

Chair's Report 2006

As an "independent voice for the arts", the Arts Industry Council (SA) Inc. is the only independent, sector wide representative organisation for the arts in South Australia. The AIC is in fact one of only two such industry councils in Australia, the other being in Victoria.

It is a pleasure to present this report for the Arts Industry Council of South Australia for 2006, my first report as AIC Chair.

2006 was a year of transition with the retirement of Deidre Williams as Chair and Tracy Crisp as Executive Officer in May 2006 and the election of myself as Chair (previously Deputy Chair), Jane Andrew as Deputy Chair, appointment of Megan Rainey as Executive Officer and the election of two new members to the AIC executive committee, Teena Munn and Carolyn Ramsey (who was also elected Treasurer).

The executive committee and executive officer used the latter half of 2006 as an opportunity to reflect on the AIC's achievements and activities to date, review the AICSA strategic plan, aims and objectives and to set a path for the next few years. Central to this review process was a strategic planning session, which Rob Weedon very kindly donated his time and expertise to facilitate. The goodwill is strong, and the desire for effective representation and advocacy for the arts sector is equally strong. As with all arts organisations, the AIC's activities are confined only by resources.

In order to ensure its capacity to maintain an independent voice on behalf of the South Australian arts sector, the AIC does not seek or accept government funding for its day-to-day operations. The AIC relies on membership, fundraising and the goodwill and generosity of many organisations and individuals. This support is absolutely critical to the AIC's ongoing independence and operations.

We sincerely thank AIC member organisations and individuals for their ongoing commitment to the existence of the AIC through their continuing membership. 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 organizations and independent artists who most often look to the AIC as a vehicle to voice industry issues on their behalf.

We gratefully acknowledge State Theatre Company of South Australia, Adelaide Fringe, Adelaide Cabaret Festival, WOMADelaide, and Adelaide Film Festival for their generous donations of fabulous and much coveted prizes for our annual fundraising raffle. The raffle is a key fundraising activity, helping to fund the organisation, while also providing an excellent opportunity for the AIC to promote the arts to the wider community. Our sincere thanks go to the many people who sold books of raffle tickets on our behalf.

The SA Writers Centre and Adelaide City Council provided meeting rooms for the various meetings, including executive committee meetings and annual general meeting.

The members of the AIC executive committee donate a significant amount of time and energy and provide expertise, industry contacts and a wide range of skills. A very big thank you to all members of the committee in 2006: Jane Andrew, Phil Callaghan, Carmel Dundon (resigned June 2006), Jim Giles, Anne Levy, Teena Munn (elected May 2006), Lisa Philip-Harbutt, Carolyn Ramsey (elected May 2006), Barbara Wiesner and Deidre Williams (retired May 2006). We thank Carmel Dundon who resigned from the executive committee in mid-2006 to become CEO of Trees For Life, for her passionate support. We again acknowledge Deidre Williams for her exceptional work as the AIC's Chair, a position she has held for five years before retiring from the AIC's Executive Committee at the 2006 Annual General meeting, and also Tracy Crisp for her wonderful work as the AIC's Executive Officer until May 2006.

The AIC executive committee is supported by an Executive Officer one day per week. We are very thankful for Megan Rainey's dedication and enthusiasm as a key representative of the AIC and driver for much of our activities, including updating the AIC's "look", which was developed this year; initiating dialogue with national and local organisations, including our Victorian arts industry council counterpart, NAVA and ArtsPeak; maintaining regular communications to AIC members, colleagues and newsletter subscribers as well as corresponding with local, state and federal government representatives.

The AIC maintained its regular meetings with the Executive Director of Arts SA and other key Arts SA staff. These ongoing meetings, attended by various members of the executive committee and our executive officer, play an important role in maintaining an effective communication flow between the arts sector and government the AIC and Arts SA. As well as the formal schedule of meetings, Arts SA staff and AIC executive committee members maintain contact as required. Issues raised at these meetings include: the restructure of Arts SA's funding programs; an arts policy for South Australia; the place of the arts in the Strategic plan; occupational health, safety and welfare and in particular the role of the responsible officer in the arts; and the state budget.

AIC continues to represent the interests of and issues affecting the arts sector as it is a valuable and important part of the South Australians arts sector. On behalf of the Arts Industry Council's executive committee and executive officer, I thank the arts sector for its collective support and look forward to another productive year as we collectively continue to advocate for a thriving local creative arts sector.

Jodi Glass
Chair