



ARTS ACCESS VICTORIA

# Art. For every body.



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## Executive Director & Chair Report

This year, the arts community has faced tremendous upheaval resulting from policy and funding changes at the federal level, which have served to destabilise an already vulnerable ecosystem. The small to medium arts sector faces an uncertain future, but has drawn strength from a new sense of collective purpose and impetus to build new narratives around its work and impact in order to attract support from non-traditional areas.

The arts and disability sector is not immune to these impacts, and coming at the same time as radical shifts in disability service models resulting from NDIS, change is all around us. Arts Access Victoria has worked hard during this period to face changes with energy and renewed commitment to our mission. We have challenged ourselves to better articulate what we offer to people with disabilities that is unique and necessary in both the cultural and disability landscape, and to imagine what change might look like for us, when driven by the aspirations, needs and interests of our core stakeholders: people with disabilities.

To proactively respond to this change we have invested in a number of strategic projects. *ARTfinder*, an online, searchable database of accessible and inclusive Victorian creative and cultural programs, provides a much-needed central portal for people looking for an arts opportunity near them. It is also a tool to map and respond to gaps in arts program delivery, so that we can target our capacity building resources to areas of Victoria where participation opportunities are low.

*Art & You—A Planning Guide* gives artists with disabilities and who experience mental health issues the tools to influence individual planning conversations, so that schemes like NDIS can appreciate the essential role that the arts plays in their lives. *Connecting the Dots*, a set of capacity building resources aimed at building the interconnections between the arts and the mental health sectors, is ensuring that the tremendous value of cultural engagement can be extended to those who are most vulnerable in our community.



Veronica Pardo—Executive Director

## Executive Director & Chair Report

These are but a few of our strategic engagements this year. They also serve as a critical support for our core programs in the arts, artist development and industry development. These three elements remain our central focus, and through the articulation of a bold and strong program across these areas, we have secured funding support from both the state and federal governments for the next four years, which is a significant achievement in the current funding environment.

We are grateful to our funders and supporters for their continued commitment to Arts Access Victoria, to our partners with whom we share the journey towards a more equitable and egalitarian society and, of course, our artists who are the driving force for change in our organisation. We would also like to thank outgoing Board members, former Chair Margherita Coppolino, Roger Chao, Beau Vigushin and Brooke Daly, for their contribution.

This year, we would like to give particular acknowledgement to the staff of Arts Access Victoria, who, in the face of change and uncertainty, have risen to the challenges with creativity, enthusiasm and dedication. We look forward to embracing the new opportunities that change will bring.

Brad Sadler—Chair

Veronica Pardo—Executive Director



Brad Sadler—Chair





**Art. For every body.**

Over the past four decades, Arts Access Victoria has established itself as the driving force behind an inclusive and accessible arts and cultural sector in Victoria.



Self-portrait, Matthew Clarke, 2015

**Art. For every body.**

People with disability are at the heart of our practice as visionary leaders, creators and instigators. As an organisation, we are a facilitator of their aspirations—every year, more than 1300 artists collaborate with us to produce artistic work that tells compelling and resonant yet untold stories, reflecting our shared vision of people with disability as important cultural innovators.

We are champions of inclusive arts practice and its power to challenge notions of what art is and who is an artist, to break down barriers to participation for people with disability and to transform culture and communities. Our programs demonstrate engaging, experimental and contemporary practices, led by professional artists with and without disability, who are engaged as equal partners.



## **Art. for every body.**

We address systemic barriers to employment in the arts by working one-on-one with more than 30 artists with disability, mental health issues and who are Deaf every year to support their career pathways through training, mentorship, residencies, internships, professional development and employment. Our impact is expanded through this work, with mentors, supporters and collaborators becoming advocates for inclusion.



This engagement is a result of our work, but also its fuel; we are driven by the transformative power of inclusion in the arts and determined in our pursuit of a universally-welcoming arts sector. Key to this is our industry-leading training and education program; by challenging and strengthening the capacity of organisations across the arts, community and disability sectors to engage people with disability as artists, arts workers and audiences, we are transforming the sectors themselves.

Arts Access Victoria's core purpose is to realise the cultural aspirations of people with disability. In rising to this challenge, we are bold and ambitious. We ask provocative questions, imagine innovative futures and harness the creativity of our communities to make our vision a reality. We make art. For every body.

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*Dopa-kinesia*, Pezaloom, 2015. Photography: Kim Anderson

**Produce** and present artistic work made by and with people with disability that reflects best contemporary and inclusive arts practices. ~~~~~

[Nebula at Fringe](#) | [Seeing Stories](#) | [Volatile Bodies](#) | [ADS Weaving Project](#) | [Echo Lights Up](#)  
[Digital Treasure](#) | [Butterfly Surgeons](#) | [Selfies of Us](#) | [For Tune](#) | [SRS Studios](#)



## Nebula at Fringe

For Melbourne Fringe Festival 2015, Nebula—AAV's portable and fully-accessible arts space—took up a residency in Melbourne's City Square for three weeks.

