





### Acknowledgement of Country

AWESOME Arts Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to elders past and present.

### **Chair Report**

When the going gets tough, the tough work even harder!

2021 pushed our amazing AWESOME team to the limits, fuelled by their determination to deliver high quality arts experiences for children throughout Western Australia.

Despite a constantly changing set of parameters, they scheduled – and then rescheduled – programs for schools and for communities, often in very constrained time frames. And while the challenges grew, so did their creativity in overcoming whatever was thrown at them.

As a Board, we take our hats off to the team, led by our inspirational CEO and Artistic Director Jenny Simpson. With much of the outreach activity crammed into the second half of the year, the intensity was palpable. We thank you for your unwavering commitment and the many extra hours you put in.

What motivates the team is the wonderful response they receive from so many valued supporters. A very big thank you to all our partners, friends in the sector, artists, volunteers and production crew. None of this would have happened without you.

To the communities that welcome us into their schools, libraries and special spaces, thank you for sharing our passion to make a difference in young lives, and providing opportunities to experience the world through the arts and express themselves in new ways. My thanks to my fellow Board members who generously volunteer their time and talents in pursuit of AWESOME's great vision.

Finally, to the children and families of WA who supported AWESOME in 2021, thank you for braving challenging festival weather, schedule changes and COVID restrictions to share in the experience of wonderful WA art and artists, nurturing values that endure into adulthood.

#### **Elizabeth Chester**

Chairperson AWESOME Arts Australia Ltd

### Vison, Mission, Values

Our **VISION** is for AWESOME to be internationally recognised as an innovative, dynamic platform through which children access and engage with the arts, nurturing values that endure into adulthood.

Our **MISSION** is to provide ever-expanding opportunities for Western Australian children to actively engage with the arts, intensifying their connectivity with the broader world in which they live.

Our **VALUES** are predicated on our organisation's imperatives.

We are intent on offering 'quality', 'impact', 'reach' and 'value' for our children, their parents, and their educators.

We value our ability to offer different ways of thinking about and 'imagining' our world. We value our ability to serve as a catalyst in inspiring children's creativity.

We value our role in promoting quality engagement with the arts that will have enduring benefits as today's children move towards adulthood.

### **CEO/Artistic Director Report**

2021 was a tough year on many fronts. The ongoing and ever-present threat of lockdowns, changeable interstate border restrictions and the enormous challenge of catching up several regional programs from 2020 required agility and focus.

As well as the AWESOME Festival and Creative Challenge, AWESOME piloted STEAMED UP, an exciting new education program in the Pilbara, and delivered the Regional Libraries project to 36 communities in partnership with the State Library of Western Australia. In spite of the pandemic-related challenges, over the past 24 months AWESOME has met every one of its Key Performance Indicators. Thank you, Miranda, Brianna, Kayla, Georgia, Nadia, James, Amanda, Samantha, Jemima and Sam, for your unwavering faith, hard work, wisdom and goodwill.

Also, to our Board, our production crew and our mighty volunteers. This past year has tested you all, yet out there in the community where it matters, we shine brightly in a pandemic-fatigued world.

Heartfelt thanks to our partners. Your support and faith in AWESOME is something that we'll never take for granted. BHP, DLGSCI, Lotterywest, City of Perth, Perth Theatre Trust, Healthway, Crown Resorts Foundation, Packer Family Foundation, Wesfarmers Arts, RISE Fund and Patrick Gorman and the Australian Government through the Stronger Communities Fund. Thank you.

We work in a phenomenal sector that sticks together through thick and thin! The West Australian Ballet, Perth Theatre Trust, State Library of Western Australia, DADAA, Anglicare WA, Boffins Books, Ngala, Telethon Kids Institute, the Western Australian Museum, the West Australian Opera and Perth Symphony Orchestra... you all stepped up and showed your true colours as outstanding companies and trusted friends. Thank you.

A final thanks to the State Government of Western Australia and particularly to Minister for Culture and the Arts, the Hon. David Templeman and the team in his office. It has been a tough year, but your leadership and support during these strange times has enabled us to keep making Western Australia a better place for children and their families. Thank you.

