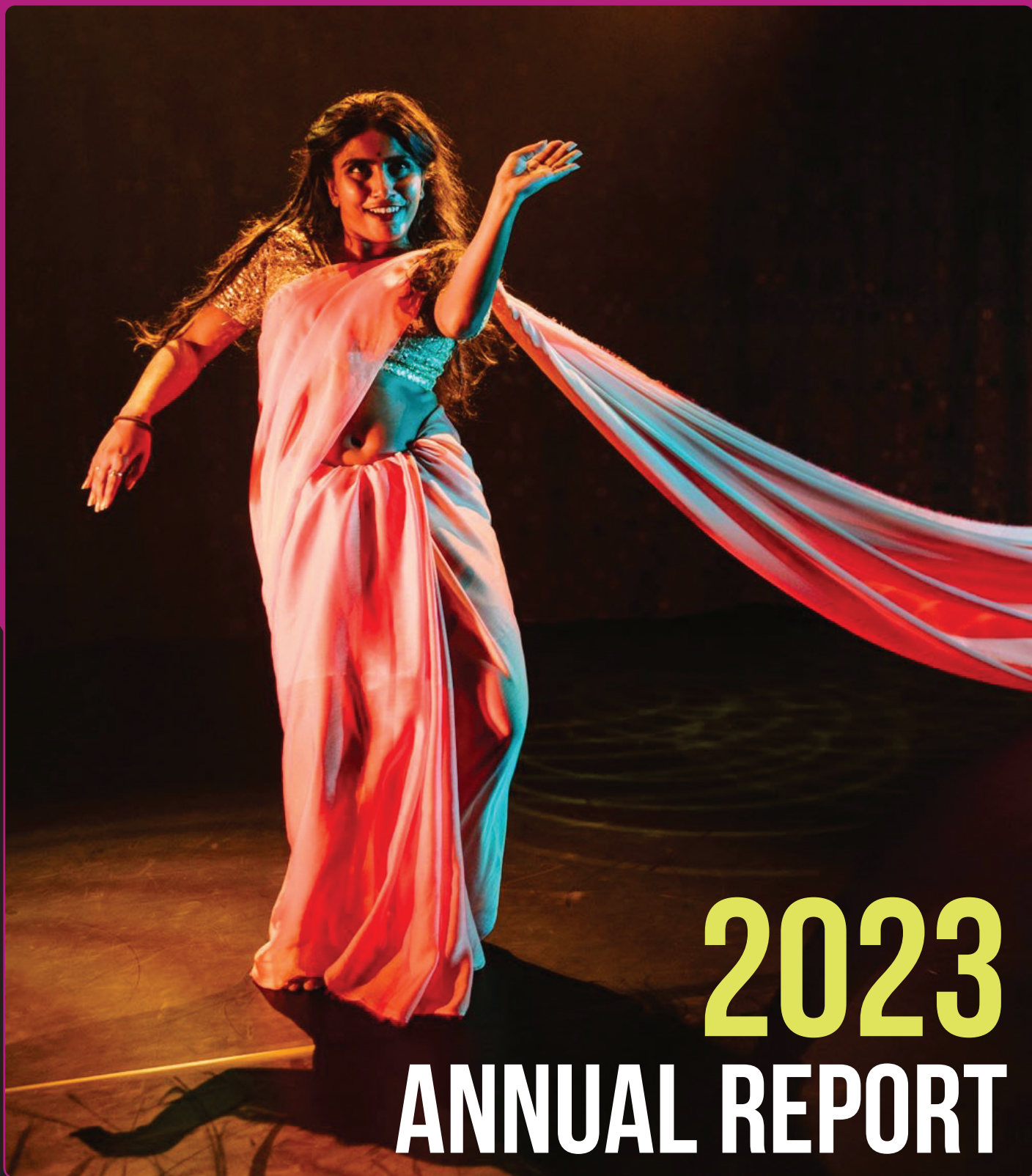


# Metro Arts



**2023**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



**METRO ARTS ACKNOWLEDGE THE JAGERA AND TURRBAL PEOPLES,  
AS THE CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND WE WORK ON, RECOGNISING  
THEIR CONNECTION TO LAND, WATERS AND COMMUNITY. WE  
HONOUR THE STORY-TELLING AND ART-MAKING AT THE HEART OF  
FIRST NATIONS' CULTURES, AND THE ENRICHMENT IT GIVES TO THE  
LIVES OF ALL AUSTRALIANS**

Image: *Kuramanunya* by Karul Projects featuring Thomas E.S. Kelly. Presented by Metro Arts & Brisbane Festival, 2023. Photo: Simon Woods.  
Cover Image: *ITEM* by Nakhre Crew, Dance Masala. Presented by Metro Arts, 2023. Photo: Morgan Roberts.

**OUR 2023 PROGRAM SUPPORTED THE CREATION, DEVELOPMENT, EXPERIMENTATION AND PRESENTATION OF EXCITING AND BRAVE CONTEMPORARY WORK.**



**13,797**  
LIKES



**11,180**  
FOLLOWS



**7,055**  
SUBSCRIBERS

**OUR FOLLOWERS:**

**67%**  
LIVE IN BRISBANE

**74%**  
LIVE IN QUEENSLAND



**381**  
ARTISTS



**6,133**  
BAR PATRONS



**45,523**  
PATRONS

- 16** EXHIBITIONS
- 18** PRODUCTIONS
- 107** PERFORMANCES
- 49** COMMUNITY EVENTS
- 8** WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT
- 2** ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE
- 3** MAVA RESIDENCIES
- 2** FESTIVALS
- 1** COMPANY IN RESIDENCE
- 27** PREMIERES
- 32** WHISPER WALK AUDIO TOURS
- 2** TOURS



Image credit: Chop-Chop Paper Cutting Workshop by Pamela See. Presented as part of Precision exhibition at Metro Arts, 2023. Photo by Charlie Hillhouse.

# CHAIR REPORT

## Dr Fiona Hawthorne

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It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Chair report for Metro Arts, highlighting our achievements, challenges, and prospects for 2023.

