



BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Chair's Report

2016 has proven another extraordinary year for Belconnen Arts Centre (BAC). Our commitment to Community Arts and Cultural Development has provided direction and clarity to our purpose - *to fuel a love and engagement with arts* - and this pays great dividends.

2016 proved a crucial year in fulfilling our strategic goals. BAC's team work attracted unprecedented creative program funding support from local and national bodies, and from private and public sources. 2016 saw BAC's first ever national grants from the highly competitive Australia Council for the Arts and Catalyst funding programs. This funding for the outstanding *IGNITE: Creatives* project enables artists living with disability to pursue their creative practice.

In many ways *IGNITE: Creatives* is an ultimate culmination of BAC's *IGNITE Alternative Arts Academy* vision where people living with disability bring their creative spark and catch a flame from the multiple layers of opportunity the *IGNITE* program offers, from entry through to the full immersion of *IGNITE: Creatives*.

BAC's extraordinary life enhancing *Dance for Wellbeing* program attracts intense interest through growing participation, dance professionals, researchers and funding partners. At its core, *Dance for Wellbeing* recognises and nurtures all participants as creative beings through movement. The principles developed through the international practice of *Dance for People with Parkinson's* are now being applied for communities living with Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's and hearing impairment. Breakthrough multiyear funding from ACT Health assures *Dance for Wellbeing's* future.

BAC is renowned for its galleries, exhibitions and events where community and cultural development practice weaves together people in unique celebration. Our





facilities were the focus of the Belconnen region's 50 + 50,000 years' celebration with the vivid *Belco NOW* festival. And what could be a more exciting birthday present for Belconnen and the Canberra region than the ACT Government's election commitment to complete the Arts Centre with a new multi-purpose auditoria looking out across beautiful Lake Ginninderra.

With a strong vision and applied strategic direction BAC's impact and support grew throughout 2016. I thank my fellow board members for their commitment and professionalism ensuring the highest standards of governance and I thank Daniel for his leadership and management. Together with Creative Program Director Monika McInerney and Jack Lloyd, Business and Operations Director, they are leading and developing an extraordinary staff group and a team of dedicated volunteers. I thank you all. I especially wish to acknowledge Creative Program Officers Ann McMahon for her leadership and commitment to *IGNITE* and Philip Piggini for his creative and imaginative implementation of the *Dance for Wellbeing* program.

Special thanks go to board members Tara Cheyne, leaving us for a seat in the ACT's Legislative Assembly, and treasurer David Newling who returned to Sydney with his family. BAC has many supporters, donors and sponsors and we are particularly proud of the growing community of like-minded arts and cultural development collaborators keen to contribute. You inspire and bring purpose, thank you.

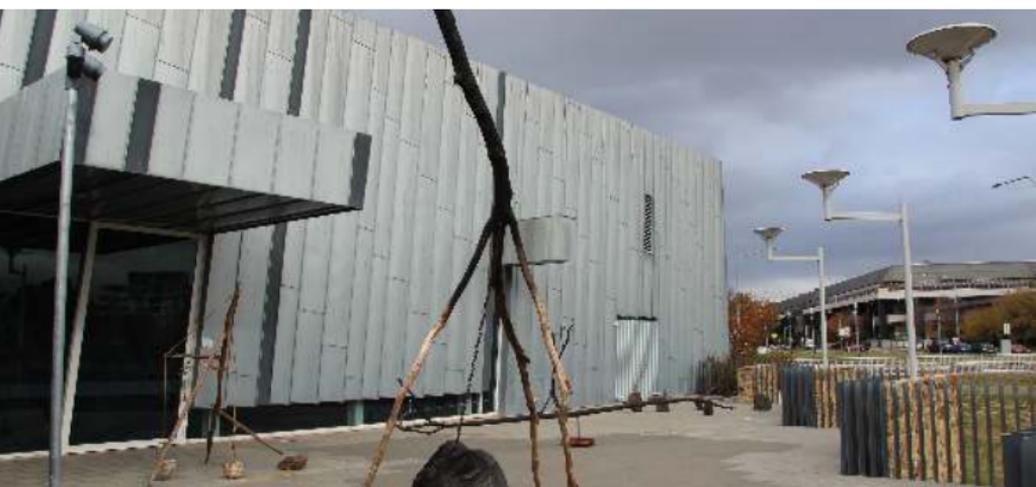
Julia Mulligan
Chair, Belconnen Arts Centre Incorporated

