



For immediate release

## Sophie Travers announced as incoming Director of Melbourne's newest creative precinct, Collingwood Yards.

### Freshly opened multi-arts precinct Collingwood Yards welcomes newly appointed Director, Sophie Travers.

The Collingwood Yards Board is delighted to announce that a rigorous three month recruitment process has resulted in the appointment of Sophie Travers. Sophie will begin her tenure in early May.

Sophie brings a deep knowledge and connection to the international and local arts sector, with expertise across strategic planning, organisational development, project management, policy and governance.

With a career spanning the globe and diverse experience in federal agencies, local government and independent arts, Sophie is well equipped to support the newly opened precinct as it begins the public phase of its journey.

Collingwood Yards Chair Daniel Besen said, "Sophie's work and career has long championed the values that also sit at the core of Collingwood Yards: community, creativity and collaboration. We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Sophie to the Collingwood Yards team and look forward to the next phase of our evolution."

Sophie comes to Collingwood Yards from the City of Melbourne, where she has undertaken a range of roles. As General Manager, Creative Programs she led strategic planning across arts venues Arts House, Artplay and Signal, with a hands-on leadership role of a large team and busy venue at Arts House. As acting Strategy Lead for the Creative City Branch she also supported work in creative infrastructure planning, public art and grant-making.

Sophie said "I am excited to join the team, tenants and community at Collingwood Yards. I have been watching the

site come to life and feel very lucky to contribute to this next stage of connection and growth. Thank you to the many visionaries who created these opportunities for artists and their communities to thrive. Thanks also to those who have moved in with their big ideas and energies."

Sophie's work will build on the contributions of founding CEO, Marcus Westbury, who led the project, team and tenant community through five years of planning, redevelopment and establishment of the tenant community. Now that Collingwood Yards has officially opened, Sophie will lead the precinct in its next phase, focus on exploring new models of partnering, cross-disciplinary approaches and community engagement.

The Collingwood Yards Board extends its deepest appreciation to Jacquelin Low for her exemplary work in steering the organisation in recent months. Jac will resume her role as General Manager from Monday 3 May. The Board also thanks the team for their hard work and commitment during this period.

### Image credit

Sophie Travers on site at Collingwood Yards, photograph by Natalie Jurrjens

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### About Collingwood Yards

Situated on the former Collingwood Technical School campus, Collingwood Yards is a thriving artistic hub for artists and the community. Our media kit (including further details on tenants and images of the precinct buildings and courtyard) is **available here**.

# COLLINGWOOD YARDS

For further info contact  
Julia Gregg, Communications Manager Collingwood Yards  
0423689245 | [julia@collingwoodyards.org](mailto:julia@collingwoodyards.org)