The year 2023 marked another significant milestone in our history. There were many moments last year where we supported and celebrated, and some where, true to our history, we disrupted a few prevailing narratives.

We said a fond farewell to Jo Thomas, former CEO and Artistic Director of over eight years, and a warm hello and welcome to Genevieve Trace, our new Executive Director. To sum up the impact Jo had in a few words would not do her legacy any justice at all. She was and still is a fierce advocate for the contemporary art sector, and for artists. Jo's legacy is everywhere, from the impact we have had with premiering new shows, to supporting artists across multiple disciplines, and advocating for recognition of the importance the arts play in Brisbane's liveability, as we head towards 2032, and increase funding for the work Metro Arts specialises in. And in my ability to correctly use the phrase 'curatorial framework.'

One moment that gave me immense personal satisfaction was to see that Metro Arts is an organisation that truly does grow its own talent. Genevieve has been with Metro Arts since her dead-fish-slapping debut in 2008. Since then, under Jo's leadership, she has grown into the executive she is today. Her vision and steely determination to see Metro Arts not just offer exceptional work in the short-term but also be here when we are all long gone is to be applauded. I cannot wait to see where Gen takes us over the coming years.

I would like to also take this opportunity to acknowledge Wesley Enoch AM for his support and leadership as he steps down from his role as the much-respected Patron of Metro Arts. Wesley held this role since 2017, and has been a generous supporter of Metro Arts, leading many matched giving campaigns for us, and supporting the organisation through its most significant change in leaving our former home in Brisbane city. Whilst it is hard to see such an influential and inspiring leader step down from this role, we wish Wesley all the very best. I look forward to welcoming Wesley back to Metro Arts.

As you can imagine, Wesley has set the bar high for our next Patron. So, our search has begun in earnest. We are looking for someone who can champion Metro Arts all while inspiring emerging artists to be the best they can be. Watch this space.

Throughout 2023, Metro Arts remained committed to supporting emerging and established artists across various disciplines. Our diverse program offerings, including performance productions, visual arts exhibitions, workshops, and community engagement activities, received overwhelming support from audiences and participants alike. We supported more than 300 visual artists and performers, welcomed over 45,000 patrons through our doors at West Village and Norman Park, and developed 36 new Australian works.

As Board Chair, I am always so excited for the artists we work with who have their talent and creativity recognised by their peers. Huge congratulations to the artists who won or were shortlisted for Matilda Awards this year. As well as the numerous visual arts alumni artists who have gone on to major exhibitions and commission outcomes, including MAVA Pathfinder artist James Barth being awarded the \$80,000 Copyright Agency Partnerships Commission, in collaboration with the IMA.

While we celebrate our community's achievements, we recognise the challenges that lie ahead. The Board and Leadership team remained very much focussed on our future. The ongoing impacts arising from external factors such as economic fluctuations and an ever-evolving arts landscape in which to exist is not without its challenges to our operations. However, we remain agile and adaptable, leveraging opportunities for growth and innovation. Afterall, we exist to ensure that new art is created today, tomorrow, and beyond.

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team led by Jo and now Gen, my fellow Board members Paul Bowker, Tara Hastings, Trent Wallace, Kylie Lonergan, Natano Fa'anana, Dr Mellissa Naidoo, Peter O'Sullivan, Kim Hughes, and Dr Naomi Blacklock. I thank you all for your wisdom, support, and generosity in giving of your time and expertise.

Thanks also to our incredible volunteers, audience members, and supporters for your unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions to Metro Arts. Together, we have made remarkable strides in advancing our mission. You made art start here.

As we look ahead to the future, I am confident that Metro Arts will continue to thrive and make a positive impact on the lives of artists, audiences, and our communities through the transformative power of the arts.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.



Image: *Break* by The Farm and Cecilia Martin. Presented by Metro Arts, 2023. Photo: Christian Nimri

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

**Genevieve Trace**

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This 2023 report marks my first as Executive Director of Metro Arts. 2023 represented a year of significant achievement for the organisation, as well as significant change as we bid farewell to our former CEO and Artistic Director of over eight years, Jo Thomas. In light of this, I wish to thank Jo for her years of dedication to Metro Arts – having championed and hailed in the most remarkable changes to our structure and operations in our 40+ year history. Further, I personally wish to thank her for support and mentorship as I worked up through the ranks of Metro Arts to my current position. It is off the back of Jo’s vision and work that the following achievements were made possible.

For Metro Arts, our values are at the core of all we do. Simply put these values are as such:

- We value the artist’s voice and vision.
- We value creative rigour and risk.
- We value agency and sustainability.

Central to this is the artist. This is the point of difference that goes to the very structure of Metro Arts as an organisation. The idea of direction for Metro Arts is less about being dictatorial, and more about listening to community. Sure, executive decision are required to be made drawing from administrative experience – but this experience should not dictate the future only inform it.

In stepping into the role, I have been reflecting on those who have come before. In looking at the original Articles of Association for the Brisbane Community Arts Centre (now Metro Arts), I had to smile. If ever there were a through line of commitment to the artistic sector and its development it would be from the original objects for which the organisation was established through to our current Strategic Plan. The 1979 document outlines our commitment to provide resources, equipment, space, administrative assistance, and training. This commitment still stands in our programs today. Further to this, the document outlined

a commitment to ‘foster innovation’ and the experience of ‘a diverse range of cultural activities’ for the general public. These commitments made 43 years ago, proudly stood in our 2023 program evidenced in the following examples:

