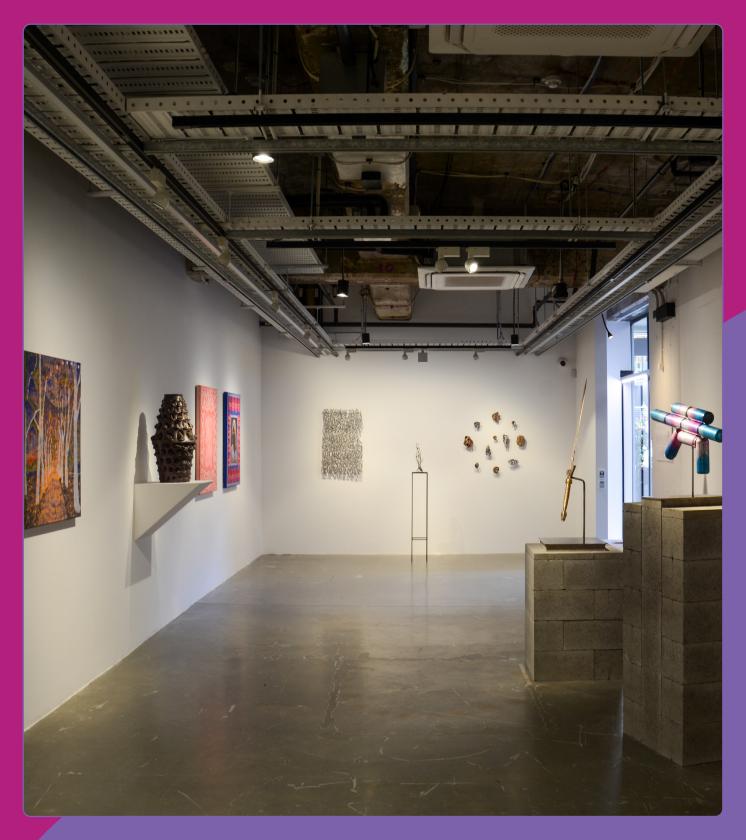
Metro Arts





Metro Arts pays its respect to the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and create.

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. Metro Arts recognises the importance of story and expression in the process of truth-telling, and we commit to support First Nations Peoples on this journey.

Always was. Always will be.

OUR 2024 PROGRAM
SUPPORTED THE
CREATION, DEVELOPMENT,
EXPERIMENTATION AND
PRESENTATION OF
EXCITING AND BRAVE
CONTEMPORARY WORK.



15,200 LIKES



12,600 FOLLOWS



8,000 SUBSCRIBERS



67% LIVE IN BRISBANE

74%LIVE IN QUEENSLAND



265ARTISTS



3,400
BAR PATRONS



36,074 PATRONS

- 12 EXHIBITIONS
- 12 PRODUCTIONS
- 61 COMMUNITY EVENTS
- **1** WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT
- 2 COMPANIES IN RESIDENCE
- PERFORMANCE ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE
- **2** FESTIVALS
- 3 PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS
- **24** WHISPER WALK AUDIO TOURS



CHAIR REPORT

Dr Fiona Hawthorne

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present the Metro Arts Chair's Report for 2024, a year of remarkable creativity, resilience, and growth. As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, it is clear that Metro Arts continues to play a vital role in shaping Queensland's cultural landscape, fostering innovation, and supporting artists across disciplines.

Celebrating Artistic Excellence

In 2024, Metro Arts delivered an ambitious program that showcased the diversity and vibrancy of contemporary arts. From visual arts exhibitions to groundbreaking performances, we supported over 265 artists and engaged audiences through 12 productions, 24 public art installations, and numerous community events. Highlights included Amy Zhang's [gameboy] earning a Matilda Award nomination, Counterpilot's Scaredy House captivating young audiences, and Elizabeth Willing's Kitchen Studio drawing over 4,400 attendees during Brisbane Festival. These works exemplify the boldness and creativity Metro Arts nurtures.

Our visual arts program flourished through partnerships like the churchie emerging art prize, which spotlighted emerging talent, and innovative projects such as Jarrod Van Der Ryken's the garden of forking paths, which extended beyond gallery walls to engage communities directly. The establishment of our Public Art initiative further expanded opportunities for artists to translate their work into large-scale public spaces. This initiative underscores our commitment to empowering artists while enriching public spaces.