The space's versatility and flexible design shone over the 10 days of activity, welcoming artists like The Hacketts, Emma J Hawkins, Brent Harper, Art Day South and Deaf Arts Network poets for performances, workshops, interactive and live visual art events, artist mentoring sessions and artist-led exercise classes. The opportunity to engage with thousands of members of public in the heart of the city as part of a major mainstream arts festival was an extraordinary one for our artists, showcasing their work and facilitating an engaging and powerful connection with audiences.

## Seeing Stories

In 2015, Deaf Arts Network, Deafaccess Grampians and Metanoia Theatre partnered to deliver *Seeing Stories* in Ballarat.

Deaf and hard of hearing people from the Grampians area worked with Deaf theatremakers Marnie Kerridge and Medina Sumovic to devise a performance sharing stories from the local Deaf community, ranging from amusing anecdotes to deeply personal experiences of isolation and memories of trauma. These stories were developed into a performance and delivered at 24 Hour Experience Ballarat. *Seeing Stories* was a significant outcome, sharing compelling but seldom-told stories and powerfully representing the voice and cultural participation of Deaf and hard of hearing people in the region.

## Volatile Bodies

In March 2016, Art About artists exhibited *Volatile Bodies* in the Mornington Library foyer, fulfilling an ambition held by the team since 2014.

The project began with the creation of 11 marionettes, each exploring the internal narratives of the makers to interrogate how artists with disability see their bodies interacting with their physical and metaphysical environments. The marionettes were professionally photographed, with the images forming the collection *Volatile Bodies*. This was a momentous exhibition for the Art About artists, showing their work to a large and diverse local audience with significant support from Mornington Peninsula Shire.

Abba, Tess McDonald, 2015



## Art Day South weaves around Melbourne

Art Day South's major project in 2015/16 was a large-scale weaving project, creating oversize stick-loom woven panels using recycled fabric and found natural objects from their local outdoor spaces.

Beyond engaging the artists with their local environment, the project facilitated a truly collaborative work; artists who may not have always been able to interact on group projects due to social and sensory sensitivities were able to participate through contributing individually crafted pieces to integrate into the larger work. The project was an integral part of Nebula's *Outside the Square* residency and was ultimately exhibited at the City of Kingston's *Inclusion Matters* exhibition, an International Day of People with Disability event.



Footy on the Beach, Dragan Mickov, 2015, ink, oil pastel and pencil on paper

## Echo Lights Up

In 2015, Echo Collective began exploring the concept of ‘playback theatre’, a style of documentary theatre, with the group learning to actively listen and develop their memories in order to perform complex and detailed real-life narratives in dynamic and engaging ways.



The act of sharing real life stories with collaborators in a safe and supportive environment created a transformational and empowering experience for the young artists to create meaningful work. Echo brought their new skills and confidence to life in *Light Up*, their final outcome of the year. Using playback theatre, the Echo artists transformed audience members' stories into compelling unrehearsed theatre, leaving audiences constantly surprised, deeply moved and, at times, rolling with laughter.

Echo Collective performs *Leap*, 2016.  
Photography: Margherita Coppolino



### Satellite finds Digital Treasure

In late 2015, the Satellite studio began experimenting with 3D printing. The advent of 3D capture technology has opened up a new world of artmaking for the artists of Satellite: jewellery making.

Jewellery has historically been a field that has been largely inaccessible for artists with limited motor skills, requiring the use of intricate tools and dangerous materials; 3D printing allows us to create and photograph large-scale objects, turn them into virtual models and print them in miniature as jewellery. The process has met with many hurdles, but the artists have found creative solutions to all major barriers and have successfully printed two jewellery-sized models in a clear plastic finish. The next step is to explore other materials and to further refine our models with a view to exhibit and sell the works.



### Butterfly Surgeons take flight in Frankston

Born from their own experiences of stage fright and nerves, in 2015 the Get Out crew collaborated with comedian and performer Tess Waters to devise a new performance piece, *Butterfly Surgeons*. In the work, the group's performance artists took to crowds at Frankston Anywhere Festival and the Emerald Hill Festival, performing nerve-extracting 'butterfly surgeries', concluding with a gift of an original artwork created by the visual artists and creative writers of the ensemble. By shaping arts process and outcomes to flexibly meet each participating artist in the space, Get Out not only strengthens the arts practice of individual artists, it invigorates Get Out as a consolidated ensemble.