Chief Executive Officer's Report

BAC is an ACT Government Key Arts Organisation that in 2015 commenced a new 5-year funding agreement for the operation and stewardship of this beautiful arts centre. In 2016, and following strong supportive engagement with artsACT policy makers, a 4-year commitment from the *Community Art and Cultural Development* program commenced. With both funding streams aligned and securely underpinning the organisation's strategic direction we turned to consolidating and developing our creative program vision by getting out and engaging with our community of supporters, creative and artistic practitioners, peers and collaborators, sponsors and funding bodies.

This year's Australia Council for the Arts and Catalyst funding is straight up national recognition and an unambiguous fulfilment of BAC's Community Arts and Cultural Development goal. Monika McInerney's leadership of the Creative Program team leverages their extraordinary capacity to synthesise and develop both an individual and a community's inherent artistic and cultural strength into exciting project initiatives. This, when combined with Business and Operations Director Jack Lloyd's imaginative, articulate and always diligent approach to overall program development and operations, drives BAC forward.

BAC is a trading organisation with great tangible and intangible assets. Our role as a facility for independent





artists and cultural businesses is crucial. Thanks go out to the many entrepreneurial leaders of dance studio and creative workshop based small businesses who include our three resident music companies, *Griffyn Ensemble*, *Music Viva* and the *Young Music Society*. 2016 also saw *RAW Artists* return with its venue wide and unique showcase for young and emerging artists where over 400 ticketed arts lovers descend on BAC every two months for what is easily BAC's most significant regular commercial event. With our community of sponsors all have contributed in a unique way to fulfilling our second goal of being a progressive, inclusive and vibrant arts and cultural centre.

Thanks to a wonderful community based campaign which reaches back 20 years, and now thanks to an express election commitment of the ACT Government, completion of Belconnen Arts Centre is very close. We are currently engaged in detailed planning to deliver improved facilities that include an exciting multi-purpose auditoria. And we are determined to continue to keep on delivering our programs while fulfilling our third key goal of empowering Belconnen's creative ambitions through developing first class facilities in its town centre.

This note provides an opportunity to express thanks to all the friends and colleagues who work and volunteer at BAC and to our Board for their support, governance and guidance. I am particularly grateful for the time and energy committed by BAC's Chair Julia Mulligan and Deputy Chair Phil Nizette.

Daniel Ballantyne
Chief Executive Officer

Image Credits (left top to bottom) "Five Fathoms" Ned Bott Emerging Artist Support Scheme Award Exhibition & Participants and VIP's at I-Day Celebration. (above): Torres Strait Island Dancers NAIDOC by the Lake (full image listing available online).



Creative Program

Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD)

The year started with community arts and cultural development practice at the heart of all our programs, events and creative engagements.

2016 kicked off with *taLK bLAK's Dream Machine* a multi-art form installation, led by local artist Byrd, which saw a life size cardboard bus built in the Gallery. This work included new media installations produced by the participants who were led by Michael Weir and Priya Chandra. With funding secured from the Eldon & Foote Foundation *taLK bLAK : Take II* will come into realisation in 2017.

IGNITE: Alternative Arts Academy forged ahead in 2016. We consolidated our activities into clear streams of programming. This enabled presentation of a broad spectrum of opportunities for artists with disability or lived experience of mental illness to engage in their creative practice and to explore local arts industry from entry level through to professional practice.

New opportunities were generated through the introduction of;

IGNITE: Connect - a collaborative delivery of short intensive workshops with *Canberra Glassworks, Megalo Print Studio and Gallery, PhotoAccess, Warehouse Circus, ACT Writers Centre, Rebus Theatre* and *Canberra Potters Society*.

