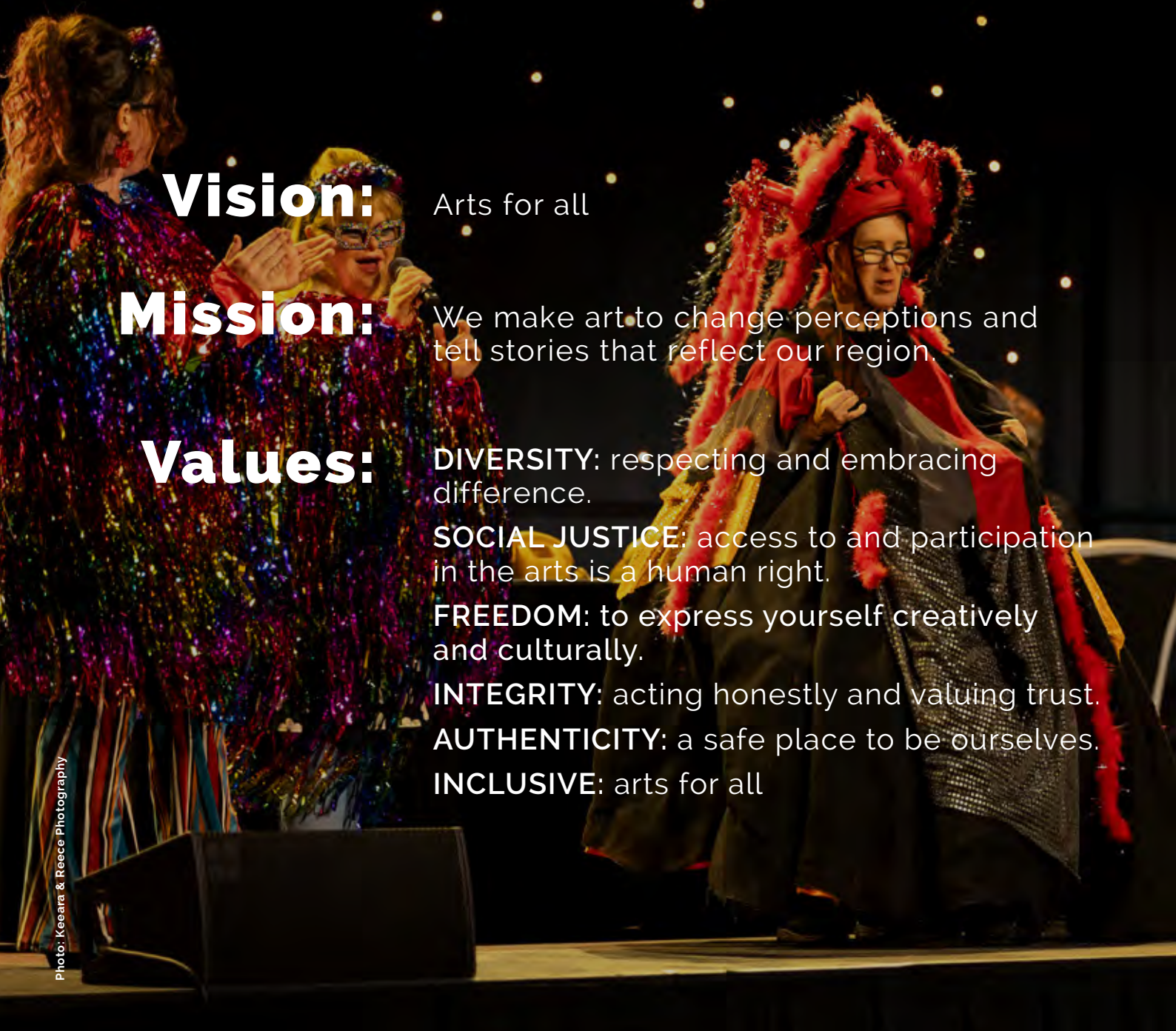




ANNUAL REPORT 2024

[CROSSROADARTS.COM.AU](https://crossroadarts.com.au)

CROSSROAD
ARTS



Vision:

Arts for all

Mission:

We make art to change perceptions and tell stories that reflect our region.

Values:

DIVERSITY: respecting and embracing difference.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: access to and participation in the arts is a human right.

FREEDOM: to express yourself creatively and culturally.

INTEGRITY: acting honestly and valuing trust.

AUTHENTICITY: a safe place to be ourselves.

INCLUSIVE: arts for all

Photo: Keeara & Reece Photography

Company History

Throughout Crossroad Arts' proud 28 year strong history the company has established itself as a leader in inclusive arts practice in Queensland.

Our mission is to provide access to creative expression through inclusive arts programs and practice to achieve our vision of 'arts for all.' We achieve this through the delivery of highly visible & innovative multi arts programs that capture and promote the essence of our regional voice.

We work with communities to celebrate diversity and culture. We ensure the challenges and ambitions of the community are central to the narratives being shared and developed with a specific focus on those with disability.

We create access points for unique partnerships with art and non-art organisations locally, in remote and regional western Queensland communities and across the Asia Pacific region.

We push beyond boundaries of social isolation, discrimination and inequity to contribute and cultivate the sector to create a sense of inclusiveness that celebrates art as a force of intrinsic good and a key ingredient for a better and more vibrant society.



**Crossroad Arts is
a good place to
be all together
and for all of
us to share our
sunshine. There
are no favourites!
We always do a
good job together**

- Performer, Natasha Tomlinson

Acknowledgement of Country:

Crossroad Arts acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of Australia. We deeply respect the Traditional peoples ongoing connection to Country and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We acknowledge over 75,000 years of living culture and knowledge and the country on which we create our work, tell our stories through art making and where we live.

In Mackay, we acknowledge the Yuibera and Yuwi people and their Elders past, present and emerging.

We also recognise the Australian South Sea Islanders and the injustices and discrimination the community has suffered for over a century. We recognise that Australian South Sea Islanders are proud of their heritage and that they continue to maintain their identity and links back to their island homelands.

By collaborating with our community, unique stories are uncovered and unlikely partnerships are formed. We use these threads to connect the community, create vibrant spaces and experiences that strengthen the overall health and wellbeing of our region.

We create relevant and unconventional works that continue to agitate, spark discussion and promote Mackay as a leading inclusive destination that gives voice to stories that need to be heard.

In 2024 our core Artistic Program was encompassed by three pillars:

1. Artistic Development:

we deliver programs that are designed to ensure people grow as artists through rigorous, skills-based training in collaboration with professional local, national and international artists.

2. Community Development:

community is our driving force. Our work is underpinned by the belief that creating artistic works that challenge assumptions through inclusive collaboration ultimately builds stronger communities.

3. Outreach:

our Outreach Program is committed to working with regional and remote Queensland communities giving access to arts and cultural experiences. access to arts and cultural experiences.

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OUR SUPPORTERS Back cover



Vale Brenden Borellini (1968 - 2024)

Brenden Borellini was the Ambassador and Artist in Residence at Crossroad Arts where he had been performing for over a decade. He collaborated on various projects as an actor, workshop facilitator, photographer and researcher. As Crossroad Arts' Ambassador and Artist in Residence, he also travelled to Japan and the United States where he exhibited his 2D and 3D photographic works.

Brenden was born profoundly deaf and lost his sight at the age of 9. He successfully pursued his education at the Special Education Unit for the visually impaired students at Cavendish Road High School in Brisbane and he became the first deafblind student to integrate into the community.

He then went on to study Sociology at the University of Queensland. He received the prestigious Young Australian

of the Year Award for his achievements. Most recently Brenden received Mackay Regional Council's 2020 Australia Day Award for Arts and Culture.

Brenden performed in the first stage of development of Breathe In as part of An Unconventional Tour. He also accepted the David Bow Memorial Award from the Port of Mackay Rotary Club for Outstanding Community Service and held a solo exhibition Dancing with Ansel at a local cafe based on his photographic research trip to the United States. Additionally, his short film When Brenden met Hiroe has screened in international festivals.



It is very important to note that people with disabilities must have access to performing in shows. It is very important for artists with disabilities to be a part of projects and shows - I love performing and storytelling by sharing my ideas, values and expressions. But we also must make sure that disabled audiences can come and enjoy things too! It is a human right.

- Brenden Borellini,
Ambassador/Artist in Residence



Brenden also co-facilitated workshops for Crossroad Arts' C.R.U.S.H theatre making intensive alongside La Boite Theatre Company, Dancenorth and choreographer Dean Walsh. He delivered a Masterclass in 3D photography at Arts Ablaze conference/festival and participated in the Artsynergy event in regional Queensland. Brenden believes that it is very important for artists with disability to have access to opportunities that develop their artistic works to showcase their stories to the whole world.

