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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Accessible  Arts | ../../../../PRJ%20Projects/PRJ%20Projects%202015%20/CAT15%20Catalyst/Media/Images/Catalyst_Day_3/3P5A9947.jpg | |  |  | |
| Vision Excellence in arts + disability.  Our Mission To provide leadership in arts + disability through information, advocacy and the facilitation of excellence in arts practice. |

# Our achievements in 2015

* Provided **$529,759** in project spending to facilitate pathways to best practice and artistic excellence in professional arts + disability.
* Initiated the inaugural arts + disability expo at Carriageworks attracting over **1000 attendees** across two days with 27 exhibitors.
* Managed a Grants Program with 56 applications received. **24 successful projects** funded a total of **$198,801**. Locations: Sydney, Lismore, Orange, Ballina, Blue Mountains, Bathurst, Warialda and Nowra.
* Partnered with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs to develop a Deaf Signing Choir for a world first performance of Handel’s Messiah with Auslan integration. **5,653** tickets sold across three performances at the Sydney Opera

House. Over **18,000** Youtube views of the live stream post-event.

* Fostered **a 14.3% growth** in social media presence. **113,192** unique visitors to www.aarts.net.au
* Reached **a global audience reach** with Catalyst Dance Residency short documentary screened on 2015 International Day of People with Disability at United Nations, New York.

# Our social impact

In the past ten years we have built broad interest in arts and disability practice, facilitated significant state government partnerships leading to the emergence of great arts and disability practice, and established international links with leading arts and disability participants and initiatives.

Recent outcomes include:

* Catalyst Dance Residency in 2015 for 15 dancers with disability has led to 100% of participants taking on varying leadership roles in their local dance communities
* Hosted ‘Scribbler’ Literature Forum in 2014, attended by 33 key literary professionals and writers with disability leading to participant included in the Sydney Emerging Writers Festival and agreement by the Hunter Writers Centre to establish a group for writers with disability in 2016.
* The world first performance of Handel’s Messiah interpreted by the Deaf Signing Choir in partnership with the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs has led to the Sydney Opera House initiating a permanent signing choir
* In 2014 hosted the fourth ‘Arts Activated’ conference generating 170 presentations, 30 sessions, 350 delegates, critical debate, sector networking and showcasing of regional, state and international arts + disability projects. Collaborations between key-note speaker Marcus Dickey-Horley from the Tate Gallery, London, and Art Gallery of NSW has led to the first group of Deaf presenters trained and leading tours within the Gallery
* A ‘Deaf Arts Network’ established in 2014 led to live-streamed grant information session ‘attended’ by 550Deaf artists, over 500 Deaf artists and community members linked to the Network and Ripple Effect School Theatre program attended by 20 young people.

# What we will continue to do well

* Elevate disability arts practice to new heights by inspiring artists with disability to achieve confidence, courage and creative excellence in their work
* Contribute significantly to direct sector development through the provision of regular networking and professional development opportunities and programs
* Leverage and develop the capacity of the arts sector to contribute to greater accessibility of creative spaces by providing disability equity training and resources to leading arts venues and organisations.

# Our purpose

As the NSW peak arts + disability organisation, we champion the development of quality in disability arts and inclusive arts practice, and assist the arts sector to meet the growing community expectation of accessible cultural facilities and diverse creative output. Our work covers all artforms and is inspired by and created with people of all disabilities.

Arts + disability practice has the potential to enrich the cultural and daily lives of all Australians, including the 1 in 5 people with a disability. We act as a catalyst to ensure genuine engagement with the issues that curtail inclusion, creativity and enabling. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the National Arts and Disability Strategy anchors the work of Accessible Arts.

The creative case for arts + disability practice is demonstrated through the diverse and adaptive nature of the work created by variations in technique, aesthetics and alternative pathways. We play an integral role in advancing the potential contribution of Australian artists with disability and generously share our knowledge with Australian and international arts communities through our high quality communications.

# Our service

Accessible Arts is dedicated to achieving its vision of ‘Excellence in arts + disability’ through its strategic objectives to:

1. Facilitate pathways to best practice and artistic excellence in professional arts + disability.
2. Engage and communicate with artists, audiences and other stakeholders in pursuit of arts + disability excellence.
3. Advocate and evaluate sector development across the continuum of arts + disability practice.

Through our core activities of arts development, advocacy and information dissemination we:

1. Support the professional pathways of artists with disabilities within contemporary arts practice. We also foster organisations and networks that support that development.
2. Advise and train arts and cultural organisations to develop and implement their access strategies in order to activate creative spaces for performers, employees, artists and potential audience members.
3. Contribute to key policy debates impacting the access to creative and cultural opportunities for artists, arts workers, and audience members.
4. Provide information related to opportunities, events, research and professional development through multiple communication platforms and formats.

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| Products and Services | Arts Development | Sector Development | Access Development | Tools |
| ‘Arts Activated’ conference | Artform development forums | Systemic advocacy | ‘Disability Awareness Training’ | Website and Social Media |
| ‘Arts + Disability Expo’ | Small grants | Benchmarking | Access appraisal | Monthly E-newsletter |
| Grant management | Disability-led initiatives | Networking opportunities | Disability Action Plans (DAPS) | Quarterly Access E-newsletter |
| Arts development resources | Deaf Arts program | NDIS (Hunter launch site engagement) | Access resources | Project E-Flyers |
| Arts Tutor directory | ‘Creative Causeway’ facilitated pathway discussions | Sector support (advice, letters of support, panel member) | ATAG (Accessing the arts group) | Resources (information sheets, research, projects, artist resources, YouTube) |

Based at the Arts Exchange in The Rocks we are dynamic and creative team of seven staff, with a proven track record in innovation with a projected income of $1.3million for 2016. We receive core funding on a triennial basis from Arts NSW and the Department of Family and Community Services.

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