



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



ACKNOWLEDGMENT 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.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

It's been a turbulent few years in the arts community everywhere. Having emerged from the darkness and disruption of COVID, organisations around the world are now fighting to re-establish momentum and regain audiences.

We are all battling markedly increased costs and the challenges of finding funding as cost-of-living crises bite into budgets everywhere and, in Western Australia, as many resource companies re-align their funding priorities.

In light of these challenges AWESOME has strived to maintain flexibility and adaptability, to continue to bring the very best of performances, visual art and interactive creative experiences to children across the state.

The seemingly indefatigable AWESOME team has adapted our delivery model to expand into more regional and outer suburban areas, working with local government and other regional organisations to find ways to bring our wonderful program to more children.

And they delivered in spades in 2023.

As a board, our strategic planning process is well underway to examine ways to better adapt to the challenges and changes that lie ahead.

What keeps us all going in these endeavours is the unshakeable belief in the benefit of exposure to the arts for young people, improving their confidence and self-expression, and developing their resilience.

At a time when it seems our children are subject to so many pressures and stresses, affected by anxiety and other mental health issues, the arts present a safe space for creative expression and the exploration of ideas.

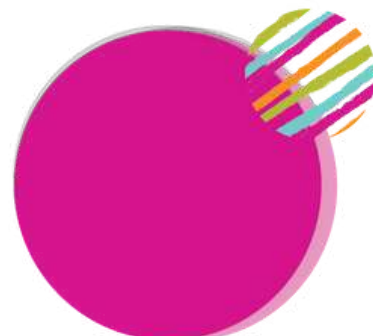
Kids can see different ways of being in the world; express beauty and wonder or challenge the status quo, developing the skills they will need to grow and find a happy and productive place in the community.

Congratulations and thanks to the AWESOME team, led by CEO and Artistic Director Jenny Simpson and a very big thank you to all our partners, friends in the sector, artists, volunteers and production crew who continue to support us. And, to the schools and communities who welcome us so warmly, thank you.

My thanks also to my fellow Board members who generously volunteer their time in pursuit of AWESOME's vision.

We look forward to sharing with you our plan for a bold AWESOME future bringing the myriad benefits of the arts to WA children and young people.

Danielle Benda
Chairperson
AWESOME Arts Australia Ltd.



VISION, 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

I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report for AWESOME Arts Australia Ltd, detailing our progress, achievements, and future outlook.

2023 was a transformative year for AWESOME Arts as we continued our mission to enrich the lives of young Western Australians and their families through arts and cultural experiences. Despite the challenges posed by the global pandemic, we remained resilient and adaptive, successfully finalising a number of projects that were delayed by COVID-19 as well as finding innovative ways to engage with our community and deliver impactful programs.

Throughout the year, AWESOME Arts has delivered a diverse range of programs, reaching young people of all ages and backgrounds. Our partnerships with Healthway, Horizon and BHP enabled us to deliver Creative Challenge residencies throughout the state, including several remote communities. The STEAMED-Up program at Newman Primary saw the creation of a whole new universe! Entitled Newmania, the year 3 students stretched their imagination muscles to the surprise and delight of teachers, parents and the local community. We were also thrilled to commence the AWESOME Schools Creative Learning program in both metropolitan and regional WA thanks to the support of a Creative Learning Grant from the DLGSC. Our teaching artists even travelled to Christmas Island to deliver a wonderful residency for the Premier's Reading Challenge!

The 2023 AWESOME Festival was presented across three hubs in 2023: The Perth Cultural Centre, Yagan Square and Kelmscott Hall. Attendance was strong across all three sites with 59% of our audience being first-time attendees. Highlights include the free children's ballet, staged in the PCC amphitheatre and the *Nylon Zoo* at Yagan Square. Our artist-led Creative Hubs were once again a big hit, especially The Mess Hall for children aged under 5 years!