- The world premieres of *Hold Me Closer Tony Danza* by The Farm and *Break* by The Farm and Cecilia Martin: Two works showcasing The Farm’s distinct style of physical storytelling traversing both the playful and popularist, to the personal and intimate;
- The Brisbane return season of *Betwixt* by Pink Matter after having won the Bank SA Best Dance Award for Adelaide Fringe in 2023;
- The world premiere of *SHE* by indelibilityarts in collaboration with Pip Theatre and The Good Room: Where stories of women’s mental health from the public were woven with key texts from writers Bianca Saez, Karen Lee Roberts, and Nici Morey to create a poignant reminder that we have much to learn in truly recognising and understanding the multiplicity of experiences with mental health;
- The group exhibition *Precision: The Art of Cutting*, curated by Stephanie Linquist with Minqi Gu, presented as part of Brisbane Art Design (BAD) with the Museum of Brisbane: Featuring such artists as Brian Robinson, Pamela See (Xue Mei-Ling) and Henri Van Noordenburg, the exhibition looked at the shifting practice of paper cutting as medium from its traditional roots across cultures to the extension of the practice into contemporary cross-media realms;
- The world premiere of *ITEM* by Dance Masala (Nakhre Crew): Presented after undertaking the Creative Development Program in 2022, *ITEM* was both a love letter and cease and desist letter to Bollywood. Earning a nomination for Best Independent Production at the Matilda Awards and a sellout season, the work drew on the personal perspectives of the *ITEM* ensemble, presenting a mixture of the joys and hazards



Image: Genevieve Trace, Dr Fiona Hawthorne and Jo Thomas. MAVA Pathfinders exhibition opening. Presented by Metro Arts, 2023.

of Bollywood analysed through a relational lens where a lover can quickly turn into a problematic ex.;

- Our partnership with Brisbane Festival: Which saw the presentation of *Patterns for Future Living* by Rae Haynes, *On Heat* by Leah Shelton, *Personal* by Jodee Mundy Collaborations in partnership with Critical Stages Touring, *Kuramanunya* by Karul Projects, and *Party Ghost* by Double Take in partnership with Cluster Arts;
- *Every Brilliant Thing* (written by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe) co-presented by THAT Production Company: Which saw the mentor-mentee relationship flip as long-time mentee Timothy Wynn directed long-time mentor Jason Klarwein in a beautiful poignant version of the script – earning the production two Matilda Awards for Best Performance in a Leading Role Independent Production (Jason Klarwein), and Best Independent Production; and
- The group exhibition *Torsion* curated by Kyle Weise: A culmination of new and existing work from local and international artists pulling apart notions of consumerism, capitalism and branding with the humble, but identity-laden and social strata-imbued, sneaker as a curatorial lens.

As always, the public program at Metro Arts represents only a fraction of the work the organisation does in its bespoke support of artists and arts companies. A key example of this is our Residency Programs. 2023 saw Metro Arts continue our support of Counterpilot as Company in Residence and we welcomed Joshua Taliani as Artist in Residence. Both programs have seen Metro Arts tailor support to the needs and objectives of the artists, supporting them in creative development of new works, producing and touring support, industry network development, and, in the case of Counterpilot, bespoke support in establishing business and

governance practices that confer their position as an independent company with a suite of works ready for market.

Additionally, the MAVA Pathfinders program culminated in June with an exhibition, *MAVA Pathfinders: Artefacts of the Working Process*, showcasing the concepts and key learnings from participant artists James Barth, Caitlin Franzmann, and Liz Willing. The MAVA Pathfinders program again saw business and entrepreneurial training specific to mid-career visual artists across the 12-month program. Funded by the RISE Funds, we thank the federal Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts; and further this thanks to UAP as Industry Partner.

As we look forward to the future, I again want to reflect on a section of the original Articles of Association for the Company. This section states an object of the Company is, '[t]o act as an entrepreneur and initiator in activities of a cultural nature and in particular to encourage the development of those activities in the community.'

With time, comes growth. Metro Arts has championed the professionalisation of the independent art sector over its esteemed history. As we continue to grow and learn, there will always be opportunities for Metro Arts to honour our original incarnation.

We exist so artists continue to grow as independent professionals. So, watch this space as Metro Arts continues to cement itself as a leader in the innovative thinking and strategic partnership development for projects and programs where the artist's voice, vision, rigour, risk, agency, and sustainability guides and informs us.



Image: she is by Various Artists. Presented by Metro Arts and Huda Fadlemawla. Photo: Georgia Bellini

“Metro Arts is so incredibly important for the arts community in Brisbane, being able to continue to work on projects and keep learning is essential for artists... we can't always access funds or grants, and the mentorship and space provided by Metro Arts has been invaluable to us. Thank you for your incredible work.”

**HUDA FADLEMAWLA, PERFORMING ARTIST, SHE IS & BETWIXT | 2023**



Image: the stories we water by Caitlin Franzmann, Dominique Chen & Libby Harward. Presented by Metro Arts, 2023. Photo: Masimba Sasa

“Metro Arts really is an inclusive space for artists to create work and test new ideas. Thank you for your support.”

**REBECCA ALEXANDER, PERFORMING ARTIST, SHE | 2023**



Image: SHE by indelabilityarts in collaboration with PIP Theatre and The Good Room. Presented by Metro Arts. Image: Orange Schmorange





Image: Jody Rallah at her *Undercurrents* exhibition. Presented by Metro Arts, 2023. Photo: Joe Ruckli.



Image: *Flux* by Tyza Hart. Exhibition presented by Metro Arts, 2023. Photo: Kyle Weise.

“I had an incredible time exhibiting at Metro Arts and it has been a highlight of showing my work over the years. The care I received and the attention to detail to all my questions and needs was second to none.”

**EXHIBITING ARTIST,  
FLUX EXHIBITION | 2023**



Image: Easton Dunne at the *Main Drag* exhibition. Presented by Metro Arts and First Draft, 2023.

“Thank you for this outstanding opportunity targeted at rural and regional artists. I doubt that I would have been able to organise the same kind of program independently myself without the identified and targeted support.”

**EASTON DUNNE,  
EXHIBITING ARTIST | 2023**



Image: *Not a Cult\** by Counterpilot, 2023 tour to Darwin Festival.

# TREASURY REPORT

**Paul Bowker, Board Treasurer**

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In 2023, Metro Arts was able to deliver a full program of events, without any residual impacts from COVID related interruptions. This presented a significant relief and a tremendous opportunity for a return to deep engagement between the business, the artistic community and the broader community of art supporters.

