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DIVERSITY ARTS AUSTRALIA  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

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**2018**



**COLLABORATIVE  
CONNECTIONS**



Diversity Arts  
Australia

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Diversity Arts Australia acknowledges the traditional owners of Australia from over 500 Indigenous nations and language groups.

Our national office in Parramatta stands on the traditional lands of the Burramattagal of the Darug nation.

Our work is national and we honour the elders past and present of the Darug Nation and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and peoples across this continent, acknowledging that sovereignty was never ceded.

Always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.



*Pacesetters artists Kim "Busty Beatz" Bowers, Latai Taumoepeau and Fadia Abboud.  
Photo: Andy Ko*

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## ABOUT DIVERSITY ARTS AUSTRALIA

### *Arts that reflect Australia's diversity*

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Diversity Arts Australia is Australia's key organisation promoting cultural diversity and racial equity in the arts, screen and creative sectors, and across all creative forms in Australia.

We conduct research, share information, stage events, provide training, consultancies and mentorships and commission new works that empower and provoke conversations. We act as an information conduit between artists, creative practitioners, industry, educators and government.

Diversity Arts began life in 2001 as Kultour. In 2016, Kultour moved from Melbourne to Western Sydney, under a new executive director, with a renewed vision and rebranded from Kultour to Diversity Arts. From 2016-18, Diversity Arts adopted a new strategic approach to its work. In 2016 we focused on "Reinvigorating Our Vision", in 2017 on "Listening to the Sector" and in 2018 our focus was on "Collaborative Connections".

### **Diversity Arts Australia**

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diversityarts.org.au

# CREATING COLLABORATIONS IN THE SECTOR



Still from "Mastering the Rhythm", 2018 Diverse Screens film by Gary Paramanathan featuring Parramatta dancer Sumati Nagpal, who runs her own dance studio, teaching Kathak (classical Indian) and Bollywood (contemporary Indian).

The 2018 Annual Program of Diversity Arts Australia (DARTS) focused on building our Collaborative Connections through the following key areas of activity: (1) commissioning and creating new work; (2) workshops, consultancies & training; (3) connecting with artists; (4) symposia & events; (5) sector research; and, (6) audience development.

## IN 2018 DIVERSITY ARTS DELIVERED

- 1 major report launched
- 5 major events
- 6 arts and screen leaders on international exchange
- 10 professional development and capacity building sessions
- 9 podcast episodes
- 9 international film festival official selections
- 25 short films and mini films commissioned and released
- 100+ diverse artists profiled in depth
- 200 major creative organisations leadership data collated and analysed
- 1900 newsletter subscribers (63% increase from 2017)
- 479,564 Facebook impressions
- 1,483,289 weekly Facebook reach
- 744,481 Twitter impressions (4x more than 2017)
- 5,600 YouTube views (5x more than 2017)
- 40,561 Instagram impressions (6x more than 2017)



Still from "First Impressions", 2018 Diverse Screens film by Rashmi Ravindran which traces her journey as a migrant filmmaker woven alongside the stories of others including writer Roanna Gonsalves, actor and theatre producer Neel Banerjee and creative producer Jiva Parthipan.



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DIVERSITY ARTS AUSTRALIA

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*Professor James Arvanitakis*

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It is with great pleasure that I write my report for Diversity Arts Australia. It has been a fantastic year for the organisation, the work we do and the connections we have built.

In the two years since I have been Chair, with the support of the Board and under the leadership of our Executive Director, Lena Nahlous, we have managed to achieve so much. This has been due to the strong networks we have built and the many committed artists we work with. As such, there are many people to thank and acknowledge.

I want to welcome and acknowledge our new Board members: Francisca Peña, Sheila Ngoc Pham, Shalini Perera and Anthony Peluso. As the organisation moves into the next phase of its development, the new Board has embraced the organisation and its purpose with energy.

The achievements of the new Board would not have been possible without the foundations laid by our departing Board members who helped guide Diversity Arts through some challenging times. I would like to acknowledge our departing Board members for their commitment and efforts: Louise Dunn (former Chair), Pilar Kasat, Magdalena Moreno and Suellen Maunder.

In January 2018, we relocated from Casula Powerhouse to ICE in Parramatta. I would like to thank Casula Powerhouse for their support in hosting us and also ICE for our new partnership.