Every year we aim to present a minimum of 50% of the AWESOME Festival free to the public and in 2023, 80% of the festival was free.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our mission of making quality arts experiences accessible to all and the success of our 2023 Kelmscott Hub in partnership with the City of Armadale has provided ample motivation for AWESOME Arts to continue to innovate and adapt to meet the evolving needs of our community. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead as we develop our new Strategic Plan in 2024.

I would like to express my gratitude to our dedicated team, artists, volunteers, partners, Board members and supporters. Your unwavering commitment and generosity have been instrumental in our success. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished this year, and I am excited about the journey ahead. With your continued support, I am confident that AWESOME Arts will continue to thrive and make a lasting impact in the years to come.

Jenny Simpson
CEO & Artistic Director
AWESOME Arts Australia Ltd.



2023 FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

BY BRIANNA WOTZKO

The 2023 AWESOME Festival ran for 13 days between 18 – 30 September reaching over 102,400 attendees.

The first 5 days offered an educational program for school excursion groups as well as digital engagement opportunities for schools who were unable to attend the event in person. We partnered with the City of Armadale to present a festival offering at Kelmscott Hall and oval on the 23rd and 24th of September. The general public season followed with 6 days of the AWESOME Festival being presented in the Perth Cultural Centre and Yagan Square.

In 2023 we partnered with the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, The Blue Room Theatre, WA Museum Boola Bardip, the State Library of WA, as well as outdoor spaces throughout the Perth Cultural Centre and Yagan Square.

For the first time, we decentralised the AWESOME Festival by offering programming in the City of Armadale over the middle weekend. AWESOME presented performances of *Dr AudiYO's Giant Adventure* and *Woody's Bush Cabaret* along with artist-led hubs, storytime sessions, workshops, and community market stalls. All of this programming was delivered free and was a big hit with local families.

In partnership with the Arts and Culture Trust, AWESOME presented a complete venue take-over of the State Theatre Centre of WA, activating performance spaces, foyers, the courtyard, and even backstage!

Highlights of the theatre program presented in partnership with Wesfarmers Arts were *Grug and the Rainbow*, a Windmill Theatre Company Production with exquisite puppetry for early childhood audiences; *Dr AudiYO's Giant Adventure* by Holly Austin which fused old-school clowning and mime with new skool beatbox and looping and invited the whole audience to participate; *Clare Della and the Moon* by Ellen Graham & Jamie Hornsby a moving story about a young girl who escapes the world to live on the moon; and *Wonderbox* by Sensorium Theatre which was a multi-sensory wonderland designed for young audiences with disability and their friends.



Image Credit: James Campbell, Armadale Kids' Festival Hub



Image Credit: James Campbell, Nylon Zoo



Image Credit: James Campbell, The Magical Weedy Seadragon

AWESOME continued our partnership with DADAA to host an artist-in-residence to create and exhibit work for the duration of the festival in the State Theatre Centre Studio Underground. This year the artist was Declan White with his colourful and meticulously detailed artwork. In 2023 we also presented our Festival Accessibility Guide enabling everybody to safely and confidently navigate festival activities and venues.

AWESOME and The Blue Room Theatre continued their impactful partnership that supports emerging artists to create new work for young audiences. Each year a new work is selected to be developed further and presented at the AWESOME Festival in partnership with The Blue Room's September program. This year we presented *Alex and Evie and the Forever Falling Rain* by every other theatre company. Unfortunately, this sold-out production was cut short after 3 performances due to COVID.

AWESOME partnered with the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) in 2023 to present the popular free children's ballet in the Perth Cultural Centre. This year the ballet was a new contemporary production of *Little Red Riding Hood* developed and choreographed by Andries Weidemann, with an original score by Emma Jayakumar and performed by the third year WAAPA students.

We partnered with Yagan Square and Development WA to present the *Nylon Zoo* interactive installation by artist Evelyn Roth. Yagan Square Amphitheatre became a hub with enormous inflatable Australian creatures, dress-up parades and storytelling activities.

In 2023 we continued offering artist-led Creative Hubs as a free space for families to drop in and engage with activities to inspire and delight. These hubs spanned textiles, circus, sculpture, music, storytelling, visual arts, and creative play. Surveys indicate that 97% of attendees engaged with our high quality free programming.



