ARTS ACCESS VICTORIA

365

days of art

2007-08

annual report

a word from the chair

Arts Access Victoria has had an exciting year. Our status as a Key Producer for the Australia Council and the re-affirming of support from Arts Victoria and the Department of Human Services takes us into a bright future. The support for our projects has been strong and sustained - see the list of sponsors and supporters later in the Annual Report.

The position of people with disabilities in the Arts sector in Victoria is the key focus for us at Arts Access Victoria. The contribution as artists, audiences and administrators in both fringe and mainstream arts and the community cultural development sectors needs promotion and support. Arts Access Victoria is up for it.

I would like to thank the staff and membership of Arts Access Victoria along with my fellow Board members. This year has been a great success, due in no small part to Criena Gehrke our Executive Director who will be leaving the organisation before Christmas 2008. Criena's dynamic personality and great skills have placed the organisation into a position of leadership in the sector. We see our leadership as coming from a place where the arts and disability intersect, not necessarily the pointy bit, but more like the centre.

Thank you for your support.

Stephen Gianni, Chair

and one from the executive director

Welcome to Arts Access Victoria's Annual Report 2007-2008, and my last as Executive Director.

This is a dynamic time for arts and disability in Australia. The Cultural Ministers Council is developing a national arts and disability strategy, the Victorian state government through the Office for Disability (DPCD), Arts Victoria and DHS is undertaking research into the arts and disability sector in Victoria and the Australia Council has identified arts and disability as a priority area. The time is ripe for change.

I hope that Arts Access Victoria has contributed to the explosion of interest in arts and disability in this state. We have spent many, many hours talking to government, policy makers, the arts and the disability sectors about access, inclusion and the huge contribution people with disabilities make to the cultural landscape in Victoria. Through our Creative Communities program we have produced amazing contemporary art made by people with disabilities. And sometimes when it comes to change, art speaks louder than words.

My thanks to the Board, the Arts Access Victoria team, our artists and project workers, funding and project partners and those who participated in programs this year. This Annual Report is a testament to your vision, creativity and hard work.

I have loved my time at Arts Access Victoria. I wish the organisation all the best for the future.

Onwards and upwards.

Criena Gehrke, Executive Director

"The openness and sharing of all the trainers set a very **supportive and informative atmosphere**, many thanks. I liked that alternative options/ opinions/suggestions were offered by the trainers."

PARTICIPANT, DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING

Our Vision

A society where art and diversity are central

Our Purpose

To promote creative, vibrant and diverse communities that value the contribution made by people with a disability across all areas of the arts

Our Strategic Goals

LEADERSHIP
To be the Victorian peak body for arts and disability

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES
To foster and model dynamic and diverse arts projects that demonstrate innovative and inclusive practice

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT
To create pathways and increase the capacity of communities to make the arts accessible for people with a disability

SUSTAINABILITY
To ensure we have the organisational capacity to achieve our goals

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"I saw this exhibition in Footscray, as part of the Big West Festival, it was really great, thank you"

VISITOR TO WAY OUT WEST'S FIGURE EXHIBITION

01 *Figure* Exhibition, Way Out West, photo by Catherine Acin Dec 2007 **02** Artwork by Thom Corbett, AAAC & Peninsula Support Services: *View From A Lens*, Photo by Tiffaney Bishop May 2008 **03** Gary Solomon & Jorg Klein, AAAC & ERMHA Berwick: *Lines of Communication*, Photo by Catherine Acin May 2008 **04** Artwork by Jim Sandbach, AAAC & Peninsula Support Services: *View From A Lens*, Photo by Tiffaney Bishop May 2008

LEADERSHIP

To be the Victorian peak body for arts and disability

Consent Form Project

In partnership with Department of Human Services Southern Region and Middletons Lawyers, Arts Access Victoria developed a Consent Form for use by people with disabilities participating in arts programs. The aim of the Consent Form is to protect the legal rights of artists with disabilities and offer guidelines for arts programs and studios. The Consent Form will be rolled out in early 2009.

Raw Law

In early 2008, the Legal Services Board of Victoria granted Arts Access $49,000 to more comprehensively look at arts law issues in the disability arts sector. Working in partnership with the Arts Law Centre of Australia and Middletons Lawyers, the project aims to develop a resource kit on issues affecting artists with disabilities.

Australian Performing Arts Market

Arts Access Victoria with Arts Access SA and Accessible Arts NSW attended APAM to promote the importance of access provision for people with disabilities to the Australian arts sector.