#### Jenny Simpson

CEO & Artistic Director AWESOME Arts Australia Ltd.

## 2021 Festival Overview

This year's AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things opened on 20 September. School excursion groups were welcomed from 19 - 24 September and our general public season ran 27 September to 2 October. We were thrilled to present the season of *Koolbardi wer Wardong* by the WA Opera from 2 - 6 October at His Majesty's Theatre.

In 2021 we partnered with the State Library of WA, WA Museum Boola Bardip, State Theatre Centre of WA and the Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, as well as utilising outdoor spaces throughout the Perth Cultural Centre. The popular *Public Art Tours* explored often overlooked spaces in the Perth Cultural Centre and neighbouring Northbridge area, and The Rechabite hosted musical performances by some of WA's best artists.

Western Australian artists took centre stage at the 2021 Festival with over 127 West Australian artists showcased over the 11 days. Highlights from the program include Peter and The Wolf by the





Image credit: Richard Watson

West Australian Ballet and the 2021 AWESOME Festival Closing Party by Perth Symphony Orchestra, both of which were performed free for families on an outdoor stage in the James Street Amphitheatre. Other highlights include ARCO by Adam Kelly and WA Youth Theatre Company; Roald Dahl's Little Red Riding Hood by Wind Quintet Plus: Koolbardi wer Wardong by the WA Opera, which was the first opera ever created and sung in Noongar; and Festival Artist in Residence Christopher Hummel, whose exhibition Graff My Train was presented in partnership with DADAA.

Two theatre shows from South Australia were featured in the festival. *Hiccup*! by Windmill Theatre Company brought laughs to the State Theatre Centre and *Blinky Bill is on the Loose* by KoBugs Theatre Company had catchy tunes playing throughout the Perth Cultural Centre. The emergence of the Delta strain of COVID-19 mid-year led to the cancellation of the Victorian acts. This is the second consecutive year the pandemic has affected these shows. These acts have been rescheduled for the 2022 AWESOME Festival.

As a part of the Disrupted Festival of Ideas AWESOME and the State Library of WA partnered on Ask me Anything! A panel show where local leaders were invited to answer questions from children. Panel members included; Sandy Anghie, Deputy Lord Mayor, City of Perth;

Image credit: James Campbell



Patrick Gorman MP, Federal Member for Perth; and Professor Helen Milroy, State Recipient, Australian of the Year. The show was hosted by Benjamin and Jacob Narkle.

Each year the AWESOME Festival hosts not-for profit charities to present activity stalls or other partnerships. This year AWESOME continued partnering with Anglicare WA; Foodbank; Telethon Kids Institute and School P&C groups. New partnerships were commenced with MercyCare; Ngala; Soul Gestures Inc and the Periscope Crew, Aboriginal Music Corporation, Djinda Boodja and Curate.

The 2021 AWESOME Festival ran under the Phase Five COVID-19 restrictions set in place by the WA State Government. Due to ongoing border closures, no international acts



Image credit: James Campbell

were programmed for the 2021 event.

The AWESOME Festival continues to attract new audiences with 52% of the surveyed audience indicating that they had visited the AWESOME Festival for the first time. In 2021100% of those surveyed indicated that they had a positive experience at the AWESOME Festival with 98% indicating that the AWESOME Festival is an important addition to Western Australia's cultural landscape. The estimated attendees for the 2021 AWESOME Festival exceeded 87,000 across the Perth Cultural Centre and His Majesty's Theatre. In 2021 the AWESOME Festival presented over 50% of the program free to the public with 325 free events across the 11 days. All ticketed shows were heavily subsidised to support economic accessibility. Across the surveyed audience 99% believe that the AWESOME Festival provides them and their family with opportunities to access high quality arts experiences they would not otherwise see or be involved in.

Image credit: Richard Watson

Image credit: James Campbell

### School Excursions Report

#### by Nadia Bischof

In 2021 1,401 children attended a festival excursion, incursion, or participated in the Little Impressions Exhibition with engagement across 29 different schools.

AWESOME launched the 2021 education program in May with an in-person Professional Development session with visual artist, Louise Snook who explored wet and dry felting techniques with educators.