His final work in collaboration with performer and poet Georgia Cranko, *Breathe In*, was nominated for 5 Matilda Awards and won The Lord Mayor's Award for Best New Australian Work, the Judges Award and Best Video Design (Freddy Komp).

Thank you for all of your laughter, creativity and drive for the arts Brenden - you are sorely missed.

Georgia Cranko and Brenden Borellini at the Matilda Awards (Feb 2024)





Ambassador/Artist In Residence's Report

Hi, Hello there, from a dancer who has no experience writing annual reports. My name is Charlee Presland, and in 2024 I became an Artist in Residence with Crossroad Arts after being around as a performer and participant for so long I can't even remember when I started. Over the years, Crossroad Arts has come to recognise my skills in dance and theatre and my passion for artists with disability to have opportunities to practice and create their art. Before I even stepped into this role, I had been lucky enough to travel with Crossroad Arts as an Ambassador to events like Undercover Artist Festival, facilitate workshops, and perform in countless Crossroad Arts shows over the years.

In 2024, I became an Artists in Residence and as part of that role I have achieved many things already. I worked with

fellow Artist Seb Cali to develop a dance performance piece as part of our 2024 Major Production Unlock The City, this project included research and challenged my choreography skills as the creative lead. Building on my previous role as an artist support in workshops, I started running warm ups for our regular weekly workshops and even developed a KIT day workshop for students who were d/Deaf or HOH.

My years of experience in the world of dance have supported my artistic ability to create interesting and unique new works, while supporting our artists in developing their skills and helping them be able to put on their own shows. Even outside of Crossroad Arts I still participate in the Mature and Motivated section of Eisteddfod. I again stepped into the role of choreographer



**Crossroad Arts
creates opportunities
for everyone, they
take away the
barriers we often
face in life as people
with disability and
allow us to shine
through the art we
passionately create.**

Charlee Presland
Ambassador/Artist in Residence



for our annual Crossroad Arts performance at LOOSE Ends and even developed a cheeky little 'synchronized swimming' inspired piece for the Palm Royal Poolside Soiree.

C.R.U.S.H is my absolute favorite event of the whole year! I was excited to develop and run warm up activities to start off each day, to get people working together and comfortable with each other before moving off into their groups. C.R.U.S.H. is very important because we get to develop new skills that we don't usually get to do and meet like minded artists who we get to work with from all over Australia. This opportunity means we can come together to create beautiful unique performance pieces that are heart warming and make everyone feel involved. Really everyone should come to C.R.U.S.H. and see the work that we do!! Lets just say, every year at the end no one wants to go home.

Being an Artist in Residence is not all dancing and shows, I also help give advice on what I think Crossroad Arts needs moving forward, so that everyone has their ideas heard and access to opportunities like the ones I have had. As a member of the Inclusive Arts Advisory Group, I also participated in Crossroad Arts' planning for the future by consulting on the Disability Round table discussions for the Olympics and sharing my thoughts at the 2025 Artistic Program and Strategic Planning consultations. This year, Crossroad Arts also hosted the Creating Out Loud program, which I participated in to develop my ideas and leadership skills. The program guided artists to consider ways they can

be more successful in their chosen areas of expertise while giving us the tools to succeed.

This year has provided me many opportunities to represent and advocate for Crossroad Arts within the community. I have loved being a loud voice for the organisation I love, shouting from the rooftops the importance of what we do here. Attending events, meeting with supporters and even talking to politicians and the people who hold the keys.

In the future, for me as an Artist in Residence I am excited to be a part of the Future Is Us project in 2025 to develop new shows and work towards touring them around. I feel it's important we reach out to other organizations like ours to develop new work in collaboration and show what Crossroad Arts has to offer. I aspire to one day develop a work that is included in the Undercover Artist Festival that has given me so much inspiration in the past.

Signing off for 2024, Charlee with the double 'e'

Charlee Presland
Ambassador/Artist in Residence



Photo: Leah McLean Photography

Chair's Report

With the loss of our Creative Australia funding we faced 2024 with some trepidation; we faced the options of delivering a much pared-back program to conserve our reserves until our next opportunity to gain multi-year operational funding arose in 2029, or to carry on until, if the worst came to the worst, the money ran out. Being an optimistic bunch, and firm believer in Plato's 'our need will be the real creator', we opted for the latter course. Crossroad Arts has faced down challenges in the past, and has always, always, emerged stronger and more resilient than ever. That is, in no small measure, because of the nature of the Crossroad Arts community.

Sadly, that community suffered a significant loss during the year when Brenden Borellini, our much-loved Ambassador and Artist in Residence passed away, not long after his, and collaborator Georgia Cranko's success in the 2024 Matilda Awards. His memory will continue with the Mackay Regional Council announcing an Australia Day Award to be called the Brenden Borellini Access and Inclusion Award; thank you, Mackay Regional Council. The decision to continue our Artistic Program, despite the funding loss, was in keeping with Brenden's vision and wishes.

While continuing to conduct business (almost) as usual, we have undertaken a strategic planning review which will see further strengthening and development of the Inclusive Arts Advisory Group, members of Crossroad Arts who are involved in the Artistic Program and are D/deaf or identify as having disability including those with mental health conditions, hidden disability, chronic illness or who are neurodiverse. The Group informs our artistic program. As I noted in my last Report, we are, indeed, Disability Led, led from the centre by our artists. Some members of the Group have expressed an interest in joining the Board and we will see that happen in 2025 where those members will be enthusiastically welcomed, mentored and supported. Autumn will have more to say on the Group in her report.

Our funding for our next strategic period, while reduced, is firm and we thank Arts Queensland and Creative Australia for their support in these difficult times. We also, and with profound gratitude, thank Tim and Gina Fairfax and everyone at the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation who confirmed a longer-term funding arrangement. We also thank our sponsors Dalrymple Bay Coal, Mackay Community Foundation, BOLD Architecture, Golding, Ergon Energy



and Plaza Dental, among others, and all our valued donors, whose gifts in 2025 will be matched by Creative Partnerships Australia, Plus 1 program.

In my opening paragraph I mentioned the Crossroad Arts community. Let me tell you who they include, the amazing team that dreams and delivers:

Autumn Skuthorpe, Artistic Director and CEO – when Alison left last year Autumn was the Artistic Associate and, despite her (totally unfounded) misgivings, agreed to step into Alison's shoes. She has been involved in Crossroad Arts since 2006 as a performer, volunteer, administrator and Board member and now as the CEO. She is an amazing person who personifies the spirit of Crossroad Arts and has been resolute in her commitment to the organisation. In an old western movie she would be the much-loved sheriff.

Lesa Walker, Company Administrator – Lesa is one of those weird (in a nice way) types for whom the left and the right sides of their brain have settled into a truce; the side that is passionate about the arts and passed on the creative gene to her children, living side by side with the other half that thrives on number crunching and completing grant

applications. Lesa is the rock on which the stormy waves of financial deadlines are dissipated.

Melissa Broadhurst, Sponsorship and Development – Melissa has also had a long affair with the arts and culture in Mackay, including the Artspace Mackay Foundation, Mackay's national Art on Show awards, and as a collector of the works of regional artists. Her work with donors and sponsors is filled with exuberance, passion and positivity.

Annalise Mawer, Arts Worker – Annalise started with Crossroad Arts as a roller skating tour guide, workshop facilitator and now as an Arts Worker; she also works for Education Queensland as a Special Education teacher, and promoter and coordinates pin-up, rockabilly and roller derby events. No wonder she's a perfect fit!

Natasha Tomlinson, Ambassador and Social Media Office – if Crossroad Arts is a Facebook friend (and if it isn't, it should be) you'll know Natasha from her weekly Crossroad Arts social wrap-ups. In addition to her social media work she also a performer, dance and workshop facilitator, member of the Choir of Unheard Voices.

Sacha Lagaluga, Artist in Residence – a multidisciplinary conceptual poet, actor, visual artist and scriptwriter. Sacha uses her arts practice as therapy for a severe and debilitating mental illness and has worked with Crossroad Arts for six years, supporting and collaborating with our artists.

Tony Moore, Artist in Residence – Tony is a Deaf actor, workshop facilitator, theatre maker and mentor and has been involved in Mackay's d/Deaf theatre community since 1991. His experience is profound, deep and unmatched, recognised internationally and Crossroad Arts is in his blood.

