival), as well as physical access to venues. We appreciate MIFF's approach to ongoing improvement to access each year and look forward to continuing working with them.

A Framework for Inclusion

Our Disability Action Plan (DAP) consultations are a developing service. We assist at various levels within organisations, from vision and strategy to daily operations. DAPs give a practical framework for the development of equity and Universal Access in Arts organisations over a given time period.

Assessing Access

Our increasingly popular Mystery Shopper/Visitor audits give host organisations critical information on how they rate with their access and inclusion measures for people with disability.

The Lived Experience Consultants (LECs) who provide these audits have a broad range of access requirements, they are consumers of services who provide access advice informed by their daily lived experience of disability in areas such as physical access, customer service, communications, social media, marketing, booking processes, etc.

Strategic projects

ARTfinder National

ARTfinder National is a two-year collaborative community capacity building project to develop the current Victorian ARTfinder into a national accessible arts database of inclusive arts programs, opportunities and events.

This disability-led project has been co-designed throughout all stages with over 20 artists and professionals with disability, mental health lived experience and/or who are Deaf/deaf. ARTfinder National will be launched in 2019 and will align the current database further to support people looking for artistic skill and professional development to include in their NDIS plan.

ARTfinder National is a Commonwealth project supported by the Cultural Ministers of each State and Territory, as well as the Department of Health and Human Services.

Art is
my work.
My purpose.
My identity.

Plan for Art co-design participant.

Strategic projects

Plan for Art media campaign

With the roll-out of the NDIS proceeding at pace, AAV is concerned that many people with disability will not state a preference for artistic skill and professional development in their individual planning meetings under the mistaken idea that NDIS does not support participation in arts and culture.

The reasons for this are complex and include the fact that there is no mention of arts and culture in the planning tool used by planners. However, arts and culture are definitely reasonable and necessary in people's lives and the NDIS supports the participation in arts and cultural services.

To spread this message widely, we have co-designed and developed a media campaign kit with over a dozen artists with disability and our design partner, Today Strategic Design. The aim of this campaign is to make NDIS planners understand that is not just "art for art's sake". Plan for Art will be roll out in 2019 as part of our ongoing communications strategy.

Image: Draft poster of the Plan for Art media campaign, Photography by Paul Dunn



“Art gives a voice to those left behind”

Plan for communication in your NDIS.

Plan for art.

Financial report

AAV had another solid financial result in 2018. Income increased from \$1,653,769 to \$2,381,721, which was due mainly to additional program funding to assist with our transition to the NDIS and new initiatives, such as ARTfinder.

Our trading result was a surplus of \$19,993 compared to a loss of (\$7,228) in 2017. The aggregated result was a loss of (\$65,827), which was due to having to write down the value of our Trust Fund by (\$85,820). This fall was due to the Stock Market's steep decline in the October – December 2018 quarter. We are pleased to report, however, that the market has recovered, and that this loss has been recovered by the end of March 2019.

The move onto the NDIS has been a complex and challenging task. We are still coping with the challenges of installing new software but are confident that, by the end of 2019, we will have a very flexible, responsive and accurate financial system.

For the full financial report, please go to artsaccess.com.au/annual-reports.

John Paxinos & Yolley Thomas-Kalos

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For The Year Ending 31 December 2018

	DEC 18	DEC 17
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Event income	2,509	6,760
Activities Income	318,437	195,013
Private Sector and Other Income	18,190	37,653
Interest Income	42,530	2,885
* Government Grants Operation	1,693,760	1,106,689
* Government Grants Projects	134,709	52,587
Funds Brought Forward from Last Year	433,848	686,030
Funds Transferred to Next Year	(262,262)	(433,848)
Total Revenue from Ordinary Activities	2,381,721	1,653,769
Expenses		
Salaries, Wages and Artist Fees	1,342,806	1,059,618
Programs Costs	445,702	166,349
Marketing & Communications	137,633	45,020
Infrastructure Costs (Admin)	395,425	348,681
Depreciation Expenses	40,162	41,329
Total Expenses from Ordinary Activities	2,361,728	1,660,997

	DEC 18	DEC 17
	\$	\$
Surplus/(Deficit) from Ordinary Activities before income tax	19,993	(7,228)
Income Tax Expense	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) from Ordinary Activities after income tax, attributable to the members of Arts Access Society incorporated	19,993	(7,228)
Other comprehensive income/expense for the year net of tax	0	0
Asset Sales & Market Revaluation of Investments	(85,820)	34,881
Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year attributable to the members of Arts Access Society incorporated	(65,827)	27,653

Specified Funding

* City of Melbourne – Other Film Festival	50,000	60,000
* Creative Victoria, Organisations Investment Program Four-year funding 2017 – 2020	336,000	336,000
* The Australia Council Four Year funding 2017 – 2020	272,700	270,000

This Statement should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Accounts.

Statement of Financial Position
For The Year Ending 31 December 2018

	Note	As at DEC 18 \$	As at DEC 17 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash Assets	2	647,659	702,370
Receivables	3	71,173	259,474
Prepayments	5	9,468	42,810
Total Current Assets		728,300	1,004,654
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	107,357	123,083
Website	7	14,777	21,597
AA Trust Investment Holding	14	787,753	732,210
Total Non-Current Assets		909,887	876,890
Total Assets		1,638,186	1,881,544

	Note	As at DEC 18 \$	As at DEC 17 \$
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	8	64,596	107,549
Employee Entitlements	9	0	9,016
Provisions	10	43,687	48,999
Income in Advance	11	644,213	738,198
Total Current Liabilities		752,496	903,762
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	10	22,385	48,649
Total Non-Current Liabilities		22,385	48,649
Total Liabilities		774,881	952,411
Net Assets		863,305	929,133
Members' Funds			
Accumulated surplus brought forward	13	929,133	901,480
Surplus/(Deficit) This Year		(65,827)	27,653
Total Members' Funds		863,306	929,133

This Statement should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Accounts.

