



ACCESS ARTS

My World

ACCESS ARTS' 24-25
ANNUAL REPORT



Queensland
Government

Access Arts is supported
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Patron

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young
PSM, Governor of Queensland

Please visit our website at accessarts.org.au
for a full listing of our locations.

Acknowledgement of Country

Access Arts acknowledges the Traditional
Custodians of country throughout Australia,
and we pay our respects to Elders past, present,
and emerging. We are committed to honouring
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and
their unique cultural and spiritual relationship to
land, water and seas and their rich contribution
to society.

Artwork Front Cover

HUSKY WUSKY by A.S. Venetsianova-Rubenstein
Hero artwork of Access Arts' "My World" Exhibition

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"Access Arts has helped me with my journey of recovery and healing, making my life more meaningful and more pleasing. Even when there are difficulties, I have something to look forward to each week."

– Jim (Dimitri) Petroff, Workshop Participant



Credit: Jade Ellis Photography

Forward

This year, Access Arts deepened our commitment to creative inclusion, disability-led practice and cultural leadership. Across our workshop programs, awards and new partnerships, we focused on creating accessible, joyful and career-shaping pathways for artists with disability.

In 2024–25, Access Arts delivered over 50 activities, including public exhibitions, showcases, mentorships, awards, development workshops, regional pilots and new training formats. Through our continued delivery of the Undercover Artist career development programs, and partnerships, we strengthened the sector in anticipation of Brisbane 2032 and aligned our impact with Arts Queensland's *Creative Together 2020–2030* and *Elevate 2042* strategies.

Our work continues to be guided by community-led approaches and demonstrates that artists with disability are at the centre of artistic and cultural transformation in Queensland.

This includes supporting boundary-pushing creative work, championing self-determined practice, and embedding advocacy into every stage of our programs.

As we establish our role as leaders in Arts and Disability excellence, we are focused on stronger collaborations with Brisbane Festival, QPAC, Metro Arts, QAGOMA and regional partners, while building leadership opportunities and national pathways for artists through our contribution to the formation of the Arts and Disability Network Australia (ADNA) in 2025.

These efforts reinforce Access Arts' commitment to a more inclusive and impactful arts ecology - driving visibility, access and equity across the sector.

Highlights:

- 36 term-based visual and performing arts workshops delivered across Brisbane
- Over 10,300 total attendees and participants across all programs.
- 50+ new works exhibited through *My World* and *Grow* exhibitions.
- Artists featured at the Affordable Art Fair and Source Kids Disability Expo.
- Participation in Brisbane Festival's *Us and All of This* large-scale performance.
- Five new Undercover Artist Development Workshops delivered across artforms.
- Delivery of Disability Awareness Training in both metro and regional locations.
- 2 SAFE Grants and 1 Access Arts Achievement Award granted in 2024.
- Partnered with QPAC as Access Partner for the 2025 *Out of the Box* Festival.



Pictured: Access Arts Singers performing at Source Kids Disability Expo.

Workshops

Our Visual and Performing Arts Workshop Programs continued to be the creative core of Access Arts.

Delivered across four terms, our weekly workshops spanned:

- Theatre and Dance Ensemble
- Theatre and Dance Skills Extended
- Access Arts Singers
- Brisbane Outsider Artists (BOA)
- Mixed Media
- Textile Arts
- Arts Business

This year also marked a significant milestone, with the CPL Screech Arts Workshop Program entering the final stages of formally transitioning under the Access Arts umbrella. This exciting integration was highlighted through a talent show, at the Ron Hurley Theatre, Morningside. Presented by CAST (Complete Abilities Stage & Theatre), the show featured inclusive performance groups from across the region and celebrated the strength and diversity of dancers of all abilities. Our Screech Arts Dance Troupe performed to a full house and were widely recognised for their outstanding performance practices.

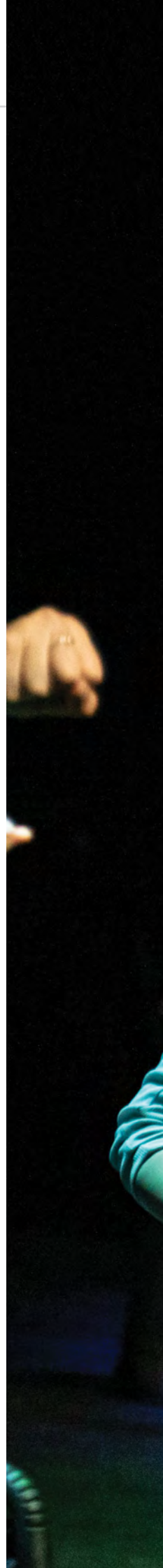
With over 100 active participants weekly, these programs are a vital space for artistic growth and self-expression.