On behalf of the Board, I would particularly thank the staff for their efforts. We welcomed new staff Andy Ko and Glaiza Perez who joined our team, and wished Kevin Bathman all the best as he prepares to start his fellowship at Goldsmiths University, UK.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our Executive Director, Lena Nahlous, whose tireless energy, open collaboration, strategic thinking and integrity continues to see Diversity Arts grow from strength to strength! Our organisation would not have achieved so much without her efforts.

All this has been achieved in an atmosphere of creeping antagonism towards the arts and cultural diversity. The emergence of reactionary politics has been one of the unfortunate characteristics of our contemporary political environment. It is within this atmosphere that we also find those champions of social justice, community engagement and diversity. As always, it is the arts community that leads the charge for a fairer Australia. As such, I would like to end by thanking the artists and creatives that continue to innovate and agitate for a more socially just Australia and an artistic landscape that reflects who Australia is.

**Professor James Arvanitakis (PhD)**  
**Chair, Diversity Arts Australia**





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DIVERSITY ARTS AUSTRALIA

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Lena Nahlous*

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### Collaborative Connections

In 2018, Diversity Arts experienced a huge year of growth. We laid the groundwork and foundations for future partnerships, as well as developing and refining our strategic direction.

We responded to the needs identified by the sector through our consultations, symposia, events and research. While we continued to gather and refine our knowledge base, we also developed and deepened collaborations, networks and relationships throughout Australia and overseas.

Some of our key collaborative achievements include:

- Partnering with the British Council on INTERSECT, resulting in six UK and Australian arts leaders commencing a peer-to-peer mentorship exchange.
- Commencing the Fair Play: equity and inclusion program in partnership with Creative Victoria and First Nations and disability organisations and trainers.
- Conducting first-of-its-kind research into cultural diversity in arts leadership in partnership with Western Sydney University and BYP Group.
- Launching the Colour Cycle podcast, which reached 10,000 people, was a finalist in the Australian Podcast Awards and achieved a 4.8-star rating on iTunes.
- Launching the *Voice, Agency and Integrity Report* based on our 2017 Beyond Tick Boxes Symposium

Thank you to all of our collaborators and partners this year, the artists, creatives, organisations and funding bodies. The depth of what we were able to deliver is a reflection of our “collaborative connections”. Thank you to our nimble, strategic and dedicated team for their labour and commitment to racial equity.

In this critical stage of the company's growth, we rely heavily on a Board that is committed and engaged. Thank you to all of our previous and current Board members. Thank you especially to our incredible Chair James Arvanitakis for his significant support and work this year.

**Lena Nahlous**  
**Executive Director and Company Secretary, Diversity Arts Australia**



# COMMISSIONING & CREATING

## DIVERSE SCREENS

Parramatta filmmakers Vonne Patiag, Rashmi Ravindran, and Gary Paramanathan were commissioned in February 2018 to make films exploring themes of cultural diversity in the creative sector. These films achieved 2018 official selection or award nominations at the World Film Fair in New York, Wollongong Film Festival, Real Film Festival and Sydney World Film Festival 2019. The project was supported by Parramatta City Council and Create NSW.

All of the 2017 South West Sydney Diverse Screens films continued to be screened, including being selected for Made in the West Film Festival, Joy House Film Festival, Zlatna International Ethnographic Film Festival, Lift-Off Film Fest and the Urban Screens network.

**Find out more:** <http://diversityarts.org.au/project/diverse-screens>

*Behind the scenes of Diverse Screens film "Shading"-  
by Vonne Patiag.  
Photo: Liam Patrick.*



*'We live in a society where if you are an artist with the right social and intellectual capital, then you can access funding and other support mechanisms, but what of the artists who don't have access to these resources?'*

*- Gary Paramanathan, Diverse Screens Parramatta filmmaker*

*'I was truly shocked that these performers had almost been trained into submission, and they all relayed how liberating it was to speak openly'*

*- Vonne Patiag, Diverse Screens Parramatta filmmaker*

*'Every migrant has that moment when you feel your identity becomes racialised and for me, this has been a very interesting phenomenon to observe personally and artistically.'*

*- Rashmi Ravindran, Diverse Screens Parramatta filmmaker*



Podcast host Lena Nahlous talks to Benjamin Law for The Colour Cycle podcast.  
Photo: Jennifer Macey

## THE COLOUR CYCLE

The first series of our podcast was released in February-March 2018. The nine-part series aimed to disrupt cultural whitewashing and examine whether Australia's Arts and Cultural sector looks like Australia. 10,000 people listened to the podcast series, including travellers on Virgin airlines where it featured in the inflight entertainment. The podcast was a 2018 finalist in the Australian Podcast Awards and achieved a 4.8-star rating on iTunes.