The core focus of the business throughout 2023 was ensuring that all of its assets, including the theatre space, exhibition spaces and creative rooms were fully utilised. With many performances and exhibitions being interrupted over the past few years due to COVID, it was pleasing to see such a full program of activity in 2023.

The impact of a return to full programming saw Revenue increase to \$273,000 in 2023, up from \$232,000 in 2022. The increase was largely a result of an increase in the number of performances, but also a continuing increase in the engagement with the arts loving patrons resulting in an increase in ticket sales per performance. With an exciting program locked in for 2024, we are looking forward to similarly strong attendance support from our existing and new visitors to Metro Arts' performances and exhibitions.

The operating expenses (excluding employee expenses) of the business increased to \$807,000 in 2023, up from \$701,000 in 2022. This increase of 15% in operating expenses was less than the increase in revenue, reflecting a tight management of the cost base by the Metro Arts Management Team. The other key overhead to running the business are employee costs, which were \$1,076,000 in 2023, down from \$1,150,000 in 2022. It is a credit to the Management Team that an increased program and increased revenue was delivered in 2023, with reduced staffing.

The operating business is supported by the Metro Arts Future Fund ("MAFF"), the performance of which is set out below. The operating business as a standalone, incurred a loss of \$639,000 in 2023. Despite the increase in revenue and the tight management of the cost base of the business, there is clearly more work to do to ensure a long-term sustainable business. One of the key issues facing the business and the creative sector more broadly, is the reduced support being received from the State and Federal Governments. Metro Arts has been on the front foot, both privately and publicly, to campaign for support for our sector.

One of the key issues facing the business and the creative sector more broadly, is meeting the challenges of the current economic landscape, which, in turn, sees more competition for State and Federal Government funding. Metro Arts has been on the front foot, both privately and publicly, to campaign for support for our sector.

Noting this competition, in spite of rising costs of production, Metro Arts has needed to rely heavily on the MAFF, which delivered a positive return of \$432,000. When added to the operating loss, the overall loss for 2023 was \$207,027.

As noted, Metro Arts has, as a core pillar of its strategy, the goal to ensure the long-term sustainability of the business. With significantly reduced support through government grants likely into the future, Metro Arts has had to continue to ensure that its cost base reflects both income and future government grants. The outcome of this into the future is that Metro Arts will continue to tightly manage and reduce overheads, and also, unfortunately, be forced into looking to moderate some of its arts programming and other support mechanisms for the arts community.

We will continue to closely monitor the delivery of the program and resources required and where there is a business case to increase investment in resources, the Board will assess these opportunities.

Metro Arts also saw the departure of our CEO and Artistic Director, Jo Thomas. Jo has been a key driving force behind all that is great in Metro Arts for over eight years and her presence will be greatly missed by our community. Metro Arts was however in the fortunate position of having its General Manager Genevieve Trace agree to step into a leadership role as Executive Director. The Board and Genevieve have been working closely together for several years, and the Board looks forward to supporting Gen as she leads Metro Arts into its next phase of growth.

On behalf of the Board, we would like to thank all those in our community that have participated in delivering a quality and innovative arts program. We have an incredibly exciting future and look forward to spending more time with artists, our donors, supporters, the wider community and of course the hard-working Metro Arts team that makes it all possible.

## **Metro Arts Future Fund (MAFF)**

In 2023, the MAFF delivered a positive return of \$432,000, inclusive of its income stream and capital growth components. As at 31 December 2023, the MAFF had a balance of \$6,054,000, which was in line with the 31 December 2022 balance of \$6,071,000.

The capital balance of the MAFF finished 2023 where it started, with the positive return of \$432,000 being used to fund the business' operational loss.

Although the return on the MAFF was positive, the portfolio allocation did result in reduced returns compared to some benchmarks. The current investment allocation of the MAFF has an Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") overlay that significantly reduces the asset classes available for investment. Metro Arts is working closely with its investment manager, Perpetual, to ensure that an appropriate balance between investment outcomes and ESG philosophy is implemented to ensure the long-term security of the MAFF and the Metro Arts business.



Image: *Whisper Walk*, created by Counterpilot.  
Metro Arts 2023. Photo: Jared Velhaack.

# DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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2023 saw Metro Arts strengthen ties with its donor and sponsor communities. The year saw donor engagement increase as the organisation welcomed over 217 new donors.

This increase to our community of donors is heartening and deeply felt by Metro Arts. As the current cost of living pressures escalate, we are acutely aware of this burden on our donors and community. Considering this, we are deeply grateful that donors continue to support the mission and objectives of Metro Arts throughout this time. Central to this are our ArtStarter and ARTrepreneur donors, who year after year continue their support of independent artists and their stories. These central groups are the heart of our philanthropic community, and we love any opportunity to welcome them to the venue and for them to have a dialogue with the artists they support.

Bolstering the increase in community giving are significant gifts from major donors Mrs Gina Fairfax AC and Mr Tim Fairfax AC. Such is the continued support from Mrs and Mr Fairfax that we hold them dear to our heart in what we term the *Inner Circle*. On behalf of the hundreds of artists who have directly benefited from their support, we thank Tim and Gina for their continued and holistic support of the arts ecology, specifically in Queensland.

2023 also saw Wesley Enoch AM step down from his role as Patron of Metro Arts as he stepped into his new role as Deputy Chair of Creative Australia. Metro Arts wishes to thank Wesley for his tireless support of the organisation during his 5-year tenure as Patron, including his generosity in supporting many a fundraising campaign during this time.

The year also saw Metro Arts welcome the Dalwood-Wylie Foundation as a Strategic Partner. The Foundation provided

cash support to purchase several large technical items specific to the Galleries and New Benner Theatre. Artists across the 2023 program benefited from these acquisitions, as our artistic community continues to push the boundaries of technical manipulation in art.

Further to this, Metro Arts also received support through Perpetual's IMPACT Philanthropy Application Program allowing the organisation to deliver a suite of education and public programming activities supporting our annual program over the course of 2023 and 2024.