International Perspectives – Tabitha Allum, Stagetext UK

Arts Access Victoria hosted an Industry forum and a number of sector meetings with Tabitha Allum, CEO of STAGETEXT UK. Tabitha presented information on captioning live performances for Deaf and hard of hearing audiences and offered food for thought on alternate service delivery models.

Arts Victoria Training and Disability Action Plan

In 2007-2008, Arts Access Victoria expanded its partnership with Arts Victoria by providing disability awareness training to Arts Victoria staff. We were also engaged to consult on the development of Arts Victoria's latest Disability Action Plan

Reference Groups

Arts Access Victoria is represented on a diverse range of steering committees and reference groups. We see our participation as an important leadership strategy offering the opportunity to promote inclusion, share resources, influence policy and effect change.

2007-2008 Reference Groups and Steering Committees:

Arts Access Australia, Art of Difference, City of Melbourne: Community Cultural Development Advisory Panel, City of Melbourne: Disability Advisory Committee, Arts Victoria Youth Reference Group, National Gallery of Victoria: Youth Access Forum, Royal Children's Hospital MHSKY Festival for Healthy Living, Victorian Arts Law Consortium, Arts and Disability Network (convened by Arts Victoria, DHS and DPCD), Leadership Plus Project Guidance Group, City of Moreland Disability Advisory Group, Western Region Disability Network, Southern Metropolitan Disability Alliance, Tourism Victoria Accessible Tourism Planning Group, Grit Media Radio Planning, Community Cultural Development Network: Arts and Disability Forum Committee.

Networks

In 2007-2008, Arts Access Victoria convened 2 networks. The Arts Studio Network for studios providing programs and space for artists with disabilities and the Industry Access Reference Group, a network of key arts organisations and peak bodies with a commitment to audience development and access for people with disabilities.

Information

In 2007-2008, we responded to over 10,000 enquiries for information on arts and disability. We produced 12 e-newsletters, 12 EASE e-newsletters, 4 EASE Member Updates as well as information available at www.artsaccess.com.au and www.otherfilmfestival.com

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Consultation

More than ever, providing expert advice through formal and informal consultation is a core part of our work. In 2007-2008, we provided support to a myriad of organisations including: Melbourne Theatre Company, Melbourne Recital Centre, ACMI, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Australian Ballet, Vision Australia, The Arts Centre, Live Performance Australia, Arts Victoria, Melbourne International Arts Festival, Midsumma Festival, City of Port Phillip, City of Hume, Hobsons Bay Council, Ausdance Victoria, Phunktional and Melbourne Fringe.

Arts Access Victoria receives approximately 20 calls a week from artists seeking information and support for their projects and practice, as well as advice on pathways and opportunities. We assist with advice on funding applications and acquittals, auspicing funds, writing letters of support, and liaising with arts organisations and local government with and on behalf of artists with disabilities. Hundreds of artists receive our e-news keeping them in the loop on arts events, classes and workshops, and providing them with a platform to promote their own events and link in with other artists.

Arts Law Week 19 – 23 May 2008

Arts Access delivered two sessions in the 2008 program. Raw Law focussed on the development of a legal consent form for people with disabilities creating art in community settings and Access to Venues in Heritage Buildings presented recommendations from a research project undertaken by UTS, Accessible Arts NSW and Arts Law Centre of Australia.

Presentations 2007-2008

Arts Access Victoria presented at numerous forums and conferences including:

Grit Media Launch, July 2007
Presentation on The Other Film Festival.

Arts Activated Conference, Sydney, September 2007
Presentation by Art Day South artists, Andrew Tranter and Katrine Gabb

Regional Cultural Network Meeting Horsham, October 2007
Presentation by Katrine Gabb, Facilitating Artist, Arts Access Victoria

It's About Time Quality Care Training 9th National Conference, March 2008
Presentation on Best Practice SRS Art Programs

Joining the Dots…Creating Community, May 2008
Mental Health Conference, VICSERV

Best Practice Seminar, City of Hume, June 2008
Presentation on The Other Film Festival

WOW!
It was moving, creative and it gives fantastic opportunities…

AUDIENCE MEMBER, A SYMPATHETIC EAR

01 Lisa Mitchell: ERMHA Berwick *Every Picture Tells A Story* Feb-March 2008, AAAC. Photo by Catherine Acin 2008 **02** Artwork by Lisa Mitchell, AAAC & ERMHA Berwick: *Lines of Communication*, Photo by Catherine Acin May 2008

