



Arts Industry Council
(South Australia) Inc

Chair
Deidre Williams
(2001-2006)

Executive Officer
Megan Rainey

Level 1_16 Peel Street
Adelaide SA 5000

T (08) 8231 9555
E info@aicsa.net.au
www.aicsa.net.au

2005 Chair's Report

It is a great pleasure to report on another productive year of activity for the Arts Industry Council.

I would like to thank our members for their ongoing support via annual member subscriptions. These subscriptions augmented by fundraising fund the core work of the AIC each year. We are heartened to see membership subscriptions being sustained at a time of significant budget restraint for arts organisations.

The AIC aims to address needs in the professional arts sector that would not otherwise be addressed by other agencies. Much of our work responds to issues affecting independent artists and arts agencies operating with the assistance of government funding.

AIC members include a mix of individuals, small to medium arts organisations and major arts institutions. With the major arts institutions having a direct line of communication to the State Government, as line funded agencies through Arts SA, it has been the small to medium arts organisations and independent artists who most often look to the AIC as a vehicle to voice industry issues on their behalf.

However, over the years the AIC has also been consistently active on industry wide issues such as: the impact of compliance with the OH&S legislation on performing arts companies; the impact of increases to public liability premiums for the festivals sector; evaluating Arts SA's cross art-form funding approach after three years of operation; representing the sector on the State Government's Arts Summit working group; providing a South Australian response to the Federal Government's sedition laws and the recent re-structuring of the Australia Council and changes to their funding approach for new media and community cultural development practice.

The Executive Committee's work is guided by a concise but effective strategic plan, specifically the Mission and Strategies:

Mission: To be actively informing and contributing to the development of progressive government arts policies which respond to the needs and concerns of artists and the arts industry

Strategies:

1. *Produce, publish and distribute information*
2. *Convene public fora to facilitate information exchange, debate and consultation*
3. *Arrange delegations to government and other stakeholders*
4. *Ensure that the Council has a viable and sustainable revenue base*

During 2005 these strategies guided the following program of work.

Independent Artists Advocacy

In response to an approach from a representative from the independent artists' sector, Council convened and facilitated a public forum at Carclew Youth Arts Centre in May 2005. Approximately 45 people attended the meeting, with a further 15 registering their apology and expressing interest in any further activity. Working through a process of discussion and workshop activity, the evening identified key areas of concern. It was resolved that the sector needed to develop a series of recommendations to be presented to the State Government that would best address these concerns.

In June, the Council received a letter and cheque for \$10,000 from the Premier in recognition of the advocacy work of the Council on behalf of the SA arts sector. After some consideration, the Executive Committee decided to use this money on two initiatives that would benefit members and assist in our advocacy work. The funds were allocated to consult with the independent makers sector to identify and present strategies that would best address the concerns of the sector, and to develop a web site to assist the distribution of information to the wider sector.

Consultation with the sector was conducted and the Independent Makers Strategy was produced and presented to the Premier and Arts SA for consideration. The document was also distributed to AIC members as well as everyone who participated in the public meetings and other consultation processes during the project.

The report was widely supported by members and received a positive response from the Premier and Arts SA Executive Staff, who are considering the capacity to address the issues raised in the document during 2006/2007.

I would like to thank the many individuals who gave their time to share their thoughts and ideas to inform the content of the Independent Makers Strategy.

Strategies 1,2 & 3

AIC Website

During the year, the development of the website progressed, with a design brief and copy being produced, and the web site going 'live' towards the end of the year. Key documents such as SA Arts Budget summary, the AIC Arts Budget Submission, and the Independent Makers Strategy were uploaded to the site, and links for information on other significant sector issues provided. The Executive Committee has had positive feedback on the look and function of the site, which will ensure information is readily available to members and other interested parties.

The web site was the initiative of our Executive Officer, Tracy Crisp who must be congratulated on such a fine outcome.

Strategies 1 & 2

Occupational Health and Safety Legislation - issues for the arts sector

Significant concerns about the sector's capacity to comply with the South Australian Occupational Health and Safety Legislation were first raised at Council's February meeting. Many of these concerns were particularly focussed around the development, production and touring of live performance work, events, parades and outreach workshop activities, where employees work in non-conventional work-spaces and venues geographically distant from the employing body.