Navigating Challenges

Despite challenges in the grant funding and donations sphere, Metro Arts continued to demonstrate resilience through strategic financial management. The audited Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2024 are set out in this Annual Report. These show that the operational activities of the company for 2024 improved on 2023 with revenue increasing by 19%, reflecting our dedication to maximising resources and opportunities. Operational efficiencies were achieved without compromising artistic programming or community support. After providing for income tax, the company incurred a loss in 2024. This operating loss was funded by Metro Arts Future Fund (MAFF) drawdowns ensuring in 2024 that the Company was able to support its operations and support of the art sector. The (MAFF) also provided stability amidst market fluctuations, ensuring long-term sustainability and the overall total financial assets of the business stayed in line with last year..

While challenges remain, including securing consistent funding streams, the Board is committed to addressing these issues proactively. Our focus will remain on diversifying revenue streams and strengthening partnerships to ensure Metro Arts' future sustainability

Acknowledging Our Supporters

The successes of 2024 would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our partners, donors, and patrons. From government bodies like Creative Australia and Arts Queensland to corporate sponsors and individual donors, your contributions are integral to our mission.

Looking Ahead

Metro Arts, with support from Creative Australia and Arts Queensland, commissioned a review to gather input from our community, stakeholders, artists, and audiences, laying the groundwork for a new, bright, and bold strategic vision that will come to life in 2026. Metro Arts remains steadfast in its vision: to amplify the voices of artists and inspire audiences through transformative experiences. With exciting strategic and artistic initiatives on the horizon, we are poised to deepen our impact on both the creative community and broader society. I want to thank the Metro Arts Board Directors who generously gave their time, energy, wisdom, and expertise. Your support and passion for Metro Arts never wanes.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend my thanks to the passionate, dedicated and inspirational staff team at Metro Arts, our audiences without who we cannot exist, and every artist who brought their vision to life this year.

Together, we will continue building a vibrant future for contemporary arts in Queensland.

Dr Fiona Hawthorne, PhD Churchill Fellow GAICD Chair, Metro Arts



ARTISTIC REPORT VISUAL ARTS

Daniel Clifford, Artistic Associate (Visual Arts)

The 2024 visual arts program at Metro Arts was an exceptional year, marked by the delivery of 12 diverse exhibitions, featuring 45 talented artists across our gallery spaces. This program not only showcased a wide spectrum of contemporary visual arts but also underscores Metro Arts' broader impact on the creative sector through collaboration and support for a range of artistic practices.

Key Highlights of the Year

The gallery spaces were activated with a rich and varied program that involved numerous local, national, and emerging artists. This not only showcased a wide spectrum of contemporary visual arts but also extended the influence of Metro Arts into the broader cultural community, with additional creatives contributing to the exhibitions success.

In 2024, Metro Arts engaged with new strategic partners, including the churchie emerging art prize ('the churchie'). Metro Arts played a key role in the curatorial selection and judging of the chosen artists, delivered the exhibition design, assisted artist liaison, coordination, and provided critical writing to the exhibition catalogue. This collaboration was immensely successful and generated substantial positive feedback.

Daniel Clifford and Annelize Mulder judged the Brisbane Portrait Prize (BPP) Metro Arts Sponsored Experimental Art Award, presenting the award to James Randall during opening night. This partnership continues into 2025, with Metro Arts continuing to provide input into the BPP's exhibition programming and facilitating a solo exhibition from James Randall.

Metro Arts partnered with TAFE Queensland to offer hands-on training to two interns in the field of visual arts. These interns contributed to the operation of the exhibitions and gained valuable industry experience.

2024 marked the creation of the Metro Arts Public Art initiative. We commissioned and installed two new works in the public realm and facilitated the leasing of another public artwork. Looking ahead, 2025 will see further progress, including a major commissioned work to coincide with Reconciliation Week, expanding Metro Arts' presence in the public art sector. This initiative sees Metro Arts assist artists in the expansion and translation of their works outside of the gallery and into larger scale public art areas, enabling continued career growth.