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

To foster and model dynamic and diverse arts projects that demonstrate innovative and inclusive practice

Arts Access Arts Classes

The visual arts classes, based in Pakenham, Dandenong, Mornington and Berwick, have been growing from strength to strength, exploring new mediums and working towards five separate exhibitions to be held during Mental Health Week. Arts Access Victoria was approached to redevelop the visual arts program at Eastern Regions Mental Health Association (ERMHA) Dandenong after its success developing the arts program at ERMHA Beaconsfield. Working with participants from the ERMHA Pakenham and Berwick classes, Arts Access and ERMHA were invited by Casey Hospital to produce a major artwork on a wall (35 x 3.5 metres) in a courtyard in the solitary confinement area of the psychiatric ward. DHS funds were secured and the design process begun. The singing group 'HeartSong' held in partnership with Impact in Frankston has grown in numbers and performed at a number of community events throughout the year.

Get Out!

This vibrant, creative group of people continue to delve into and explore the visual arts and performing arts, combining and collaborating to come up with new and exciting projects. The group has introduced puppetry to the mix and is looking to have closer links with the Frankston Arts Centre. Great moves!

Art Day South

Body sculptures in clay and latex, natural environment / found-object installations, and an exploration of internal and external spaces. Enter a dragon character, a shadow-puppet "chorus", and last but not least the *good-hearted bastards*, computer-generated monsters made up of digital photography and animated images. *the good-hearted bastards* was selected for exhibition in Connected™ 2008, as were Kristy Sweeney's *Dragon* and Shaun Bilston's *Self-Portraits*.

Just In Case

Just In Case has been undergoing a review to look at the best way of delivering an arts based respite service in the Casey area. In the meantime some fabulous visual art has been created including printmaking. The group now meets fortnightly and will be showcasing work during International Week of People with a Disability.

Art in Supported Residential Services

At Royal Avenue, residents worked with Michael Knight to select their artworks for the Connected™ 2008, Community Project. Five residents were chosen to exhibit ten works on paper. Michael also facilitated basic drawing and painting classes with Footscray House residents, which were a great success. Nick Ralph returned for the thoroughly enjoyable African percussion performance at the end of year Christmas Party. At Stewart Lodge, art workshops were held for the first time with painting, printmaking, collage, dancing, percussion and drawing on offer.

Art at Armadale House (ACSO)

Visual artist, Lindy Macauley continued to facilitate weekly workshops with women living at Armadale House, creating a vast range of 2D and 3D works on paper, canvas, fabric and ceramics. The year culminated in the creation of soft-sculpture figures, which were then hung in the lounge room of the residence. Visits to galleries in both the local area and the CBD continued. Exciting developments are underway for these sessions to be held at a local arts venue and a mentorship with a new artist has begun.

Way Out West

Way Out West has had a fabulous year. In late 2007, the group presented *figure*, an evocative exhibition as part of The Big West Festival. In 2008, they devised and performed their new show *A Sympathetic Ear*. Both events were made possible through the support of Footscray Community Arts Centre. Following the performance the group facilitated a workshop on how they create their performance work, which led to Way Out West being invited to deliver training for a new Inclusive Theatre Group in Sunbury.

Deaf Arts Network Projects

It was an exciting year for the Deaf Arts Network with two funded projects raising the profile of the Network and providing strong connections with the arts sector. The Deaf Can Dance Project kicked off in 2008 with weekly dance workshops at the Victorian College of the Arts focussing on hip hop, breakdancing and crumping and working towards creating a dance performance for the Melbourne Fringe Festival. Watch this space for more to come from this new development. A Youth Street Art project in partnership with the City of Port Phillip has also been under development.