Charlee Presland, Artist in Residence – Charlee is a performer, dancer (since she was three!), choreographer and workshop facilitator. She is involved in musical theatre, the Mackay Comedy Players, the Choir of Unheard Voices, and the Mackay Eisteddfod.

and

Jasmine Pearce, Sally Morley, Georgia Knoll, Cynthia Gregg, Joshua Clarke, Alexandra Buchanan, Hahn Izard and Tegan O'Keefe – member of the Inclusive Arts Advisory Group who work with the staff and Board on the development of the artistic program and are advocates for Crossroad Arts.

Final thanks to my fellow board members: Dave Conway Vice Chair, Felicity Chapman Treasurer, Dyane Norton/Lauren Turton Secretary, Patricia Ely, Mark Taylor and Tracey Heathwood; and to everyone who has supported us, financially or otherwise; attended a performance or event; talked about us; been supports for our artists or in any other way, been on our side. We love you all.

Brian Tucker
Chair



The learnings of 2024 have put us in good stead to step forward and remain steady regardless if the path is unsteady or unknown. So in the spirit of BB and all of the artists that make up the fabric of Crossroad Arts - we will keep making the art, we will keep celebrating the small and big stuff, we will do it at our pace and in our own way.

- Autumn Skuthorpe

Photo: Crossroad Arts



Artistic Director/ CEO's Report

Reflecting on 2024 is quite hard to put into words. It was a challenging year for our community as we farewelled our friend and colleague Brenden Borellini who had been instrumental in our work for over a decade, he had taught many workshops and shared his art to people all over the world and contributed so much to the sector. Brenden's legacy truly can not be measured.

When working together Brenden naturally taught us how to move at a different pace, how to build something together using different modes and how to imbue throughout the

work, light and dark - but always somewhere in there too a moment to dance, sing at the top of his lungs a made up song about something small you love (like a donut or a nice smelling coffee!) and to keep a sense of humour in the thick of things.

At first the office was pretty quiet on a Friday - Brenden's joyful approach and also quite serious dedication to the work (even when he was very unwell) filled up a lot of space. So in the spirit of BB as we affectionately call Brenden, we took it upon ourselves to carry on the tradition to celebrate often



Photo: Jim Cullen Photography



Photo: Jim Cullen Photography

and change our pace if needed. None of us needed much encouragement of course! We still chat often about Brenden's quirks and funny stories...and we think of him every time we are humming or unconsciously singing at the top of our lungs.

Despite the bumpy roads or difficult patches, as always the programs and productions run to time regardless - so it can be hard to pause and really take stock of how far we have come or new paths we can see forward when we are so focused on project delivery.

We decided to slow down and take the time to clarify and bring into focus how we view ourselves and how we express that to the wider arts ecology.

Through ongoing discussions, formal planning sessions and community consultation, we became very clear about what art we want to make and how we will do it. We also found the words to describe how we work together and how we make decisions - artistically, operationally and strategically and reshaped our company structure to reflect it. We reminded ourselves that our unique perspectives, lived experiences and stories have the potential to be a source of influence within our own community but also for other organisations. We are proud to tell stories that reflect us and our region.

During this period of reflection we became energised and interested in thinking big picture, long term and ambitiously! As if there were no funding constraints or practical barriers. During these sessions a new creative leadership team emerged called The future is us which will pilot for 18 months starting 2025 and see Tony Moore, Charlee Presland and Sacha Lagaluga lead the creative vision of core elements of our program. Our Inclusive Arts Advisory Group consulted much more closely across decision making for the organisation including at governance level. Our core artists and community members decided and determined the 2025 Artistic Program.

In 2024 we mapped out a lot of foundations for us to experiment and explore our own definition of disability-led in a way that makes sense to us. The learnings that stood out the most were if we want to make our work and operations more accessible;

- We need more time to make our work - and it is okay to slow down
- We need flexibility when we work together - it is okay to change the course if we need to
- Collectively we can make more space for others to join us and have their say - our artists are the centre.

Our artists were eager to raise the profile of our vision of Arts for All and really stepped forward into new spaces and rooms to speak about their ambitions and what structures we need to change to make it a reality. So we got to work!

We reached out to a lot of different people who we thought could make the changes needed across the sector and likewise a lot of people reached out to us for ideas, feedback and suggestions. We really put our advocacy hat on in 2024 and it was easier to do because there were so many of us doing it together and because of our sense of identity and shared ownership of the future of Crossroad Arts, we got very good at communicating our vision!

As our leadership structure reshaped into a circle with our artists centred, it felt like everyone was stepping up and into new spaces and ideas; our board, our Inclusive Arts Advisory Group, our artists and our team. It was an exciting time - which made it easier to persist when we were faced with challenges.

Whilst we were reimagining our next chapter we also delivered a very full Artistic Program - which we have some wonderful photos and reflections throughout this Annual Report. A couple of highlights for me are C.R.U.S.H and the connections we make with our friends from all of over Australia, our Wearable Art participant's quirky telethon at LOOSE ENDS which helped us smash our fundraising targets and set a new record (shout out to Nathan who created a microscopic rendering of bacteria) and watching our artists take the charge at the Arts and Disability roundtable discussions about the 2032 Olympics opportunities (everyone was so articulate and presented really strong concepts).

This space and time to uncover these possibilities is also a reality because of our supporters and in 2024 it was heartening seeing the community step up for us! We are so appreciative of everyone who has donated to our Annual Giving Program, sponsored or partnered with us. You remind us that there is a whole community behind us! We are also fortunate to have major funding support from Arts Queensland, Creative Australia and the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and their ongoing relationship helps us realise our ambitions and recognises the valuable contributions of our artists.

Looking forward, we hope to keep raising our profile and meeting new people who want to support our vision and we are excited to start embarking on a new leadership structure. We know that we will make projects and programs that interest us, reflect us and create space in the world for people to be themselves and tell their own stories and we are excited for you to join us!

The learnings of 2024 have put us in good stead to step forward and remain steady regardless if the path is unsteady or unknown. So in the spirit of BB and all of the artists that make up the fabric of Crossroad Arts - we will keep making the art, we will keep celebrating the small and big stuff, we will do it at our pace and in our own way! See you in 2025!

Autumn Skuthorpe
Artistic Director/CE

Artistic Development

Crossroad Arts is passionate about creating opportunities for people with disability who are serious about developing their skills in contemporary performance.

We offer artistic development programs that ensure people grow as artists by providing rigorous, skills-based training in collaboration with professional artists.



People with disability should be able to perform and lead creatively the performances themselves. I want to make performances that are world class and are inclusive of all people with disability and to advocate to the wider sector that access and inclusion is important."

- Charlee Presland, Artist in Residence and Ambassador

Artist In Residence

The Artist in Residence program employs artists with disability or who are d/Deaf to work closely with the Crossroad Arts team on the creation of new work, advocacy and they deliver the Artistic Program and strategic goals of Crossroad Arts. The artists are typically engaged to work on projects weekly to lead and develop disability-led projects, events and workshops and represent Crossroad Arts in leadership roles.

In 2024, our long time colleague and friend Brenden who had been the Artist in Residence since its inception continued working ad hoc when he could (as was his determined nature) and we also expanded the program to include two more artists Charlee Presland and Sebastian Cali.

Advocacy and leadership:

- Brenden presented at the Arts and Disability Roundtable as a keynote speaker and Charlee presented as one of the table speakers alongside a large cohort of Crossroad Arts artists.
- Charlee was one of the participants in the Creating out Loud arts leadership program delivered by Dr. Kate Power of UQ Business School
- Advocacy meetings with the then Minister of the Arts, Leanne Enoch and Federal MP member for Dawson Andrew Wilcox
- Alongside colleagues and Inclusive Arts Advisory Group members Charlee was also involved in the consultation for Mackay City Waterfront Development team for town planning for the Mackay CBD and was a key speaker at Crossroad Arts Annual General Meeting

Community Development:

As part of Charlee's creative focus of connecting others with Crossroad Arts programs she developed a series of community workshops of which she was lead facilitator. These workshops included:

- Assistant facilitator for Stretchy Pants weekly workshop and creative lead for the warm up elements
- Keeping in Touch workshops for young d/Deaf and hard of hearing students. This workshop has led to the development of a new Deaf led project in 2025 called SCOPE.
- IDEAL Placements theatre workshop during Disability Action Week
- Warm up workshop for C.R.U.S.H our national performance making intensive in partnership with Dancenorth and Undercover Artist Festival
- Lead choreographer for new performance work for major fundraising event Poolside Soiree.
- Lead choreographer for new performance work for LOOSE ENDS



Photo: Leah McLean Photography

Artistic Development:

Sebastian Cali and Charlee Presland worked closely on the creation of a new performance work for Crossroad Arts major production Unlock the City.

