

ARTS INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*an independent
voice for the arts*

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo by Bri Hammond

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AICSA acknowledges that we live, work and make art on Aboriginal Lands, including Kurna Yarta.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the traditional owners and continuing custodians of the lands upon which we live and work, in what is now also called South Australia. We recognise that sovereignty was never ceded.

We pay our respect and deep thanks to Elders past, present and emerging, as well as to First Nations leaders in our arts sector.

OUR VISION & PURPOSE

We imagine a future in which South Australian artists, cultural workers and organisations are viable, visible and valued – empowered, connected and able to share South Australian stories and creative practice with each other, audiences and the world.

To achieve our vision, we:

- Connect our members, community and cross-sector allies.
- Communicate, listen and learn, and speak on their behalf.
- Advocate and empower the sector to advocate for
- themselves.

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FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

2025 has been a significant year for the Arts Industry Council of South Australia as we continued to strengthen our role as an independent voice for the arts sector during a period of ongoing change, challenge and opportunity.

The year has reinforced the importance of sustained advocacy for artists, arts workers, cultural organisations and the broader arts and cultural sector across South Australia. Rising costs of living, workforce precarity, infrastructure needs and increasing urban gentrification, amongst many other challenges, continue to put pressures on independent practice and shape the conditions in which our sector operates. In response, AICSA has remained committed to championing the value of the arts and the essential contribution artists make to our communities, economy and civic life.

We would first like to acknowledge the exceptional work of General Manager Kim Roberts, whose leadership, administration and sector engagement continue to underpin the strength and effectiveness of the Council. Kim's dedication and care for the sector remain integral to AICSA's success.

We welcomed three new Executive Committee members, Dave Court, Emily Tulloch, and Joanne Hartstone, at the 2025 AGM, each bringing a wealth of experience to the role. Their creative practice as independent artists has given a new and renewed perspective to the Executive Committee. Equally co-opting Beth Neate has been of great value to the Council and its membership focus over the last year, welcome Beth.

We would like to acknowledge Ruth Weldon and are grateful for her time on the Executive Committee especially as a Co-Chair in 2024-25. We would also like to acknowledge the incredible determination, knowledge, experience and commitment of Emma Webb OAM, who is departing the Executive Committee after serving her community for 14 years. Emma is the longest standing Executive Committee Member of the Council and has profoundly shaped AICSA's impact in a meaningful way. Thank you Emma!

The ongoing implementation of AICSA's Strategic Plan 2025–2028 has guided much of our work this year. Developed through extensive consultation with members and stakeholders, the plan provides a clear framework for advocacy, sector development, member engagement and organisational growth. We reflected mid-year on the strategy as an Executive Committee, coming together for a strategic planning day hosted by the Australian Dance Theatre at the Odeon in Norwood, to sharpen our focus while remaining responsive to emerging issues affecting the sector.

Advocacy has remained central to our work across local, state and federal levels. During the year we commenced the development of AICSA's pre-election survey to identify priorities for the sector ahead of the 2026 South Australian election. We also

continued discussions with CreateSA and Minister Michaels regarding the review of grant programs and broader sector investment, while also contributing feedback and advocacy around the implementation of A Place to Create – South Australia’s Cultural Policy development plans.

We welcomed opportunities to engage directly with government and the sector through initiatives including the South Australian Cultural Policy webinar, the Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Bill discussions, and a legislative engagement event held at Parliament House. We also contributed to consultations regarding the City of Adelaide Draft Cultural Policy, ensuring the perspectives of artists and arts workers remained central to these conversations.

AICSA continued to advocate strongly on issues affecting artists’ working conditions and economic security. This included prioritising the Artists at Work Taskforce outcomes and continuing to advocate for greater transparency, fair remuneration and improved support structures for creative workers. Our state budget response further highlighted the need for sustained and equitable investment in the arts sector.

On a national level, we contributed to sector advocacy surrounding the federal election campaign and joined colleagues across the country in responding to the Venice Biennale controversy, reaffirming our commitment to artistic freedom and the importance of independent artistic practice.