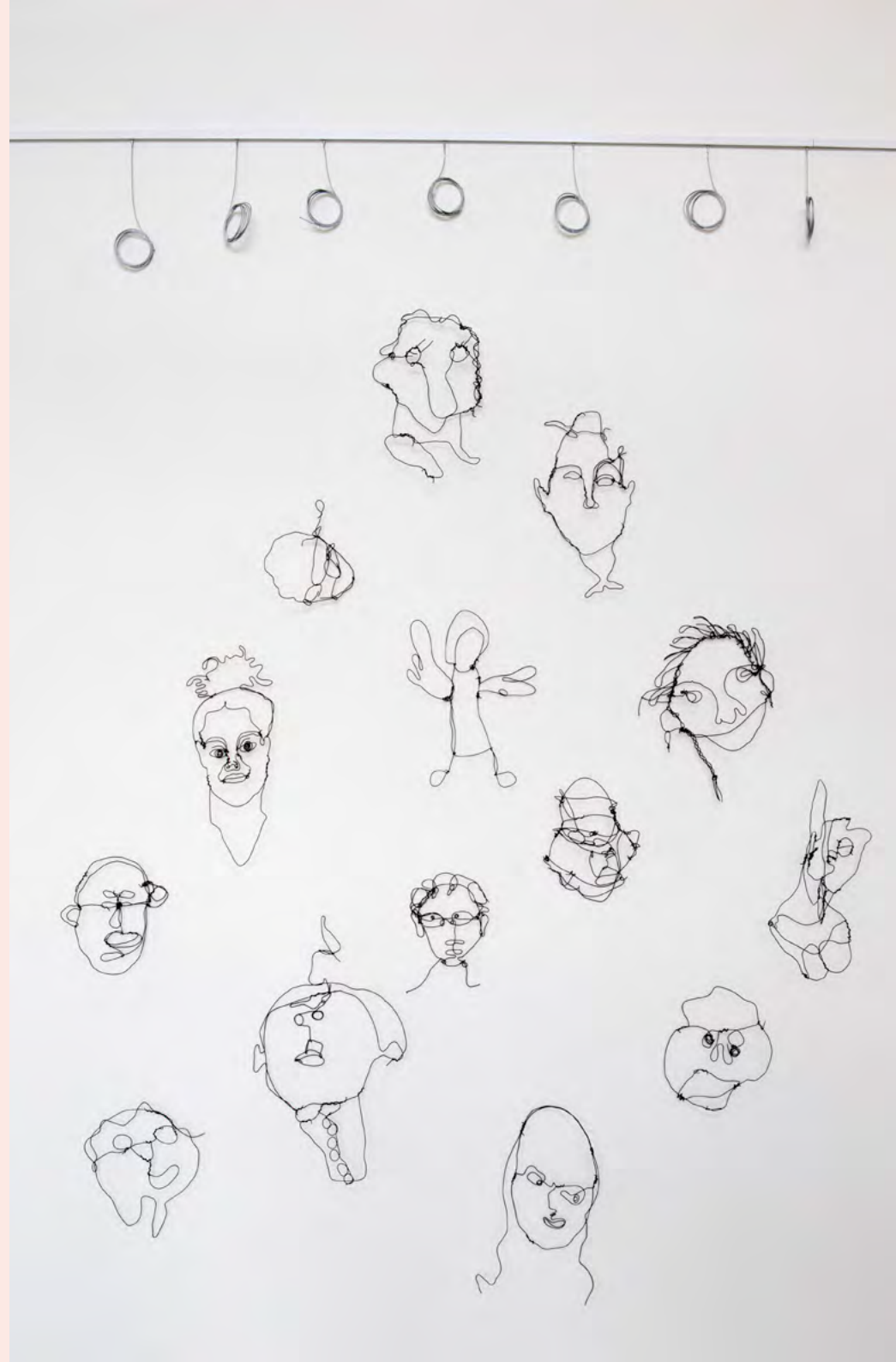
Get Out performs *The Butterfly Surgeons*, 2015. Photography: Paul Dunn

## Selfies of Us

In July 2015, Arts Access Victoria's Seasonal Studios group began to create works in response to the theme 'self in place and space'.

Inspired by American artist Alexander Calder, the project began with manipulating flexible wire to create self-portraits; the work then graduated to the creation of collaged silhouettes formed with carefully selected maps. The collage process saw artists discussing geo-political issues alongside conversations about their dreams, wishes and memories, resulting in a striking and unique exploration of self and place. The works, collectively called *Selfies of Us*, were exhibited at Cardinia Cultural Centre in September 2015. This exhibition was not only the culmination of the term's work, but also a public demonstration and celebration to which the group had been aspiring for over a year.