- Weekly creative development sessions to devise a new dance work exploring the stories of significant trees in the region that have been planted to commemorate soldiers.
- Interviews with the local Mackay branches of the RSL for research

Strategic Planning:

- As part of extensive consultation with Crossroad Arts key artists and community, alongside her colleagues and peers, Charlee was instrumental in the development of the new Crossroad Arts strategic plan for 2025-2029.
- Charlee also contributed and assisted with the development of The future is us pilot which will commence in 2025 where key Crossroad Arts artists will lead the creative vision of programming in the next strategic period.
- Charlee was also a key artist in the Artistic Program planning sessions which are now scheduled annually so that the Crossroad Arts artists and community will lead and develop the Artistic Program as part of our efforts to move to a disability-led leadership model. In 2025, Charlee will take the creative lead in the regular Workshop Program and also develop a suite of community connection workshops for state and national projects.

Artist in Residence: Brenden Borellini, Charlee Presland, Sebastian Cali

Artist Support: Annalise Mawer and Autumn Skuthorpe

Artist Employed: 5



Photo: Jim Cullen Photography

Unlock the City

MAJOR PRODUCTION

Crossroad Arts artists wanted to create a performance that brought some of our community's fondest memories of Mackay to life. Alongside the Crossroad Arts core performers, Tony Moore, Miki-Ponting Boyd, Charlee Presland and Seb Cali we spent many sessions looking back and reflecting on themes around - remembrance, acknowledgement, different ways our social culture has changed and also what we expect of the future.

The artists wanted to revive and bring attention to some of the stories that they felt our community would relate to - some audiences may have experienced some of these tales themselves where others may not have even realised that these threads existed in our region.

During creative development, core artists enjoyed spending time chatting to our older people of Mackay about stories of fishing off our beautiful beaches and rivers, window shopping in the CBD and memories of the sugarcane fires. We also put a call out to businesses to host our post boxes and post cards to gather more memories from the community. Our artists enjoyed hosting drop-in workshops so that people could write their memories of the region.

All of these stories weaved their way through Unlock the City and we thank the community for their generous contributions. We also felt it was important to include what the future looks like to our young people in the region and collaborated over 4 weeks on the creation of a colourful mural with Muddy Grimes.

Donna Robinson took the dreams and unvarnished thoughts of our region's youth and created an animation depicting their imaginative poetry of what the future might hold. The students posed provocations to us as the audience to reflect on our shared responsibility for a more caring and inclusive future...(including some truly existential ideas about our relationships with other species and planets!)

Unlock the City was staged across 5 locations and featured performances, projections and interactive installations at each location. Due to weather conditions the show was postponed from its original programmed date - however in August the skies stayed sunny and clear and we were able to present the show to sold out audiences!



Photo: Leah McLean Photography

PRODUCTION TEAM

Welcome to Country: Uncle Philip Kemp

Performers/co-creators: Tchundal Malar Aboriginal Dance Troupe, Tony Moore, Charlee Presland, Seb Cali, Miki Ponting-Boyd, Tim Hickinbotham, Kaden Casey, Joshua Clarke, Dean Jones, Georgia Knoll, Natasha Tomlinson, Sacha Lagaluga, Nadia Hunter

Director/co-creator/producer: Autumn Skuthorpe

Musicians: Evan Daly and James Hunter

Animation: Donna Maree Robinson

Production manager: Ken Brown

Production team: Greg Shaw, Ali Henderson, Ebony Walker, Jim Cullen, Muddy Grimes, Kennedy's Amplifier Hire Service

Set Construction: Jim Cullen, Cynthia Gregg, Muddy Grimes,

Hannah Izard, Breanna Deguara, Rosario Piperone

Artist Support: Lauren Heitman, Annalise Mawer

Auslan interpreter: Holly Menzies

Front of house: Lesa Walker, Melissa Broadhurst

Videographer: Brenden Hayles

Photographer: Leah McLean Photography

Community partners: Sarina State High School, Mirani State High School, RSL Veterans Mackay, Mackay Senior Citizens Hall

Thanks to business owners and real estate agents for their support and use of their arcades for the production: Body Corporate Services, Greg Chappell Real Estate, Everett Family Law, Sapphire Financial Services, TriTone Tattoo, Louis Barber Shop, ILSA, CMP Cosmetic Tattooing & Microblading,



Date Thursday 15 August, Friday 16 August and Saturday 17 August



Venue Secret locations across the Mackay CBD - starting off at the Old Town Hall



Audience 180

Proudly supported by our Gold project sponsor



Proudly supported by our project partner



I loved every single part!! The individual stories told by Miki & Tony were incredible... The group of performers at the beginning & end were also fabulous. Loved the interactive elements & the inclusions of the City's stories in the Memory Room.

- Audience Member



Photo: Leah McLean Photography



Breathe In Wins 3 Matilda Awards

Crossroad Arts team headed down to Brisbane in February to attend the Matilda Awards at the Brisbane Powerhouse after a phenomenal nomination for 5 categories for major production *Breathe In*. We were so thrilled that *Breathe In* was awarded THREE Matilda Awards. Including the surprise of receiving the Matilda's Judges' Award!

The evening was a poignant celebration of key creative leads Georgia Cranko and Brenden Borellini and the audience quickly worked out that if they stamped their feet on the floor Brenden could feel the roar and vibration of their cheers!

With nominations across five categories *Breathe In* took home the awards in THREE Categories;

BEST VIDEO DESIGN: Freddy Komp

THE LORD MAYOR'S AWARD FOR BEST NEW AUSTRALIAN WORK: Co-creators Brenden Borellini, Georgia Cranko, Alison Richardson, Crossroad Arts

MATILDA JUDGE'S AWARD: *Breathe In*

Missed out on seeing our major production *Breathe In* live?

The video recording of the full show is still available with captions, audio description and Auslan interpretation on our website.



Date Monday 26 February, 2024



Venue Brisbane Powerhouse



Breathe In reflects our gathered experiences and stories, shared with humour, grief, and joy, often over a beer at the pub. Rooted in our creative journey, it embodies resilience, determination, and care. Over four years, recurring themes of support, patience, and trust emerged as we faced various challenges together. Our strong belief in vulnerability and open communication, along with Crossroad Arts' unwavering persistence, has continually propelled us forward despite numerous obstacles.

- Georgia Cranko,
Breathe In co-collaborator and performer

Breathe In was supported by the Australian Government's RISE Fund, Regional Arts Australia, Flying Arts Alliance Inc, Australian Governments' Regional Arts Fund, Arts Queensland, Australia Council of the Arts, Mackay Community Foundation, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Creative Partnerships Australia, Daly Bay, Payne Printing and our Gold Project sponsor Bold Architecture.

Community Development

Community is our driving force. Everything we do as a company is underpinned by the belief that creating artistic works that challenge assumptions through inclusive collaboration ultimately builds stronger communities.

Workshop Program

Throughout the 2024 Workshop Program, performers developed new skills and made new friends. For many it was an opportunity to grow confidence in performance making and storytelling and to continue collaborating with others. The workshops were suitable for those with and without disability or who are d/Deaf and most participants returned from 2023 programs. It was also great to welcome new people and to see them continue throughout the whole year or to watch participants get involved in larger performances outside of the Workshop Program as they felt confident to extend themselves as a performer.

Due to the artistic program consultation, we will now be introducing a visual arts workshop for 2025 programming.

The Workshop Program continues to be an integral part of training and development for participants who are interested in exploring creative practice in a fun and relaxed environment.



I can't say that I have a favourite session, I enjoyed making friends here. I have never been big with making friends so coming here and introducing myself has been a big thing. Coming here has been awesome.

- Tahlia Houston,
Workshop Participant

Overall outcomes of Workshop Program:

- Increased engagement and return enrolment from new participants
- Creation of new programs for a diverse range of ages
- Increased confidence, social skills and improvisation/ collaboration skills
- Employment of 6 facilitators and 1 artist support
- Referrals from support workers and service providers to potential participants outside of our networks.
- Community connections and outreach beyond our current supporters.
- Expansion of the program to meet interest from the community.



I have been coming to the workshops now for 3 years now and I love being a part of Crossroad Arts, it has got me out of my comfort zone!!!

- Erin McGarry,
Workshop Participant

Performance in the Gallery

Drama workshops for everyone!

In this exciting partnership with Artspace Mackay, participants with and without disability were invited to respond through drama, movement and music to the current exhibitions.

Participants learnt new skills, built confidence and made new friends in a safe, fun and inclusive environment! Workshops were suitable for those with and without disability or who are d/Deaf.

We enjoyed deepening our understanding of the different exhibitions at Artspace and using visual arts as a stimulus for our storytelling. Highlights for all of the participants were our gallery visits where we could examine up close and personal the themes of the exhibitions.