In 2023 we welcomed two key Sponsors to our Sponsorship family. Leading digital and design agency yomconnect joined with Metro Arts to deliver key digital marketing support for the organisation's growing annual program. And Hare and Forbes Machineryhouse joined to help fit out the MAVA Workshop with industry specialist tools for the benefit of the artistic and local community alike. These sponsorships represent real budget relieving value, that allow Metro Arts to reach more people in the community than originally possible. yomconnect and Hare and Forbes Machineryhouse joined the likes of West Village, UAP, Brick Lane Brewing Company, Tonepacer, Dendy, Bones Accounting, Oatley Wines, Heritage Conveyancing, and Specfurn Commercial Furniture. Metro Arts is extremely grateful for the support of its Sponsors and we have enjoyed welcoming representatives from each organisation to the venue across the 2023 period.

The Metro Arts team sincerely thank all our donors and sponsors who allow us to continue our work with independent artists. Your support truly allows for the art of tomorrow to have a home today.



Image: MAVA Pathfinders Exhibition, 2023. Presented by Metro Arts. Photo: Masimba Sasa.

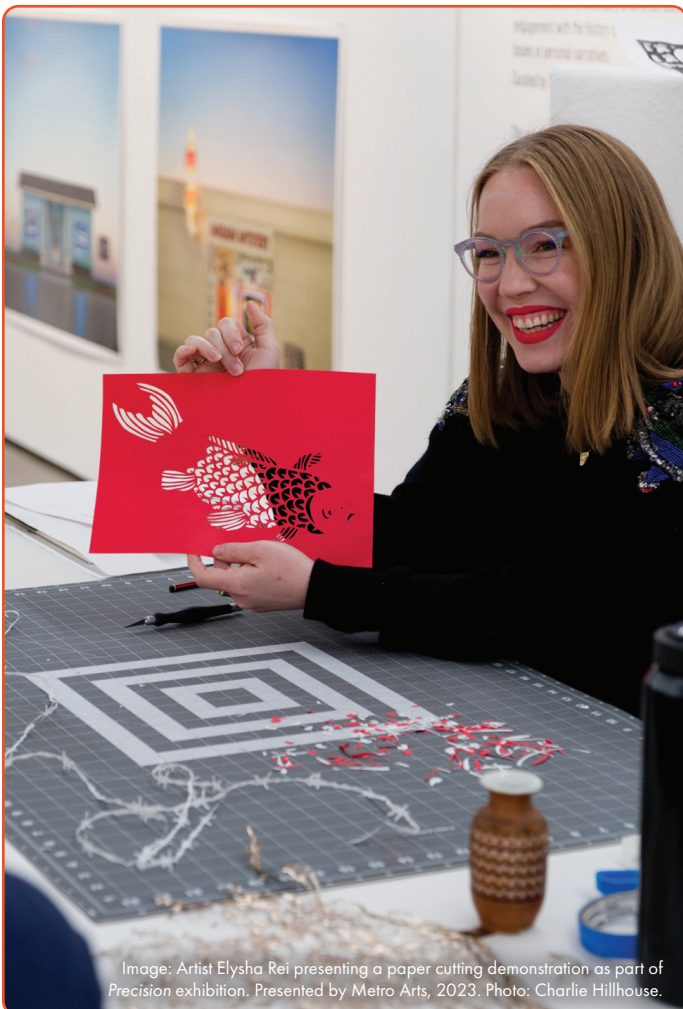


Image: Artist Elysha Rei presenting a paper cutting demonstration as part of Precision exhibition. Presented by Metro Arts, 2023. Photo: Charlie Hillhouse.



Image: HIV Science as Art exhibition. Various Artists. Presented by IAS and the National Association of People Living with HIV Australia, Metro Arts Galleries, 2023.

# PRESENTATIONS

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## PERFORMANCES

### 24 - 28 JANUARY

*Hold Me Closer Tony Danza*  
The Farm | New Benner Theatre

### 1 - 4 MARCH

*Betwixt*  
Pink Matter | New Benner Theatre

### 25 MARCH

*The People's Dance Party*  
Bring a Plate | New Benner Theatre

### 6 APRIL

*Rough, Red & Raw*  
The Architects of Sound | New Benner Theatre

### 3 - 13 MAY

*SHE*  
indelabilityarts | New Benner Theatre

### 21 - 24 JUNE

*Break*  
The Farm & Cecilia Martin | New Benner Theatre

### 17 - 19 AUGUST

*ITEM*  
Dance Masala | New Benner Theatre

### 4 - 21 OCTOBER

*Every Brilliant Thing*  
THAT Production Company | New Benner Theatre

### 31 OCTOBER

*Spooktacular!*  
Brisbaret | New Benner Theatre

### 2 NOVEMBER

*P.H.D.*  
The House of Alexander | New Benner Theatre

### 17 NOVEMBER

*she is*  
Huda Fadlemawla + Co | New Benner Theatre

## BRISBANE FESTIVAL

### 30 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER

*On Heat*  
Leah Shelton | New Benner Theatre

### 6 - 9 SEPTEMBER

*Personal*  
Jodee Mundy Collaborations and Critical Stages Touring |  
New Benner Theatre

### 13 - 16 SEPTEMBER

*Kuramanunya*  
Karul Projects with Thomas E.S. Kelly | New Benner Theatre

### 20 - 23 SEPTEMBER

*Party Ghost*  
Double Take + Cluster Arts | New Benner Theatre

### 1 - 23 SEPTEMBER

*Patterns for Future Living*  
Rae Haynes | Gallery One, Gallery Two + Window Gallery

## EXHIBITIONS

### 21 JANUARY - 4 FEBRUARY

*CTRL+ALT+DEL: RECLAIM*  
CTRL+ALT+DEL - Various Artists | Gallery One +  
Window Gallery + Gallery Two

### 11 FEBRUARY - 4 MARCH

*Flux*  
Holly Ahern and Eden Crawford-Harriman,  
Laura Carthew, Lyle Duncan, Tyza Hart | Gallery One