Image credit: James Campbell, AWESOME Schools Week



Image Credit: Fi Mullholland, Crafty Nannas Creative Hub



Image credit: James Campbell, Sea of Light



Other highlights of the festival program include Breaksea's performance of their new musical for early childhood audiences, *The Magical Weedy Seadragon* performed at the Rechabite; Australian Baroque's performance *Space Music* blending chamber ensemble music with stunning NASA imagery and commentary in the State Library of WA; Barrowland Ballet's four-screen interactive film installation *Family Portrait* in the WA Museum Boola Bardip; Patch Theatre's illuminating interactive light installation *Sea of Light* presented in partnership with PICA; and numerous literature events hosted in the State Library of WA.

We continued developing our community engagement programming in several ways.

- We expanded our community markets further with over 55 stalls presented by young entrepreneurs.
- We partnered with the Equity Project to present the *You Deserve a Medal* activity for festival visitors to make an award for someone significant in their community.
- We partnered with Perth Festival to create works for their October *Boorna Waanginy: the Trees Speak* festival event.
- We also presented community lunchtime concerts, inviting cultural community groups to present performances each day at the festival.

In 2023 over 80% of the festival was presented free to the public with 446 free events. All ticketed shows were heavily subsidised to support economic access for low-income families. Across the surveyed audience 93% of respondents expressed that the AWESOME Festival exposes their children to high-quality arts experiences that they may not have otherwise seen.

The AWESOME Festival continues to attract new audiences with 59% of the surveyed audience indicating that they had visited the AWESOME Festival for the first time. In 2023, 96% of those surveyed indicated that they had a positive experience at the AWESOME Festival with 93% indicating that the AWESOME Festival is an important addition to Western Australia's cultural landscape. 62% of families attended the festival for 2 or more days, suggesting that the program was affordable and offered engaging content to attract people into the city more than once. The overall satisfaction levels across all parameters of the event remained very high.



Image Credit: Fi Mullholland, *The Mess Hall* Creative Hub



Image Credit: Fi Mullholland, *You Deserve A Medal* Creative Hub



Image Credit: Fi Mullholland, *Found Objects* Creative Hub



SCHOOL EXCURSIONS REPORT

BY NADIA BISCHOF

2023 saw 1,511 children attend a festival excursion, incursion or participate in our Little Impressions Exhibition with participation from 33 different schools.

AWESOME launched the 2023 education program in June with a Professional Development session with visual artist, Louise Snook who guided teachers through screen printing and sculpture activities to replicate in the classroom.

The 2023 theme for the Little Impressions Exhibition was 'Who am I? What makes me happy?'. WA students were asked to reflect on what makes them an individual by sharing their self-portraits which were displayed at the State Theatre Centre from 19 – 30 September.

AWESOME offered four performance options for school excursions in 2023; *Dr AudiYO's Giant Adventure*, *Alex and Evie and the Forever Falling Rain*, *Woody's Bush Cabaret* and *Wonderbox*. Some schools opted to add a workshop with a professional artist and a tour of exhibitions.

100% of teachers surveyed believe that the 2023 AWESOME Festival had a positive impact on the students and that 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, AWESOME Schools Week

VOLUNTEER REPORT

BY NADIA BISCHOF

85 people volunteered at the 2023 AWESOME Festival, contributing 778 hours over 12 days. Thursday the 28th of September was the largest day of volunteering with 39 volunteers helping out in the Perth Cultural Centre and Yagan Square.

In 2023, we continued to attract a diverse group of volunteers with a variety of motivations, backgrounds and skill levels. 31.8% of volunteers were under the age of 18 and 15.3% of volunteers were over the age of 50. Some of our volunteers travelled as far as Baldvis and Eglinton.

This year we had a volunteer retention rate of 15.3%. 100% of volunteers surveyed said they would volunteer at the AWESOME Festival again in the future and would recommend volunteering to others.

From all of us at AWESOME, we 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!