Exhibition Support and Artist Development

Metro Arts continues to support artists in the development, refinement, and presentation of their work. The programming team worked closely with the artists to expand their practice, such as with Katie Paine who incorporated sculptural elements and coloured lighting to enhance the work, resulting in increased exposure and a review by Sebastian Moody on his arts radio program. Additionally, Jarrod Van Der Ryken was supported to include public programming alongside their exhibition, engaging community through a nature walk. The success of Jarrod's exhibition has resulted in exhibitions at IMA and Milani Gallery, setting him up for a successful trajectory for his artistic career.

Metro Arts in partnership with Brisbane Festival, supported Elizabeth Willing in the realisation of *Kitchen Studio*, a collaborative performance and sculptural artwork that garnered tremendous success. With sold-out sessions and extensive audience engagement, this exhibition had a profound impact on both the public and the artists involved, with over 4,400 attendees experiencing the work.

In 2024, the Metro Arts Visual Arts (MAVA) Substation program continued to thrive, providing artists with access to studio spaces, fabrication resources, and valuable technical support. This facility proved invaluable for both exhibiting and non-exhibiting artists, with many seeking assistance to complete their works. Jeremy Plint's Monolith and Victoria Wareham's acrylic sculptures were fabricated at the MAVA workshop. The MAVA Substation program remains a vital part of Metro Arts' broader mission to foster artistic development, and it will continue to support artists in 2025 through artist residencies and other initiatives.

2024 was a year of significant growth, innovation, and collaboration for Metro Arts, reinforcing its role as a central player in Brisbane's visual arts landscape. The successful execution of the exhibition program, partnerships, and artist support activities has contributed to the continued development of both individual artists and the broader creative community. Looking ahead, Metro Arts will continue to build on these successes, furthering its mission to foster and amplify the work of artists, engage with the public, and support the growth of the visual arts sector in Brisbane and beyond.

ARTISTIC REPORT PERFORMANCE ARTS

Benjamin Knapton, Artistic Associate (Performance)

2024 was a year of velocity — a surge of new work, new voices, and new possibilities. It reminded us, with clarity and force, why we do what we do.

Metro Arts exists to support artists — to help spark ideas, build partnerships, and bring bold new performance work to life for audiences. We offer time, space, trust, and the conditions needed for artistic bravery. Because when artists are given the room to imagine, fail, regroup, and soar, the cultural landscape shifts and new, necessary stories enter the world. This year, we saw that belief take shape in a powerful and diverse range of new performance works.

Amy Zhang's [gameboy] earned a Matilda Award nomination and resonated with audiences as both intimate portrait and cultural critique. Scaredy House by Counterpilot blended technology and theatre into a haunting, playful world for young audiences. IMRSE's CAKE reimagined Marie Antoinette with bite and bravado, while Olivia Adams' Matriarchs brought power, ritual, and resilience to the stage. These weren't just performances — they were bold statements, clear markers of where these artists are heading next. In total, 13 new works were presented in 2024 — a clear reflection of the scale and ambition that shaped the year.

We worked with over 100 creatives — artists pushing boundaries, forging collaborations, and honing their creative voices. Our micro-festival DANCE24 emerged as a gathering space and catalyst for independent dance, thanks to artists, audiences, and partners including Ausdance QLD, BlakDance, West Village, Studio 1, Mad Dance House, and Arts Queensland. Our One Night Stand program became a platform for experimentation and new ideas, featuring A Body Which Draws Itself, Femioke, Let's Go, In the Flesh, and Full Spectrum — each one provoking, surprising, and challenging how audiences engage with performance.

Alongside public presentations, eight creative developments were supported in 2024 — providing artists with the space and resources to test ideas, refine their process, and create new performance work that will find its way to stages in the years ahead. These developments often marked key turning points in artistic practices, laying essential groundwork for future outcomes.