36

term-based
workshops delivered
across Brisbane

100+

active workshop
participants weekly



"I love being involved in a community, belonging, having a sense of purpose, being seen and valued as a person that can do something."

— Colleen, Workshop Participant



Image credit: Jade Ellis Photography

Exhibitions that Inspire

My World

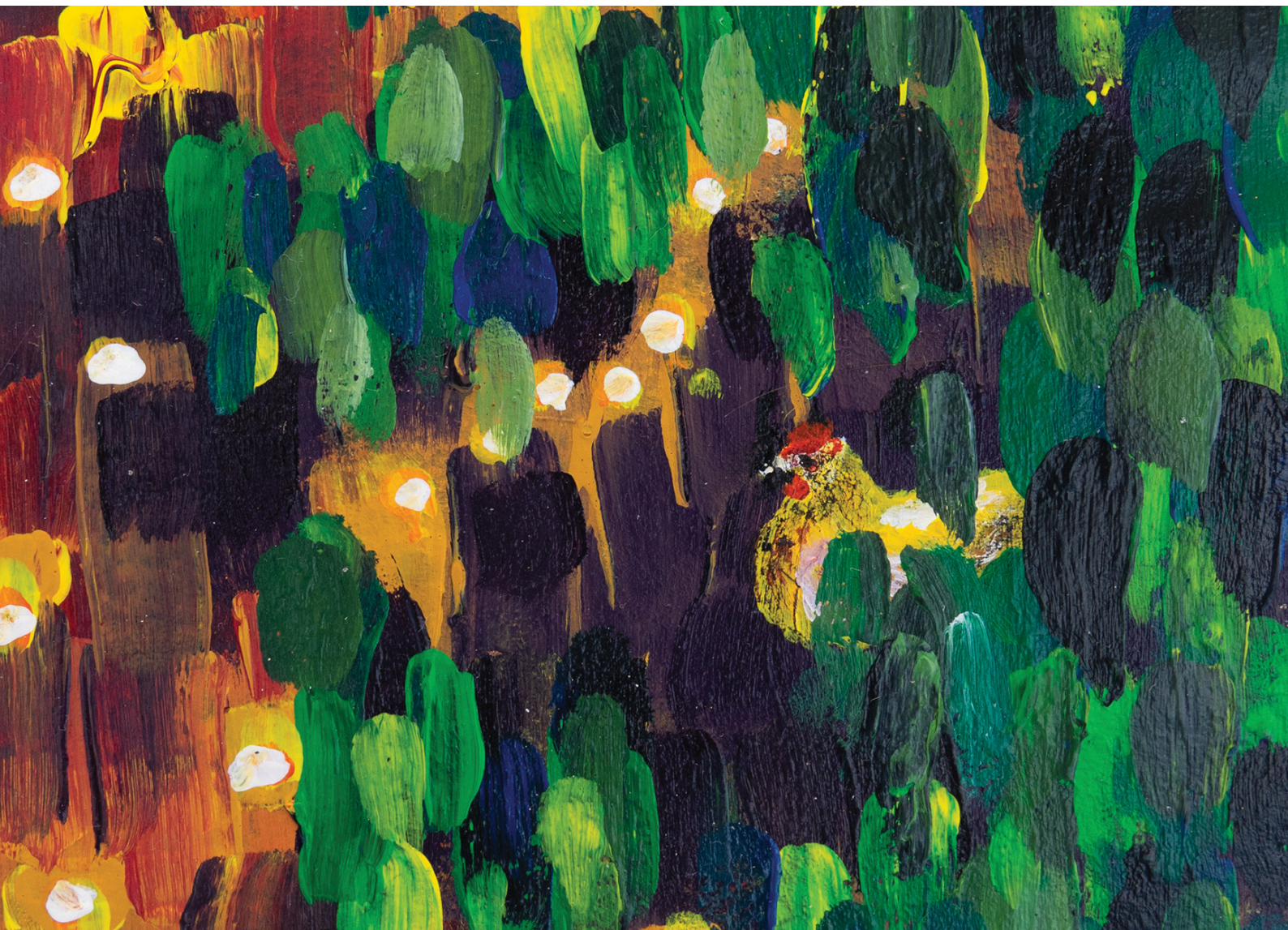
Access Arts Group Exhibition at St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital

My World was the 2024 winter exhibition presented by Access Arts at St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital, showcasing original artworks from over 25 participating artists.