**Find out more:** <http://diversityarts.org.au/project/the-colour-cycle>  
**#TheColourCycle**



*"A timely and insightful series of national conversations on diversity and inclusion - well worth a listen!"*  
- Arts Front

*"The Colour Cycle*

*The Colour Cycle podcast series is essential listening for anyone serious about contributing to a fairer, more representative arts landscape. It unpacks the issues around the lack of cultural diversity in the creative sector and celebrates the great work of artists and arts workers active in the space. These podcasts are valuable, concentrated, bitesized resources. There is a lot to take in. More importantly, there is a lot to take away. Recommended by Kiriaki Koubaroulis in The Guardian Top Podcasts of the Week."*

- Kiriaki Koubaroulis  
Top Podcasts of the Week  
The Guardian

*"Growing up without seeing yourself reflected back in your nation's stories is a quietly dehumanising thing."*

- Benjamin Law,  
The Colour Cycle Podcast

Lena Nahlous (Diversity Arts) and Zainab Syed recording episode 5 - Changing the Narrative.  
Photo: Jennifer Macey



## PACESETTERS

In partnership with Blacktown Arts, this project commissioned four artists to explore the critical intersections of race, culture and art through the making of new work. Established artists Latai Taumoepeau, Fadia Abboud, Aamer Rahman, Kim "Busty Beatz" Bowers and Rani Pramesti engaged in intensive critical conversations that critiqued the process of artmaking in a racially divided nation and predominantly white arts sector. These conversations lay the groundwork for the 2019 showcase event.

**Find out more:** <http://diversityarts.org.au/project/diversity-dialogues>

## CITIZEN WRITES PROJECT

Citizen Writes demonstrates how creative writing and the power of words can influence and inspire, and creates opportunities for inclusion and representation of culturally diverse stories in our society. In February 2018, Dr Roanna Gonsalves held a month-long mentoring program for 10 young women of colour, for an anthology which will be launched in 2019. This is an initiative by the Carnival of the Bold and supported by the City of Sydney and Diversity Arts.

**Find out more:** <http://diversityarts.org.au/project/citizen-writes>



*Citizen Writes Event Launch.  
Photo: Andrew Vien*

*Pacesetters intensive at Blacktown Arts.*

*L-R (from back): Paschal Daantos Berry (Blacktown Arts), Lena Nahlous (Diversity Arts), Latai Taumoepeau, Kim "Busty Beatz" Bowers and Fadia Abboud (not pictured Aamer Rahman and Rani Pramesti).*

*Photo: Andy Ko*



*"Nothing is more powerful than an iconoclast making room for other identities to exist in a space often reserved for dominant narratives. To watch First Nations and other culturally diverse artists develop a presence in a sector that often erases them from conversation is exhilarating"*

*- Paschal Daantos Berry  
Creative Director, Pacesetters*

*The voices that rarely receive light now have an opportunity to be heard. Did the audience listen intently, with a desire to support them in any way possible? Hell yes!*

*- Genevieve Craig reviewing  
Citizen Writes*





Photo above

Participants at ABC of CACD workshop, Parramatta Artist Studios. Photo: Andy Ko

Photo below

Jeremy Smith (Arts Practice Director - Community, Emerging and Experimental Arts, Australia Council) presenting at an ABC of CACD session with Lena Nahlous and Paula Abood. Photo: Andy Ko

## WORKSHOPS, CONSULTANCIES & TRAINING

### FAIR PLAY

The Fair Play project is an equity and inclusion capacity building program for organisations that receive multi-year funding through Creative Victoria. The program seeks to address barriers to participation by underrepresented groups in Victoria's creative industries, with a focus on developing organisational skills and capacity in working with First Nations people, People With Disability, and people from underrepresented Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) backgrounds. In 2018 we undertook extensive consultation and solidified partnerships and relationships with First Nations and Disability organisations, and other arts organisations and educators to deliver this program in 2019.

