

Director's Report 2023

Dear Members,

I have been the Director of the Strathnairn Arts Association for seven months. It has been a steep learning curve with many challenges. Despite these challenges, the generosity and commitment of our Members, Board, and Staff have allowed us to continue providing facilities for Strathnairn and the wider community.

Our exhibition program continued to be at the centre of Strathnairn Activities. We showcased the work of over eighty artists in the exhibitions in the Woolshed and Homestead galleries. The creativity and talent that exists at Strathnairn were proudly on display as approximately half of these artists and exhibitions were generated from within the Strathnairn membership and community. Our increasingly popular public choice art competition, Squares, attracted over 300 entries from all ages and all skill levels. The Strathnairn shop has provided a platform for our members to sell their artwork and promote their practice while helping Strathnairn generate income through sales. The 2023 exhibition program follows this report.

At the other end of the artmaking process, we continued to support artists by providing the most reasonably priced, public-supported studios in the ACT, located at the ACT's most beautiful Art Centre.

In 2023, Julie Clapham and Amelia Carrol vacated their studios, which were quickly filled by our growing list of artists looking to join the Strathnairn community. We have created three additional studio spaces to help address this growing demand for studios. The mostly unused 'Ceramics Studio' has been renovated and is now occupied by ceramic artists Karan Cromwell and Nathan Nhan (Studios C6 & C7). A new studio tenant will occupy the Homestead studio (Soon to be studio 17) from May 2024. These additional studios bring our total studio spaces to 21 Artist studios, a visiting artists studio with accommodation and a 6-month emerging artist studio, which is awarded as part of the Anita McIntyre Award for Ceramics.

Strathnairn Arts.

After a change to the staffing structure and with the majority of Strathnairn staff and board being new in 2023, we reviewed our business practices to ensure resources are managed efficiently, sustainably and in line the funding agreement we have with ArtsACT. We report our performance against these Key Performance Indicators twice a year to continue receiving six monthly tranches of funding. A copy of these KPIs follows this report. Most of Strathnairn's fees have remained the same since 2016, a modest increase was required and applied to all fees with the exception of membership fees (effective 2024). This increase allows us to responsibly manage, maintain, and improve Strathnairn's facilities now and into the future.

The upcoming year promises to bring back many of the great things that we have come to expect from Strathnairn while also introducing lots of new things. Our visiting artist program is almost full, our exhibition program is quickly filling up, and there is a growing sense of activity and enthusiasm around the Strathnairn site.

I extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who sees the value in what we have and the potential of where we are heading.

James Holland

Director

23/4/24

2023 SAA Exhibition Program

NAME of artist (Group)	TITLE	GALLERY	DATES
Amelia Mollett	Shorelines	Homestead 1	15/02-12/03
Cassandra Dove	The Heartland		
Arlene & Tony Williams	Glimpses of Canberra in Paint and Poetry	Homestead 1 & 2	15/03-9/04
Jo Searle	Shift	Homestead 1	12/04-7/05
Bella Black	Chiaroscuro	Homestead 2	
Craig Edwards	Atmosphere	1&2	10/05-4/06
Fiona Richmond -	Revival	Homestead 1	7/06-2/07
Flights of Fancy: Woven Birds by Fibre Basket makers of the ACT	Flights of Fancy	Homestead 2	
Sharon Goddard	Coast	Homestead 1	5/07-30/07
Meagan Kopatz	The Gift She Gave	Homestead 2	5/07-30/07
Ajith Perera	Shadow work	Homestead 1	2/08-27/08
Nathann Nhan	EASS exhibition –	Homestead 2	2/08-27/08
Paul Toms		Homestead 1	30/08-24/09
SAA community exhibition	OPENDAY 22 OCTOBER	Homestead 1	27/09-22/10
Pacific Navigators		Homestead 1 & 2	22/11-17/12

WOOLSHED			
Kathleen Potts	Gather in the scene	WOOLSHED	3/06-25/06
SQUARES		WOOLSHED	5/08-27/08
Studio Holders exhibition		WOOLSHED	September 30 - 22 Oct
Woodfire Group	On Fire	WOOLSHED	04/11-26/11

Key Performance Indicators taken from ACT ARTS ORGANISATION INVESTMENT FUNDING (AC100822) – signed 22 December 2022

SCHEDULE 2

THE FUNDED ACTIVITY

To support the Recipient's operational costs and costs for delivery of the activities consistent with the ACT Arts Organisation Investment Framework and Guidelines, as per the original application (AC100822) and reports specified in Schedule 1 as approved by arts ACT, being for: Art Centre Investment Funding to manage the Strathnairn Arts Centre and deliver visual arts programs and services including for ceramics and bronze across all levels of practice.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for these activities are as follows:

	Indicator (outcome sought)	Program/Activity (how it will be achieved)	Metric (annual target)
1	Increased collaboration with artists, other arts organisations and other businesses.	Delivery of collaborations including with other arts organisations, commercial businesses, community sector and national institutions.	At least one collaborative activity with another arts organisation and one collaborative activity with a business is delivered annually.
2	Improved access to and diversity of participation in arts and creation of an environment that is inclusive to all.	Delivery of programs with First Nations communities, people with a disability, LGBTIQ+ and CALD communities.	At least one activity delivered annually targeting diverse participants and/or audience.
3	Improved skills development and pathways for artists to develop and increase their capacity and capability.	Delivery of professional development and career opportunities, including through foundry skills training and ceramics master classes.	At least one professional development activity delivered annually.
4	Long-term growth in creativity and innovation, including strengthening collectives, groups and communities of artists and creatives to enable creative practice.	Delivery of support services for member artists and organisations, including through artist residency programs.	Support provided to at least 5 artists, organisations and studios to work collectively.
5	Increased own-source revenue and revenue from a range of other government, non-government and private sector sources.	Pursuit of additional income sources, including through workshops, facility hire, other funding sources, and sponsorship.	At least 2% growth per year in own-source and non-government income.
6	Increased visibility of the arts in Canberra and growing audience and new markets.	Marketing of programs and activities, including through email, media and social media.	At least 2% growth in email and social media reach per year.
7	Art centre infrastructure is managed to facilitate arts, culture and creativity.	Effective and efficient management of Strathnairn Arts Centre, including maximum five-year studio terms.	At least 80% occupancy of studios and hire of facilities.
8	Strengthened governance, organisational capacity and resilience.	Maintenance of appropriate staffing levels, strategic planning and sound governance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board reflects diversity and has a membership of a minimum of 50% women and an appropriate skill mix. - Financial statements reflect sound financial management. - Board reports satisfaction with staffing, strategic planning and administration of the organisation.

Strathnairn Arts.

Key Performance Indicators taken from ACT ARTS ORGANISATION INVESTMENT FUNDING (AC10822) – signed 22 December 2022

9	Increased satisfaction of audiences and participants.	Participants and audiences report satisfaction with activities supported by artsACT funding.	80% satisfied or very satisfied rating in audience and participant satisfaction surveys reported to artsACT (30 June).
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