This exhibition invited viewers into a broad and deeply personal exploration of each artist's lived experience, cultural identity, and imaginative vision. The title *My World* reflected the power of art to offer insight into unique perspectives — from serene landscapes and symbolic abstraction to bold expressions of memory, belonging, and inner life.

This program is part of our longstanding partnership with St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital and provides vital opportunities for Access Arts artists to exhibit professionally in a healthcare environment, creating moments of calm, inspiration, and connection for all who pass through.

Artwork: HUSKY WUSKY by A.S. Venetsianova-Rubenstein



Grow

Spring Exhibition at KPMG Brisbane

The *Grow* exhibition brought together a vibrant selection of new works by Access Arts artists, exploring themes of personal growth, environmental connection, and artistic evolution.

A special exhibition opening was held in partnership with KPMG, featuring artist talks and a digital presentation of the full collection via Shopify. This format supported both in-person and online sales, with strong engagement from KPMG staff and the broader arts community.

Grow served as an important professional development opportunity for artists, many of whom had works purchased by new buyers, and enabled continued capacity building in e-commerce, artist statements, and public presentation.

Artwork: CRESCENDO by Rhonda Cavell



Celebrating Individual Achievements

Jesse Jones: *Self & Survival*

Supported through a SAFE Grant, Access Arts artist Jesse Jones presented their debut solo exhibition *Self & Survival*.

This deeply personal body of work explored themes of resilience, identity, and survival through visual narrative and multimedia installation. The exhibition marked a pivotal moment in Jesse's professional development, engaging audiences with its emotional depth and artistic integrity.



Camilla Ker: *Housing Crisis Quilts*

Textile artist Camilla Ker launched *Housing Crisis Quilts*, a socially engaged project that examined housing insecurity through powerful visual storytelling.

Drawing on her own lived experience and working with community members, Camilla used collaborative quilting to explore the intersection of shelter, identity, and activism. The resulting works offered a poignant and tactile narrative that resonated strongly with audiences and advocates alike.



Group Achievements & Collective Impact

Affordable Art Fair 2025

In May 2025, Access Arts artists were featured at the Affordable Art Fair Brisbane, where a curated collection of their work was presented to the public.

The exhibition attracted over 2,000 attendees to the vibrant Access Arts stall and resulted in over \$7,000 worth of art sold, providing artists with meaningful exposure and direct access to commercial art buyers.

This event represented a major opportunity for artists with disability to build professional pathways, connect with collectors, and elevate their artistic profiles within a high-traffic, art-focused environment.

The success of this collaboration demonstrates how sector partnerships can meaningfully amplify inclusive practice, foster artist confidence, and create lasting impressions with both audiences and industry stakeholders.



Pictured: Artist Peter Hughes in front of his artworks on display at the Affordable Art Fair Brisbane.



Pictured: Artist Jeffrey Parker with family in front of his artworks on display at the Affordable Art Fair Brisbane.



Pictured: Artist Belinda Peel at the Affordable Art Fair Brisbane, holding a catalogue with her artwork featured.

Performances at Source Kids Expo and *Rock the Bells*

The Access Arts Singers delivered two standout performances this year.

At the Source Kids Disability Expo, the Singers performed for large, diverse crowds in a lively and family-friendly setting that celebrated disability-led artistry.

They also took part in *Rock the Bells*, an inclusive music showcase that celebrated rhythm, creativity, and expression. These events enabled participants to gain performance experience and share their stories through song in accessible and welcoming environments.



Pictured: Access Arts Singers performing at *Rock the Bells* Showcase at KPMG.

Us and All of This at Brisbane Festival

Access Arts performing artists were proud contributors to *Us and All of This*, a large-scale participatory work presented at Brisbane Festival and directed by renowned choreographer Liesel Zink.

This moving, meditative performance took place in public space and brought together diverse bodies and lived experiences in a collective exploration of presence, connection, and choreography.



Pictured: Access Arts' performing artists performing *Us and All of This*.

Journey to the Sun with Queensland Youth Orchestra

Access Arts continues to partner with the Queensland Youth Orchestra (QYO), which culminated in a large-scale inclusive performance titled *Journey to the Sun*.

This new work brought Access Arts performers together with orchestral musicians, fostering a rich exchange of music and movement.



