

2020 Artsource Annual General Meeting

MINUTES

6.30pm Tuesday 25 August 2020
Old Customs House, 8 Phillimore St, Fremantle

Present: Vincent Allegre, Fred Chaney, Simon Gilby, Julie Hobbs, Jon Denaro, Will Axten, Eleonora Barcellona, Tim Burns, Brian Carew-Hopkins, Digby de Bruin, Aimee Dodds, Marcia Espinosa, Jo Darbyshire, Penelope Forlano, Peta Garnaut, Debbie Gilchrist, Graham Hay, Gabriela Himstedt, George Howlett, Bee Khaw, Michelle Maliepaard, Malcolm McGregor, Lesley Meaney, Jan Mullen, Tony Pankiw, Perdita Phillips, Richard Potter, Susan Roux, Elizabeth Smith, David Sparrow, Tania Tuna, Sara Walker, Judy Waugh, James Wilson, Charmaine Ball, Alba Cinquini, Ian De Souza, Dawn Gamblen, Stephen Genovese, Jane Grierson, Kirsty Griffiths, Julie Hobbs, Heidi Mullender, Sandra Murray, Sophie Nixon, Lauren Resnick, Madeleine van der List, Marina van Leeuwen, Rick Vermeij.

Apologies: Sue Kalab, Carolyn Bye, Jana Wallace-Braddock, Jane Grierson, Janet Holmes a Court, Marina Lommerse, Sean Byford, Jude van der Merwe, Hannah Googs, Amy Perejuan-Capone, Jude van der Merwe, Margaret Teusner.

In attendance: Sue-Lyn Aldrian-Moyle, Saara Nyman, Leah Robbie, Mary Peck, Pat Reid, Barbara Goldflam, Sebastian Becker.

Proxies and Quorum
7 proxies were received and a quorum of 56 members was counted.

Housekeeping and introduction
Sue-Lyn Adrian-Moyle welcomed members and guests and thanked them for attending in person and online. She acknowledged and thanked the Artsource staff and volunteers for their work organising, running and recording the meeting.

WELCOME AND CHAIRS REPORT

The Chair, Fred Chaney, paid respects to Wadjuk elders and acknowledged the lands the meeting was held on.

He thanked members for attending and for their ongoing support. He emphasised the importance of the role of Artsource in representing members.

He thanked Sue-Lyn and her team for the outstanding work that they have done over the last few months. He advised members that the overall financial situation had improved over the short term, but that the longer-term financial future was still in question.

Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held 30 May 2019, be accepted as a true and correct record.

Proposed: Simon Gilby

Seconded: Jon Denaro

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chair introduced the Board: Julie Hobbs by Zoom, Simon Gilby (Deputy Chair), Jon Denaro and Vincent Allegre. He thanked Simon for his excellent contribution as Board Member and noted that his term was coming to an end. He acknowledged the value of the ideas that Jon had brought to the Board and he thanked Vincent for his work in managing a very difficult financial situation.

The Chair gave a membership snapshot: 64% female, 33% male and 3% non-binary/undisclosed members currently. There had been a pleasing and strong growth in youth membership and in culturally and linguistically diverse membership.

It was noted that the lease at Old Custom's House will end at the end of the year. Artsource would tender for a long term lease for the building.

The Artsource REBOOT project has been continuing, despite COVID. The REBOOT process began after the Extraordinary General Meeting in December 2019, in response to the removal of long term funding from the State Government. The Chair commended the work of Simon and Jon in relation to this project, and also thanked Leanne Bray and Penny Bovell for their leading contributions.

Simon addressed the meeting and thanked everyone involved in the REBOOT process. A range of feedback was received through Facebook, messenger and via emails. A very informative and productive panel with industry representatives from the Visual Arts sector was held. A second panel was held as an Open Forum and further feedback was received.

Simon advised that an Ethical Funding Policy template had been prepared for Board consideration.

He outlined the clear need for diversification of membership base, particularly in relation to youth, members in the regions, Indigenous members.

Simon emphasised the need to defend the freedom of members' ability to make art, and to see Art as a mechanism of reimagining our future.

Simon noted that egalitarianism, tolerance and fairness were the principles that underpinned the work of Artsource as a collective force for advocacy for visual arts. Artsource was unique in being the only State body of its kind.

Jon addressed the meeting and outlined the importance of the need for members to participate and contribute to the work of Artsource. He reiterated that there was a strong need expressed by the almost 800 Artsource members for advocacy. He stated that there was a need to expand its role, increase membership and increase relevance.

He noted that when the Chamber of Commerce and Industry were suggesting to the State Government to close the Percent for Art scheme, Artsource successfully advocated for its continuation, bringing together industry and artists as partners for future projects.

Jon proposed that there was an opportunity for Artsource to provide cultural infrastructure for artists to create and market their works. This could also incorporate a space for regional artists to show their works in the metropolitan area.

Jon expressed the view that Artsource needed to continue to exist for the next 100 years. Artists represent an enormous social value to the community. They are well educated and insightful, but they live in a precarious financial situation. Artsource needed to be courageous and confident and make a strong case to the State Government.

Jon advised that an Expression of Interest had been submitted for a cooperative workspace in a new building in Shenton Park. The building would provide exhibition spaces, as well as projection opportunities.

The Chair noted that Old Customs House was a significant income stream and that the organisation needed to continue to manage the flagship studios hub. The REBOOT project would research and define a new business model for Artsource into the future.

The Chair noted that the Mission and Purpose statements had been revisited and drafted as follows:

Mission: Arstource is a cache for the integrity of Western Australian visual arts practice. We develop and create opportunities for artists, promote artistic excellence and assert the intrinsic value of Western Australian visual arts culture.

Vision: A Western Australia community and cultural landscape that is driven and enriched by a flourishing, dynamic and valued visual arts sector.

The 2019 Financial Summary was presented to the meeting. It was noted that the overall financial position was maintained in terms of profit and loss, across 2019, despite zero government funding. This was a huge achievement and a strong reflection of the work of the Board, particularly Vincent as well as Mal di Giulio.

A Motion was put: That the 2019 Financial Report be accepted.

Proposed: Vincent Allegre

Seconded: Simon Gilby

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chair advised that meetings had been held with Kate Doust, President of the Legislative Council, who was supportive of the work of Artsource, as well as John Carey, Member for Perth.

Election of Board Members:

Board nominations had been received from Will Axten, Tim Burns, Margaret Teusner and Sara Walker.

New Board members were elected unopposed. The Chair thanked the new members for their nominations.

The Chair noted that the Board would work with a number of other nominees who were not eligible for election. There would be a skills audit undertaken. Members were invited to volunteer as members of future sub-committees.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

The Chair thanked Sue-Lyn and her team for their exceptional work, as they stepped above and beyond their duties, particularly in the context of COVID-19.

The Chair thanked the Board members who had completed their terms or stepped down during the year – Rick Verney, Penny Bovelle and Leanne Bray. He acknowledged their contributions over the last two years.

The Chair noted that Simon Gilby's term had come to an end. He thanked him for his thoughtful and articulate contributions. He noted that Julie Hobbs' term had also ended and she too was thanked for her contributions.

Questions and Discussion

Jo Darbyshire thanked Julie and Simon for their work. She thanked Simon for his innovative ideas and approach to his role.

Michelle Maliepaard asked about the future of the Haig Park studio. Sue-Lyn advised that negotiations were in process with the owners. COVID-19 had held up this process.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

Minutes recorded by Barbara Goldflam