In 2021, AWESOME invited schools to participate in the *Little Impressions Postcards from a Virtual Holiday* Exhibition inspired by Festival Artist in Residence Christopher Hummel. Students were asked to pick a virtual holiday destination from anywhere in the world, learn about the local



AWESOME would like to extend a huge thank you to our enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers for donating their time. We couldn't run the festival without you and we appreciate your hard work!



sights, history and people, and design a postcard. These postcards were displayed for the duration of the AWESOME Festival in the State Theatre Centre courtyard along with a digital exhibition as part of the *Big Screen, Little People, Free Films* program.

AWESOME offered two performance options for school excursions in 2021, *Blinky Bill is on the Loose by KoBugs* Theatre Company and *Indigo Sand* by Sandpiper Productions. Some schools opted for an AWESOME Day Out package which included a performance, a workshop with a professional artist, and a tour of the festival site including activities, exhibitions and free play. There was also the option of a performance only excursion, paired with a tour of one of the many exhibitions on display at the Festival. In 2021, the number of students and supervisors who attended a school excursion increased by 146% in comparison to 2020.

100% of teachers surveyed agreed that their visit to the AWESOME Festival had a positive impact on their students, and 85% believe the excursion provided their students with opportunities to engage with quality arts experiences that they might not otherwise be able to access.



Image credit: James Campbell

# Volunteer Report

106 people volunteered at the 2021 AWESOME Festival contributing 1764 hours over 11 days. There was an average of 48.8 volunteers on site each day during the general public season of the festival.

In 2021, we continued to attract a diverse cohort of volunteers with a variety of motivations, backgrounds and skill levels. 45.3% of volunteers were under the age of 18 and 13.2% of volunteers were over the age of 50.

Image credit: James Campbell

We had a volunteer retention rate of 30.2% this year. 100% of volunteers surveyed said they would volunteer at the AWESOME Festival again in the future.

AWESOME would like to thank Lotterywest for their continuing support of the volunteering program, enabling the organisation to engage additional contract staff to manage recruitment and much needed ground support during the festival.

# At a Glance

AWESOME presented **321** free events at the AWESOME Festival 54% of the surveyed audience visited the AWESOME Festival for the first time AWESOME engaged 175 WA Artists

AWESOME provided school students with 1,366 hours of contact time with professional artists

AWESOME worked with 53 schools across WA reaching over 2,450 students

AWESOME attracted over 87,000 visitors to the AWESOME Festival AWESOME engaged 106 volunteers who donated over 1,764 hours of their time to the AWESOME Festival

## Community Arts Engagement

### Kidchella

The City of Melville's *Kidchella* returned to the Attadale Foreshore on Sunday the 17 January. Following on from AWESOME providing a strategic consultancy for the City of Melville in 2020.

AWESOME delivered engaging arts activities including earth sculptures with visual artist, Louise Snook, a Textile Wall out of recycled materials, Yarn Looms, and a Wishing Line offering children the chance to make a wish for someone else. Children also explored collaging by creating their very own family portrait out of different shapes and textures with artist, Soolagna Majumdar.

Kidchella encouraged many families to let their creativity run wild, and was a great way of bringing the community of Melville together for a free family day out.

Image credit: Richard Watson



### **Cathedral Square**

During the January school holidays, AWESOME partnered with Cathedral Square to host a free, family fun weekend. On 23 and 24 January, children, parents and grandparents were inspired to play and explore with a range of creative activities.

AWESOME created Weaving Circles and a textile wall with visual artist, Charlotte O'Shea, and an amazing Native Earth Sculpture with visual artist, Louise Snook. Families also got to bust a move with Guru Dudu host, Nom Bom, on Silent Disco Tours of the historic precinct.

AWESOME returned to Cathedral Square over Perth Heritage Weekend for another family fun event. On Friday 16 April, families were invited to uncover the history of the square with engaging activities.

Children explored the heritage of Cathedral Square by crafting a stained-glass window out of paper and cellophane, reflected on the unique architecture in the square by making their very own paper buildings. They enjoyed learning about the Point Zero landmark and taking part in a curated precinct treasure hunt. Artist Calvin Chee created an incredible earth sculpture on the square lawn, and Guru Dudu also returned for more Silent Disco Tours of the precinct.