Wire selfies from *Selfies of Us*, 2015. Photography: Daryl Gordon





### SRS Studios: showcasing inclusive art across Victoria

SRS Studios explore and showcase the creativity of more than 160 residents of 12 Supported Residential Services (SRSs) across Victoria. In the last year, more than 550 artworks by SRS Studios artists were showcased in 18 separate exhibitions, including *SOMATICA* at SOMA Art Space in Brunswick, the Summer Group Show at Skin Gallery in Carlton, We at Hatch Contemporary Art Space in Ivanhoe and 27% at Brightspace in St Kilda. Through new partnerships with Centacare Catholic of Diocese of Ballarat, the Department of Health and Human Services Ballarat and five local SRSs, a new studio was opened in Ballarat in late 2015; the group has already held two outstanding exhibitions, *Themselves* at The Art Gallery of Ballarat and *Ballarat SRS Studio Group Show* at The APOCH Building in Ballarat.

### For Tune to WOW audiences

Over the past 12 months, the Way Out West (WOW) team has been developing a new installation piece, *For Tune*.

The interactive work will lead audience members on a series of one-on-one interactions with artists, including portrait drawing, poetry recital, fortune telling and shadow play; at the conclusion of each journey the audience member will have a collection of unique artworks and experiences to take away with them. The creative development of *For Tune* has involved each artist exploring the ways people engage socially and then devising their own creative activity around those engagements. For many artists this has meant conquering their own challenges with socialisation and performance, allowing them to more confidently develop imaginative creative devices for *For Tune*.

Queens Lodge SRS Studios artist Debbie works on a mosaic bird bath, 2016.  
Photography: Keith Persall

# Facilitate meaningful career pathways within the arts and cultural community for artists with a disability.



[Administration Traineeship](#) | [Disability-led training and education](#) | [Kaz McGlynn](#)

[Under My Skin at Next Wave](#) | [Eva Sifis](#) | [Mathew Jelleff](#) | [Deaf-led events](#) | [John Puli](#)

[Disability Human Rights Social Equity](#)



**AAV offers  
Administration  
Traineeship**

In 2015, Arts Access Victoria commenced a six-month administration traineeship for people with disability, offering individuals a substantial professional development opportunity and a springboard in the search for permanent employment. We are proud to say that the program has already demonstrated its potential, with the first participant successfully finding work in the disability sector shortly after completing her traineeship.

**Walking the walk: Disability-led training**

Arts Access Victoria has committed to engaging only people who identify as living with disability or mental health issues or who are Deaf as facilitators in our education and training programs.



In 2016, we ran an exhaustive recruitment drive through our organisational networks to identify candidates who had both the desire and capacity to pursue professional development as training facilitators. We invited candidates to attend a two-day intensive workshop to familiarise them with the work of AAV and gauge their own areas of skills, followed by a third day of facilitator training, working with them to understand the underlying principles of AAV's training and development approach. To date, three facilitators have felt ready to lead workshops, with more expected to take this step in 2017.

Art About Artists  
with their Volatile  
Bodies works, 2016.  
Photography: Daryl  
Gordon

## Kaz McGlynn

Barwon Heads artist Kaz McGlynn is well on the way to achieving her aim of building a thriving art school and selling her artwork.

Kaz came into AAV's Pathways program after a difficult time in her life, wanting to gain focus and plan for a new chapter as an artist. Kaz has a wealth of artistic skills and a never-ending list of fabulous project ideas, and Pathways assisted her to refine those ideas in order to effectively work towards her aims. Through Pathways, Kaz was engaged in a mentorship with Red Bubble, where she learnt about creating and selling products featuring her beautiful artworks and coaching sessions that focussed on her developing and delivering community art workshops in her local area. ArtSkoolL is now up and running with children's and adult classes, and Kaz will continue to link with Arts Access to support her arts career into the future.



Kaz McGlynn and Red Bubble stand. Photography: A. King.





Anna Seymour, Amanda Lever, Luigi Vesca and Elvin Lam in *Under My Skin*, The Delta Project, 2016. Photography: Pippa Samaya

## **Under My Skin at Next Wave**

The Delta Project, a dance company comprised of Deaf and hearing dancers, is one of Melbourne's most exciting creative ensembles,

fusing contemporary dance, theatre and new media with its principle aim of creating high quality work that is accessible to Deaf and hearing audiences.

The company is led by Deaf artists Jo Dunbar, Anna Seymour and Elvin Lam and produced by Arts Access Victoria. In 2015, Delta Project was funded to develop and present *Under My Skin*; this work was selected by Next Wave Festival to be part of the 2016 program, in which the show received critical acclaim. Following the overwhelming success of this showing, Delta was invited to perform at The International Society of Performing Arts Conference hosted by Arts Centre Melbourne. A number of Delta Project artists are operating beyond the Pathways program, being selected by mainstream festivals and invited to tour and collaborate with mainstream dance companies.