**Find out more:** <http://diversityarts.org.au/project/fair-play>

### ABC OF CACD WORKSHOPS

Diversity Arts facilitated this industry professional development program for Information and Cultural Exchange and in partnership with Parramatta Artist Studios and City of Parramatta Council. Three free seminars explored the principles and practices of community arts and cultural development practice and socially engaged arts practice and provided a space for discussion and reflection. The workshops were facilitated by Dr Paula Abood and Lena Nahlous, with guest speakers Yamane Fayed, Maria Tran, Barry Gamba, Marian Abboud, Eddie Abd, Colin Kinchela, Sophia Kouyoumdjian and Jeremy Smith. The sessions were livestreamed, accessible and were attended by over 100 people.

**Find out more:** <http://diversityarts.org.au/event/the-abc-of-cacd>

### CONSULTANCY AND TRAINING PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Scoping work was undertaken for our training and consultancy services. Training was provided to First Draft, Australian Writers' Guild, Screen Australia's "Developing the Developer" program and Information and Cultural Exchange.

**Find out more:** <http://diversityarts.org.au/training>

# CONNECTING WITH ARTISTS

## INTERSECT EXCHANGE

INTERSECT is a British Council Australia and Diversity Arts Australia led knowledge exchange supported by Creative Victoria. The programme aims to strengthen international connections between those who are changing whose work is seen, what is seen, how it is seen and who sees it.

Both the UK and Australia are multi-ethnic societies, but diverse voices are underrepresented in our arts and cultural sectors. INTERSECT is addressing the balance of representation on our stages, in our art galleries and on screen by focusing on programming decision makers in the arts and cultural sectors.

Six outstanding UK and Australian based curators, producers and artistic directors – Adelaide Bannerman, Jacob Boehme, Candy Bowers, Natalie Ibu, Abdul Shayek and Mikala Tai – were selected to share their experiences, their knowledge and best practice in developing the cultural sectors in both nations.

**Find out more:** <http://diversityarts.org.au/project/intersect>



*INTERSECT participants Adelaide Bannerman, Candy Bowers, Natalie Ibu, Abdul Shayek and Mikala Tai in the UK.*

*Intersect Artist Exchange 2018  
Photo: Anna Hay*



*"INTERSECT seeks to strengthen diversity and opportunity in a place where power lies – among those who decide whose work is seen, what is seen, how it is seen and who sees it, thereby multiplying the impact."*

*- Helen Salmon, Director of the British Council in Australia*

*"The ability to see and hear each other on a level that is rarely fostered was transformative"*

*- Candy Bowers, INTERSECT participant*



*Photo above*

*Samoan-Australian artist and weaver Maryann Talia Pau profiled for the Creative Lives project by volunteer writer Isabella Moore.  
Photo: Nikki Michail*

*Photo below*

*Queensland-based Poet and Editor, Mindy Gill, profiled as a part of the Creative Lives project by volunteer Isabella Moore.  
Photo: Leah Jing McIntosh*

*'I feel so lucky to have this access to such a hybrid of cultures without putting pressure on myself to 'belong' to one more than the other.'*

*- Mindy Gill*

*'Cultural homogeneity is a lie. It is not an accurate reflection of the world, and certainly not of Australia.'*

*- Ambelin Kwaymullina*

*'I'm not trying to be conservative – I'm trying to piss people off. I'm trying to tell our story.'*

*- Chong Ali*

*'There can only be richness and positive outcomes from engaging and learning from artists from varying backgrounds.'*

