

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

**C / A / P**  
Contemporary Arts Precincts Ltd



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Note: throughout this report you will see references to both Collingwood Yards and Contemporary Arts Precincts Ltd (CAP). CAP is the legal entity that operates the site at 35 Johnston Street, Collingwood. Contemporary Arts Precincts Ltd trades as Collingwood Yards.

**Collingwood Yards acknowledges the traditional owners and sovereign custodians of the land on which Collingwood Yards is situated, the Wurundjeri People. We extend our respects to their Ancestors and all First Peoples and Elders past, present, and emerging.**

**We celebrate that Collingwood has always been a place of great cultural significance to First Peoples, particularly artists and musicians, and acknowledge the vital role that these communities continue to play in the cultural life of Collingwood.**



## Message from the Chair

This year has seen Contemporary Arts Precincts – Collingwood Yards respond to challenges with growth, adaptability and a strong sense of community and possibility in Naarm (Melbourne). I wish to extend my gratitude to our wonderful tenants, artists and arts organisations for their unwavering resilience, inspiration and creativity.

During my second year as Chair of CAP, I have seen the precinct undergo a rapid expansion welcoming new and diverse tenants over the years. We were privileged to host many events of various scales, attracting tens of thousands of visitors to our courtyard, corridors and creative spaces.

Thank you to our outgoing CEO Sophie Travers and the Collingwood Yards team who have contributed to the continued success and growth of the organisation. Welcome to our Interim CEO Nail Aykan who is leading the team to support our collective efforts and shared vision.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who have dedicated their time and effort in support of our endeavours at Collingwood Yards including my fellow Board and Committee members who generously volunteer their time to guide and support the evolution and growth of Contemporary Arts Precincts. Your invaluable insights, wise counsel and passion for our community and the arts are greatly appreciated.

I'm genuinely excited by the prospects that await Contemporary Arts Precincts – Collingwood Yards, delivering on our strategic plan and our potential for strong financial outcomes and growth, as we build upon the excellent foundations established throughout the year.

**Miriam Silva, AM**  
Chair

## Message from the CEO

As every year brings different challenges and opportunities, CAP/CY has continued to evolve and remain steadfast and resilient during the past financial year, in response to the growing demands and expectations of running a creative arts precinct. The 2022/23 could be aptly described as *'the year of transition'*.

There are numerous factors that contribute to an important year's work, with the most crucial being the individuals who make it all possible. Therefore, I would like to dedicate my words to express my gratitude and pay tribute to all those who have played a vital role in our accomplishments over the past year.

I thank Sophie Travers, outgoing CEO of CAP/CY, whose hard work and commitment to the precinct over the last 2 years. I pay my personal gratitude to our staff, for without your spirited hard work, resilience, and commitment, we would not have achieved so much.

I extend my gratitude to all Board members, including CAP/CY Chair Miriam Silva AM, whose strategic leadership has been highly regarded during this period of transition. I thank our Treasurer, Ian Horne, for his expertise and prudent stewardship of our financial matters. Our board members fulfil invaluable roles on



a voluntary basis, and I thank them for their contributions to governance, strategic direction, and, most notably, their compassionate leadership.

During my relatively brief tenure, I have observed a vast reservoir of goodwill within our tenant community and the creative arts sector. As a not-for-profit community organization, it is imperative that we consistently seek to invest in our resources and expand our services while pursuing novel strategies and opportunities.

It has been a privilege to serve as Interim CEO, working alongside many dedicated individuals and organizations. I have full confidence in CAP/CY's strategic positioning to not only meet the challenges but also capitalise on the opportunities in the years ahead. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to CAP/CY's vision to enrich our creative arts community.

**Nail Aykan**  
Interim CEO

## About Us

Embedded in Collingwood's rich urban fabric, and created to harness a physical space that fosters collaboration, Collingwood Yards is a vibrant, mixed-use precinct for the arts – a place of cultural and artistic production with an open interface to the public.

Designed by Fieldwork, Collingwood Yards reworks the institutional buildings of Collingwood Technical School, built in 1913 on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. While the buildings are of social, historical and architectural significance, by 2016 the site was a vacant remnant of changing vocational training trends.

The arts and creative sector had suffered a similar sense of neglect, typically being priced out of the inner north due to rising property prices. The establishment of Contemporary Arts Precincts Ltd, the social enterprise who manages Collingwood Yards, was formed as a charitable social enterprise with a vision to transform the site's empty buildings into a sustainable, permanent, and affordable home for artists and independent arts

organisations across disciplines. Supported by philanthropic investment, government and commercial partners, the project reflects the growing importance of engraining arts and creativity in our inner-city communities.