IGNITE: Social - supports the development and understanding of the region's arts sector through a curated program of supported visits and forums to a range of national institutions, artist studios and live performance.

IGNITE: Open Studio - provides access to BAC's workshops for artists to continue working on their projects. Open Studio supports the independent practice of participating artists.

2016 saw BAC secure its first national funding from the Australia Council for the Arts and Catalyst for the ambitious *IGNITE: Creatives*. This program is specifically devised to support the professional development of artists with disability in the mainstream arena. *IGNITE: Creatives* is one of BAC's most important projects for 2017.

Exhibitions

In 2016 we proudly presented 39 Exhibitions across four galleries.

The exhibition program applauded a diverse and vibrant variety of creative explorations from individual retrospectives through to group shows. Highlights included; *Permeate*, the suite of exhibitions from *Emerging Artist Support Scheme* Award recipients and the commissioned exhibition of works by Daniel Savage, in *Dis-Place*.

We also admired the community through exhibitions including our open exhibition, *Traces*, *IGNITE: Sparks* and the Ray White Belconnen sponsored exhibition of student work in *College Express 8*.

Ray White

Dance

2016 witnessed another dynamic series of opportunities for the community and professionals to engage in and contribute to the ongoing development of the region's dance practice. This included;

Dance for People with Parkinsons – in partnership with Parkinson's ACT at Belconnen and Tuggeranong Arts Centre saw 40 weekly dance sessions and public performances including an emotionally inspiring contribution to *Great Sport* at the National Museum of Australia.

Dance on the Edge – celebrates *Dance Week* and this year featured the commissioning of 5 new works of emerging and established independent dance artists

IGNITE: Room to Move – presented 9 mixed abilities dance workshops through the year involving 64 participants

Feel the Music (Dance program for Deaf and Hearing Impaired People) involved 90 attendances over the 2 terms of this program and their inaugural performance celebrating 2016, *IDAY*.

Workshops

BAC presents a vibrant suite of workshops across a range of visual arts practices. There were opportunities for all ages to investigate their creative dreams and bring life to their exhibition program experience.

Events

Two highlighted community celebrations in 2016 included; *NAIDOC By the Lake... Singing our Culture* 9 July 2016, a collaborative presentation with *West Belconnen Family and Child Centre, Belconnen Community Service and Uniting Care Kippax* celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture through songs, stories, dance and ceremony for all the family.

BelcoNOW 50 + 50,000 years was a community celebration of Belconnen's 50th Birthday which was infused with the theme of birds and led into realisation by producer, Annemaree Dalziel. The foyer took flight, the community shared stories, enjoyed making, performing and finding their voice through song. A choral work was commissioned from *Young Music Society's* Stephen Leek, a community choir established and the work performed. The place came to life with artist Tracy Luff working with the community to generate a flock of bird lanterns and the giant Belco Bird. A memorable experience shared by all.

Resident Companies

BAC's three resident companies *Griffyn Ensemble, Musica Viva* and the *Young Music Society* are now on long term leases and continue to develop and make a wonderful impact presenting concerts, Winter school, teacher professional development workshops and building our reputation as music education and fine music hub.





Arts Employment

In 2016 BAC engaged paid artists, curators, arts workers, arts technicians and creative producers to the value of \$140,000. In addition, artists received \$24,157 for work sold through the Gallery exhibition program.

Volunteers

BAC enjoyed 2,925 hours or \$80,291 in value* in board member, volunteer, intern and other unpaid support, the equivalent of 1.6 full time equivalent in work activity.

Volunteering and community support significantly diversified in 2016 as a result of working with secondary schools, work experience placements, employment agencies, internships, English as second language colleges and with that outstanding organisation, *Volunteering ACT*.

We thank and are especially grateful to all our volunteers and community supporters.

*Applying notional \$27.45 / hour rate method
<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/>

Image Credits (left top to bottom) Torres Strait Island Dancers, NAIDOC by the Lake & BelcoNOW event, (above top to bottom) Daniel Savage "DIS-Place" Exhibition & Stephen Leek, Community Choir Performance BelcoNOW.