Our long-form development programs — Artist in Residence and Company in Residence — provided targeted, sustained support for

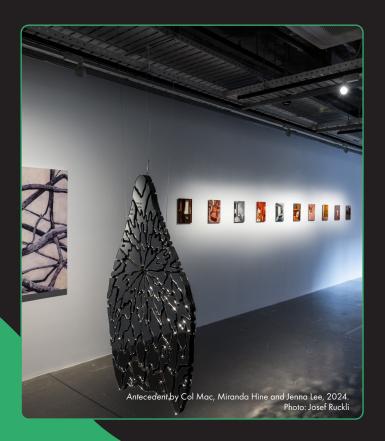
artists in development. Deadly Theatre and Joshua Taliani focused on evolving their process and developing new ideas that signal exciting directions in their work. Counterpilot moved through a major arc in their artistic trajectory — creating a new performance work for young audiences and remounting their award-winning production Adrift for Brisbane Festival. Meanwhile, IMRSE brought fierce originality to the stage with a re-staging of CAKE, marking a significant step in their artistic evolution.

2024 was a year shaped by artists — their ideas, their questions, their experiments. It was a year of development, risk, reworking, and reimagining. Some projects premiered. Others grew quietly behind the scenes. What tied it all together was the energy of artists pushing forward — often together, often with limited resources, and always with something to say.

Through it all, Metro Arts remained a place where that work could happen — sometimes visibly, sometimes in the background — offering the time, space, and support for artists to build, reflect, and move.

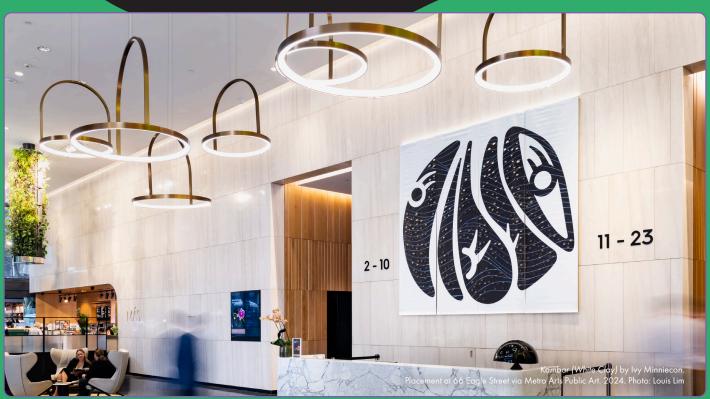
To every artist, partner, supporter, and collaborator who contributed to this year: thank you.





"The support that is offered to early career artists from a financial, technical, curatorial and marketing standpoint are all unmatched in other Brisbane art galleries. This is a really important development opportunity that I would recommend to any early career artist."

MIRANDA HINE, VISUAL ARTS ARTIST ANTECEDENT | 2024



"Thank you for giving me the opportunity and space to ensure these stories and practices are continued and that through this contemporary style of art making, my ancestors can continue to be celebrated and honored."

IVY MINNIECON,
METRO ARTS PUBLIC ART ARTIST | 2024





"Metro Arts were the perfect partner for this project, open to new ideas, involved in mentoring, invested in development of my skills and the concept, attentive and sensitive to the creative process, and willing to assist wherever they could."

ELIZABETH WILLING, PROGRAM ARTIST KITCHEN STUDIO | 2024

"The support that we received throughout the process of Scaredy House from the commissioning, to the development and rehearsal to the performance season went above and beyond the typical involvement of a creative organisation"

NATHAN SIBTHORPE, COUNTERPILOT
PROGRAM ARTIST & COMPANY IN RESIDENCE |
2024







PRESENTATIONS

EXHIBITIONS

3 FEBRUARY - 9 MARCH

Antecedent Jenna Lee, Col Mac & Miranda Hine Window Gallery + Gallery One

3 FEBRUARY - 9 MARCH

Cross Dissolve Anthony Baker, Simone Hine & Victoria Wareham Gallery Two

16 MARCH - 6 APRIL

In The Mudline Guy Lobwein Gallery Two

16 MARCH - 20 APRIL

Windows Katie Paine Gallery One

4 MAY - 1 JUNE

Bypass Blue Abyss Ann Debono Window Gallery + Gallery One

4 MAY - 1 JUNE

Monolith Jeremy Plint Gallery Two

8 JUNE - 13 JULY

Panopticon Dustin Voggenreiter Window Gallery

15 JUNE - 13 JULY

the garden of forking paths Jarrod van der Ryken Gallery One

8 - 29 JUNE

The Hidden Image Life of Lenses Dr. Deirdre Feeney Gallery Two

22 - 30 NOVEMBER

the churchie emerging art prize Various Artists Metro Arts' Galleries + New Benner Theatre