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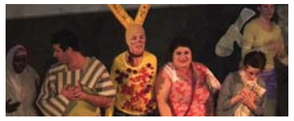

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01 Artwork by Heather Brown, AAAC & ERMHA Berwick: *Every Picture Tells A Story*, Photo by Catherine Acin March 2008 **02** Making of *Blue Bye You*, Get Out!, Photo by Rusty Stewart October 2007 **03** Farhia Hersi & Resident, Footscray House SRS, Photo by Jo Cohen December 2007 **04** *Figure 1*. Artwork by: Artist name withheld, Armadale House, ACSO, Photo by Catherine Acin 2007 **05** *Deaf Can Dance* group performance, World Health Organisation: Margins to Mainstream Conference, Deaf Arts Network, Photo by VicHealth 2008 **06** *A Sympathetic Ear* cast, Way Out West, Video still by Tamara Saulwick March 2008 **07** *Good Hearted Bastards,* Collaborative Project, Art Day South, Photo by Rhian Hinkley 2008

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

To create pathways & increase the capacity of communities to make the arts accessible for people with a disability

Industry and Audience Development

In late 2006, Arts Access Victoria created the role of Industry and Audience Development as a way to work closely with the Victorian arts and cultural sector to increase access to venues, festivals and events for people with disabilities. This position has rapidly become a well respected and much used resource, with the Program offering a range of advice, training, information and services to the Victorian sector.

Disability Awareness Training

In 2007-2008, modules were fine-tuned and 2 trainers with disabilities were engaged to deliver training. Disability Awareness Training was provided to Arts Victoria, the Public Galleries Association Victoria, ACMI and the National Gallery of Victoria.

Consultancy

This year we worked closely with Melbourne Recital Centre as they move from the construction phase of their new theatre to operation. We also assisted the Office for Disability (Department of Planning and Community Development) with their delivery of Disability Action Plan Training to statutory authorities. Through the Industry and Audience Development Program, Arts Access Victoria was engaged as consultants on the development of Arts Victoria's Disability Action Plan. Other organisations we worked with to increase access for people with disabilities as audience included Melbourne International Comedy Festival, The Arts Centre, Live Performance Australia, Arts Victoria, Melbourne International Arts Festival, Midsumma Festival and City of Port Phillip.

National Industry And Audience Development Strategy

With Arts Access Australia and Accessible Arts NSW, we began to develop a national strategy for industry and audience development in Australia. Arts Access Victoria and Accessible Arts NSW are the two members of the national network with an audience development program. The two organisations share a vision for the increased participation of audiences with disabilities and work closely with national industry peak agencies. So far a national approach has been deployed on developing improved clauses for disability access in the Live Performance Australia Code of Practice for Ticketing. Also, Arts Access Victoria, with support from Arts Victoria and in partnership with Accessible Arts NSW, the Australia Council for the Arts and Arts Access Australia are producing the national tour of Betty Siegel, Director of Access at the Kennedy Centre in Washington DC for September 2008.

Promoting Models of Best Practice – Inclusive Arts Training

Arts Access Victoria responded to the need for best practice in arts projects with a variety of training options that were tailored to community requests and requirements. Presentations on Inclusive Arts Practice and consultations with community and arts organisations to assist them in developing and funding Inclusive Theatre projects have been successful. Way Out West has been supported to develop and deliver their "Devising Inclusive Theatre" workshops, which is an exciting step for the members of the group. Training in Inclusive Dance practice and models of best practice in the visual arts have been provided across Victoria.

EASE Ticket Service

With 334 members, over 219 productions on offer and 18,949 free and reduced price tickets distributed, it was another successful year for the EASE Ticket Service. While EASE provides exemplary customer service to our members and works in partnership with the arts sector to ensure people with disabilities can attend the arts, this is only the tip of the iceberg. Through EASE and the Industry and Audience Development Program, Arts Access Victoria advocates to government funded arts agencies and independent producers for the provision of access services such as audio-description, sign-interpreting and captioning. In 2007-2008, EASE promoted 82 accessible performances including Phantom of the Opera, Swan Lake and the Melbourne Theatre Company season.

Access Initiatives

This year, Arts Access Victoria was responsible for a number of firsts in access provision in Australia. Working with producers and peak bodies such as Vision Australia and VicDeaf, Arts Access coordinated:

NUTCRACKER FOR THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET:
Audio-Description, 26 September 2007
The first audio-described ballet presented in Australia
Producers: The Australian Ballet **Venue:** The Arts Centre
Audio Description: Vision Australia

PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT:
Captioned Performance, 13 February 2008
The first large scale musical to be captioned in Australia
Producers: Priscilla On Stage **Venue:** Regent Theatre
Captioning: Captioning Studio **Partner:** VicDeaf

Deaf Arts Network

Again Deaf Arts Network consulted with numerous organisations and promoted Deaf accessible events across Victoria. New partnerships have been formed and the network is embracing its strategic Business Plan and continuing its commitment to Deaf Arts in Victoria. Exciting projects are underway.

SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure we have the organisational capacity to achieve our goals

Funding

In 2007-2008, Arts Access Victoria achieved unprecedented levels of arts funding from the State and Federal Governments having been offered a triennial agreement for 2008-2010 with Arts Victoria and achieving 6 years of recurrent funding with the Australia Council for the Arts as a Key Producer, Community Partnerships. The Department of Human Services continued its support providing 55% of our funding in this financial year.

Our major projects continue to attract a huge amount of interest with The Other Film Festival achieving $291,750 in financial support this year, setting solid foundations for a bumper film festival in September 2008. We welcomed a number of new funding partners including the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, the Jack Brockhoff Foundation and Melbourne Community Foundation.

Business Plan 2008-2010

In January 2008, we began implementing our Business Plan for the next three years. With a focus on strengthening our position as a peak body and providing leadership in arts and disability in Victoria, the organisation is in the process of reviewing current activities and developing programs that align with our four goal areas of Leadership, Creative Communities, Sector Development and Sustainability.

Partnerships

Arts Access Victoria continues to work in partnership with a range of government agencies, arts organisations, disability and community organisations to achieve our goals. Through these partnerships we broaden our strategic impact, ensure community ownership, increase our capacity and spheres of influence. A full list of partners is included at the end of this report.

FACTS & FIGURES

OPERATIONS	
Annual Turnover	$1,031,661
Core Staff	12 (Equivalent Full Time 8.4)
Project Staff (artists, support workers and coordinators)	53

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES	
Number of Projects	21
Participation across Projects	4,622
Number of Workshops	293
Training Workshops and Forums	7
Exhibitions and Events	25

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Disability Awareness Training
Arts Victoria
Public Galleries Association Victoria
ACMI
National Gallery of Victoria

Industry Development
International Perspectives – Tabitha Allum, Stagetext UK
Arts Law Week (2 Presentations)
Australian Performing Arts Market

EASE Ticket Service	
Number of financial members (individuals and organisations)	334
Number of events available	219
Reduced Price Tickets & Cinema Vouchers	16,763
Free Tickets	2,186
Sign-Interpreted Performances	22
Tactile Tours	12
Captioned Performances	9
Audio-Described Performances	32
Surtitled Performances	7
EASE Newsletters	12
EASE Updates	4

COMMUNICATIONS	
Information and Referrals	10,000
Visits to www.artsaccess.com.au	52,220
E-newsletters	12

FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Performance
For the year ended 30 June 2008

REVENUE FROM CONTRIBUTIONS	2008	2007
	$	$
Department of Human Services - Core Funding	192,475	187,062
Department of Human Services - Project Funding	380,666	308,517
Arts Victoria - Core Funding	123,095	120,000
Arts Victoria - Project Funding	0	0
Australia Council - Core Funding	90,148	76,783
Australia Council - Project Funding	0	0
Other Funding	86,859	127,971
Earned Income	149,372	146,487
Other revenues:		
Interest	9,046	7,118
Total revenue from ordinary activities	1,031,661	973,938
Cost of goods sold	112,626	100,566
Project Costs	401,598	344,710
Employee expenses	340,946	345,091
Occupancy expenses	60,128	61,267
Depreciation expenses	20,754	23,877
Other Expense	89,906	87,220
Total Expenses	1,025,958	962,731
Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities before related income tax expense	5,703	11,207
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities	0	0
Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities after related income tax expense	5,703	11,207
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		
Retained surplus/(deficit) at the beginning of year	130,362	119,155
Net surplus/(deficit) attributable to members	5,703	11,207
Retained surplus/(deficit) at end of year	136,065	130,362

NOTE: Full set of accounts is available from Arts Access in large print version, by email or by standard mail. See back page for contact details.