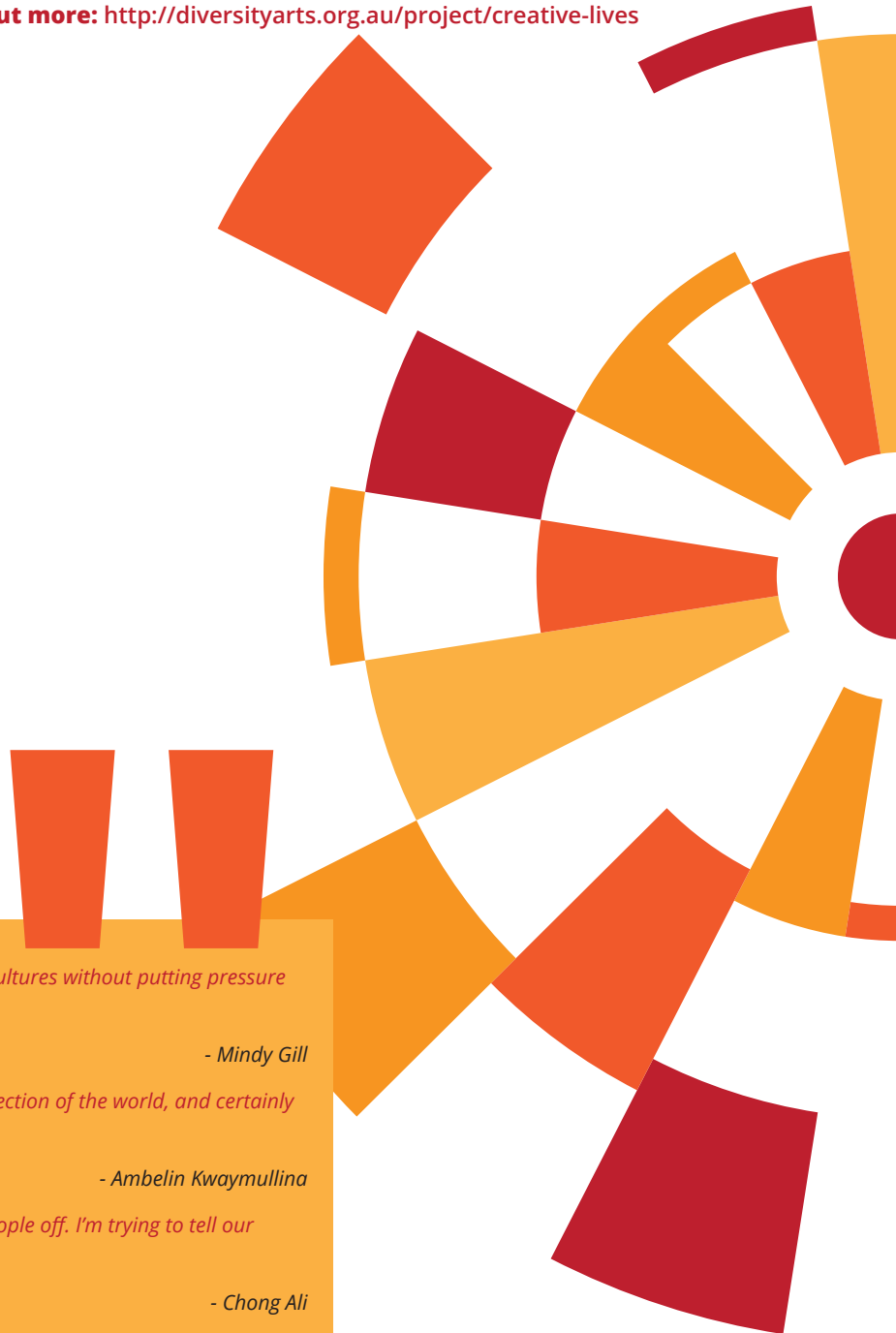
*- Maryann Talia Pau*

## CREATIVE LIVES PROJECT

Creative Lives documents and profiles diverse creators across Australia.

In 2018, 9 CaLD and one First Nations artists and their practice were profiled for this project in print, photography and videography: They were poet and editor Mindy Gill, Writer and Illustrator Ambelin Kwaymullina, Rapper Chong Ali, Weaver Maryann Talia Pau, Writer Isabella Moore, Filmmaker Gary Paramanathan, Filmmaker Rashmi Ravindran, Filmmaker Vonne Patiag, Photographer and bodybuilder Lisa Dieu and Writer and dancer Anna Krjatian. The project was bolstered by support from Sydney Water.