7 DECEMBER - 23 FEBRUARY

Contact Zone Victoria Wareham Metro Arts' Galleries

PERFORMANCES

15 FEBRUARY

Full Spectrum Anna Whitaker & Riley Towers

29 FEBRUARY

A Body Which Draws Itself Micah Rustichelli

9 MARCH

FEMIOKE Amy-Clare McCarthy

9 MARCH

HOTMESS: In The Flesh HOTMESS

21 MARCH

Let's Go Anisa Nanduala

19 - 29 JUNE

Scaredy House Counterpilot

3 - 13 JULY

Famished Future Feeders Robert the Cat

6 - 16 NOVEMBER

CAKE IMRSE

COMMUNITY EVENTS

6 FEBRUARY - 28 MAY

Our Wayz
The Deadly Theatre | Workshops

2 - 23 APRIL

Camp Counterpilot
Counterpilot | Workshops

29 JUNE

Scaredy House Makers Workshop
Counterpilot | Workshops

DANCE24

22 - 25 MAY

Matriarchs
Olivia Adams | Performance
New Benner Theatre

25 MAY

Application Writing 101 Wanida Serce | Workshop Studios

25 MAY

Kim Smit Dance Heels Choreography
Kim Smit | Workshop
Studios

25 MAY

Building Diverse Dance Communities Ausdance QLD | Panel Discussion Studios

26 MAY

SANDPIT Studio 1 | Workshop Studios

26 MAY

EXCHANGE
Studio 1 | Workshop
Studios

27 MAY

Bollywood Masala Drea Lam | Dance Class Studios

27 MAY

B-Girl 101 B-Girl Flix | Dance Class Studios

28 MAY

Dancehall Nadiah NfuZion | Dance Class Studios

28 MAY

Vogue Fem Joshua Taliani x House of Alexander | Dance Class Studios

29 MAY - 1 JUNE

[gameboy] Amy Zhang | Performance New Benner Theatre

24 + 31 MAY

Community Connect Wanida Serce & Metro Arts | Community Event Factory Lane

1 JUNE

Contemporary Dance with Thomas E.S. Kelly Thomas E.S. Kelly of Karul Projects | Workshop Studios

1 JUNE

Dance and Business in Practice Metro Arts | Workshop Studios

BRISBANE FESTIVAL

4 - 7 SEPTEMBER

The No Bang Theory
Oliver Hetherington-Page & indelabilityarts
New Benner Theatre

31 AUGUST - 26 OCTOBER

Kitchen Studio
Elizabeth Willing | Exhibition + Activation
Gallery One

14 SEPTEMBER

In Conversation With Elizabeth Willing Elizabeth Willing | Artist Talk Studios



COMPANIES IN RESIDENCE





PRODUCED WORKS

EVERY BRILLIANT THINGTHAT Production Company

ADRIFTCounterpilot

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE





CREATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

84 DAYS OF CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

48 ARTISTS EMPLOYED

WORKS PREMIERED IN 2024

100% OF ARTISTS IN THE PROGRAM RATE IT AS 'GOOD' OR 'EXCELLENT'

COUNTERPILOT

Pigeon Fool & Scaredy House

IMRSE

Verona & CAKE

ANNA MCGAHAN & DANIEL WILSON

Carcass

ASHLEIGH MUSK, ANNA WHITAKER & JENNI LARGE

Chaos in Concert

ELISE GREIG

Florence

THE DEADLY THEATRE COMPANY

Our Wayz

JOSHUA TALIANI

Unveiling Shadows - A Journey Through Silence

M'CK MCKEAGUE & COMPANY BAD

The Annual Paradise Psychic Expo

BLAKDANCE

Bunyi Bunyi Bumi

ELIZABETH WILLING

Kitchen Studio



COMPANY IN RESIDENCE, IMRSE, 2024

METRO ARTS PUBLIC ART

Metro Arts Public Art began in 2024 to build a bridge between government and corporate entities looking to elevate cultural engagement and placemaking, and emerging to mid-career artists looking to expand their artistic practice into public spaces. Drawing from Metro Arts' 40+ years of experience in fostering the creation of art, Metro Arts Public Art looks to work with clients to find the perfect match.