While Artspace Mackay was closed for renovations for the early part of 2024, participants enjoyed discovering the works decorating the streets of Mackay. Exploring our cities laneways to discover and respond to the many large scale

murals Mackay has to offer. Upon reopening, participants were fortunate to experience proppaNOW: OCCURENT AFFAIR, one of Australia's leading cultural collectives, exploring the politics of Aboriginal art and culture. During the final exhibit of 2025, Jemima Wyman herself joined a workshop while participants were exploring her exhibit Crisis Patterns.. A huge thank you to Artspace and their staff for always ensuring that our participants have an engaging experience at the gallery.



Participants

Term 1: 17 / Term 2: 17 / Term 3: 17 / Term 4: 17

Facilitator: Autumn Skuthorpe/Annalise Mawer

Artist Support: Lauren Heitman **Artist Employed:** 2



Stretchy Pants

Dance and movement workshops for everyone!

Dance and movement workshop participants with and without disability or d/Deaf were invited to put on their favourite stretchy pants and get moving!

Participants enjoyed learning more about the unique ways we can move our bodies, explore storytelling through dance techniques and express ourselves through contemporary movement. Stretchy Pants expanded to include two classes due to demand. In 2024, it was great to see participants continuing on with workshops and expanding their skills. We also welcomed a new wave of Crossroad Arts participants who are either in senior high school or school leavers joining the Stretchy Pants classes. Every Tuesday Crossroad Arts is filled with laughter, energetic moves and cracker tunes!



I like this workshop because we get to perform and I like acting and dancing like I am swimming in the ocean. I feel free, I love being free.

- Sally Morley, workshop participant



Participants - Morning Class

Term 1: 15 / Term 2: 15 / Term 3: 15 / Term 4: 15

Participants - Afternoon Class

Term 1: 7 / Term 2: 7 / Term 3: 7 / Term 4: 7

Facilitator: Lauren Heitman

Artist Supports: Charlee Presland, Annalise Mawer

Artist Employed: 3



ROAR

Theatre making for the untamed!

Participants with and without disability were invited to let all inhibitions go and get wild in this workshop that explores untapped imaginings through movement, sound and theatre making techniques.

Participants enjoyed learning a variety of different drama and theatre making techniques. The progress of the participants was evident in their confidence, their interest in trying new things and the new friendships formed in the group.

We look forward to continuing the program in 2025!



What I love about Crossroad Arts is people with all different disabilities come along together and the classes help us express ourselves.

- Charlee Presland, Ambassador / Assistant Facilitator



Participants

Term 1: 12 / Term 2: 16 / Term 3: 16 / Term 4: 15

Facilitator: Annalise Mawer
Artist Employed: 1



I loved the Wearable Art performers during LOOSE ENDS - next year you need to auction their incredible costumes! They were mesmerising!

- Audience Member

Wearable Art

Wearable Art is offered as another form of art making for participants that are interested in making and designing their own wearable art. As classes progressed, we included opportunities to have the wearable art works showcased at Crossroad Arts events. Over the four terms participants made capes, fascinators, animals and crowns. Using the overarching theme of micro to macro, Wearable Art artists became a highlight of the LOOSE ENDS evening with their telethon performances and assisted in raising the most donations we have had at LOOSE ENDS to date!

Wearable Art participants are keen to return in 2025 and expand their Wearable Art performances at LOOSE ENDS as they are an audience favourite on the evening!



Participants

5

Facilitators: Shelley Engwirda, Cynthia Gregg, Hannah Izard



C.R.U.S.H

Community. Regional.
Up Skill. Haven

In partnership with Dancenorth (Townsville) and Undercover Artist Festival (Brisbane) C.R.U.S.H was an exciting 3 days of workshops in contemporary movement, performance and theatre making.



Date 18 October, 19 October, 20 October



Venue Senior Citizens Hall,
58 Macalister st, Mackay



Participants 40
Audience 60

Facilitators: Jordan Galliot, Madeleine Armstrong, Maddie Little, Felicity Chapman, Charlee Presland, Joshua Clarke and Margaret Ross

Artist in Residence/Observer: Sacha Lagaluga

Artist Supports: Autumn Skuthorpe, Lauren Heitman, Annalise Mawer, Lesa Walker and Melissa Broadhurst

C.R.U.S.H continues to have a national focus to promote professional development opportunities for artists with disability and to also promote the region as an inclusive arts destination. As always, C.R.U.S.H was tailored to suit all ages, bodies, minds and levels of artistic experience - from raw beginner to highly accomplished performers, and/or dancers.

2024 was the sixth year of C.R.U.S.H and was a full 3 days of storytelling, movement and collaboration. Under the guidance of experienced facilitators Jordan Galliot and Madaleine Armstrong (Dancenorth), Maddie Little (Undercover Artist Festival), Felicity Chapman (Deadly Weavers) and our Ambassador/Assistant Facilitator, Charlee Presland as well as local artists Joshua Clarke and Margret Ross, participants learnt skills in theatre making, storytelling, movement and dance and wearable art techniques. A sharing of what was learnt and created in the workshops was presented in a casual showing in front of family and friends on the final day.

Participants also visited our premier gallery, Artspace Mackay to explore and gain inspiration from Jemima Wyman's exhibition Crisis Patterns. The themes of the exhibition informed and shaped our workshops and were exciting to respond to in performance.

We were thrilled to have new participants hailing from all parts of the country in attendance making a total of 32 participants plus their supports. By creating an environment where artists with disability can develop their practice in contemporary dance, movement and inclusive theatre making, C.R.U.S.H



DANCENORTH
TOWNVILLE

**UNDER
COVER
ARTIST**
BRISBANE





All Photos: Keeara and Reece Photography

continues to strengthen a national network of inclusive practitioners and promote the vibrancy of artists with disability living in the regions. C.R.U.S.H furthers the development of the regional arts sector by creating access points to professional training and development that directly addresses the barriers of geographical isolation in a supported and tailored environment.

Crossroad Arts was able to fund 8 scholarships (to cover travel and accommodation) for artists with disability from regional towns across Queensland, Northern Territory, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia to attend. Often regional artists find it expensive or difficult to travel to professional development opportunities so Crossroad Arts hopes to continue to offer scholarships in the future.



I absolutely love C.R.U.S.H, the community environment here is incredible. The people are fantastic. I think that this program showcases the best of inclusion and disability arts.

- Maddie Little, Undercover Artist Festival





Having my photos on display has been the greatest privilege that I could have ever imagined and now it is something that I can confidently say I achieved.

- Roger Cowen, visual artist



Street View Gallery

A gallery just off the street!

Street View Gallery featured artists to have their work exhibited for a month on our office walls in the heart of Mackay!

This opportunity was opened to emerging, mid-career and established artists with disability from the Mackay/ Whitsunday/ Isaac region. Artists with mental health conditions or who are neurodiverse and for those who are First Nations or LGBTIQA+ were encouraged to apply.

Street View Gallery is an opportunity to exhibit artwork in a supported environment. Crossroad Arts also happens to be located in a high traffic part of the Mackay CBD and many artists sold work as a result. Artists have organised their own exhibitions or collaborations since their involvement with the Street View Gallery which is an excellent outcome.

The exhibitions opened as part of the Mackay Waterfront Development City Heart Fridays and included projections of the artworks on our Window Gallery nightly for a month.

We also wanted to celebrate and honour Brenden Borellini and hosted a retrospective exhibition for the community to attend. Spanning over a decade, it was wonderful to see his photographic works all together. Crossroad Arts gifted Brenden's tactile photographs and collection of works to the Borellini family. The exhibition was a wonderful way to celebrate and say farewell to our friend and colleague.



Exhibition 1 Date: Friday 3 May - Friday 7 June

Exhibition 2 Date: Friday 1 November - Friday 6 December

Brenden Borellini retrospective exhibition dates: Friday 20 September - Friday 25 October



Venue: Crossroad Arts



Attendees: 318

Artists: Brenden Borellini, Dom Wall, Mossman, Alii Henn, and Jasmine Pearce, Yuheeho & Zaya, Imo Timo, Roger Cowen, Buttercup Plant, Lylah, Tahlia Houston



Window Gallery

Videos created throughout the year were projected onto our street facing double Window Gallery which is situated in the heart of Mackay's CBD in the bustling Wood St cafe precinct.

The projection of the films promoted Crossroad Arts programs at night in a high traffic area and also contributed towards the revitalisation of the City Heart.

In 2024 we projected the artworks that were a part of our Street View Gallery exhibitions and the Brenden's retrospective exhibition. We also coincided the projections in line with the Mackay City Heart Friday initiatives to increase foot traffic in the CBD.