Arts Access Society Incorporated Statement by Board of Management
For the year ended 30 June 2008

1. In the opinion of the Board of Management of Arts Access Society Incorporated:

a) the financial statements present fairly the financial position of Arts Access Society Incorporated as at 30 June 2008 and its performance, as represented by the results of its operations, for the year ended on that date; and

b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that Arts Access Society Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board and signed before and on behalf of the Board by:

TREASURER:
John Callahan: Dated 20/11/08

CHAIR:
Stephen Gianni: Dated 20/11/08

SHEPPETS TAXATION SERVICES PTY LTD ACN 005 417 069 ABN 27 903 926 218
Principal: LEO SHEPPET Director: LEO SHEPPET
ARTS ACCESS SOCIETY INCORPORATED A.B.N. 34 192 751 891
Independent Audit Report to the Members

SCOPE
We have audited the attached special purpose financial report comprising Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, and Notes to the Financial Statements of Arts Access Society Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2008. The Arts Access Society Inc.'s Committee of Management is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Arts Access Society Inc's constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the Arts Access Society Inc. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in Note 1, are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members of the Society for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee of Management's financial reporting requirements under the Arts Access Society Inc's constitution. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1, so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Society's financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows. (These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements to the extent described in Note 1).

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

AUDIT OPINION
In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements the financial position of Arts Access Society Inc. as at 30 June 2008 and the results of its operation and its cash flows for the year then ended.

LEO SHEPPET CPA DATE: 20/11/2008 Registered Company Auditor

WATCH THIS SPACE

2008-2009

From January to June 2008 much of our focus and energy was on preparing for major events later in the year. Watch this space in next year's Annual Report for the full story!

The Other Film Festival

Australia's only disability film festival keeps going from strength to strength. With an increase in funding of 40% and numerous new partners coming on board, one of the biggest challenges was selecting a program from the 217 entries we received from around the world. Arts Access Victoria was also thrilled to receive triennial funding from the City of Melbourne, offering longterm stability over the coming three years

Cinema Futura

Running parallel to The Other Film Festival is Cinema Futura, a project undertaken by Arts Access Victoria in partnership with the Department of Planning and Community Development through the Office for Disability. Cinema Futura aims to improve the cinematic experiences of a range of audience members, including older Victorians and people with a disability.

The Project has three clear stages:

- An audit review of a sample of cinemas, and the development and circulation of a publication on improving cinematic experiences of a range of audiences.
- Development of a Discussion Paper and an industry engagement strategy to encourage the cinema industry to participate.
- A forum on the future of cinema to be held in September 2008 under The Other Film Festival umbrella. The forum will engage cinema and film industries in visioning cinemas of the future that increase access and participation of a broad range of audiences.

Connected™ 2008

In 2007, Arts Access Victoria was offered the opportunity to work with State Trustees to deliver the highly acclaimed Connected 2008 exhibition in July 2008. With a focus on emerging artists with disabilities and connecting communities, the exhibition attracted over 400 entries from across Victoria.

International Perspectives – Betty Siegel, Director of Accessibility, Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Washington DC

Early in 2008, plans got underway to host a visit by internationally renowned arts and disability expert, Betty Siegel, Director of Accessibility at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. In partnership with lead agency, Accessible Arts NSW and with the support of the Australia Council for the Arts, Arts Victoria and Arts Access Australia, Arts Access Victoria will host a range of events in September 2008. Betty Siegel's visit will offer the Victorian arts and cultural sector the chance to engage in ideas about audience development, programming and access services that support equal access to the arts for people with disabilities.

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01 *The Other Film Festival 2008* key art by Sweet Design 2008
02 *Connected™ 2008*, Photo by Catherine Acin 2008 **03** Betty Seigel giving Keynote Address at Executive Event, Melbourne Museum, Photo by Catherine Acin September 2008

PEOPLE

BOARD

Chair: Bin Dixon-Ward (to February 2008) Stephen Gianni (from February 2008) **Deputy Chair:** Lesley Hall (from February 2008) **Treasurer:** John Callahan **Members:** Crusader Hillis, Stephen Gianni, Jane Trengove (to July 2007), Lesley Hall (from October 2007), Liz Wright (to May 2008)

STAFF

Executive Director: Criena Gehrke **Finance Manager:** Simon Gould **Administrator:** Carly Myers **Administration Assistants:** Thea Geddes, Jenny Penhall and Max Rosenbloom (to October 2007), Bernadette Daly and Tirese Ballard (from January 2008) **Artistic Program Manager:** Ruth Whittingham (to November 2007) **Manager, Arts Programming and Development** Fiona Cook (from February 2008) **Artistic Project Coordinators:** Jo Cohen, Santha Press, Adam Rozsa **Industry and Audience Development Manager:** Bernie Clifford (to August 2007), Jane Trengove (from August 2007) **E-News:** Max Rosenbloom **Other Film Festival General Manager:** Nerida Weller (parental leave from March 2008), Michaela Olinjk (from March 2008) **Other Film Festival Director:** Rick Randall **Production Manager:** Natasha L'Amiable (from June 2008) **EASE Manager:** Ruth Blakely **EASE Ticketing:** Leisa Whitaker, Jenny Penhall (April 2008) **Deaf Arts Network Project Coordinator:** Ross Onley-Zerkel **Deaf Arts Network Project Consultant:** Medina Sumovic **Access Trainers:** Jess Findling, Trevor Dunn.