Image Credit: James Campbell, Crafty Nannas Creative Hub

COMMUNITY ARTS ENGAGEMENT

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

In Term 1 of 2023, AWESOME partnered with the Department of Education to deliver bespoke workshops for 5 schools that won the 2022 Premier's Reading Challenge.

Circus artists Aidan Bayliss and Nat Kell headed to Christmas Island District High School for a week of plate spinning, acrobatics and tumbling with students from Kindy – Year 10.

Author Mark Greenwood and Author/Illustrator Frané Lessac visited Baynton West Primary School, inspiring students to explore illustration and writing. Over 3 days, junior classes enjoyed story time sessions and the upper classes attended an author talk.

Year 2 students at Rostrata Primary School created their own origami books using collage with Visual Artist, Samantha Hughes. Students explored the themes of growing up and school through the ages to tie in with the school's 40th anniversary.

Kindy – Year 5 students at Trayning Primary School explored felt-making and created felt portraits of themselves to combine into a collaborative artwork with visual artist, Natalie Zuchetti.

Circus artists Ben Kotovski-Steele and Marinus Van Der Riet Schimmel from Yip Yip Circus delivered circus workshops at Southwell Primary School. Students from Kindy – Year 6 explored 'Big Top' skills such as juggling and hula hooping.

SCHOOL INCURSIONS

AWESOME's incursion program offers students in the Perth Metro area the opportunity to explore different artforms through bespoke workshops with professional artists at their school. In 2023, a total of 592 students participated in an AWESOME incursion.

In July, Mt Hawthorn OSCA explored textiles with a tie-dye workshop facilitated by Visual Artist, Natalie Zuchetti. Children twisted and tied elastic bands to create their own tie-dye tote bags to take home.

In November, visual artist Samantha Hughes visited Whitford Catholic Primary School to work with the Year 3 students. Participants created plant and creature sculptures inspired by the colours of their family and country of origin using foil, paper and other materials. Participants also explored textiles and tie-dye. The individual sculptures then came together as an installation admired by the whole school.

In December, mixed media artist Matt Aitken visited Southern River College to explore tie-dye processes with students in the Specialised Autism Learning Program (SALP). Participants tie-dyed tote bags and t-shirts during this engaging workshop.

Also in December, we partnered with Edith Cowan University for the second year to present workshops for Year 4 students engaged in their Primary Extension and Challenge (PEAC) induction program. Artists from Yip Yip Circus delivered 15 workshops over 3 days exploring circus skills with 450 students.



Image Credit: Christmas Island District High School



Image Credit: Baynton West Primary School

SPRING INTO PARKS

In October, AWESOME partnered with WA Parks Foundation to deliver an Earth Sculpture activity as part of their Spring into Parks initiative, which celebrates nature and encourages people to visit WA's beautiful parks.

Led by artist Charlotte O'Shea, members of the public were invited to add native flora and fauna to the Earth Sculpture in this free activity at WA Museum Boola Bardip.



Image Credit: Kayla MacGillivray, *Spring Into Parks*

KIDS' CHRISTMAS MARKET

AWESOME partnered with the Perth Cultural Centre and the Arts and Culture Trust to present the Kids' Christmas Market on Saturday 9 December. AWESOME invited the next generation of young makers aged 14 and under to sell their handmade creations. Participants flexed their entrepreneurial muscles making their own products, setting up and decorating their stalls and handling customer service and sales.

PICA also partnered with us to present a walk-up activity for visitors to the markets to make their own wrapping paper using printmaking techniques. The event was a huge success with 30 market stalls, live entertainment, fun activities and plenty of Christmas cheer!



Image Credit: James Campbell, *Kids' Christmas Markets*



Image Credit: James Campbell, *Kids' Christmas Markets*

2023 AT A GLANCE

59% of the surveyed audience visited the AWESOME Festival **for the first time!**

AWESOME provided WA school students with **1,048 hours of contact time** with professional artists!

AWESOME presented **446 free events** at the AWESOME Festival; **81%** of the whole program!