Total nights projected: 90

crossroadarts.com.au

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LOOSE ENDS

Kooky. Social. Inclusive.



Date Friday December 1st, 2023



Venue Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre



Audience 263



Amount Raised \$8,648.00



I love LOOSE ENDS - it is the best time of the year with all of my friends and it is so fun being on stage and wowing the audience!

- Georgia Knoll, LOOSE ENDS MC

LOOSE ENDS continues to grow each year while still closing out the year in the uniquely inclusive, kooky and social way our community have come to expect. Crossroad Arts in association with Mackay Entertainment & Convention centre present LOOSE ENDS as part of celebrations for International Day for People with Disability. We were excited to welcome our favourite MC Georgia Knoll and her co-host with the mostest Annalise Mawer with their sparkly out of this world costumes and wit to run the evening.

The evening featured performances from Strictly Wheelchair Dance Group, With One Voice Choir, Choir of Unheard Voices, Maddison Hunt, Groove Movers, live painters Dominique Wall, Buttercup Plant and Cynthia Gregg, and Crossroad Arts performers and Wearable Art participants. This year saw the introduction of our new fundraising performance telethon which meant some audience participation from Crossroad Arts staff and donors!





LOOSE ENDS also launched the Annual Giving Program for 2024/2025 and saw the exciting announcement of Creative Partnerships Australia Plus1 program matching \$1 for \$1 up to \$35,000 for any donation made as part of the campaign! This is our largest fundraising target to date!

Mackay Community Foundation came on board to support the event as a sponsor alongside our returning Silver Sponsor for the eighth year in a row, Plaza Dental.

LOOSE ENDS VOLUNTEERS:

Hahn Izard, Shae Matton, Belinda Crichton, Natasha Tomlinson, Leigh Woodward, Charlee Presland, Kim Presland, Nathan Sellick, Penny Jansen, Cynthia Gregg, Dominique Wall, Buttercup Plant, Breanna Deguara, Chris Adda, Jeff Walker, Gina Whatuira, Joy Whatuira, Sacha Lagaluga, Logan Davis and Lylah.

LOOSE ENDS DOCUMENTERS:

Photographer & Videographer: Keeara & Reece Photography
Auslan Interpreters: Chiquita Cole & Katherine Yeoman-Owens

PERFORMERS:

Welcome to Country: Aunty Deb Netuschil from YUWI Corporation
Studio CA, Crossroad Arts performance: Charlee Presland, Georgia Knoll, Maddy Dutton, Alycia Carroll, Olivia Thomsett, Melissa Petersen, Seb Cali, Dean Jones, Sara Butler, Matthew Deane, Joshua Clarke, Lauren Heitman, Annalise Mawer and Autumn Skuthorpe.

Choreographer: Charlee Presland. **Co-ordinator:** Annalise Mawer and Autumn Skuthorpe

MCs: Georgia Knoll & Annalise Mawer

Live painters: Cynthia Gregg, Dominique Wall & Buttercup Plant

Wheelchair Dance Group: Maddison Hunt, Chris Washington, Jessica Peel and Peter Sumpter. **Choreographer:** Madison Hunt

Co-ordinator / Collaborator: Peter Sumpter

Wearable Art and Telethon Launch: Nathan Sellick, Nathan Tomlinson, Shae Matton and Charlee Presland

Choir of Unheard Voices: Conductor: Margaret Ross. **Co-ordinator / Collaborator:** Margaret Ross

Groove Moovers: Melissa Petersen, Lauren Carey, Scarlett Smith, TJ Straw, Tegan O'Keefe, Anne Brunke, Michelle Davidson and Lauren Heitman. **Co-ordinator / Collaborator:** Lauren Heitman

Karaoke Singers: Kaden Casey and Rebecca Lancashire, Joshua Clarke and Olivia Thomsett

With One Voice Choir: Conductor: Jennifer Bee. **Co-ordinator / Collaborator:** Jennifer Bee

Beautiful in my eyes: Maddison Hunt and Chris Washington

Dr. D Kay: Matthew Deane and Kris Wilford

Thank you to our sponsors:

Prizes were drawn by our program & project sponsors:

▣aly Bay / ▣laza Dental / Mackay Community Foundation

LOOSE ENDS raised \$8,648

OUTREACH

Our Outreach Program is committed to working with regional and remote communities, giving them access to the arts. We achieve this through collaboration with rural and remote Queensland communities.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Workshops for young d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing students

Artist in Resident Charlee Presland facilitated a workshop alongside Artsworker Annalise Mawer for the Keeping In Touch (KIT) Day for a group of d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing students who use Auslan from various schools across the region.

Through the workshop the group focussed on movement, focus and mime in performance. Students built skills in drama and theater and connected with their d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing peers from across the Central Queensland region. Over the half day workshop the group put together a mini performance which included a car that was definitely too fast and furious with the police (Mr Tony Moore) arriving on the scene! The day was filled with laughter and fun - and for most students it was their first time participating in a theatre workshop.

As a result of the Keeping in Touch workshop, Deaf leader and theatre maker Tony Moore will lead a 3 day theatre making intensive in 2025 for young d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing people called SCOPE. These workshops will focus on visual vernacular, social connection and uncovering dreams and ambitions



Dates Friday 24 June



Venue Crossroad Arts



Artists Charlee Presland and Annalise Mawer

Participants: 25

Artists Employed: 2

Make your Mark!

Dreams and unvarnished thoughts of the future

Partnership with Mirani State High School and Sarina State High School

Over 6 weeks artists Autumn Skuthorpe and Muddy Grimes delivered outreach program Make Your Mark across Sarina and Mirani schools.

They delivered a series of graffiti and film workshops working with high school students from the inclusive education units of each school.

The students explored what the future might hold for Mackay and the region, expressing their hopes and ideas through their art. Culminating in the creations of large scale murals which were combined with mapped projections and animations created by artist Donna Robinson. The final artwork formed the set for Crossroad Arts major production UNLOCK THE CITY.

These workshops ensure young people with disability or who are d/Deaf living in the outlier areas of our region are still able to access arts and cultural experiences.



Mirani State High School students: 10

Sarina State High School students: 18

Artists: Muddy Grimes, Donna Robinson and Autumn Skuthorpe

Artists employed: 3





Jason Wing and Maddison Gibbs Workshop

Jason Wing and Maddison Gibbs were working on a large scale mural in the Mackay CBD and offered a series of community workshops during their time in Mackay.

Crossroad Arts hosted a session and participants explored design elements of making a mural. The participants were asked to think about the native wildlife around our region and began creating artworks inspired by air, land and sea.

The first half of the workshop we spent designing mural concepts and then in the second half we headed down to the Town Hall Park and began throwing our ideas up on the wall!



Dates Monday 8 April



Venue Crossroad Arts / Town Hall Park



Artists Cynthia Gregg, Autumn Skuthorpe, Lesa Walker
Participants: 12

Youth Week Workshops

Inclusive Arts Advisory Group members and Artists Cynthia Gregg and Georgia Knoll hosted a drop in workshop as part of Youth Week celebrations. Georgia and Cynthia invited participants to write a Mackay memory to inform the interactive exhibition called Memory Room as part of UNLOCK THE CITY.

The pink postcards ended up filling a disused shopfront and created a soft, lush backdrop for interviews with Senior Citizens about their recollections of Mackay.



Dates Friday 12 April



Venue - Second Lane, Mackay



Artists Cynthia Gregg, Georgia Knoll
Artist support: Lesa Walker
Participants: 56



ADVOCACY

Inclusive Arts Advisory Group

The Inclusive Arts Advisory Group is a paid opportunity for people who live with disability and/ or who are D/deaf including those with mental health health conditions, hidden disability, chronic illness or who are neurodiverse. It was formed in 2021 and the group is largely made up of people who have an interest in the arts or are practicing artists themselves.

The group met throughout the year to advise on the accessibility of Crossroad Arts projects and productions and also assisted with being another mouthpiece in the community by spreading the word about upcoming events and programs.

Inclusive Arts Advisory Group Members: Sally Morley, Georgia Knoll, Hannah Izard, Jasmine Pearce, Cynthia Gregg, Alexandra Buchanan, Joshua Clarke, Tegan O'Keefe, Charlee Presland

In 2024, the organisation undertook a lot of consultation leading up to our next strategic period and through the feedback of the community, our core artists and the Inclusive Arts Advisory Group Crossroad Arts begin shifting the way we define leadership.



I love seeing how our committee is growing and the different opportunities Crossroad Arts are finding for us to contribute.