### 11 FEBRUARY - 4 MARCH

*Body-Cites*  
Luna Mrozik Gawler, Wendy Yu, The Third Thing  
and Harrison Hall and Sam McGilp. | Gallery Two

### 8 MARCH - 11 MARCH

*The Woman Remembers*  
Metro Arts, Belloo Creative, Phluxus2  
and Good Company Arts | Gallery One

### 8 - 11 MARCH

*womAn Artist*  
Belloo Creative & Ellamay Fitzgerald | Window Gallery

**18 MARCH - 15 APRIL**

*Be There or Be Square*  
Renee Kire | Window Gallery

**18 MARCH - 15 APRIL**

*teetering, tittering, tits up*  
Tiana Jefferies | Gallery One

**18 MARCH - 15 APRIL**

*Main Drag*  
Easton Dunne | Gallery Two

**6 MAY - 10 JUNE**

*Precision: The Art of Cutting*  
Anna Carey, Nicola Moss, Elysha Rei,  
Brian Robinson, Pamela See (Xue Mei-Ling),  
Martin Smith, Henri van Noordenburg.  
Curated by Stephanie Lindquist, with Minqi Gu. |  
Gallery One, Gallery Two + Window Gallery

**27 MAY**

*Mutual Meaning* (Exhibition as part of BAD)  
Dhana Merritt, Caitlin Franzmann and Tyza Hart |  
Norman Park Substation

**27 MAY**

*Harvest* (Exhibition as part of BAD)  
Minqi Gu and Brian Robinson | West Village

**24 JUNE - 15 JULY**

*MAYA Pathfinders: Artefacts of the Working Process*  
Caitlin Franzmann, Elizabeth Willing, James Barth |  
Gallery One, Gallery Two + Window Gallery

**30 SEPTEMBER - 28 OCTOBER**

*Undercurrents*  
Jody Rallah | Gallery One, Gallery Two  
+ Window Gallery

**2 NOVEMBER - 11 NOVEMBER**

*University of Canberra Honours Exhibition*  
Christine Miles and Marina Daniels |  
Gallery One, Gallery Two + Window Gallery

**9 DECEMBER 2023 - 28 JANUARY 2024**

*Torsion*  
David Attwood, Jessica Curry, Danielle Dean,  
JD Reforma, Julia Weißenberg and Keemon Williams.  
Curated by Kyle Weise | Gallery One

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**4 APRIL**

*Application Writing and Pitching Your Ideas Workshop*  
Counterpilot | New Benner Theatre

**27 MAY**

*Precision Papercutting Demonstration (As part of BAD)*  
Elysha Rei | Gallery One

**28 MAY**

*Chop Chop Papercutting Workshop (As part of BAD)*  
Pamela See | Gallery One

**24 JUNE**

*the stories we water*  
Caitlin Franzmann, Dominique Chen  
& Libby Harward | The Studios

**28 JUNE**

*Dance Your Ideas: Creating Bollywood Dance  
with Drea Choreo*  
Drea Lam (Dance Masala) | Studios

**4 & 8 JULY**

*Production 101*  
Metro Arts | New Benner Theatre

**18 JULY**

*Bollywood Item Style Workshop*  
Drea Lam (Dance Masala) | Studios

**10 AUGUST ONWARDS**

*Whisper Walk*  
Counterpilot | Metro Arts

**9 SEPTEMBER**

*Scores for Future Living Workshop (As part of BrisFest)*  
Rae Raynes and Bella Deary | Metro Arts

**17 NOVEMBER**

*BIPOC Women in the Arts Panel*  
Wanida Serce, Jess Margo and Aurora Solchild | Studios

# COMPANY IN RESIDENCE

Counterpilot



Image: Company in Residence: Counterpilot 2022  
Photo: Morgan Roberts



Image: Not a Cult by Counterpilot, 2023 tour to Darwin Festival.



# PRODUCED WORKS | TOURING

**ADRIFT**

Counterpilot

**NOT A CULT**

Counterpilot

**TRUTH MACHINE**

Counterpilot

**BREAKING**

Counterpilot

**BETWIXT**

Pink Matter

## ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Joshua Taliani



Image: Joel Devereux

## MAVA PATHFINDER ARTISTS

Caitlin Franzmann,  
Elizabeth Willing  
and James Barth



Image: MAVA Artists: Caitlin Franzmann, Elizabeth Willing and James Barth

# CREATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

96

DAYS OF CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

30

ARTISTS EMPLOYED

1

WORKS PREMIERED IN 2023

100%

OF ARTISTS IN THE PROGRAM RATE IT AS 'GOOD' OR 'EXCELLENT'

**GREG MANNING**

The Road Knows

**BRING A PLATE**

Dance Leads To Chaos

**AMY ZHANG**

Have you met...?

**LINNEA TENGROTH**

Black Girl Rising

**OLIVIA ADAMS**

Matriarchs

**JENNI LARGE, ASHLEIGH MUSK, ANNA WHITAKER**

Chaos In Concert

**ELISE GREIG**

Florence



“

Having funded time in high quality space with access to tech and support, is such a valuable commodity for us as devising artists. We cannot express enough the value that this creative development had towards the project and to our own artistry.

**LINNEA TENGROTH,**  
CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT ARTIST, 2023

Image: *Black Girl Rising* by Linnea Tengroth. Part of Metro Arts' Creative Development Program, 2023. Photo: Amy McDonald.