AWESOME engaged **204 WA artists** on the Festival!

AWESOME attracted **102,465 visitors** to the AWESOME Festival at our Perth and Armadale hubs!

AWESOME worked with **61 WA schools** (plus Christmas Island!), reaching over **2,452 students!**

AWESOME engaged **85 volunteers** who donated over **778 hours** of their time to the AWESOME Festival!

EDUCATION REACH

TOTALS:

19 TOTAL COMMUNITIES

46,888 TOTAL KM'S TRAVELLED BY ARTISTS

532 WORKSHOP HOURS

KIMBERLEY

1 COMMUNITIES

28 HOURS

Purnululu

PILBARA

6 COMMUNITIES

230 HOURS

Newman, Nullagine, Punmu, Kunawarritji, Parnngurr, Strelley

Kimberley

Pilbara

Gascoyne

Mid West

Goldfields- Esperance

Wheatbelt

Perth

Peel

South West

Great Southern

MIDWEST

1 COMMUNITIES

32 HOURS

Wiluna

PERTH METRO

3 COMMUNITIES

84 HOURS

Balga, Bentley, Koondoola

PEEL

1 COMMUNITY

10 HOURS

Rockingham

SOUTH WEST

2 COMMUNITIES

35 HOURS

Bunbury, Nannup

GREAT SOUTHERN

1 COMMUNITY

10 HOURS

Albany

GOLDFIELDS - ESPERANCE

4 COMMUNITIES

103 HOURS

Norseman, Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, Kurrawang



EDUCATION REPORT

BY KAYLA MACGILLIVRAY

AWESOME has been providing high-quality creative learning experiences in classrooms and communities since 1998, and this commitment has continued in 2023. It's been a huge year for AWESOME's Education program, and we are proud to have delivered 22 residencies across 19 communities, engaging 47 artists and delivering 532 hours of workshops to children all over Western Australia.

In 2023, we presented three programs;

- Creative Challenge,
- AWESOME Schools,
- STEAMED Up.

Our residencies were delivered in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Midwest, Goldfields-Esperance, Great Southern, South West, Peel, and Perth Metro Regions.



Image Credit: Martine Perret and David Dare Parker, Wiluna Youth Centre

CREATIVE CHALLENGE

Creative Challenge is AWESOME's core creative learning program, which places two professional teaching artists within a school or community for one or two weeks to work with students to explore, develop and manage a creative project using a process-driven, project management methodology.

The program involves participants in the creation of a project that expresses the uniqueness of their community. Each residency culminates in a celebration where the works created are showcased for the community to enjoy.

Projects spanned across filmmaking, animation, songwriting, sculpture, installation art, performance and so much more.

In 2023, AWESOME delivered a comprehensive Creative Challenge residency program to 16 communities across regional WA.



Image Credit: Leith Alexander, Nullagine Primary School



Every year the Creative Challenge Program is broadly underpinned by a theme. In 2023 our theme was Bloom, and we asked Western Australian children to plant seeds for the future. Bloom asks what conditions do we need to innovate, grow, and thrive.

Creative Challenge celebrates the imaginative power of young people and extends an invitation to flourish, expand, and bloom. The theme was interpreted in a multitude of ways both literally or abstractly, and reflected through projects and materials.