- Jasmine Pearce, Inclusive Arts Advisory Group Member



Dates

Meeting 1: Wednesday 13 March - preparation for the AGM and Artistic Program launch

Meeting 2: Wednesday 12 June - preparation and advice for Unlock the City

Meeting 3: Wednesday 14 August - feedback on Unlock the City

Meeting 4: Wednesday 13 November - preparation and advice for LOOSE ENDS

There were also several additional meetings, consultations and feedback sessions adhoc throughout the year for Strategic Planning and Artistic Program design.



Photos: Crossroad Arts

Arts and Disability Roundtable

Arts and Disability Roundtable Discussion with Arts Queensland

Crossroad Arts hosted alongside Arts Queensland an Arts and Disability Roundtable Consultation last week! Our artists enjoyed facilitating table discussions with Mackay venues, members of council and artists with disability. Brenden Borellini presented a keynote speech on our artistic processes and Sacha Lagaluga took on the role as a Critical Friend and synthesized the days discussions with a reflection and poem.

We also learnt a lot from Ruth Mackenzie - who was responsible for the London 2012 Olympics Cultural Olympiad Festival and also UNLIMITED Festival which is an arts commissioning body that supports, funds and promotes new work by disabled artists for UK and international audiences.

We really appreciated Arts Queensland visiting our region to meet us and hear from us all and see our community in action!

We discussed how we can make the arts more accessible in the lead up to the 2032 Paralympics and the Olympics as part of the Queensland Government's Legacy Plan.

We also shared our big dreams and ideas for projects we would like to create and we are excited to see what opportunities there are in the near future!



Date 23 May 2024



Venue

Venue was Souths Leagues Club, 181 Milton St, Mackay



Crossroad Arts artists and consultants:

Attendees: 60



Photos: UQ Business School

Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and UQ Executive Leadership Program

Artistic Director/CEO Autumn Skuthorpe recently attended the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation Executive Leadership Program in partnership with The University of Queensland's Executive Education team.

The cohort of peers from across the country met together over two days to learn and respond to different ideas around business models, leadership and ways we can better serve our communities.

"It was a great opportunity to learn from the wisdom in the room alongside leaders who work across the community in health, education, arts and are championing ways to build stronger communities. Being regional it is always great to connect and catch up with our sector in person and I learnt alot!" Autumn reflected.

Many thanks to the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation for their continued support of Crossroad Arts and investment in our team and also to UQ for facilitating rigorous discussions to support our work and strengthen our organisation.





Strategic Planning and Artistic Program consultation

In 2024 as part of our strategic planning processes we undertook significant community consultation for the creation of new plan for 2025-2029

In the lead up to making this plan we asked our artists and community over the year:

What will Crossroad Arts look like in the future?

How should we make decisions about our company - about our art, business and operations?

What types of work should we make?

How do we describe ourselves?

Who else can we bring along?

What are our aspirations?

How can we make lasting change?

Our Inclusive Arts Advisory Group and key artists advised the board of their aspirations, expectations and how, as a company, we should make decisions from 2025-2029.

We found that Strategic Plan documents are not accessible - the language can be confusing when we use 'art speak'. In

response, we are developing alongside this current plan, an easy read version and a video version including one in Auslan so that everyone can pick up the document and understand what Crossroad Arts' future plan is.

From this consultation, it was also identified that Crossroad Arts artists would like to be involved in decision making across all areas of the company including: artistic vision, marketing and administration, finance, strategic vision and governance. Our artists came up with a new structure to better represent how they view Crossroad Arts and move it from a hierarchical model to a circle where our artists are centred and other key roles support them to lead the creation of their own work.

These conversations created a new pilot leadership model that will be embedded into our organisation during this strategic period called The future is us. Our artists will direct the Artistic Vision and lead our programming from 2025 onwards. Whilst our artistic content has always been collaborative and responsive to our artists, The future is us will allow our artists to take on leadership positions that shape the artistic vision all the way through.

This pilot is flexible and adaptable to the needs of our artists and is also designed to provide a platform for our artists to be project ready ahead of the 2032 Olympics. Our artists are positioned to influence the sector more broadly particularly as the State Government Legacy Plan has a keen focus on Arts and Disability outcomes.

The future is us is our first stage in our Strategic Plan to create leadership pathways that are accessible and supported within our executive management. It is an ongoing conversation and a whole company approach that will respond to our artists ambitions to lead and can change as needed. There are still systemic challenges present so we hope that the learnings from our pilot will also influence the sector more widely to make things more accessible for all beyond Crossroad Arts because access is for everyone.

Our artists have a right to expect leadership pathways that include representation of people with disability or who are d/Deaf more broadly including across stakeholders like funders, decision makers and people in positions of power. For real, genuine representation; access needs to be considered and implemented across the whole sector - not just within arts organisations that currently work with those focus communities.



For this plan, we

- Held two strategic planning sessions with the Inclusive Arts Advisory Group, key artists, board and staff
- Held weekly informal consultation sessions with key artists and the Artistic Director for eight months in 2024. The feedback from these sessions developed The future is us pilot.
- Held a consultation session where artists advised on the Artistic Program content. This will happen annually and also informs our artistic KPIs and is attended by The future is us artists to inform their work.
- The Inclusive Arts Advisory Group reviewed the Strategic Plan language and suggested alternate formats. The Inclusive Arts Advisory Group also shaped the KPIs for this strategic period.
- The Inclusive Arts Advisory Group and key artists have presented to the Board and management staff their dreams for the future of Crossroad Arts
- Opportunities to provide feedback have been delivered in person, online and anonymously.
- Research for true access costs to support a new leadership model have been explored and budgeted. This includes Auslan interpreting and physical access but also importantly access like: time, working flexibility, changing the way we view outcome delivery and artistic, administrative and producing support.
- The Board and management staff agreed to unequivocally commit to the vision of our artists. Dedicating the support and resources required to deliver these goals is non-negotiable for us as an organisation and community.

We invite those who want to be a part of realising this vision to join us.



Being a disabled person who makes theatre and creative decisions is very important to me. We should be able to share our stories and create whatever kind of art we want. I think artists with disability should have the right to make their own decisions about theatre. The future of artists with disability should be included in all parts of the arts including theatre. That way people can gain an understanding about us as human beings and understand what we have to say. This is important for the disabled community, but also for the wider community as well.

Brenden Borellini, Artist in Residence and Ambassador



Photo: Crossroad Arts

Sponsorship and Development

Annual Giving Program

Crossroad Arts launched the 2024 Annual Giving Program campaign at the 2023 LOOSE ENDS. We were thrilled to announce that local consortium ReNew Mackay, local branch of Golding, was coming on board again as a community Champion where they would match funds \$1 for \$1 up to \$5, 000.

The campaign aimed to increase the profile of Crossroad Arts, introduce potential new sponsors and donors to the important work that Crossroad Arts does and maintain a connection with our community and our current supporters.

Local businesses and individuals generously donated to Crossroad Arts and helped us achieve beyond our target and our vision of Arts for All.

Annual Giving Program Donors: Belinda Hassan, Fran Mann, Jim Cullen, Jamie Trevenar, Brian Tucker, Rotary Club of Mackay North, Mackay & Sarina Car Club, Jessica Lamb, Mark Taylor, Peter McCallum, Maree Cali, Judy Keogh, Warren Broadhurst, Pam Tate, Tracey Heathwood, Gerry Kissner, Elizabeth Arlott, Alison Richardson, Natasha Tomlinson, Karen Tomlinson, Leonie Wood, Jan Ward, Louise Sawtell, Sarina Mini Excavators, Rotary Club of Mackay West, Moyea Maclean, Traci Lietzke, Macrossan & Amiet, Peter Tait, Mackay City Property, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Sarina Community Bank

MAJOR FUNDRAISER

Palm Royale Poolside Soiree

Palm Royale Poolside Soiree was Crossroad Arts major fundraiser for 2024 in support of inclusive arts and our vision of Arts for All.

The night was based on the vintage glamour of the Palm Royale Beach Club, sprawling out under the palms on the lawns of Mackay's iconic Memorial Pool.

It was a fabulous night it was under the stars poolside, celebrating the arts, in chic vintage beach club glamor raising funds for inclusive arts.

With performances from Sensory Circus Tribe (Mackay) and the Crossroad Arts water ballet team it was a night of Oooohs, Ahhhhs and Laughs. A special acknowledgement to Peter McKenzie and David Reaston for keeping the night swinging with their sixties beats.

This wonderful event was proudly supported by Principal Sponsor Mackay City Property with delicious delights from Fish D'Vine, drinks from Joval Wines and auctioneer Mark Stephens.

