



## Summary for Councils

### South East Arts (NSW) Inc Board Meeting

Friday 3 July 2015 at Cooma TAFE

Present: Bettina Richter (Chair), Olivia Gesini (Secretary), Silas Dunstan (Treasurer), Cr. Sue Haslingden, Cr. John Shumack, Cr. Craig Mitchell, Mandy Hillson, Cr. Anne Mawhinney, Catherine Andrews. In attendance: Andrew Gray (GM), Kate Howarth (Minute Secretary)

The South East Arts board meeting began with an acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners of the land and a welcome to all board members, including the new co-opted community member for the board, Mandy Hillson who lives in the Eurobodalla and brings to the board a great deal of arts management experience. Congratulations was passed onto the staff for the success of the Screen Industry Strategy Launch in Bega and Jindabyne, and the success of the Erth Waterways Museum in the Eurobodalla. Mention was also made of the completion of SEA's Annual Report and the draft SEA's 2016-2018 Business Plan which has a strong focus on innovation.

#### **Constitutional Changes:**

Constitutional changes were made at the meeting which allows the organisation to apply for DGR status. The amendments confirm that South East Arts is a not-for-profit organisation and outline the rules of the new public fund and management of its funds. South East Arts hopes to launch its public fund in 2016, which will be for garnering support for inspiring big picture arts/cultural initiatives for the region.

#### **Skills-based Board Discussion**

One of the key recommendations from Arts NSW and the recent Regional Arts Board Review was for all regional arts boards to move to a completely skills based board. The South East Arts board is currently made up of a mix of skills-based board members and a councillor representative from each of the 5 councils. The Board is currently exploring this issue through discussion and at the Cooma meeting the Board conducted an audit of their current committee, the skills-base and experience and considered what a perfect board could look like. The strengths of the board is currently high with dedicated members with experience across a range of areas from governance to small business to legal, financial, marketing, arts management, cultural planning, community advocacy and philanthropy. It has been suggested that appointing an Aboriginal board member or Aboriginal advisory committee is an area of need as well as a board member from the local education sector.

#### **New Sub-Committees**

New Sub-committee members were elected to sub-committee groups which cover Marketing and Special Events; Human Resources; Finance; Policy; Arts and Health; and Partnerships.

#### **Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Silas Dunstan and accepted by the Board.

#### **Arts and Health Strategy**

South East Arts is currently considering looking at a regional Arts & Health Strategy which would foster the role of arts in delivering quality health outcomes for the region. The Board believes there would be great benefit for the implementation of an arts & health strategy such as this - from government to health care professionals, to those in health care and the wider community - which would in turn achieve community resilience, attitudinal change and clinical outcomes. The Eurobodalla Health Service has just put their support behind developing the Arts and Health Strategy, and South East Arts is seeking more financial

support so that this strategy could cover the whole South East Arts region.

### **General Manager's Report**

The General Manager's Report was outlined and included an outline of SEA's current projects, a Communications Report and the ACCEO (Aboriginal Cultural Creative Engagement Officer) Report. The GM also advised that Indigenous Advancement Strategy funding had been secured and discussed the development of SEA's new short-term philanthropy role to commence in late 2015.

SEA Project summary:

- The EXPAND performing arts creative industries initiative had its 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop in Bega
- SEA's Screen Industry Strategy launched successfully in Jindabyne plus a Locations Workshop was held
- Project Cosmopolitana performed in Cooma and is still trying to secure more support for the lead-up to their Canberra Theatre premiere of Ghosts in the Scheme
- Erth Waterways Museum in Moruya region proved extremely successful with over 1000 people visiting the exhibition and 150 participants in total including local artists and schools
- Djaadjawan Dancers business development support winding up
- SEA programmed and managed the youth stage at the Peak Music Festival in Perisher
- Yoof Tube 2015 was launched, the only short film competition for the whole of the South East Arts region for 12-20 year olds.

### **ACCEO Report**

The ACCEO (Aboriginal Cultural Creative Engagement Officer) has supported, developed and initiated the following projects:

- Grow the Music – after a very successful project in the Wallaga Lake community, SEA hopes to seek an ongoing partnership
- City to the Sea exhibition by young Aboriginal Photographer – exhibition at Bundian Way Gallery in Delegate, and currently at Bermagui Oyster Room
- Bundian Way Aboriginal Art Gallery Delegate – South East Arts curates 4 exhibitions a year at the gallery
- Seeking funding for Song-writing Sessions and Language Retrieval with award-winning songwriter Neil Murray
- Developing memoir writing workshops with local Aboriginal author Kate Howarth in partnership with Bermagui Library.
- Co-ordinating a photographic exhibition of Wallaga Lake with local artist Penny Jones
- Assisting in the business development and launch of an Aboriginal art gallery and shop 'Apma Creations' in Tilba
- Music Tuition at Wallaga Lake – SEA is building on the work of Grow the Music by co-ordinating music lessons for children at the Wallaga Lake Koori Village. Music Teachers are currently offering their services free, SEA is currently seeking funding support to continue this.

### **Communications Report**

The SEA website is generating 1200 unique visitors and has seen a 20% increase in engagement. SEA's monthly e:news and mid month features on special events of the region go to an audience of 1,195 and SEA's Social Media engagement continues to increase across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages with a new YouTube Channel launched in June.

### **Next SEA Board Meeting**

The next SEA meeting will be held in Canberra on Thursday 3 September, due to the board's attendance at the premiere of Ghosts in the Scheme on Wednesday 2 September.