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

CREATIVE CHALLENGE RESIDENCIES

School/ Community	Artists	Participants	Start date	End date
RAWA Community School (Punmu and Kunawarra)	Mark Cain and Sete Tele	18	20-Feb-23	3-Mar-23
Parnngurr Community School	Rachel Ogle and Leith Alexander	5	20-Feb-23	4-Mar-23
Wiluna Youth Centre	Martine Perret and David Dare Parker	40	10-Apr-23	21-Apr-23
"The Beach", Newman	Rachel Wyder and Kevin Jones	56	3-Jul-23	14-Jul-23
Nannup District High School	Mace Francis and Lewis Horne	15	31-Jul-23	4-Aug-23
Bungaree Primary School	Cheryl Millard and Leith Alexander	20	28-Aug-23	1-Sep-23
Nullagine Primary School	Sally Stoneman and Leith Alexander	19	4-Sep-23	15-Sep-23
Coolgardie Primary School	Samantha Hughes and Kylie Bywaters	32	30-Oct-23	3-Nov-23
Strelley Community School and Warralong Community	Fiona Gavino and Andy Quilty	27	6-Nov-23	10-Nov-23
Norseman District High School	Sally Stoneman and Leith Alexander	30	6-Nov-23	17-Nov-23
Spencer Park Primary School, Albany	Matt Ward and Rae Cottam	25	20-Nov-23	24-Nov-23
College Row School, Bunbury	Kylie Bywaters and Kate Page	60	4-Dec-23	8-Dec-23
Purnululu School, Purnululu	Calvin Chee and Luke Joseph Ryan	15	17-Feb-24	24-Feb-24



Image Credit: Leith Alexander, Bungaree Primary School

BHP

Go for **2&5**
FRLIT VEG



healthway

HORIZON
POWER

Hertz



Image Credit: Martine Perret, Wiluna Youth Centre



AWESOME SCHOOLS

This year we delivered AWESOME Schools for the first time; a new pilot program partnering AWESOME Arts with 5 schools (3 metro and 2 regional). The program is designed to strengthen student, school, and artist capabilities, celebrate participant's unique and important perspectives and offer creative learning opportunities to students who would not usually have access to these types of programs.

AWESOME co-designed a tailored strategic partnership plan with each participating school addressing specific curriculum, well-being, and professional development areas for each project.

Residencies were delivered over 4 weeks (or 20 workshops) to the same group of up to 60 students. The Perth metro-based schools also had the opportunity to exhibit their work at the AWESOME Festival and attend an excursion to the Perth Cultural Centre during school excursion week to attend a show, participate in an artist-led workshop, and launch their exhibition.

School/ Community	Artists	Participants	Start date	End date
North Balga Primary School	Natalie Zuchetti and Annick Akanni	48	27-Jul-23	19-Oct-23
Bentley Primary School	Kobi Morrison and Fi Mullholland	60	2-Aug-23	25-Oct-23
Koondoola Primary School	Steve Berrick, Emile Monty, Annick Akanni, Ellie Glen	60	2-Aug-23	25-Oct-23
East Kalgoorlie Primary School	Leith Alexander and Luke Joseph Ryan	52	23-Oct-23	3-Nov-23
CAPS Kurrawang Primary School - Residency 1	Rachael Woodward and Shane McCarthy	37	30-Oct-23	10-Nov-23
CAPS Kurrawang Primary School - Residency 2	Margaret Ellen (Mellen) Burns and Isaac Salter	40	20-Nov-23	1-Dec-23



Image Credit: Fi Mullholland, Bentley Primary School



Image Credit: Ellie Glenn, Koondoola Primary School



Image Credit: Leith Alexander and Luke Joseph Ryan, East Kalgoorlie Primary School

STEAMED UP!

In 2023 we delivered the second year of pilot program, STEAMED Up. This is a process-driven, artist-in-residency program piloted in one school 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 had the privilege of working with the students and staff of 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 also focused on exploring seven key skillsets that are critical to success in the future workplace:

1. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving;
2. Collaboration Across Networks;
3. Agility and Adaptability;
4. Initiative and Entrepreneurship;
5. Communicating Effectively;
6. Assessing and Analysing Information;
7. Curiosity and Imagination.



NEWMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Creative Learning Producer: **Bridget Reeve**
 Participants: **44**
 Contact hours: **105**
 Ages: **8-10 years old**

Residency	Artists	Start date	End date
Residency 1	Chloe Flockart and Bellamore Ndayikeze	8-May-23	26-May-23
Residency 2	Jessica Russell and Paul Grabovac	24-Jul-23	11-Aug-23
Residency 3	Martine Perret and Matt Aitken	6-Nov-23	17-Nov-23

AWESOME engaged Upbeat Digital to perform an evaluation of the community impact of the program. Here are some of their key findings.