"Metro Arts promises one-of-a-kind experiences that reflect the here and now - telling bold, brave, and beautiful stories from Australia's new crop of contemporary artists."  
**Q NEWS.**

"...it's worth noting Metro Arts accounts for 19 nominations across 12 categories, cementing itself as a champion of independent and emerging local artists."  
**MATILDA AWARDS, 2023.**

"Working with the Metro Arts team was the most wonderful experience. Your environment and staff are passionate and extremely professional. Thank you so much for a wonderful experience and opportunity."  
**EXHIBITING ARTIST, 2023.**

"I loved seeing *Hold Me Closer Tony Danza* recently, and before that I loved *Leotard*, another dance-theatre piece. I love the smallness and intimacy of the Metro Arts Theatre, and the exciting and innovative set design. How amazing it is to be able to see works that are both high brow and accessible at the same time! Metro Arts always delivers works of such high quality - and are much more daring than other main stages in Brisbane."  
**AUDIENCE PATRON, 2023.**

"We had a great time making this work and we are beyond happy with the outcome. The Metro Arts team are absolute superstars, and really helped elevated the work visually and sonically. It was such an easy collaboration and we adored working with everyone. Thank you Metro Arts for supporting us. Danielle is always a producing powerhouse. And we loved Sofie's work in getting us media coverage and interviews. Thank you all round."  
**PERFORMANCE PROGRAM ARTIST, 2023.**

"Best show I have seen in years, probably ever. Thank you so much for reigniting the Brisbane theatre scene!"  
**AUDIENCE PATRON, 2023.**

"When it comes to spellbinding theatre, inspired storytelling and top-tier contemporary performance, Metro Arts is certainly where it's at."  
**WEEKEND EDITION, 2023.**

"I loved everything about visiting Metro Arts. The intimacy of the theatre, the quality of the performance, the interaction and engagement of the audience, the friendliness of staff, and the galleries to enjoy prior to the show. Thanks so very much to you all."  
**AUDIENCE PATRON, 2023.**

"Metro Arts quality experience consistency continues to astound me ... and entices me to return with friends again and again. Always a unique, meaningful and memorable time. Thank you :)"  
**AUDIENCE PATRON, 2023.**

"I produced a show at Metro Arts and I would like to thank the front and back of house teams for their professionalism and passion. Not only did they do a fantastic job but their quiet confidence ensured that the cast could relax and enjoy the day. I would highly recommend them from the perspective of both hirer and audience member. Five stars - if you're looking for a hundred seat venue you can't go wrong."  
**VENUE HIRER, 2023.**

"Whisper Walk is an amazing journey down memory lane. This interactive installation has brought to life the eclectic history of West Village and the considered thought in its development into the vibrant community that it is today! Thank you!"  
**WHISPER WALK PATRON, 2023.**

"What a great night out. So many cheeks and jaws were hurting from laughing so much. I had a blast. Keep doing what you are doing!!"

**AUDIENCE PATRON, 2023.**

"Our first time at Metro Arts, West End was most enjoyable. The staff were all pleasant and helpful, the wine bar was well stocked, and *Every Brilliant Thing* was a superb performance. Excellent night out."

**AUDIENCE PATRON, EVERY BRILLIANT THING, 2023.**

"Thank you for such an incredible show! Amazing performances! The message was powerful and opened up so many important conversations. The mix of dance and acting with interviews and videos was clever and added a lot of depth. I hope you get another season so I can recommend others to see the show"

**AUDIENCE PATRON, ITEM, 2023.**

"Great show! Not the usual kind of thing I would seek out, but my wife and I loved it. It was an important message told in a very unique and entertaining method. Congratulations!"

**AUDIENCE PATRON, ITEM, 2023.**

"Wow. Never have I ever been to watch a piece of theatre that was so inclusive and relatable. Thank you for presenting something so beautiful and simply heartbreaking."

**AUDIENCE PATRON, SHE, 2023.**

"Thank you for sharing this work with us. As the wife of a man whose mother committed suicide, this play expressed our situation and problems perfectly. Thanks to you we have been able to discuss certain traits and behaviours that affect our relationship. I no longer feel guilty about my own struggles with his depression and mania. This production reminded me why theatre is so important / valuable for our society. More please."

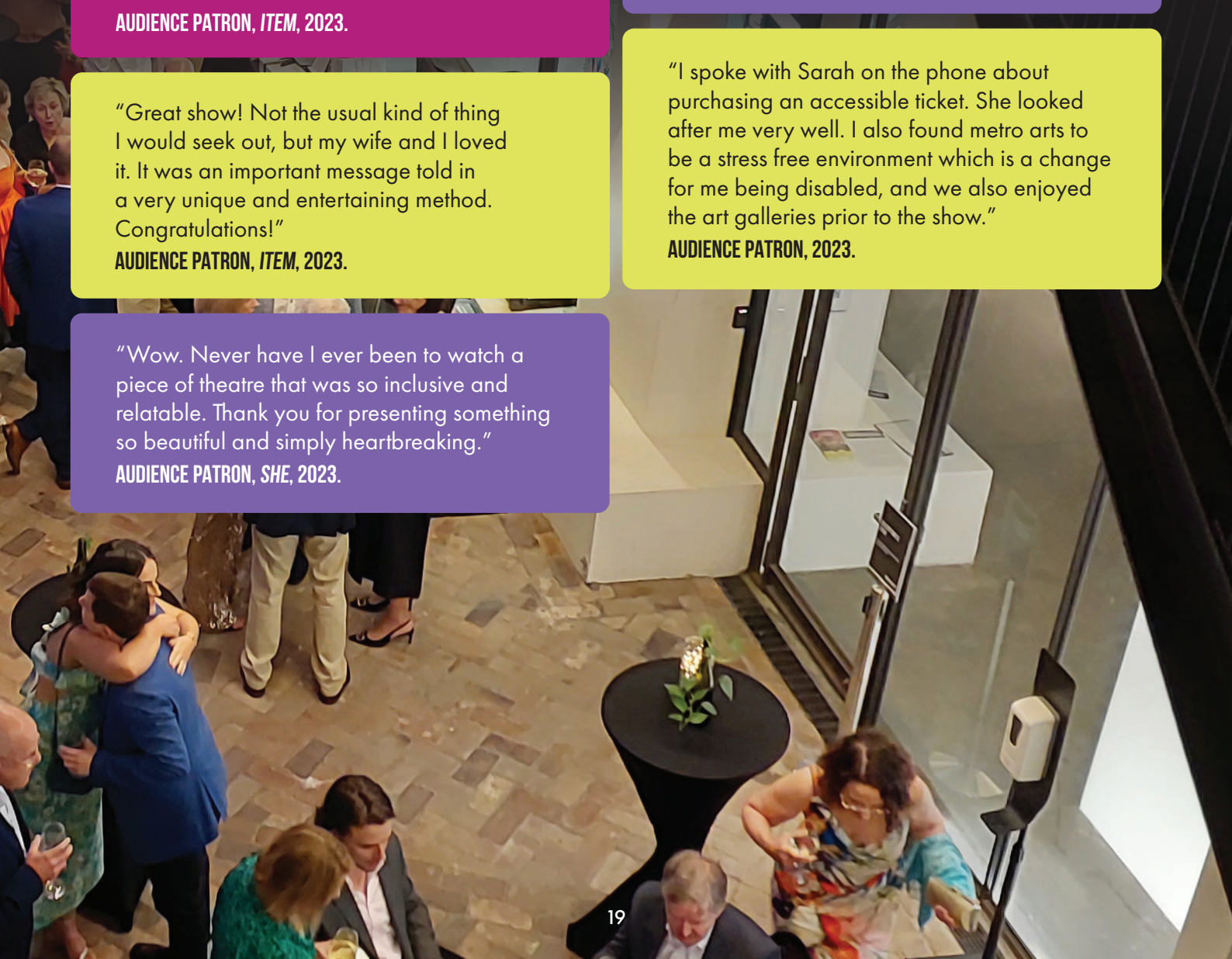
**AUDIENCE PATRON, EVERY BRILLIANT THING, 2023.**