These engaging activities celebrated colour, movement and creativity, and brought many families into Cathedral Square to experience culture, art and history.

### Public Library Program

In 2021 AWESOME partnered with the State Library of WA to run an artist in residence program in regional public libraries and community resource centres. This project was supported by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries through their Creative Communities COVID 19 Recovery program.

This program saw four WA artists take up residence in the host communities of Merredin, Dandaragan, Katanning and Kalgoorlie. Each residency travelled to libraries around these regions to present a series of arts workshops engaging and delighting the community. The final event of each residency was a professional development session tun by the State Library of WA for the participating regional staff. This session focused on breaking down the intricacies of running community focused workshops and creating an intra-regional network for these public libraries and community resource centres.

Each residency was designed in partnership with the staff at the local libraries and community resource centres to reflect the challenges and interests of their unique community.



### Artist in residence programs at a glance

Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Wyndham

Gascoyne

Communities

Kimberley

Wheatbelt Communities Hours Merredin, Kellerberrin, Cunderdin, Southern Cross, Wyalkatchem, Dowerin, Dandaragan, Gingin,

Dalwallinu, Wongan Hills, Toodyay, Northam, Jurien Bay, Cervantes

Perth Metro Communities Hours

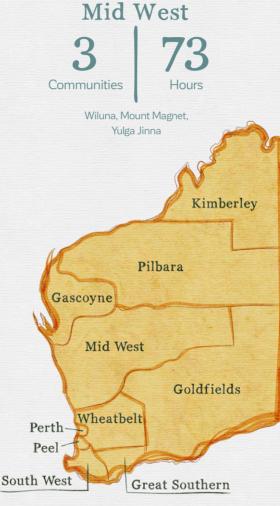
Balga, Bentley

Peel Community Hours

Rockingham

South West Community Hours

Bunbury



Great Southern 28 Communities Hours

Katanning, Kojonup, Wagin, Nyabing, Darken, Gnowangarup, Ongerup, Tambellup, Cranbrook, Mt Barker, Broomehill

Hours Community Gascovne Junction

Pilbara 1( Communities

Hours

Hours

Hedland (3), Newman, Onslow, Yandeyarra, Punmu, Kunawarritji, Parnngurr, Nullagine

### Goldfields -**Esperance**

Communities

Hours

Kalgoorlie (2), Coolgardie (2), Leonora, Kurrawang, Menzies, Laverton, Kambalda



### **Creative Challenge Report**

#### By Brianna Wotzko

Creative Challenge is AWESOME Arts annual artist-in-residency program, that places two professional teaching artists within a school or community for one or two weeks to devise, develop and manage an art project using a process driven, project management methodology. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted travel to regional and remote Western Australian communities. In 2021 AWESOME presented 9 additional weeks of residency contact time to catch up on the residencies missed the previous year. This made 2021 our biggest year of Creative Challenge yet! We are immensely proud to have presented 20 regional residencies across the state. We engaged 27 professional local artists to provide over 700 hours of contact with young Western Australians.