Connection and community building have remained vital to AICSA’s work. In January we hosted a sector meetup at Nexus Arts, attended by Minister Michaels and featuring a performance by Katie Aspel, creating an important opportunity for artists, arts workers and sector leaders to gather, connect and exchange ideas. Another significant event was the reception held at Parliament House, hosted by Minister Michaels exclusively to AICSA members, to celebrate the occasion of the Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Bill being introduced to Parliament.

We are grateful for the commitment and insight of our volunteer Executive Committee members, whose generosity, expertise and care continue to shape the organisation. We also thank our members, partners and colleagues across the sector for their ongoing support and participation in AICSA’s work.

Membership growth and engagement have continued to strengthen over the past year, reflecting the importance of independent advocacy and collective action within the arts sector. As a membership-based organisation, our strength comes directly from the community we serve, and we encourage continued involvement and connection as we move into another important year for the sector.

Looking ahead, AICSA remains committed to advocating for a thriving, inclusive and sustainable arts ecology in South Australia — one that values artistic labour, supports freedom of creative expression, and recognises arts and culture as essential to a healthy and democratic society. As we step down as Co-Chairs we look forward to supporting AICSA in the future and will be cheering the Executive Committee on from the side lines.

2025 ACTIVITIES



*Audience at AICSA Cultural Safety Workshop
Photo by Bri Hammond*

AICSA continues to express the views of its members to the government, arts funding agencies and political parties, through a variety of means such as forums, newsletters, submissions, reports, and consultations.

An active membership combined with the efforts of the committee give significance to the role of the AICSA as an independent voice for the arts.

2025 saw AICSA engaged in important advocacy work, a member survey and networking event, and undertook key activities to future proof the organisation, such as internal policy development.

These activities are outlined in the following section.

ADVOCACY

GOVERNMENT & SECTOR RELATIONS

AICSA Committee members held regular meetings with Minister Michaels and other representatives of government and the opposition to advocate on behalf of our members.

AICSA also continued to advocate for the sector during the State Cultural Policy development process and participate in the CreateSA Grant Review.

Other submissions and correspondence included:

- [Artist at Work Taskforce Response](#)
- [Budget response](#)
- [SA Cultural Policy response](#)
- [Federal election campaign response](#)
- [Venice Biennale response](#)
- [City of Adelaide Draft Cultural Policy](#)
- [Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Bill](#)

Other deep engagement with the sector involved AICSA attendance/participation in:

- Artists at Work Taskforce
- Reset Art and Culture
- SA Unions Industry Skills Committee
- Creative Workplaces workshops
- Procurement SA's Not-for-profit Advisory Group
- South Australian Social Statement Roundtable

OPERATIONS

- Number of members: 163
- Number of staff: General Manager @ 0.2FTE
- 2025 saw constitutional changes approved by the membership at an EGM with a view to apply for Deductible Gift Recipient status.
- 2025 also saw the development of new internal policies and procedures.
- AICSA updated the [Strategic Plan to span 2025-2028](#)
- Facebook followers: 2.1k Instagram followers: 1.6k

RESEARCH

PRE-STATE ELECTION MEMBER SURVEY

It's was an interesting year for the arts and culture sector, with the cultural policy launched in March turning Arts South Australia into Create SA, the Artists at Work Taskforce report released in July, and the value of the arts legislation introduced to parliament before the end of the year through the Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Bill 2025.

In the lead up to the state election, AICSA developed a policy platform to guide our work in advocating for the sector in the next term of government. To inform this, we surveyed members and friends of AICSA to hear your ideas for the arts and culture sector.

The results of this survey were compiled in early 2026, and will form the basis of our advocacy priorities moving forward.

The resulting [advocacy priorities can be found here.](#)

EVENTS

NETWORKING // SA Arts Sector Meet-up

On 28 Jan 2025, AICSA hosted an opportunity to network with fellow sector colleagues over drinks and nibbles to welcome in the new year.

We were joined by The Hon Andrea Michaels MP, Minister for the Arts and heard a beautiful performance from Ngarrindjeri and Gunditjmara singer/songwriter and 2025 Nexus Interplay artist, Katie Aspel.

We were joined by 30 attendees.

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WEBINAR // SA Cultural Policy Discussion

Early April, the Government of South Australia released their new cultural policy, *A Place to Create*, its supporting delivery plan, and announced draft legislation which recognises the importance of the arts.