"I stayed for the Artist Q&A session and was moved by all the work involved to create such a special performance. Thank you all so much for the creativity, cooperation, humour and thoughtful dedication to create a night that was special for many people in the audience."

**AUDIENCE PATRON, 2023.**

"I spoke with Sarah on the phone about purchasing an accessible ticket. She looked after me very well. I also found metro arts to be a stress free environment which is a change for me being disabled, and we also enjoyed the art galleries prior to the show."

**AUDIENCE PATRON, 2023.**



# 2023 STAFF & BOARD

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## METRO ARTS STAFF

### JO THOMAS

CEO and Artistic Director (until Sep)

### GENEVIEVE TRACE

General Manager (until Sep)  
Executive Director (from Oct)

### SHANI GOULD

Company Administrator  
Operations Manager

### SOFIE HAM

Head of Marketing & Communications  
Head of Marketing & Development

### LINDEN TIERNEY

Head of Development

### DANIELLECARNEY

Producer  
Senior Producer

### KYLE WEISE

Curator, Exhibition Program

### ANNELIZE MULDER

Curator, Exhibition Program

### BIANCA BALITY

Venue & Events Officer

### MEG HAMILTON

Associate Producer

### COLA HARDMAN

Marketing Coordinator

### JENNA MUIR

Development Coordinator

### LACHLAN ORTON

Visitor Services Coordinator

### TEEGAN KRANENBURG

Venue & Technical Coordinator

### NATHANIEL KNIGHT

Technical Coordinator

### CHRIS HOWLETT

Workshop Manager

### YANETH BAUTISTA

Finance Officer

### DULANTHA RAJAPAKSHE

Finance Officer

### FRONT OF HOUSE

Cecilia Martin, Claire Holland, Finlay Coombs-Doyle, Henry Solomon, Hine Tapairu Kahukura, Jess Bunz, Jett Robson, Kathryn Collins, Kelsey Booth, Lachlan Orton, Nicholas Southey, Peta Kishawi, Sarah Jarvis, Sheri Newman, Skye Fellman, Tyler Morrisson.

### CASUAL TECHNICIANS

Steven May, Briana Clark, Winter Cyan, Zachary Neville, Leo Fitz, Mei-yu Camejo, Hamish Elliot, Riley Camejo.

## METRO ARTS BOARD

### FIONA HAWTHORNE, CHAIR

### PAUL BOWKER, TREASURER

### BRAD COOMBS

### DANIEL MCKEWEN

### KIM HUGHES

### KYLIE LONERGAN

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### NAOMI BLACKLOCK

### NATANO FA'ANANA

### PETER O'SULLIVAN

### TARA HASTINGS

### TRENT WALLACE

## PATRON

### WESLEY ENOCH AM



Image: *Patterns for Future Living* by Rae Haynes. Presented by Metro Arts and Brisbane Festival, 2023. Image courtesy the artist.

# 2023 SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

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We are truly grateful for the support of all our partners in 2023 whose assistance enabled us to continue to back the development and presentation of ambitious contemporary art.

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## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Metro Arts is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body. Metro Arts is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

Metro Arts' Creative Development Program and the Artist in Residence Program is proudly supported by Brisbane City Council. Metro Arts (MAVA) Substation is assisted by Brisbane City Council and supported by the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative.



Queensland  
Government



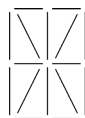
*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

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## FOUNDING VENUE PARTNERS



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## METRO ARTS FUTURE FUND

We acknowledge Mr Tim Fairfax AC and Mrs Gina Fairfax AC for their generosity as founding donors of the Metro Arts Future Fund.

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## DONORS

Metro Arts gratefully acknowledges the generosity of all our donors:

### INNER CIRCLE

Tim Fairfax AC and  
Gina Fairfax AC

### MAJOR DONOR

Michael and Charlotte Cottier

### ARTREPRENEUR

Lynn Rainbow-Reid AM

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## ART STARTERS

Alex Beard, Anon x 2, Bradley Coombs, Danielle and Jason Organ, Danielle Wood, Daryl Clifford, Hamish Clift, Jo Eager, Jo Thomas, Jonathan Butler-White, Leanne and Tim de Souza, Linden Tierney, Margaret Ridley, Peter O'Sullivan, Tara Hastings, and Traders in Purple.

## ANNUAL GIVING

Thank you to all our donors who supported Metro Arts throughout the year with one-off gifts, ticket and bar purchase round-up donations.



Image: *Hold Me Closer Tony Danza* by The Farm.  
Presented by Metro Arts, 2023. Image: Jade Ellis.

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**Metro Arts**