Pictured: Theatre and Dance Ensemble backstage with Queensland Youth Orchestra before *Journey to the Sun* performance at The Old Museum.

Out of the Box – Partnership with QPAC

Access Arts and CPL were proud to partner with the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) as an Access Partner for the *Out of the Box* Festival — a much-loved celebration for children aged eight years and under.

Working alongside QPAC's programming and marketing teams, Access Arts provided access consultation across the festival website, program design, and performance delivery, ensuring accessibility and inclusion were embedded from the earliest planning stages.

Through this collaboration, Access Arts also engaged with CPL families who were paid to inform sensory-friendly and inclusive experiences across the festival, helping shape the 2026 Festival.

“It has been a wonderfully rewarding opportunity to work with the Access Arts team. Your knowledge, generous guidance, and advocacy for truly putting inclusion upfront have been invaluable. I’m grateful for all we’ve achieved together — and what’s still to come.”

— Megan, QPAC



Professional Development Program

Access Arts invested in the professional growth of artists and arts workers with disability, delivering creative and career development opportunities across Queensland.

Key outcomes included:

- *Earn From Your Art* alumni placements – providing targeted experience through arts marketing and production internships at *Brisbane Festival 2024*, building employment pathways for emerging arts workers with disability.
- Ongoing partnerships with leading organisations to expand mentorship and residency opportunities, including Crossroad Arts (Mackay), Queensland Theatre, and Metro Arts.
- Increased focus on artist capacity building, equipping participants with tools for grant writing, project management, and creative entrepreneurship.

Disability Awareness Training (DAT)

Access Arts delivered five Disability Awareness Training sessions across metro and regional Queensland.

The sessions supported arts organisations to embed inclusive practice and strengthen confidence when working with artists and audiences with disability. In total, 92 participants took part in Access Arts' training, representing organisations across theatre, music, festivals, and community arts.

Access Arts Achievement Award

The 2024 Access Arts Achievement Award was awarded to Michael Russell for his work *About a Boy* – a multi-artform performance project based on his poetry.

The award supported Michael to work alongside playwright Ian Brown and further develop the script into a rehearsed reading featuring a diverse ensemble.



Pictured: Michael Russell, 2024 Recipient



Undercover Artist Development Program

Access Arts delivered a targeted suite of workshops via the Undercover Artist Development Program, complimenting a biennial festival format with a dynamic professional development program.

The program was designed to build sector knowledge, career pathways, and disability-led leadership across artforms. This change allowed for deeper capacity building while maintaining the national reputation of Undercover Artist as a flagship program for inclusive practice and sector innovation.

The five development modules engaged over 60 artists, producers and creatives with disability in high-quality, practical learning led by industry leaders.

Each session focused on building specific artistic and entrepreneurial skills. With each accessibility embedded in each session, these workshops continue to lay the groundwork for a stronger disability arts sector in Queensland and nationally driven by artists who are ready, resourced, and resilient.

Access Arts

Strategic Plan Progress

Pillar

Empowering, Informing and Achieving Together

Progress

We empowered artists through co-designed programs and disability-led delivery, such as:

- 36 workshops per term that offered high-quality artistic experiences.
- Advisory roles for artists with disability in panel talks, forums and Q&A events.
- Collaboration with regional partners to pilot workshops in Maryborough and Mackay.

Strategic goals aligned

- Safe, quality services across visual, music and theatre programs.
- Inclusive workplace culture, extended to artists and staff.
- Programs co-designed with artists, like Undercover Artist Development and Brisbane Festival Capacity Building Program.

Pillar

Sustainable and Purposeful Growth

Progress

- Diversified funding through a revised business development strategy.
- Overhead reduction achieved through alignment with CPL shared services.
- Increased partnerships through inclusion advisory initiatives.

Strategic goals aligned

- Optimisation through integrated systems.
- Targeted investment in content, residencies, and grants.
- Seamless experience through shared CPL delivery mechanisms.

Pillar

Creating and Leading Change

Progress

- National attention drawn to AA artists through festivals, galleries, and online workshops.
- Expanded reach through Source Kids Expo, Affordable Art Fair, and online exhibitions.
- Disability-led training delivered to 92 participants in metro and regional locations.

Strategic goals aligned

- 10,000+ audience and participant reach across 50+ activities.
- Employment outcomes through mentoring, leadership, and festival placements.

Artwork

HORSE RIDER by Tanya Darl,
exhibited at Access Arts' My World Exhibition





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Call us on
07 3505 0311

or visit
accessarts.org.au



**Queensland
Government**

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by the government
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