**Find out more:** <http://diversityarts.org.au/project/creative-lives>





## STORIES FROM THE FUTURE

During 2018 this project was developed in partnership with the University of Sydney and supported by project partners: The Street, Community Arts Network, Country Arts WA, Nexus Arts, Country Arts SA, Parramatta Artist Studios, Arts Front, Feral Arts and Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre. Workshops will begin in 2019 and be held in NSW, South Australia, Canberra and Western Australia, inviting culturally diverse creatives and arts workers to imagine a timeline towards an equitable culturally diverse arts future in Australia. Outcomes will include a report, short films, podcasts, written articles and an anthology. Stories from the Future receives core funding from the Australia Council for the Arts with additional support from City of Parramatta Council, Liverpool City Council and Create NSW.

Find out more: <http://diversityarts.org.au/project/stories-from-the-future>

## COLOURFEST FILM FESTIVAL

Diversity Arts managed this festival in 2018. Festival Directors Elijah Mafia and Lidia Luna were mentored by outgoing director Gary Paramanathan and work commenced on the sourcing of films for the 2019 festival.

Find out more: <http://diversityarts.org.au/project/colourfest>



*Stories from the Future Workshop held at Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre (L to R): Francisco Lopez, Nadia Hernández and Hasitha Adhikariarachchi. Photo: Phoenix Eye.*



*Still from TET by James Tran as part of Colourfest Film Festival.*

*"The idea of these workshops is to literally take people outside of this space, to imagine the future, to articulate a timeline and then to action that. It is important for this work to be done by the CaLD artists themselves – to imagine the creative cultural landscape that we want to be in."*

*- Lena Nahlous, Executive Director of Diversity Arts Australia*





Photo above

Diverse Screens Parramatta Launch and Q&A (L to R) Roanna Gonsalves in conversation with Rashmi Ravindran, Gary Paramanathan and Vonne Patiag. Photo: Sonia Mehrmand

Photo below

Abid Hussain in conversation with Dr Paula Abood at the Sydney Opera House. Photo: Monique Choy

## SYMPOSIA & EVENTS

**SEYMOUR CENTRE, SYDNEY, 20 JANUARY:** Diversity Arts and British Council announce their new three-year partnership with the British Council – **Arts Connects Us (aka INTERSECT)**. The partnership developed from key stakeholder consultations and will share knowledge on diversity and inclusion and exchange best practice between the UK and Australia.

**NEXUS ARTS, ADELAIDE, 1 MARCH:** We launched our **Diverse Screens South West Sydney films at Adelaide Fringe Festival**, in partnership with Nexus Arts as part of the Farrago exhibition. The exhibition also included short films featuring Blak Douglas and Aruna Gandhi commissioned for the Beyond Tick Boxes symposium. Diversity Arts commissioned this series of short films by culturally diverse filmmakers Maria Tran, Ali Mousawi, Roxie Vuong and Thuy Nguyen. The project was supported by Fairfield City Council, Liverpool City Council and the Australia Council for the Arts. We also did a panel/ event at Nexus Arts which included Adelaide and Sydney filmmakers in conversation.

**BRISBANE POWERHOUSE, 6-7 MARCH:** Diversity Arts's Executive Director Lena Nahlous and Dr Paula Abood co-facilitated the session of the cultural diversity stream of the **Arts Front Rights Symposium** in Brisbane.

**SYDNEY, 1-3 JUNE:** Diversity Arts presented the Colour Cycle at the **Audiocraft Podcast Festival**. The podcast was a 2018 finalist in the News and Current Affairs category of the 2018 **Australian Podcast Awards**.

**MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, SYDNEY, 13 JUNE:** Diversity Arts supported Diversity in Australian Media's "Diversity in Practice" forum at **Vivid Sydney**.

**INFORMATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE, PARRAMATTA, 21 JUNE:** Launch of the Diverse Screens Parramatta films: *Mastering the Rhythm* by Gary Paramanathan, *Shading* by Vonne Patiag and *First Impressions* by Rashmi Ravindran with screenings and filmmaker Q&A. The films received positive coverage on SBS and other news outlets. Diverse Screens Parramatta was supported by the City of Parramatta, Information + Cultural Exchange and Create NSW.

**RIVERSIDE THEATRES, PARRAMATTA, 8 OCTOBER:** Diversity Arts launched the *Voice, Agency and Integrity Report* with support from Create NSW and event host Create NSW and the National Theatre of Parramatta. The report generated wide media coverage, including stories in *Meanjin*, ArtsHub, *Southern Crossings* and *Audrey Journal*.

The creative sectors and government were called on to support actions leading to a more inclusive, culturally diverse and relevant arts and screen sector.