VOLUNTEERS

Library & Information Systems: Alex Warman, Max Rosenbloom **EASE:** Rob Cervai **The Other Film Festival 2008:** Michelle Fernandes

PROJECT TEAMS

Constructing Frames Artist: Tiffaney Bishop (2007) Support Artist: Kerrie Rockett (2007) **HeartSong (previously FrankSong)** Artist: Cherie Baker (2007 & 2008) Support Artist: Suzanne Gardner (2007 & 2008) **Fine Lines** Artist: Michael Knight (2007) Support Artist: Kerrie Rockett (2007) **View From A Lens** Artist: Tiffaney Bishop (2007 & 2008) Support Artist: Jacq Archer (2007 & 2008) **Body of Work** Visual Artist: Michael Knight (2008) Support Artist: Kerrie Rockett (2008) **Every Picture Tells A Story** Artist: Kate Stuart (2008) Support Artist: Kerrie Rockett (2008) **The Wall Project** Artist: Michael Knight (2008) Support Artist: Kerrie Rockett (2008) Support Artist: Melissa Lucas (2008) Videographer: Jonathon Chong (2008) **FreeStyle Art** Artist: Kate Stuart (2008) Support Artist: Melissa Lucas (2008) **Lines of Communication** Artist: Gary Solomon (2008) Support Artist: Kerrie Rockett (2008) **Get Out!** Artists: Aliey Ball, Glynis Angell, Caitlin Dullard (guest Performing Artist 2007) Support Workers: Jan Tandy, Rosalie Conboy, Joshua Khen, Leonie Van Eyk, Bernadette Daly, Hollie Tailby (back up Support Worker 2008) **Just In Case** Artists: Artur Lyczba, Caitlin Dullard Support Workers: Glenn Martin (2007), Bernadette Daly, Hollie Tailby **Art Day South** Artists: Charles Robinson (2007), Aliey Ball, Rhian Hinkley Guest Artists: Danielle von der Borch (2008), Leonie van Eyk (2008) Support Workers: Rick Doyer, Robert Delves, Jonathan Lane (2007), Narelle Howden (2007), Bernadette Daly (2008) **Way Out West** Artists: Lindy Macauley, Katrine Gabb, Support Workers: Elyss McCleary, Farhia Hersi, Ahmarnya Price, Virginia Grayson (back up Support Worker), Antoinette Vassallo (back up Support Worker) Sound & AV: Finley Francois, "A Sympathetic Ear" (2008) Lighting Designer: Lisa Mibus, "A Sympathetic Ear" (2008) Stage Manager: Jo Leishman, "A Sympathetic Ear" (2008) **Footscray House SRS Program** Artists: Nick Ralph (2007), Michael Knight Support Worker: Farhia Hersi, **Royal Avenue SRS Program** Artists: Michael Knight (2007), David Bridie (Guest Artist 2007) Support Worker: Farhia Hersi (2007) Clare Hedger (back up Support Worker 2007) **Art at Armadale House (ACSO)** Artist: Lindy Macauley (2007 & Mentor 2008), Elyss McCleary (Mentee 2008) **Stewart Lodge SRS Program** Artists: Michael Knight (Mentor 2008), Ahmarnya Price (Mentee 2008), Nick Ralph (2008) Support Artist: Farhia Hersi (2008) **Deaf Can Dance** Artist/ Choreographers: Nicole Ashby (2008), Carlos Sorono (2008), Demi Sorono (2008) Dramaturge: Medina Sumovic (2008) Artistic Director/ Choreographer: Gerard Veltre (2008) Multimedia: Trudy Fraser (2008)