Treasurer's Report

1 January to 31 December 2016

2016 was the second year of Belconnen Arts Centre Inc.'s (BAC) 5 year Strategic Plan and budget. After four surplus years BAC recorded a deficit of (\$15,431) or (1.5%) of 2016's \$994,078 in revenue. This represents a \$25,227 turnaround on 2015's \$9,796 surplus.

BAC's asset position on 31 December 2016 was \$294,097 compared to a liability of \$199,819. Adjusting for grants received in advance, BAC held a current asset to liability ratio of 1.97:1, slightly below artsACT's prudential guideline of 2:1. Equity of \$97,278 as a percentage of \$994,078 in total income is 9.78% of total annual income and sits just below the 10% ACT Government guideline.

BAC enjoyed significant success in 2016 attracting new levels of Program and Project Grants income. This new funding, when combined with a new four-year agreement with artsACT's *Community Arts and Cultural Development program*, has resourced new accessible and inclusion inspired arts projects under the organisation's masthead program, the *IGNITE: Alternative Arts Academy*.

A change in trading conditions resulted in lower than budgeted revenues and utilisation from Classes & Workshops, Events and Venue Hire with potential to generate a large trading deficit by year end. Corrective actions were successful in significantly reducing the potential impact.

Trading year 2017 has seen successful implementation of a renewed and refocussed product offering with supporting promotion already reversing the 2016 revenue trend.

Belconnen Arts Centre's full 2016 Financial Statement plus further program, operational, staffing, governance and funding acquittal details are available at:

www.belconnenartscentre.com.au

Financial Statement 2016

Income and Expenditure

Income	\$994,078
Expenditure	\$1,009,509
Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$15,431)

Balance Sheet

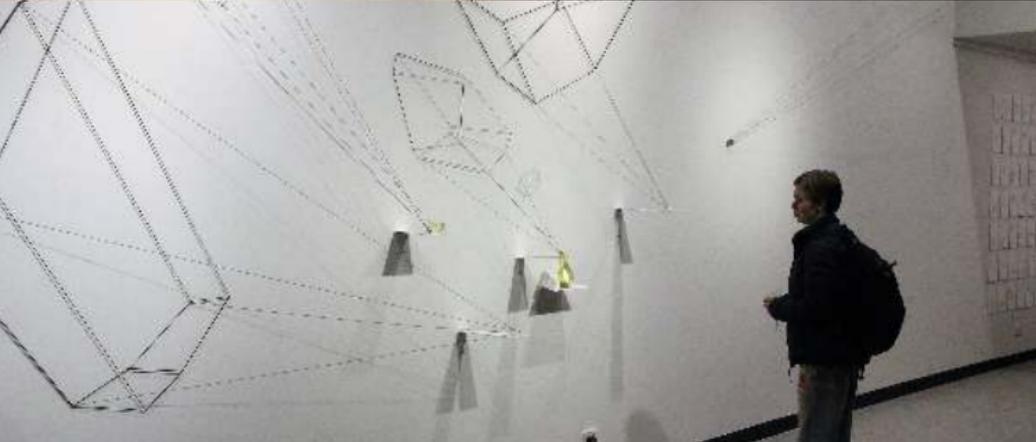
Assets	\$294,097
Liabilities	\$199,819
Balance as at 31 December 2014	\$112,709
Current Year Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$15,431)
Balance as at 31 December 2015	\$97,278

Sources of Income

artsACT Core Grant	\$406,337
artsACT CACD Grant	\$178,852
Program & Project Grants	\$141,787
Galleries & Workshops	\$144,191
Events & Venue Hire	\$74,701
Other Income	\$48,210



Image Credits: (this page) "Earth" Curated by Benita Tunks, (back top to bottom - full list online) Dance on the Edge, "EASS Award Exhibition & Wirradjuri Echoes NAIDOC by the Lake.



The Board and Staff of Belconnen Arts Centre wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where we meet and work, the Ngunnawal people. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.



Belconnen Arts Centre
is supported by the
ACT Government



ACT
Government

Belconnen Arts Centre
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