### **Eva Sifis**

Eva Sifis has been a Pathways program participant for more than two years, and that time has seen her professional development advance in leaps and bounds. Eva's aim has been to create a paid career in the arts and step back into performance. Through Pathways, Eva has connected to mentors, produced a one-woman show at La Mama, presented at conferences all over Australia, become employed at Arts Access Victoria as the Coordinator for the Lesley Hall Scholarship and secured an Ethel Temby Scholarship to develop her own business, By Accident. Eva's involvement with Pathways has seen her connect with her creative self, and plan and build the foundations for her to achieve her aims by harnessing her own drive and creativity.

### **Mathew Jelleff**

Mathew, a visual artist, has been part of the AAV volunteer crew for many years, providing support across the organisation. In 2015/16, we were thrilled to welcome Matthew on-board as a program Support Artist with SRS Studios and a key member of the Nebula team. Matthew's progression at AAV is a reflection of his diverse skills, creativity, enthusiasm and dedication to the organisation, his own arts practice and helping other artists reach their potential.



Eddie Ink performs at the Disability, Human Rights and Social Equity conference opening event, 2016. Photography: Paul Dunn



Deaf artist Luke King leads an Auslan tour of Ai Wei Wei/Andy Warhol at NGV, 2015.  
Photography: Courtesy of NGV

### Deaf Arts Network update



In 2015/16, Deaf Arts Network (DAN) has increased the profile of several Deaf artists in the wider community by incorporating Deaf-led programming at festivals and events. This included Deaf artists leading creative developments and workshops at:

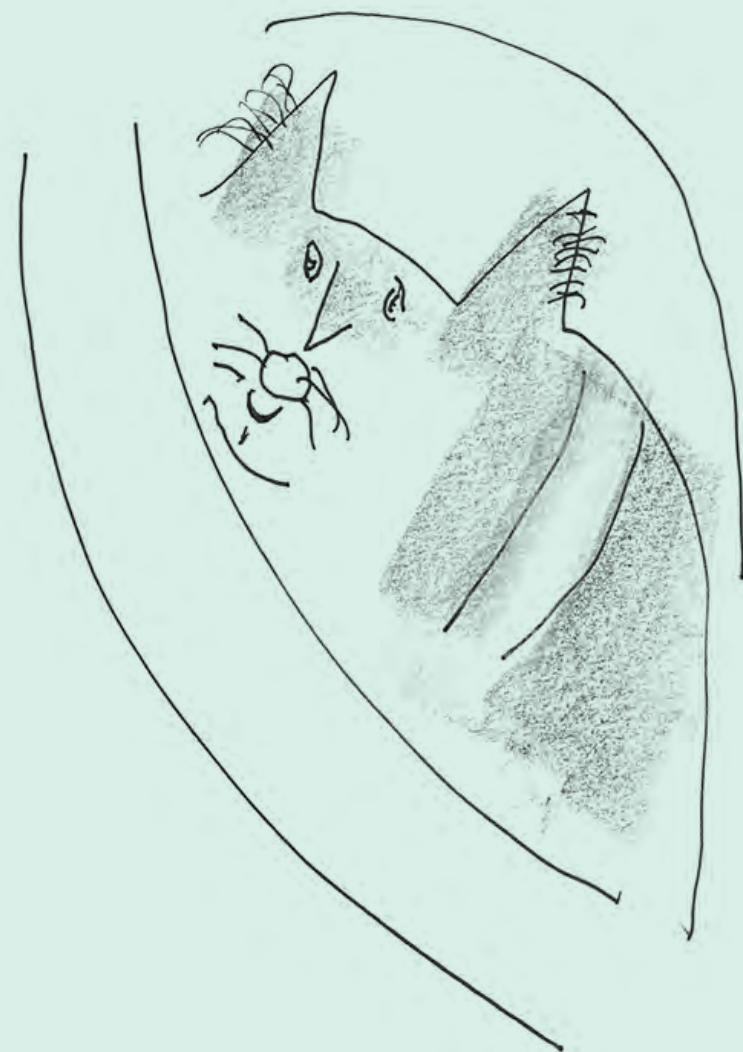
Melbourne Fringe Festival, teaching and performing Deaf Slam Poetry; Emerald Hill Festival, with two Auslan Storytime sessions delivered by Elizabeth Reed; Desert Harmony Festival, where Jo Dunbar and Joanna Agius devised and led *Deadly Moves*, a dance and theatre workshop for young people; and Deaf Slam Poetry Workshops, in which Medina Sumovic and Walter Kadiki worked with young people to create original Auslan performance poetry. These events and workshops not only develop creative and leadership skills for Deaf artists, they also provide positive role models for emerging artists and young people who are Deaf.