With minimal information available to guide what would constitute acceptable OH&S standards for these and other art production activities, small to medium art producing organisations needed assistance with generating appropriate 'best practice' policy and procedures to ensure they were compliant with legislation.

Members were kept informed of these issues with an information update being circulated in December.

During the latter part of 2005, the AIC raised these concerns with Arts SA, and as a result meetings were convened with Workcover and a training workshop specifically structured for the arts sector was planned for early 2006. A trial workshop was hosted by Arts SA in March 2006, which was attended by representatives of the AIC Committee, where feedback on the training content was sought. This information will inform the final workshop content for a specifically tailored session to be presented in June 2006.

The AIC has also requested that Arts SA, gather a package of policy examples, checklists and reporting templates to be made available to the arts sector, to guide the development of appropriate OH&S policies and procedures.

Strategies 1, 2 & 3

Arts Budget Rounds

Following the announcement of the 2005/2006 arts budget, Council prepared a summary of new spending and cost savings (cuts), which was distributed to members. Members also received a copy of Hansard transcripts which covered details on the arts budget as presented to Parliament.

Minister Hill was invited to speak to the arts budget results at the AGM in May 2005, where members had the opportunity to ask questions and clarify any issues around the budget outcomes.

Later in the year, the AIC 2006/2007 Arts Budget Submission was developed and distributed to the Premier, Treasurer, Minister Hill, Opposition Arts Minister and members. The budget submission primarily focussed on new spending for the Independent Makers Strategy and funding needed to upgrade the regional theatres. A copy of this Submission was also circulated to members.

Strategies 1 & 3

Sector representation

During the year the Executive maintained its quarterly meetings with Arts SA Executive Director Greg Mackie and other Arts SA Executive Staff, as well as maintaining arts sector representation on the Volunteers Ministerial Advisory Group, and the ARTSmart working group.

Members of the Executive Committee, met with Education Minister, Jane Lomax-Smith to discuss concerns regarding the poor levels of funding allocated to ARTSmart by the Department of Education and Children's Services. A meeting with Minister Hill was also held to discuss concerns about ARTSmart's failure as a state-wide arts and education partnership initiative, due to a lack of resources and commitment from the Government to its full implementation. This situation continues despite ARTSmart being identified as a key strategy in the State Strategic Plan.

The AIC represented the SA arts sector through written submissions and in various meetings convened to respond to the Australia Council's removal of the New Media and Community Cultural Development Boards and Council's restructure to form the Community Partnership initiative.

The AIC also provided a written submission in support of artists concerns over the Federal Government's sedition laws, and represented the sector at the ArtsPeak/CHASS workshop convened to examine more effective ways to ensure national advocacy and lobbying, recently convened in Adelaide.

Strategies 2 & 3

Fundraising

Fundraising activities undertaken during the year raised in excess of \$4,000 to support our core operating expenses. The AIC raffle raised approximately \$2,500 with prizes being kindly donated by State Theatre Company, Adelaide Fringe, Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts, and Adelaide Cabaret Festival. This sponsorship is hugely valued by the AIC and I would like to sincerely thank these organisations for their generous support.

The raffle was launched at the AIC quiz night, which was organised by committee members Jim Giles, Carmel Dundon and Steve Mayhew. The Quiz night was a great success raising approximately \$1,500 and entertaining a full house of AIC supporters.

Big thanks must go to Jim Giles and Carmel Dundon for their role in organising this great fundraiser. Our grateful thanks also to those people who helped fundraise by selling raffle tickets and digging into their wallets at the Quiz night.

Strategy 4

Finally, I would like to formally register our thanks to Tracy Crisp for her contributions to the Arts Industry Council during her term as Executive Officer. Tracy's skill and expertise have significantly built upon the track record of the AIC and positioned it well for future success. Past and present Executive Committee members have valued working with Tracy and the efficient and reliable support she has provided for the Council's work.

I would also like to welcome our new Executive Officer, Megan Rainey who comes well equipped to build upon Tracy's great work with the AIC.

Last but by no means least, I would like to thank my fellow committee members, Jodi Glass (Deputy Chair), Carmel Dundon (Treasurer), Jane Andrews, Phil Callahan, Jim Giles, Anne Levy, Steve Mayhew, Lisa Philip-Harbutt and Barbara Wiesener for all their valuable hours of volunteer work for the Council during the year.

Deidre Williams
Chair