- **80%** of students expressed they were **open to trying new things** as a result of participating in the program.
- **74%** of students expressed they **enjoy imagining and creating new things** as a result of participating in the program
- Teachers noticed a **30% increase** in students' **positive relationships** with their peers whilst engaged in the program
- Teachers noticed a **43% increase** in students' **confidence when asking questions** whilst engaged in the program
- Teachers noticed a **38% increase** in students' **willingness to complete projects** whilst engaged in the program
- **96% of parents** said their **child benefitted** from the program
- **100% of parents** said their **child enjoyed** the program



Image Credit: Martine Perret



Image Credit: Paul Grabovac



Image Credit: Jessica Russell, Paul Grabovac

BHP

STAFF AND BOARD

PATRON

Professor Jonathan Carapetis AM, Director, Telethon Kids Institute

STAFF

Jenny Simpson, Chief Executive Officer & Artistic Director

Brianna Wotzko, Operations Manager

Joel Evans, Creative Learning and Education Manager (August-November 2023)

Angela Ringuet, Community Arts Admin Officer

Nadia Bischof, Festival Admin & Artist Logistics Manager

Bonnie Davies, Producer

Kayla Newland, Marketing & Communications Manager (Until January 2023)

Kayla MacGillivray, Marketing Manager (From August 2023)

Jessica Gately, Marketing Coordinator (April-August 2023)

James Savage, Production Manager

Amanda Scoble, Finance Manager (Until March 2023)

Tom Melanko, Finance Manager (From August 2023)

Sam Sisti, Ticketing Officer

Heather Bongiovanni, Festival Admin Assistant (WAAPA Arts Management Intern)

Tracey Routledge (TR PR), Publicist

Chloe Wilkinson, Graphic Designer



Image Credit: Fi Mulholland, The Mess Hall Festival Hub

BOARD

Danielle Benda, Chair

Daniel Smith, Deputy Chair

Ellie Quinti, Secretary

Michael Jones, Treasurer

Emma Jayakumar

Elizabeth Chester (Until May 2023)

Dane O'Callaghan (From November 2023)

Les Oakley (From November 2023)

FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Fi Mulholland & James Campbell



Image Credit: Martine Perret, Wiluna Youth Centre

FESTIVAL PRODUCTION & FRONT OF HOUSE TEAM

Arden Freeman, Dimity Magnus, Dmitri Sokolov, Ellick Higson, Elysia Harris, Estelle Gomersall, George Samros, Hayley Schreiber, Isaac Salter, Jack Braslell, Jada Koh, Jasmine Valentini, Matilda Cuthbert, Melanie Naumof, Michaela Gosby, Peg Davies, Rhonda Orso, Rick Woodley, Robert James Douglas, Roger Miller, Stee Andrews, Sunhee Jade Mcleod, Tayla Siskopoulos

FESTIVAL GELATO

Grug Gelato by Chicho Gelato

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AWESOME would like to sincerely thank the local businesses that support our volunteer program: AGWA Design Store, Chicho Gelato, Eillo, Hoodburger, Little Willy's, Planet Books, Ruck Rover General Store, Trackside Bakery, The Court and Toastface Grillah.

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 & EXPENSE STATEMENT

January 2023 through December 2023

INCOME

Grant Funding	\$1,047,429
Sponsorship	\$518,291
Earned Income	\$94,420
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,660,140

EXPENSES

Administration Costs	\$115,598
Marketing, promotion and fees	\$88,820
Wages, salaries and fees	\$1,068,636
Depreciation	\$8,310
Program and production Expenses	\$407,859
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,689,223

DEFICIT	\$(29,083)
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Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2023

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$965,730
Fixed Assets	\$5,278
TOTAL ASSETS	\$971,008

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	\$453,594
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$453,594

NET ASSETS	\$517,414
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EQUITY

Retained Earnings	\$517,414
TOTAL EQUITY	\$517,414

PARTNERS

Major Partners



Media Partners



Presenting Partners



Supporting Partners