## John Puli

John Puli, a long-standing Pathways participant and prolific visual artist, has taken on leadership of his own projects and communities in 2015-16, with great success.

John was the driving force behind his 27% project, funded by Brimbank City Council, which aimed to raise the profile of artists with disability and mental health issues who live in Melbourne's west. John sold more than 2/3 of the works he exhibited in 27%; this outstanding result is a testament to both John's creative talent and his determination to developing his career as a working artist.

*Magpie in My Arms*, John Puli, 2015



**Disability, Human Rights & Social  
Equity conference opening night**


Arts Access Victoria played a key role in University of Melbourne's 2015 Social Equity Institute research conference, *Disability, Human Rights and Social Equity*, producing the opening night event.

In addition to ensuring the event was fully accessible for audiences, AAV invited five performers with disability to be part of the event: Emma J Hawkins engaged and delighted the crowd as MC, and the evening featured captivating and transformative performances from Weave Movement Theatre, singer-songwriter Eddie Ink, Deaf poet Walter Kadiki and performance drawer Zhen Chew. The event was also filmed by Pathways participant and filmmaker Simon J Green. Showcasing their work in front of a high-profile and public audience at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image was not only an opportunity in itself, for a number of the artists it has led to additional paid creative work.

**Arts Access Victoria**—Annual Report 2015/16

Zhen live-draws the crowd at the Disability, Human Rights and Social Equity conference opening event, 2016. Photography: Paul Dunn



**Transform** the way the arts  
and cultural sector engages  
with people with disability, as  
practitioners and audiences. 

[Multi-year funding](#) | [A Conversation with Şafak Pavey](#) | [NGV](#) | [Website](#)  
[Circus Oz](#) | [ARTfinder](#) | [Fighting for arts funding](#) | [Connecting the Dots](#)



## AAV secures multi-year funding

In early 2016, we were pleased to confirm that Arts Access Victoria was successful in securing multi-year funding from the Australia Council for the Arts and Creative Victoria to lead cultural change and artistic engagement for people with disability from 2017 to 2020.

This funding means we can continue our work leading the inclusive arts movement in Victoria, with people with disability at the heart of our practice. Over the next four years, we'll produce and present work that positions people with disability as cultural leaders and innovators and connect across the arts and disability sectors, empowering changemakers to break down barriers to arts participation for people with disability.

## A Conversation with Şafak Pavey

Arts Access Victoria—in partnership with Multicultural Arts Victoria and supported by Creative Content Media, Arts Centre Melbourne and the Victorian State Government

—hosted Turkish diplomat, columnist and the first woman with disability elected to Turkish parliament, Şafak Pavey for a sold-out evening of conversation on 29 April 2016.

The event, moderated by Human Rights Arts and Film Festival founder Evelyn Tadros, centred on culture and the creative industries from a human rights perspective; Şafak told stories underscoring the capacity of inclusion and creativity to address the challenging issues of our time and shared her own experiences of representing marginalised voices in places of power, leaving a lasting impression on our audience of artmakers, arts workers, politicians, policymakers and people with disability and mental health issues.



Deaf artist Luke King leads an Auslan tour of Ai Wei Wei/Andy Warhol at NGV, 2015. Photography: Courtesy of NGV

#### National Gallery of Victoria Deaf access tours

In a strong show of commitment to inclusion and engagement, the National Gallery of Victoria partnered with Arts Access Victoria in 2015 to develop and launch Deaf-led Auslan tours of their major exhibitions.

After struggling to engage the Deaf community for their Auslan interpreter-led tours, NGV approached AAV to co-design a new experience: an Auslan tour led by a Deaf artist. The first event, a tour of the *Ai Wei Wei/Andy Warhol* exhibition led by Deaf artist Luke King, was a sell-out event with additional tours added to the schedule to accommodate demand. Subsequently, Deaf-led tours were held for *200 Years of Fashion and Degas: A New Vision* with plans for the tours to remain one of NGV's core access service offerings.

**AAV's new  
website  
picks up  
design  
award**

**In February 2016, Arts Access  
Victoria launched our new website.  
Created in collaboration with  
our website partner Thick, the  
site doesn't just look great—it's  
incredibly accessible.**

We conducted rigorous accessibility and user experience testing with people with disability and learning difference to better understand their needs. The website meets or exceeds the AA standards of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 and we'll continue to improve the site's accessibility in design, content and function. In May 2016, the site was awarded Best in Category for Digital Design at the prestigious Good Design Awards in Sydney. Not only is this accomplishment a nod to our design team, it's a signal to our colleagues in the arts that accessible design can be beautiful, contemporary and innovative. With Thick, we created a website that not only serves its users better, but stands as an example of what is possible in designing for inclusion.