Occupying half a block in Collingwood, Collingwood Yards is a mixed-use site that layers studios, public spaces, hospitality venues and retail tenancies in diverse and evolving ways. It is home to more than 50 creative studios and anchored by a selection of design-centric retailers and cafes, bars and meeting spaces.

Collingwood Yards believes that the importance of keeping a diverse range of artists and creative communities active in any city cannot be understated. The social benefits of arts participation is well documented and affordable space is a key part of supporting this. Collingwood Yards is both a transformational project for its neighbourhood and a proof of concept for our broader goal: to develop a new model of providing affordable and sustainable arts space in Australia.



COLLINGWOOD  
YARDS



A



## **Our Vision and Purpose**

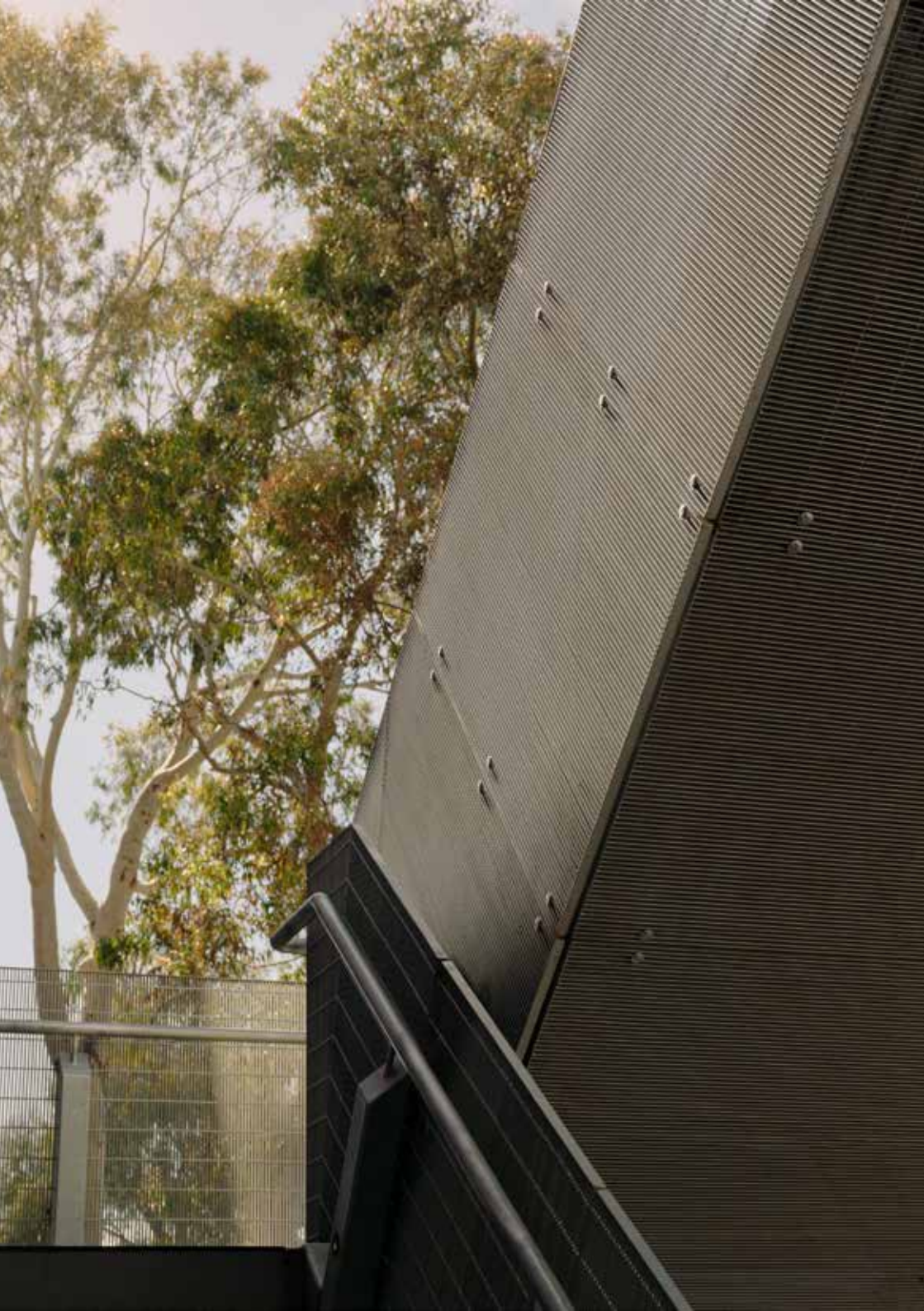
### **Our Vision**

To develop and support an innovative, sustainable and equitable creative community.