In this webinar, the AICSA Executive and sector colleagues discussed the new cultural policy, compared initial thoughts and compiled questions from the sector which were later posed to CreateSA.

There were 54 registrations.

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EVENT // Arts, Culture & Creative Industries Bill 2025 Celebration

AICSA and the Hon Andrea Michaels MP, Minister for Arts invited AICSA members to an exclusive event to celebrate the tabling of the Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Bill 2025.

The Minister offered brief remarks, followed by informal industry networking, light refreshments and an opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the arts community. Following the event, ministerial staff hosted optional small-group tours of Parliament House.

There were 37 registrations.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Profit and Loss
2. Balance Sheet
3. Notes to the Financial Statements

AICSA 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Profit and Loss

Arts Industry Council (SA) Inc
For the year ended 31 December 2025

2025

Trading Income

Donations income	220.00
Grant Revenue	2,000.00
Membership	26,234.02
Ticket sales	54.80
Total Trading Income	28,508.82

Gross Profit 28,508.82

Operating Expenses

Bank Merchant Charges	240.00
Catering	114.43
Insurance	1,308.61
Meeting Costs	355.75
Postage	285.00
Presenter/Performer/Speaker Fees	1,300.00
Printing	1.30
Production	378.28
Professional Development	36.00
Stripe Fees	224.68
Subscriptions	1,041.92
Superannuation expense	2,639.50
Venue Hire	330.00
Wages and Salaries	18,357.10
WorkCover Insurance	433.85
Total Operating Expenses	27,046.42

Net Profit 1,462.40

Balance Sheet

Arts Industry Council (SA) Inc
As at 31 December 2025

31 DEC 2025

Assets

Bank

Cheque Account	37,083.33
PayPal	801.57
Total Bank	37,884.90

Current Assets

Trade Debtors	1,705.00
Total Current Assets	1,705.00

Total Assets

39,589.90

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

PAYG Withholding Payable	864.05
Rounding	0.02
Superannuation Payable	645.95
Total Current Liabilities	1,510.02

Total Liabilities

1,510.02

Net Assets

38,079.88

Equity

Current Year Earnings	1,462.40
Retained Earnings	36,617.48
Total Equity	38,079.88

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INCOME:

AICSA's membership overall grew slightly (149 - 163), so our membership income was more than projected.

However, the fundraising and donations income was much less than planned. We had anticipated that AICSA would be able to launch fundraising campaigns on application for Deductible Gift Recipient status, however this application was withdrawn when the ATO notified that we may not be successful do to AICSA not producing new creative work.

While these avenues are resolved, AICSA plans to launch an Australian Cultural Fund to accept tax deductible donations in the short term.

EXPENSES:

Most expenses were under the budgeted amount, with the exception of increased subscription and Stripe charges (due to price increases during the year), and superannuation, as the budget only included staff superannuation and not contractors.

ASSETS:

Trade Debtors exclusively consists of unpaid membership fees at year end.

SURPLUS:

A small surplus of \$1,462.40 was returned, despite lower than expected income. This is thanks to careful spending and decreased General Manager hours to 0.2FTE.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge the hard work from our 2025 Executive Committee, with special thanks to our retiring Co-Chairs, Satu Teppo, Jo O'Callaghan, Deputy Chair, Caitlin Ellen Moore and retiring long-standing Committee Member, Emma Webb OAM and our co-opted member, Dre Ngatokorua.

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- *Jo O'Callaghan (Co-Chair)*
 - *Satu Teppo (Co-Chair)*
 - *Caitlin Ellen Moore (Deputy Chair)*
 - *Nick Hays (Treasurer)*
 - *Dr Tully Barnett*
 - *Dave Court*
 - *Joanne Hartstone*
 - *Emily Tulloch*
 - *Pepper Mickan (outgoing)*
 - *Beth Neate (incoming, co-opted)*
 - *Dre Ngatokorua (co-opted)*
 - *Bec Young (co-opted)*

We thank our 2025 Staff:

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- *Kim Roberts (General Manager 0.2FTE, Public Officer)*
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**We thank our members for
their continued support**

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