**Circus Oz:  
access  
under the  
Big Top**

Circus Oz took their commitment to inclusion to the next level in 2016, bringing Arts Access Victoria on board as an advisory partner for the development of their first relaxed performance, a showing of TWENTYSIXTEEN, for students of Victorian specialist schools. In collaboration with the show's venue partner, Arts Centre Melbourne, AAV provided Circus Oz with significant guidance; we coordinated focus groups to attend dress rehearsals and provide feedback on potential modifications, delivered

disability awareness training to core members of the Circus Oz ensemble and advised front-of-house staff on all aspects of access in customer service and to back-of-house staff on the show's technical elements. The performance was a huge success, with number to be supplied schools attending; this outstanding result has led to Circus Oz working further with AAV on bringing access into the creative development of their future works.





Deaf artist Jo Dunbar leads a Deadly Moves workshop at the Desert Harmony Festival, 2015. Photography: Arts Access Australia





One of Art Day South's large woven panels on display in City of Kingston's *Inclusion Matters* exhibition. Photography: Arts Access Victoria

## ARTfinder

Set for launch in late 2016, ARTfinder is a searchable online database of inclusive and accessible arts programs in Victoria, providing accurate and up-to-date information for participants, families and service providers. In 2015/16, AAV has contacted more than 300 organisations and access-checked more than 150 inclusive programs for inclusion in the database. ARTfinder has found significant support in the arts and disability sectors, affirming its importance in

the context of reforms in disability and mental health, and demonstrating the critical role that ARTfinder can play in building the capacity of the arts and cultural development sector to become more inclusive of people with disability. ARTfinder is being developed with our website partner Thick within a user-centred design methodology, ensuring seamless functionality within the AAV website and exceptional accessibility and usability.

## AAV fights for arts funding

Cuts to Federal Government arts funding in 2014/15 sent shockwaves through the sector, eventually leading to a Senate Inquiry into the impact of those changes on the arts community. As a leading voice in inclusive arts, Arts Access Victoria made both a submission to the Inquiry and presented at the Melbourne public hearing in August 2015. Our submission and presentation focussed on three areas of impact: how the cuts affect Arts Access Victoria's operations and aspirations; the consequences for cultural

participation by people with disability; and the problematic redirection of funding from the Australia Council for the Arts, which had demonstrated a deep engagement with, and understanding of, the arts and disability sector. *ArtsHub* commended our presentation at the hearing, saying "Representatives at the first of five public hearings... should be applauded for their eloquent defence of the independence of Australian arts funding".

## Connecting the Dots

The Connecting the Dots project was designed to assist the arts sector to respond to the changing landscape of mental health services in Victoria.



The outcomes for *Connecting the Dots* in 2015/16 were: the co-design of *Art & You—A Planning Guide* to assist individuals with mental health issues to plan and advocate for their arts participation in NDIS planning; brokering new partnerships in two pilot sites in metropolitan Melbourne; and developing *Art for Everyone: Approaches to Inclusive Practice in Arts and Mental Health*, a resource guiding the creation of arts and mental health programs. These outcomes have been designed to deliver practical capacity-building solutions to both people living with mental health issues and the arts sector, underpinned by our belief that arts programs play a key role in opening a dialogue between people who experience mental illness and the broader community, creating opportunities for positive employment, education and engagement outcomes.

Queens Lodge SRS Studios artist Julian works on the resident's Indigenous garden, 2016. Photography: Keith Persall

## Our supporters

Arts Access Victoria gratefully acknowledges the financial support of:



Arts Access Australia

Brimbank City Council

Brunswick Uniting Church

Cardinia Shire

Cassandra Gantner Foundation

City of Ballarat

City of Banyule

City of Boroondara

City of Greater Dandenong

City of Kingston

City of Maribyrnong

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Darebin City Council

DHHS Home and Community Care  
(HACC) Program

DHHS Engage! Program

Film Victoria

Frankston Arts Centre

Helen McPherson Smith Trust

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

Melton City Council

Merri Community Health Services

Moreland City Council

Mornington Peninsula Shire

NEAMI

Parks Victoria

Reservoir East Primary School

Screen Australia

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Sunbury Community Health

The Olive Way

Victorian Equal Opportunity and  
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2016

# annual report addendum



The Other Film Festival 2016. Photography: Paul Dunn

## Nebula in Schools

Nebula in Schools is a suite of learning and artistic programs delivered to primary school students across all year levels. The programs are led by contemporary arts practitioners, with each session including a Lead Artist who identifies as living with disability. This first program was a pilot for a suite of programs to be offered to schools across Victoria.