Annual Giving Program raised: \$27,205

MACKAY CITY PROPERTY JOVAL WINES



SPONSORS AND DONORS

Crossroad Arts continues to nurture relationships with our local private sector to increase sponsorship and donor income. Majority of our operational costs are dependent on government funding. By increasing local sector support we are able to strengthen our programs and ensure that they have a sustainable future regardless of major funding outcomes.

The sponsorship and donor program has steadily grown since the appointment of Sponsorship and Development Officer Melissa Broadhurst. We would like to celebrate and acknowledge the following businesses who support Crossroad Arts vision of Arts for All in 2024.



Dates Monday 8 April



Venue Mackay Memorial Pool



Event coordinator: Melissa Broadhurst, Sponsorship and Development Officer
Volunteers: Jeff Walker, Ebony Walker, Eleanor Woodman, Warren Broadhurst

SPONSORS:

Artistic Program Principal Sponsor - Daly Bay
 Community Champion - Golding
 Gold Project Sponsor - Unlock the City - Bold Architecture
 Gold Project Sponsor - C.R.U.S.H - Ergon Energy Network
 Project partner LOOSE ENDS - Mackay Community Foundation
 Silver Project Sponsor LOOSE ENDS - Plaza Dental
 Print partner - Payne Print and Sign
 Gold sponsor Palm Royale Poolside Soiree - Mackay City Property



MACKAY CITY PROPERTY

Financial Statements

Crossroad Arts Inc. 2024

Income statement for the year ended 31 December 2024

INCOME	2024	2023
Box Office & Performance	13,392	10,097
Workshops & Seminars	29,243	43,701
Retail	782	3,216
	43,417	57,014
OTHER INCOME		
Interest Received	6,363	6,235
Other Revenue		
Donations & Sponsorship	58,562	41,340
Darymple Bay Coal Terminal (Principal Sponsor)	10,000	10,000
Tim Fairfax Family Foundation	100,000	100,000
Management & Admin Fees	-	3,000
In-Kind Support	111,585	119,635
	286,510	280,210
GRANTS EXPENDED		
Creative Australia, 4 year organisation funding	154,546	153,016
Arts Queensland, Organisations Fund	140,000	140,000
Mackay Community Foundation, Grant for LOOSE ENDS	15,000	10,000
Regional Arts Development Fund, Grant for Unlock the City	7,347	-
DARTS Bursary, JUTE Theatre	1,000	-
Mackay Regional Council - Make Your Place Grant Auspice Funds	-	7,500
Mackay Regional Council - Security Grant	-	699
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and		
Communications, Breathe In - Creative Development	-	70,000
Regional Arts Fund Community Project Grant Program, Breathe In	-	7,000
Regional Arts Fund Community Project Grant Program, C.R.U.S.H	-	10,000
Mackay Community Foundation, Access to All Project	-	11,000
	317,893	409,215
TOTAL INCOME	647,820	746,439

EXPENDITURE	2024	2023	EXPENDITURE	2024	2023
Accounting & Bookkeeping Services	200	600	Interest Expense	1,831	1,425
Advertising, Marketing & Promotion	12,841	19,302	Long Service Leave, Movement in Provision	6,185	(5,949)
Amortisation Expense	16,896	17,022	Merchandise	-	4,038
Audit Expenses	3,200	3,200	Office Consumables & Resources	13,801	12,795
Auspice Expenses	-	7,500	Program, Production & Exhibition Expenses	81,847	117,641
Bank Fees	271	270	Repairs & Maintenance	1,455	1,925
Board Expenses	1,962	2,469	Staff Travel	5,413	1,406
Depreciation	1,144	5,603	Superannuation Contributions	27,989	31,113
Electricity	1,266	1,555	Telephone & Internet	2,575	3,021
Finance Advisor	6,691	14,300	Wages & Other Employee Expense	298,094	337,902
Holiday Pay, Movement in Provision	12,883	18,286	Workers' Compensation Insurance	6,029	6,259
Inclusive Arts Advisory Group	3,040	1,302			
In-Kind Support	111,585	119,635			
Insurance	17,339	8,280			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:				634,537	730,900
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR				13,283	15,539

Statement by Members of the Board

The Board has determined that the entity is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board, the financial report:

1. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Crossroad Arts Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
2. The financial statements and notes easily satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012.

Signed on behalf of the Crossroad Arts Inc in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Regulation 2013 by:

Chair:



Brian Tucker

Treasurer:



Felicity Chapman

Dated this 5th day of March 2025

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

CURRENT ASSETS	2024	2023
Cash and cash equivalents	643,257	533,213
Trade and other receivables	11,698	13,178
Prepayments	-	8,542
	654,955	554,933
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	1,926	3,070
Right-of-use Asset	14,256	14,431
	16,182	17,501
TOTAL ASSETS	671,137	572,434
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	41,061	24,825
Provisions	16,857	11,586
Lease liability	14,974	14,973
Other liabilities	235,000	177,273
	307,892	228,657
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	19,477	13,292
	19,477	13,292
TOTAL LIABILITIES	327,369	241,949
NET ASSETS	343,768	330,485
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Retained earnings	343,768	330,485
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	343,768	330,485

Independent Auditor's Report

As auditor for the audit of the Crossroad Arts Inc for the year ended 31 December 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2024 there has been:

1. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
2. complying with the Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 2 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Name of Firm: AMW Audit, Chartered Accountants

Name of Director:



Billy-Joe Thomas

Address: Perth, Western Australia

Dated this 5th day of March 2025



Staff and Board

Inclusive Arts Advisory Group: Sally Morley, Georgia Knoll, Hannah Izzard, Jasmine Pearce, Cynthia Gregg, Alexandra Buchanan, Joshua Clarke, Tegan O'Keefe, Charlee Presland

Ambassador/Artist in Residence: Brenden Borellini, Charlee Presland, Sebastian Cali

Future is us artists (2024-2025): Tony Moore, Charlee Presland, Sacha Lagaluga

Artistic Director/CEO: Autumn Skuthorpe

Company Administrator: Lesa Walker

Artist Supports: Autumn Skuthorpe, Annalise Mawer

Sponsorship/Development Officer: Melissa Broadhurst

Marketing Officer: Annalise Mawer

Social Media Officer: Natasha Tomlinson

Crossroad Arts Board

Chair: Brian Tucker

Vice Chair: David Conway

Secretary: Lauren Turton

Treasurer: Felicity Chapman

General Board members

Mark Taylor, Trish Ely, Tracey Heathwood, Dyane Norton

Our Supporters

Major financial supporters



Creative Australia, Arts Queensland, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Creative Partnerships Australia and Australian Cultural Fund.

2024 Artistic Program Principal Sponsor



2024 Print Partner



Project supporters

Mackay Community Foundation, Artspace Mackay, Mackay Regional Council, Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre, Dancenorth, Undercover Artist Festival (Access Arts), Sarina State High School, Mirani State High School, Mackay Festival of Arts, Mackay Waterfront/City Heart Fridays.

Sponsors

Community Champion - Golding
Artistic Program Principal Sponsor - Daly Bay
Gold Project Sponsor - Unlock the City - Bold Architecture
Gold Project Sponsor - C.R.U.S.H - Ergon Energy Network
Project partner LOOSE ENDS - Mackay Community Foundation
Silver Project Sponsor LOOSE ENDS - Plaza Dental
Print partner - Payne Print and Sign
Gold sponsor Palm Royale Poolside Soiree - Mackay City Property

Community Support and in kind

Hahn Izard, Shae Matton, Belinda Crichton, Natasha Tomlinson, Leigh Woodward, Charlee Presland, Kim Presland, Nathan Sellick, Penny Jansen, Cynthia Gregg, Lylah, Dominique Wall, Buttercup Plant, Breanna Deguara, Chris Adda, Jeff Walker, Gina Whatuira, Rosario Piperone, Joy Whatuira, Sacha Lagaluga and Logan Davis, Ebony Walker, Eleanor Woodman, Body Corporate Services, Greg Chappell Real Estate, Everett Family Law, Sapphire Financial Services, TriTone Tattoo, Louis Barber Shop, ILSA, CMP Cosmetic Tattooing & Microblading, JOVAL Wines, MECC, Mark Stephens, Canelands Shopping Centre, artist David Conway, 9th Lane, Mount Pleasant Shopping Centre, Harrup Park Gift, Officeworks, Artist Leonie Wood, Artist Jonathan McBurnie, Quest Mackay, Artist Autumn Skuthorpe, Seabreeze Hotel, Saige & Soul, Artist Jan Ward, Artist Stephen Homewood, Anneke Silver, Digby Webster and Muddy Grimes.



Contact Us

For more information on Crossroad Arts please contact:

admin@crossroadarts.com.au / 07 4953 5122 or via the National Relay Service

www.crossroadarts.com.au