School/ Community	Artists	Participants	Start	End
CAPS Kurrawang	Charlotte and Kero O'Shea	67	22-Mar-21	01-Apr-21
Gascoyne Junction Remote Community School	Charlotte and Kero O'Shea	5	24-May-21	04-Jun-21
Nullagine Primary School	Calvin Chee and Nathan Gardiner	27	14-Jun-21	25-Jun-21
Hedland Senior High School	Sete Tele and Aidan Bayliss	48	14-Jun-21	25-Jun-21
Yulga Jinna Remote Community School	Charlotte and Kero O'Shea	15	26-Jul-21	06-Aug-2
Yandeyarra Remote Community School	Matt Aitken and Nathan Gardiner	10	26-Jul-21	06-Aug-2
College Row, Bunbury	Bridget Waters and Lana Rothnie	28	02-Aug-21	06-Aug-2
East Kalgoorlie Primary School	Cecile Williams and Peter Keelan	44	02-Aug-21	13-Aug-21
Derby High School	Louise Snook and Chloe Flockart	54	16-Aug-21	20-Aug-2
RAWA School, Punmu and Kunawarratji	Calvin Chee and Andy Quilty	12	16-Aug-21	27-Aug-21
Bungaree Primary School, Rockinham	Samantha Hughes, Kero O'Shea & Nathan Hoyle	50	23-Aug-21	03-Sep-2
Fitzroy Valley District High School	Miles Openshaw and Emilie Monty	15	30-Aug-21	03-Sep-2
Parnngurr Community School	Sete Tele and Nick Zafir	22	06-Sep-21	10-Sep-21
Onslow School	Charlotte and Kero O'Shea	40	06-Sep-21	17-Sep-21
Junction Co. Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland	Iona McAuley and CJ Hampson	102	27-Sep-21	08-Oct-2
Wiluna Youth Centre	Tania Ferrier and John Toohey	30	27-Sep-21	08-Oct-2
Leonora District High School	Jason Thomas and Nick Zafir	60	18-Oct-21	29-Oct-22
Wyndham District High School	Sete Tele and Nick Zafir	34	15-Nov-21	26-Nov-2
Coolgardie Primary School	Jodie Davidson and Addam	47	15-Nov-21	26-Nov-2
Mt Magnet District High School	Rachael Woodward and Chloe Flockart	19	02-Dec-21	15-Dec-2







### **Creative Challenge Metro Report**

With the support of Crown Resorts Foundation and Packer Family Foundation AWESOME visited two metropolitan schools, engaging professional artists to work with students in a series of 20 workshops throughout the school year. A selection of process artworks were exhibited at the 2021 AWESOME Festival at the Perth Cultural Centre. Participating students attended a Festival excursion which included seeing their exhibited works.



Packer Family Foundation

School/ Community	Artists	Participants	Start	End
North Balga Primary School	Jodie Davidson and Addam	54	21-Jul	13-Oct
Bentley Primary School	Matt Aitken and Bellamore Ndayikeze	48	12-Aug	11-Nov

### Gathering

Every year the Creative Challenge Program is broadly underpinned by a theme. The 2021 theme Gathering asked "What does it mean to gather together?" Celebrating the resilience and importance of community.

2020 forced communities to find new ways and places to spend time together. In 2021 we encouraged children to come together in unique ways, to collect important stories and reflect on the important communities that we are all part of. We asked children, "How does gathering make us stronger? And what should we focus on gathering?"

The conversations and artwork created on these residencies explored the unique identities of participants and their vibrant and varied points of view.



Image credit: Peter Keelan

RULE THE VORLD

### **STEAMED Up Report**

#### by Brianna Wotzko

In 2021 our Education program expanded to commence a two year pilot program called STEAMED Up. This is a process-driven, artist in residency program piloted in two schools over the whole school year. STEAMED Up is a multi-layered strategic creative learning program that aims to address educational needs of Australian children in preparation for the workplaces and communities that they will inhabit as adults. This year AWESOME Arts has had the privilege of working with the students and staff of Cassia Primary School and South Newman Primary School. This education program uses process-driven arts practice and creativity to more fully engage children and to connect with core curriculum and STEAMED (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, Enterprise/Entrepreneurship, & Design) subjects. Participants have

Image credit: Richard Watson



focused on exploring seven key skillsets that are critical to success in the future workplace.

Within this new program students have used creative process to collaborate on long-term projects. They have strengthened their connections with each other and their school communities whilst also exploring their personal talents and strengths. This year students have eagerly explored collaboration and teamwork, embraced making mistakes and the creative opportunities they present, have shared their considerable achievements with their peers, teachers and families and reflected on their development from throughout the year.

This year 73 students have had a chance to work with 15 local Western Australian artists for over 420 hours of contact time in the community.

We are excited to continue to grow and develop this pilot program in 2022.