The program presented myriad benefits to students, schools and artists with disability. For students, the sessions explored notions of identity, both as individuals and as part of a school community; for schools, it offered high-quality creative outcomes and education to students in an accessible environment; for artists with disability, Nebula in Schools offered an opportunity to work in a leadership role and develop professional skills.

The Nebula in Schools pilot program was hosted by Reservoir East Primary School, a school of 150 students that champions diversity as one of its core values. In 2017, we will seek further opportunities to roll this innovative and engaging program across the state.

Students interact with the wheelie bin camera obscura. Photography: Lisa Green



**Joceline Lee**

## **Melbourne Festival Art Tram**

Joceline Lee was one of only eight Victorian artists selected for the Melbourne Festival Art Tram commission. Fish, a drawing of a fish skeleton created during a Museum Victoria artist residency Joceline completed several years ago, was the chosen image.

Joceline is known for her detailed pen drawings using line and circular forms to create skeletal depictions of animals and fossils.

The image was scaled up to fit the dimensions of the tram and the black pen against the white background made the drawing stand out spectacularly at that scale. It was an incredible realisation of Jocelyn's work and perhaps one of her highlights of her career so far.



**AAV artist Joceline Lee with her Melbourne Festival Art Tram Photography: James HH Morgan**

## Arts Access Victoria and Melbourne Fringe Festival

Our work with iconic festivals like Melbourne Fringe and Next Wave brings together emerging artists and established arts organisations as presenters as well as catalysts for change.

In 2016, Melbourne Fringe partnered with Arts Access on their professional development program, Compass; three of the 10 artists selected by Fringe were from the Pathways Program. Anna Seymour choreographed and produced her first dance work, Distraction Society; Andrew Follows presented his exhibition, Soul Mates which was also a fundraiser for Guide Dogs Victoria; and Jess Moody developed and presented work independently at the Festival. These artists' involvement ensured that Compass was delivered inclusively had a substantial impact on the Festival moving forward. Jess Moody with her artistic collaborator Ilana Charnelle Gelbart won the Producers award for their theatre work title Black is the Colour, the first work of her new theatre company Deafferent Theatre.

AAV also worked extensively with Melbourne Fringe toward the culmination of a 12-month leadership program that included presentation and training to their volunteers as well as marketing, venue, mentorship and producer support, transforming 2016 Fringe into a truly accessible and inclusive festival

## Art About mentee program

With a successful Creative Communities grant from Mornington Peninsula Shire, Art About developed an Artist Mentee program.

The three-month intensive program, which included AAV's Open Your Eyes disability awareness training, provided one emerging local artist – with an interest in inclusive community arts facilitation – studio and facilitation experience, as well as behind-the-scenes coordination experience. Our Arts Development Officers and Lead and Support artists worked with the mentee to equip her with the experience and resource base she will need to pursue further work locally in this sector. The mentee experienced firsthand the processes involved in working collaboratively in inclusive and accessible arts programming and public outcome preparation for people with disability and now also has the knowledge of where to seek support if she needs it.

Festival Director Mija Gwyn addresses  
The Other Film Festival audience  
Photography: Paul Dunn

## The Other Film Festival



During the three days of TOFF in 2016, 32 films were screened, including 10 short films made by local emerging filmmakers with disability. The program had 11 sessions, including screenings, panel discussions, talks and Q&A sessions with a total of 18 speakers.

The Other Film Festival initiated exciting new partnerships with State Library Victoria and Melbourne Fringe Festival; the festival being hosted in Experimedia at State Library Victoria and coming under the Melbourne Fringe Festival umbrella resulted in a dynamic experience for both long-standing The Other Film Festival audiences and the new audience members generated by these new partnerships.

Demonstrating TOFF's commitment to the adage 'Nothing about us without us', Mija Gwyn was appointed Festival Director, becoming the first Festival Director who is Deaf or has a lived experience of disability. The screening program was entirely curated by people with disability and Deaf people. Of the 18 speakers during the festival program, 17 were people with disability, demonstrating that the festival is a driving force in the campaign for disability leadership.

In ensuring this presence, we have laid the foundations for a powerful festival program that emphasises the leadership and creativity of film practitioners, and will increase engagement with film practitioners and audience members with disability residing in Victoria.



## Lesley Hall Arts and Disability Advocacy Scholarship

We once again offered the Lesley Hall Arts and Disability Scholarship, an annual scholarship supporting a winning applicant to deliver an arts project or artwork that highlights the experience of disability, promotes human rights for people with disability or advocates for social change.

The scholarship prize is a \$5,000 grant and a 12-month internship at AAV, working with mentors to develop advocacy skills and networks. This rare leadership development opportunity aims to encourage people with a disability to express the lived experience of disability in contemporary society through art.

The winner in 2016 was Prue Stevenson for her project Stim Your Heart Out, a flash-mob project addressing stigma around autism spectrum disorders.