Executive Director of Investment and Engagement at Create NSW, Elizabeth W. Scott launched the report, followed by dynamic 'TED-style' talks which responded to the report by:

- Patrick McIntyre, Executive Director, Sydney Theatre Company
- Winnie Dunn, writer; editor and manager of Sweatshop Western Sydney Literacy Movement
- Esther Anatolitis, Executive Director, National Association for the Visual Arts
- Roanna Gonsalves, Author; Winner, NSW Premier's Literary Awards (2018)

You can read the speeches here: [diversityarts.org.au/voice-agency-integrity-report](https://diversityarts.org.au/voice-agency-integrity-report)

**SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE, 6 NOV:** What is the case for Creative Diversity? Abid Hussain (Arts Council England) in conversation with Dr Paula Abood to a full house at the Sydney Opera House. Abid leads Arts Council England's work on Equality, Inclusion and the Creative Case for Diversity. He discussed two significant programs he has led in England, the Elevate and Change Makers programmes. This event was co-presented with Sydney Opera House and British Council.

# SECTOR RESEARCH

## VOICE, AGENCY AND INTEGRITY REPORT

In 2019, Diversity Arts launched the “Voice, Agency and Integrity” report, which interpreted and synthesised the discussions from the 2018 Beyond Tick Boxes symposium. The research highlights barriers to broader representation of Australia’s cultural diversity within the arts and cultural sector, including systemic discrimination, tokenism and misrepresentation.

The report compiles issues, direct experiences and potential solutions to entrenched barriers that were identified in keynotes, speeches, audience Q&As, and online discussions.

### CALLS TO IMPROVE UNDER-REPRESENTATION

The report calls for actions to improve the current under- representation of people from culturally diverse backgrounds at all levels of the creative sector:

1. Make culturally diverse artists and creatives more visible: showcased by funders and decision-makers in public spaces, stages, books and screens;
2. Culturally diverse artists and creatives to take action: join peer assessment pools, measuring outcomes and sharing successes;
3. Measure diversity to increase diversity: create a benchmark for change and hold institutions accountable;
4. Take affirmative action: make funding conditional, tied to CALD priority areas, targets and quotas; create targeted pathways, mentorships and professional development frameworks; ensure the industry holds funding bodies accountable;
5. Create an enabling environment: remove barriers to access and participation;
6. Support the work of Diversity Arts Australia to lead, champion and uphold these standards and actions.



*Photo above*

*Voice, Agency and Integrity Report launched in Oct 2018.*

*Photo: Rashmi Ravindran.*

*Photo below*

*Voice Agency and Integrity report launch speakers (L-R): Roanna Gonsalves, Winnie Dunn, Esther Anatolitis, Patrick McIntyre and Lena Nahlous*

*Photo: Rashmi Ravindran*

## RESEARCH INTO CULTURAL DIVERSE LEADERSHIP IN THE AUSTRALIAN CREATIVE SECTOR

Data from 200 significant creative organisations of 1,980 individual people in leadership roles was collected for our major research project, which measured culturally diverse leadership in Australia’s arts, screen and creative sectors was gathered and interpreted in 2018, for launch in 2019 in partnership with Western Sydney University and BYP Group and with support from the Australian Commission for UNESCO. This first-of-its-kind research into cultural diversity in arts, screen and creative sector leadership will set a benchmark for cultural and linguistic diversity in our arts, screen and creative sectors.



*Photo above*

*Citizen Writes audience.  
Photo: Andrew Vien*

*Photo below*

*Citizen Writes audience gathering  
after the launch.  
Photo: Andrew Vien*

# AUDIENCES

## EXPANDING OUR REACH

Diversity Arts engaged NSW audiences via five live events, the production of 25 films and mini-films, nine podcast episodes (which was aired on Virgin Inflight entertainment for one season) and our social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Vimeo) which all experienced a huge increase in reach and engagement in 2018, up to six times the engagement rates of 2017. Our newsletter subscribers also increased by 40%. Diverse Screens films have reached an estimated 5,000 people in 2018 and were selected for nine film festivals.

*Audiences for What is the Case for Creative Diversity?  
with Abid Hussain (Director of Diversity, Arts Council  
England) in conversation with Dr Paula Abood*





## OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Our partners and supporters strengthen and sustain the important work of Diversity Arts. We gratefully acknowledge our funders, sponsors and supporters in 2018.