3 ARTIST PLACEMENTS

NUMBER OF DAYS DISPLAYED

38,500 APPROXIMATE PUBLIC VIEWERSHIP





IMPACTING THE ARTS INDUSTRY

265 CREATIVES SUPPORTED

167 EMERGING & MID-CAREER CREATIVES

\$1m+ IN-KIND SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMMED ARTISTS

100% ARTISTS SAID BEING IN METRO ARTS PROGRAM HELPED THEIR CAREER & PRACTICE







IMPACTING AUDIENCES

94%

RATED OVERALL EXPERIENCE AS GOOD OR EXCELLENT

91%

WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE WORKS LIKE THESE

"Absolutely the most amazing show I have ever seen!! Everything about the experience was so well planned, visually beautiful and emotionally moving. Thank you for all the work you do to bring incredible experiences like this to life"

AUDIENCE PATRON, ADRIFT, 2024.

"So many questions yet I don't want to know the answers. Love this unique concept when all types of art combine it becomes a masterpiece!"

AUDIENCE PATRON, A BODY WHICH DRAWS ITSELF, 2024.

"Thank you for a beautiful, thoughtful, interactive show in an intimate and fun space. Just what my daughter and I needed, some helpful themes to help a tween and mum of tween navigating modern life"

AUDIENCE PATRON, SCAREDY HOUSE, 2024.

"I love everything about Metro Arts. The adjacent art gallery, the choice of wine and beer, the DJ, walking down into the venue (my partner likes the lift), seats are comfy, and the dance/lighting/soundscape of Matriarchs was stunning, world class brilliance."

AUDIENCE PATRON, MATRIACHS, 2024.

"Your artwork really allowed me the space to connect with place, people and nature. I absolutely loved it, so thank you!"

AUDIENCE PATRON. WHISPER WALK. 2024.

"Excellent production and insightful discussion. As a former dancer, it was great to see younger people creating such interesting and important works"

AUDIENCE PATRON, [GAMEBOY], 2024.

"Cake is one of the best theatre performances I've seen in a long time! It was so effortlessly funny, and broached harder hitting topics in a clever way"

AUDIENCE PATRON. CAKE. 2024.

"Liz Willing's Kitchen Studio hosted activation experience was outstanding. As a standalone exhibition, the work is fascinating and only improved by the performance of the facilitators. Totally different to anything I've participated in for Brisbane Festival and definitely something I hope many others will continue to enjoy into the future. Absurd and brilliant."

AUDIENCE PATRON, KITCHEN STUDIO, 2024.

"An exceptional play. So many layers. Still thinking about it. Would love to have the script as a book available for purchase (I'm a high school English teacher). Performances were great particularly the timing, physicality and emotion. So many techniques, so much play with language. Thankyou!"

AUDIENCE PATRON, FUTURE FAMISHED FEEDERS, 2024.

2024 STAFF & BOARD

METRO ARTS STAFF

GENEVIEVE TRACE

Executive Director

SHANI GOULD

Operations Manager

DANIEL CLIFFORD

Artistic Associate, Visual Arts

BENJAMIN KNAPTON

Artistic Associate, Performance

SOFIE HAM

Head of Marketing & Development (until July 2024)

DANIELLE CARNEY

Senior Producer (until November 2024)

MAISIE CROSDALE

Producer (from November 2024)

ANNELIZE MULDER

Curator, Visual Arts Program

BIANCA BALITY

Venue & Events Officer

COLA HARDMAN

Marketing Coordinator (until May 2024)

JAMIE GROHMAN

Marketing & Communications Officer (from August 2024)

MATTHEW ZAZA

Graphic Design / Digital Coordinator

JENNA MUIR

Development Coordinator (until October 2024)

LACHLAN ORTON

Visitor Services Coordinator (until October 2024)

NATHANIEL KNIGHT

Venue & Technical Coordinator

KELSEY BOOTH

Associate Technical Coordinator

CHRIS HOWLETT

Workshop Manager

DULANTHA RAJAPAKSHE

Finance Officer (until January 2024)