Our Board



Brad Sadler Chair

Brad has an extensive history of senior executive management in local government, community, aged and disability services. He is the Founding Director of Dana Consulting and Director of Illuminate Yoga Studio, where he currently teaches yoga and meditation.

Brad has been active in the arts as a musician, singer/chorister, performer and director in community-based theatre.

Brad was appointed to the AAV Board in 2012 and has been the Chair since 2016.



Peter Crowle Treasurer

Peter is a Chartered Accountant and has financial experience across many industries, as well as international experience working in the UK.

Since returning from the UK, he has worked at Cricket Australia to implement a new funding distribution model and then moved to Origin Energy as a Finance Manager. Peter is currently Finance Manager at City Facilities Management.

Peter was appointed to the AAV Board as Treasurer in 2014.



Amanda Lawrie-Jones

Amanda Lawrie-Jones has lived experience of disability and is a skilled Disability Inclusion Consultant with decades of organisational capability experience. She manages her own business and has successfully created impact and meaningful change in both government and non-government sectors.

In 2018, Amanda was a finalist in the National Awards for Disability Leadership in the category of 'Change Making'.

Amanda was appointed to the AAV Board in 2018.



Kate Hood

Kate Hood became a wheelchair user over a decade ago and reinvented herself as a disabled actor and theatre maker.

She formed her disability-led theatre company, Raspberry Ripple Productions, as a response to the invisibility of disabled actors, writers and theatre makers across our stages and screens. Raspberry Ripple's remit is to tell stories of disabled and non-disabled people living in the world together.

Kate was appointed to the AAV Board in 2016.

Our Board



Kristy Spillman

Kristy is a public policy expert, predominantly in health and education. She is passionate about community participation and empowerment as drivers of health and well-being.

As Assistant Director, Governance at Department of Health and Human Services, Kristy’s focus is on building the capability and diversity of Victoria’s public health service boards to enable delivery of safe, high quality services.

Kristy was appointed to the AAV Board in 2016.



Luke King

Luke Duncan King is a visual artist currently working at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) as a museum educator leading public and school tours.

He has a strong interest in all artforms, as well as a passion for improving accessibility for Deaf and hard of hearing people at museums, art galleries and both public and private/independent art spaces.

Luke was appointed to the AAV Board in 2016.



Sonia Turnbull

Sonia has managed the development of cultural facilities, facilitated public art projects, developed strategic arts and cultural plans and managed large-scale public events.

After the birth of Sonia’s daughter, she commenced a law degree in order to ensure, where possible, that her daughter was not discriminated against and had access to the schools and events of her choice.

Sonia is currently a practicing lawyer in State Government and has been on the AAV Board since 2017.

Our Supporters

We thank all our funders, partners and supporters for making possible AAV's artistic and outreach activities in 2018.



Australia Council for the Arts
 Creative Victoria
 Access Arts
 Access2Arts
 Accessible Action
 Accessible Arts
 Arts Access Australia
 Arts Access Darwin
 Arts Queensland
 Arts South Australia
 Arts Tasmania
 artsACT
 Brimbank City Council
 British Council
 Brunswick Uniting Church
 Bundoora Homestead Arts Centre
 City of Ballarat

City of Banyule
 City of Brimbank
 City of Casey
 City of Darebin
 City of Kingston
 City of Maribyrnong
 City of Melbourne
 City of Port Philip
 City of Whittlesea
 City of Yarra
 Create NSW
 DADAA
 Darebin City Council
 Department of Communications
 and the Arts
 Department of Health and
 Human Services

Department of Local Government,
 Sport and Cultural Industries, WA
 Department of Tourism and Culture, NT
 Department of Premier and Cabinet,
 Office of Youth
 Frankston Arts Centre
 Government of the United States
 InCite Arts
 Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
 Melbourne Fringe Festival
 Melton City Council
 Moonee Valley Council
 Moreland City Council
 Mornington Peninsula Shire
 National Disability Insurance Agency
 (NDIA)
 Park Towers Management
 Reservoir East Primary School

Rotary Club Melbourne Inc.
 Screen Australia
 Signal
 Skin and Cancer Foundation Inc
 St Albans Community Centre
 (The Bowery Theatre)
 Seawinds Community Hub
 The Coopers Malthouse
 Today Strategic Design
 University of Melbourne
 University of Sydney
 VicHealth
 Victoria University
 Wild at Heart
 WorkFocus Australia
 Yarra Libraries

Leading into the future



As we embark ourselves on a new journey under new leadership, we start to ask ourselves and others:

How do we make space for innovation and collaboration?

How do we hold space to allow a new artistic aesthetic to emerge and develop?

How do we work with artists to take space?

How do we grow our connections with the intersections of equality?

Image: Photography by Pippa Samaya.

Back cover image: John Puli, *Giraffe no. 2*, pen on paper, 2018.



Art. For every body.



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