

Chair's Report 2007

We present the Chair's report for the Arts Industry Council (SA) Inc. (AIC) for 2007. The AIC is the only independent, sector-wide representative organisation for the arts in South Australia. Indeed, with Victoria, South Australia is the only other state to have the benefit of a state-based industry council that is committed to considering issues affecting the arts sector and representing their interests at a state and national level. The AIC continues to advocate for a thriving creative arts sector.

In order to maintain its position as an independent voice for the arts in South Australia, the AIC does not seek government funding for its operations. The AIC relies on its membership fees and fundraising activities. In addition to the voluntary contribution made by the AIC Board, membership support and their minimal fees are absolutely essential as this supports our advocacy activities and pays for the AIC's executive officer for eight hours a week.

The AIC also relies on the goodwill and generosity of many individuals and organisations for which we are very grateful. We take this opportunity to sincerely thank and acknowledge the support of...

...Barbara Wiesner and the SA Writer's Centre for providing a venue for the AIC's regular executive committee meetings and annual general meeting.

...State Theatre Company of South Australia, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts, Adelaide Fringe, Australian Dance Theatre and Vitalstatistix who very generously donated tickets and season subscriptions as prizes for the AIC's annual raffle. The raffle is our key fundraising activity and generates vital funds to support the organisation's operations and activities.

...The many people who sold raffle tickets and books on behalf of the AIC and the people and organisations who donated fabulous prizes for the AIC quiz night.

...Jim Giles, the AIC's founding Chairman and long-standing executive committee member, for his fantastic advocacy on behalf of the arts sector and also for his brilliant skills at staging quiz nights. Jim was instrumental in producing our 2007 quiz night, writing the questions, sourcing the prizes and securing the services of a wonderful MC. The quiz night generated much-needed dollars for the AIC. Jim retired from the AIC executive committee in 2007 and we acknowledge his wealth of knowledge and significant contributions to the AIC and the arts as a whole during his 16 or so years with the organisation.

...The executive committee members who contribute their very valuable time and energy on a voluntary basis. We applaud Phil Callaghan, Jim Giles (retired 2007), Anne Levy, Teena Munn, Lisa Phillip-Harbutt, Carolyn Ramsay, Tricia Walton (elected May 2007) and Barbara Wiesner for their expertise, knowledge and advice. We particularly thank Jane Andrew as Deputy Chair, who was Acting Chair for July to December 2007 while the AIC's Chair, Jodi Glass, was on maternity leave and Carolyn Ramsay as Treasurer.

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...Amy Milhinch for her great work for her designs of the AIC's new a fleshy pink brand. The new look was rolled out in 2007. (And we are pleased to announce the new AIC brand will finally hit our website very soon.) We highly recommend Amy Milhinch as she designs intelligent solutions and shows the highest level of commitment to her clients. Our new brand was applied to a swag of printed material, including envelopes which is a luxury indeed for the AIC with our annual budget of around \$12,000 – and for this our profuse and sincere thanks to the fantastic support of arteGRAFICA who maintain a proud association with the arts in South Australia.

...Megan Rainey, the AIC's wonderful executive officer. She is a very diligent, enthusiastic, energetic and dedicated person and she is critical to the AIC's activities. Megan undertakes a considerable amount of research on matters and issues and informs the sector through regular, detailed communications with AIC members and colleagues and e-newsletter subscribers and correspondence with local, state and federal government representatives. We are very grateful for her drive and passion.

...and most importantly, we acknowledge the member organisations and individuals who, through their membership, support the AIC and demonstrate an ongoing commitment to our work. Much of the AIC's work is in response to the issues affecting independent artists and arts organisations. Membership in the AIC is a mix of individual artists, small to medium arts organisations to major arts and cultural institutions. The major arts and cultural institutions have a direct line of communication to the State government through Arts SA as line-funded agencies. It is the independent artists and small to medium arts organisations that most often turn to the AIC as the vehicle through which to voice issues affecting them.

The AIC continues to advocate at a national level on behalf of the South Australia sector through representation at national meetings including ArtsPeak (a confederation of national arts service organisations who meet regularly to discuss current issues and establish lobbying strategies), and through facilitating dialogue with or representations to the federal government. The AIC maintains a bipartisan approach and works with both the ministers for the arts and opposition spokesperson for the arts at state and federal levels.

In October 2007, prior to the federal election, we launched a series of forums. This series began with YOUR SHOUT, a public forum that provided an opportunity to communicate thoughts, fears and inspirations on the state of the arts and to give feedback on Federal Labor Arts Policy Discussion Paper to the (then) opposition spokesperson for the arts, Peter Garrett. This event was run in conjunction with the Community Arts Network of South Australia and the support of the Art Gallery of South Australia.

Regular and continuing meetings with Arts SA's Executive Director and key staff are invaluable and fundamental to the AIC's knowledge gathering and information sharing. These ongoing meetings are attended by various members of the AIC's executive committee and the Executive Officer. They are invaluable to an effective and neutral communication channel between the arts sector and government through Arts SA and the AIC. As well as the formal schedule of meetings, Arts SA staff and AIC executive committee members maintain contact on specific points. Issues raised at the AIC-Arts SA

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meetings in 2007 covered a range of matters: the state arts budget, with particular interest on pressures on the state budget and affect that will have on funding programs; specific arts funding initiatives and changes; the State Strategic Plan; occupational health, safety and welfare and in particular the as yet resolved conundrum and risk associated with the role of the responsible officer in an arts context. AIC continues its support for action on the refurbishment of the State's regional arts centres and a state government arts policy following on from the Arts Summit held in 2001. The AIC is tireless in advocating for increasing government support for the arts, in particular increasing government investment in the South Australian makers of art.

The AIC was very pleased to have facilitated a joint Christmas party for six small-medium arts organisations in 2007. The Australian Network for Art and Technology, Ausdance SA, KneeHigh Puppeteers, No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability, Slingsby, Vitalststistix and AIC jointly hosted a bbq for their collective guests in the beautiful grounds of Carclew Youth Arts Centre. It was a very pleasant summer evening spent eating and drinking fine wines and beer, talking with and meeting new colleagues and celebrating the year. We look forward to the joint Christmas party being an annual event on the arts calendar.

The AIC strives to engage with its membership and the wider arts sector through a variety of mechanisms including regular, informative e-newsletters, budget submissions to government, hosting forums, facilitating roundtables and opportunities for arts organisations and individuals to interact and issue-specific meetings. We thank the arts sector for its collective support and look forward to another dynamic year in 2008.

Jodi Glass, Chair (on maternity leave from July 2007)

Jane Andrew, Deputy Chair & Acting Chair July-Dec 2007

Arts Industry Council (SA) Inc.