JEAN EDUARDO

Finance Officer

FRONT OF HOUSE

Alison Paris, Cameron Rixon, Cecilia Martin, Claire Holland, Emily Marszalek, Henry Solomon, Jasmin Flynn, Jessica Johnson, Oliver Childs, Peta Kishawi, Stella Humphreys, Vio Colarelli, Zoe Sheridan, Lachlan Orton, Luca Greig, Jett Robson

METRO ARTS BOARD

FIONA HAWTHORNE, CHAIR

PETER O'SULLIVAN, DEPUTY CHAIR

PAUL BOWKER, TREASURER

NAOMI BLACKLOCK, ARTISTIC REPRESENTATIVE

NATANO FA'ANANA, ARTISTIC REPRESENTATIVE

TARA HASTINGS

KYLIE LONERGAN (UNTIL JANUARY 2024)

KIM HUGHES (UNTIL FEBRUARY 2024)

MELLISSA NAIDOO (UNTIL AUGUST 2024)

TRENT WALLACE (UNTIL AUGUST 2024)

METRO ARTS' FIRST NATIONS' ADVISOR:

TRENT WALLACE (FROM AUGUST 2024)

BOARD SECRETARY:

SHANI GOULD



2024 SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

We are truly grateful for the support of all our partners in 2024 whose assistance enabled us to continue to back the development and presentation of ambitious contemporary art.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Metro Arts are 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.











PROGRAMMING PARTNERS

aus**dance** QLD













firstdraft













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BAMBRICK



STRATEGIC PARTNERS











CORPORATE DONOR



PARTNERS











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.

DONORS

Metro Arts gratefully acknowledges the generosity of all our donors:

MAJOR DONOR
Hamish Clift

ARTREPRENEUR

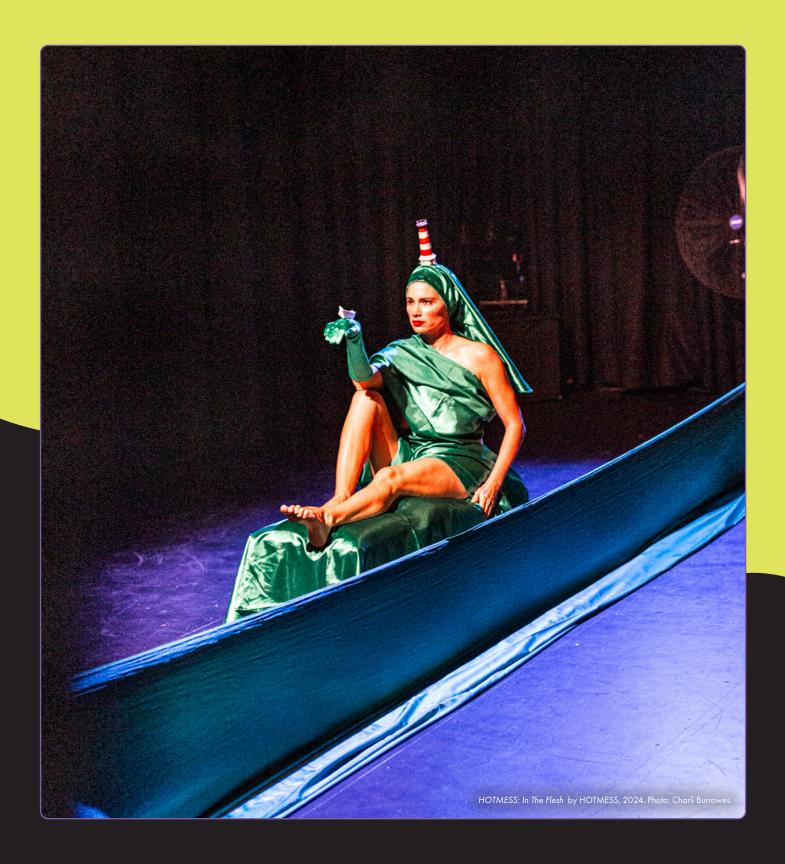
Margaret Ridley, Michael Cottier, Anonymous

ART STARTERS

Lynn Rainbow-Reid AM, Joane Eager, Danielle & Jason Organ, Dr Fiona Hawthorne, John Smithwick, Anon, Benjamin Knapton, Susan Learnmonth & Bernard Curran, Peter O'Sullivan.

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.



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