BHP

N	South Newman Primary School	Residency 1	26 July - 13 Aug	Artists: Iona McAuley and Sete Tele
-	Lead Artist Natalie Zuchetti	Residency 2	30 Aug - 17 Sept	Artists: Natalie Zuchetti and Neil Elliot
	Participants 30	Residency 3	11 - 29 October	Artists: Natalie Zuchetti and Sete Tele
	Contact Time 180 hours	Residency 4	22 Nov - 11 Dec	Artists Natalie Zuchetti and Maxxi May

	Cassia Primary School	Residency 1	21 June - 2 July	Artists Iona McAuley, Emilie Monty, and Sete Tele
N.M.	Lead Artist Brianna Wotzko	Residency 2	26 July - 13 Aug	Artists Rachel Ogle and Sherrise Todd
Sall .	Participants 43	Residency 3	6 -24 Sept	Adriano Cappelletta, Melanie Starkey and Rachael Woodward
4.175	Contact Time 240 hours	Residency 4	18 Oct -12 Nov	Artists Rachel Ogle, Charlotte O'Shea and Kero O'Shea





### Patron, Employees & Board of Directors

#### Patron

Professor Jonathan Carapetis AM Director, Telethon Kids Institute

#### Staff

Jenny Simpson	Chief Executive Officer & Artistic Director
Miranda Maciver	Operations Manager
Brianna Wotzko	Education Manager
Nadia Bischof	Festival Admin & Artist Logistics Manager
James Savage	Production Manager
Georgia Landre-Ord	Associate Producer and Curator of the Literature Program
Kayla Newland	Marketing & Communications Officer
Amanda Scoble	Finance Manager
Samantha Martin	Community Arts Admin Officer (until Oct 2021)
Andrea Browning	WAAPA Intern/Community Arts Admin Officer (August - Dec 2021)
Sam Sisti	Ticketing Officer
Jemima Hill	Volunteer Coordinator

### Board

Elizabeth Chester (Chair, May 2021) Kate James (Treasurer) Derry Simpson (Chair until May 2021) Danielle Benda (Deputy Chair, May 2021) Daniel Smith Ellie Quinti (Company Secretary, May 2021) Mary Bretherton (until May 2021) Daley Rangi Jenny Simpson

#### **Festival Photographers**

Richard Watson & James Campbell

#### Festival Production Team

Dana loppolo, Ellick Higson, Emily Brown, Celine Monier, Jason Raven and Niki Swales.

### Festival Gelato

Blinky Bill Blueberry Marshmallow Gelato by Chicho Gelato

### Acknowledgements

AWESOME would like to sincerely thank Alex Hotel, The Court Hotel, Eillo, Fi & Co, Hurly Burly, Jacksons Drawing Supplies, Lil' Toastface, Little Willy's, Livingstone's Urban Jungle, Planet Books Northbridge, Pretzel and Ruck Rover for their kind support of the 2021 AWESOME Festival Volunteer Program.

AWESOME would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all of our funding partners, donors and sponsors. We value your support and acknowledge your investment in our community.

#### Thank you to our volunteers

A huge thanks goes out to our dedicated AWESOME volunteers who generously donated their time, skills and smiles to the AWESOME Festival. We couldn't do it without you!

### **Income and Expense** Statement

#### Income and Expense Statement JANUARY 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 2021

Income	
Grant funding	\$ 994,285
Sponsorship	\$ 939,913
COVID 19 Stimulus	\$ 20,400
Earned income	\$ 96,657
Other earned income	\$ 2,764
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2,054,019

Expenses	
Salaries, wages and fees	\$ 1,145,635
Marketing, promotion, documentation	\$ 177,183
Infrastructure costs [admin]	\$ 112,010
Programs, production, exhibitions, touring	\$ 562,752
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,997,580
Surplus	\$ 56,439

D	u	pn	us	

TOTAL EQUITY

Surpius	\$ 50,455
Balance Sheet AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021	
Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 1,808,674
Other Assets	\$ 20,645
Fixed Assets	\$ 31,362
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,860,681
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	\$ 1,207,635
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,207,635
NET ASSETS	\$ 653,046
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$ 596,607
Current Year Surplus	\$ 56,439

\$ 653,046



# Partners

Principal Partner

Major

**Partners** 

BHP

otterywes



Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

City of **Perth** 



Australian Government RISE Fund





FM92.1 KIDS - PERTH



State Library



Venue Partners

PERTH CULTURAL CENTRE

RECHABITE



PERTH THEATRE TRUST

Supporting Partners