### FUNDERS AND SPONSORS

Creative Victoria  
Australia Council for the Arts  
Create NSW  
City of Parramatta  
British Council  
Liverpool City Council  
Australian National Commission for UNESCO  
Fairfield City Council  
City of Sydney  
The Wheeler Centre  
University of Sydney  
Western Sydney University  
Sydney Water

### ORGANISATIONAL SPONSOR

Information and Cultural Exchange

### PARTNERS

Arts Council England  
Arts Front and Feral Arts  
Blacktown Arts and Blacktown City Council  
British Council  
BYP Group  
Carnival of the Bold  
Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre

*Pacesetters Creative  
Director, Paschal Daantos  
Berry, Blacktown Arts.  
Photo: Andy Ko*



Community Arts Network  
Country Arts SA  
Diversity in Australian Media  
Information and Cultural Exchange  
Liverpool City Council  
National Theatre of Parramatta  
Nexus Arts and Adelaide Fringe  
Parramatta Artist Studios  
Peril Magazine  
Settlement Services International  
Sydney Opera House  
The Street

## OUR PEOPLE BOARD MEMBERS

In 2018, Francisca Peña, Sheila Ngoc Pham, Shalini Perera and Anthony Peluso joined our board, while Pilar Kasat, former Chair Louise Dunn, Magdalena Moreno, Suellen Maunder and Gambhir Watts stepped down.

**Chair, Professor James Arvanitakis**

**Co-Deputy Chair, Pilar Kasat** (resigned 6 December)

**Co-Deputy Chair, Joanne Pratt**

**Treasurer, Francisca Peña**

**Seb Chan**

**Jade Lillie**

**Sheila Ngoc Pham**

**Shalini Perera**

**Anthony Peluso**

**Louise Dunn (until May)**

**Magdalena Moreno** (until February)

**Suellen Maunder** (until June)

**Gambhir Watts** (until August)





*Photo left*

*Lena Nahlous (Diversity Arts) presenting at ABC of CACD  
Photo: Andy Ko*



*Photo Right*

*Audience members at launch of Voice Agency Integrity.  
Photo: Rashmi Ravindran*

## **STAFF AND KEY CONTRACTORS**

**Lena Nahlous**, Executive Director

**Kevin Nelson**, Accountant

**Monique Choy**, Strategic Initiatives and Content Producer

**Dr Paula Abood**, Creative Consultant, Lead Trainer and Creative Director

**Sonia Mehrmand**, Project Producer

**Andy Ko**, Administration and Projects Officer

**Glaiza Perez**, Social Media Producer and Associate Producer, Stories from the Future

**Jennifer Macey**, Podcast Producer and Trainer

**Joon-Yee Kwok**, Fair Play Symposium Producer and Project Establishment Coordinator

**Rebecca Conroy**, Business Development and Communications support

## **VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS**

**Isabella Moore**, Writer, Creative Lives

**Zyra McAuliffe**, Administration

## **ARTISTS, CONTRACTORS, COMPANIES, SPEAKERS/ PANELLISTS AND PROFILED CREATIVES**

Aamer Rahman

Abdul Shayek

Abid Hussain, Arts Council England

Adelaide Bannerman

Ali Mousawi

Ambelin Kwaymullina

Anna Krjatian

Barry Gamba

Candy Bowers

Chong Ali

Colin Kinchela

Eddie Abd

Eliorah Mafia

Esther Anatolitis

Fadia Abboud

Gary Paramanathan

Isabella Moore

Jacob Boehme

Jeremy Smith, Australia Council for the Arts

Kim "Busty Beatz" Bowers

Latai Taumoepeau

Lidia Luna

Lisa Dieu

Maria Tran

Marian Abboud

Maryann Talia Pau

Mikala Tai

Mindy Gill

Natalie Ibu

Patrick McIntyre, Sydney Theatre Company

Dr Paula Abood

Phoenix Eye

Rani Pramesti

Rashmi Ravindran

Roanna Gonsalves

Roxie Vuong

Sophia Kouyoumdjian, Parramatta Artist Studios

Thuy Nguyen

Vonne Patiag

Winnie Dunn

Yamane Fayed

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