PARTNERS

Arts Access Victoria Principal Partners Arts Victoria, Australia Council for the Arts, Department of Human Services, Arts Access Australia **Information and Communications** RUCC, Sweet Design, messagemedia **Development** Middletons Lawyers, Arts Law Centre of Australia, Legal Services Board of Victoria **Creative Communities** State Trustees for Connected™ 2008, Disability Opportunities Victoria, City of Casey, Eastern Region Mental Health Association (ERMHA), IMPACT (Psycho-social rehabilitation day centre), Living and Learning in Cardinia (LLINC), Peninsula Support Services (PSS), Casey Hospital (Southern Health), Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO), Dual Disability Program, Department of Human Services Disability Partnerships Southern Region, Department of Human Services HACC North and West Region, Western Lodge Supported Residential Service, Stewart Lodge Supported Residential Service, Big West Festival for "figure", MetroAccess Maribyrnong and MetroAccess Brimbank for "A Sympathetic Ear" City of Port Phillip for Experiencing Arts, Community Cultural Development Network, National Gallery of Victoria **Deaf Arts Network** Arts Access Victoria, City of Melbourne, City of Port Phillip, Vic Health, Phunktional, Gasworks Art Park, Auspicious Arts Incubator, Victorian College of the Arts, Victorian College of the Deaf **Industry and Audience Development** Arts Victoria, Disability Arts Network, Dept of Planning and Community Development through Office for Disability, Media Access Australia, Companion Card, VicNord, Blind Citizens Australia, VicDeaf, Vision Australia, Blythe Sanderson Group, Industry Access Reference Group, Arts Law Consortium **EASE** AKA, Tinderbox Productions, Duncan C Weldon & Paul Elliot & HVK; Australian Ballet, Australian Chamber Orchestra, BalletLab, Bell Shakespeare Company, Blind Citizens Australia, Cameron Mackintosh, Candlelight Productions, Chambermade Opera, Circus Oz, CUB Malthouse Theatre, Deaf Arts Network, Darebin Music Festival, Frankston Arts Centre, Gasworks Arts Park, Guys and Dolls and Shows Management Pty Ltd, Her Majesty's Theatre, Hopscotch Films, Hoyts Cinemas, Human Rights Arts & Film Festival, John Edward, Louise Withers & Associates for Lucy Guerin Inc, Marriner Theatres, Melba Spiegeltent, Sunday Jazz Festival, Melbourne & Olympic Parks, Melbourne Chorale, Melbourne International Arts Festival, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Theatre Company, Message Media, Midsumma Festival, Miranda Brown Publicity, Monash Concert Band & the Royal Australian Navy Band, Morning Melodies, Musical Theatre Australian and Prince Henry's Institute, National Gallery of Victoria, Nelly Thomas and Toby Sullivan, Opera Australia, Orchestra Victoria, Palace Films, Peepshow Inc., Plastic Palace Alice & Gasworks Arts Park, Priscilla On Stage, Red Bee Media, Really Useful Company, The Athenaeum Theatre, The Capital, Bendigo's Arts Centre, The Captioning Studio, The Clocktower Centre, The Drum Theatre – Dandenong, The Fringe Festival, The Push Inc., Red Stitch Theatre Company, The Victorian Arts Centre, The Whitehorse Centre, The Wiggles, Ticketek Groups, Ticketmaster, TML enterprises, Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres VAPAC, Victorian Council of Deaf People VCOD, VicDeaf, Victorian Opera, Village Cinemas, Vision Australia, Wyndham Cultural Centre **The Other Film Festival 2008 Event Partner** Melbourne Museum **Principal Public Partner** City of Melbourne **Public Partners** Victorian Department of Human Services, Department of Planning and Community Development, Film Victoria, Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Screen Australia **Principal Sponsors** Sweet Design, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, Vision Australia, Jack Brockhoff Foundation, Connex, Fed Square Mobility Centre **Supporters** Melbourne Community Foundation, Captioning Services International, ITFC, Media Access Australia, Canadian Consulate, Crumpler, Blythe-Sanderson Group, Goethe Institute, DADAA, Word of Mouth, RUCC, Lemac Hire, Dantes, Evan Evans

THANK YOU We could not achieve our goals without the support of organisations and individuals who share our vision and say 'yes' to us, sometimes against their better judgement. Thank You.

To our passionate and talented artists, project teams and support workers – you are the heartbeat of Arts Access Victoria. Thank You.

There were hundreds of people who participated in our programs this year and created work that was surprising, challenging and stretched the boundaries of contemporary art. Thank You.

Welcome to our world Alice, Jojo, Solly, Csilla, Odette and Maya.

And finally, to the team at 24 Eastern Road… thanks will never be enough.

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This Annual Report is available on request in Large Print, Braille, CD and Plain English.

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