### **Our Purpose**

To support creative practitioners and organisations to innovate, by offering the security of high-quality spaces for creation and engagement with audiences, platforms for collaboration and consistent invitations to engage with the wider community





## Our Place

Collingwood Yards is a sustainable initiative that provides affordable workspace for hundreds of creative industry workers in film and media, fashion, architecture, music, design, visual and performing arts and craft. Tenants have been chosen to represent excellence in their field and robust connections to their diverse communities. The relationships between the subsidised and non-subsidised cultural and creative industries are part of a twenty first century approach that indicates that public and private subsidy of arts, culture and creativity has a positive impact on the success of commercial creative businesses and other businesses.

By the end of 2022 we celebrated our first full year of uninterrupted operation. Throughout the 2022-23 financial year, the precinct experienced significant growth, with many new individuals joining us each month. We hosted numerous events of varying scales and warmly received tens of thousands of visitors in our courtyard, corridors, and creative spaces.

**“We can meet for a coffee under the trees, visit each other’s offices, galleries and studios, and bump into each other in the hallways to chat. This kind of collegiality is spoken about in larger institutions, but everyone is too busy to do it. Reciprocity and cross-pollination between peers leads to generative and exciting projects for our artists. It’s thrilling to be a part of”**

**– West Space**











# Our People

## Tenants

At the heart of Collingwood Yards sits its people. Having braved the challenges of Covid-19, 2022 was our first year of continuous operation and saw our community of artists, art workers, creative entrepreneurs and supporters come together in new and fruitful ways. It also saw our community and networks continue to evolve. We welcomed new tenants like independent tertiary education college Collarts and First Nations storytelling not-for-profit Common Ground, new studio artists and rehoused existing studio artists like Kate Beynon into new studios. In July 2022 we also welcomed the second group of six artists and collectives into the shared studio space subsidised and programmed by the City of Yarra's Room to Create program, which is funded by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

## Collaborations

Our monthly tenant meetings, chaired by Channon Goodwin of Composite continue to go from strength-to-strength. A program of visiting speakers, tenant presentations, commissioning and collaborative opportunities and collective imagining provides a framework for our tenant community to thrive.

The Collingwood Yards artist studios housed more than 40 artists and arts workers throughout 2022/23. Meetings, social events and celebrations punctuated the year and allowed studio residents and micro-organisations crucial opportunities for connection and collaboration.





### **Uncle Jack Charles**

We'd like to acknowledge the passing of much loved Boon Wurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Woiwurrung and Yorta Yorta senior Elder, Brother, Uncle, Great Uncle Jack Charles, on 13th September 2022.

Uncle Jack was an actor, musician, potter and gifted performer. A member of the Stolen Generation, Uncle Jack has been acknowledged as the grandfather of Aboriginal theatre in Australia having co-founded the first Aboriginal theatre company Nindethana in 1972.

Uncle Jack was awarded the prestigious Tudawali Award at the Message Sticks Festival in 2009, honouring his lifetime contribution to Indigenous media. He also received a Green Room Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014 and a Red Ochre Lifetime Achievement Award by the Australia Council for the Arts in 2019. Uncle Jack was also named Victorian Senior Australian of the Year for 2016.

**“The sense of community spirit has been transformative for our organisation and our team; we are modelling our new Strategic Plan around the possibilities now open to us through interdisciplinary pollination of practices, and unique partnership and collaboration opportunities between art organisations and social enterprises”.**

*The family of Uncle Jack Charles have given permission to use his name and image.*



## **Bank of Melbourne Collingwood Yards Residency**

Sister duo, Fatuma and Laurinda Ndenzako of slow fashion label, Collective Closets joined us in 2022 as our Bank of Melbourne Collingwood Yards Residents. Established in 2016, Collective Closets is a label that fills a gap in the Australian fashion market. It connects Australia to the talent, beauty and rich history of the African continent and celebrates the women in Fatuma and Laurinda's community.

In describing their experience of being in residence Fatuma and Laurinda say "the very first time we walked into our studio – we

were right at home. We love all the natural light that pours into the studio, the high ceilings and the fact that we can sometimes hear the chatter and laughter in the courtyard as we work. It's special, with a sense of community"

Since coming into the studio, Collective Closets have been part of the exhibitions Melbourne Now at the Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia and Goddess at ACMI and have collaborated with Melbourne-based shoe brand Radical Yes. In May they launched a new collection of bold prints and new silhouettes inspired by their travels to Nairobi, Kenya, and customers have been able to view and shop this collection and book 1:1 styling sessions in the studio.



Accessories  
Headband /  
Tote (navy)  
Socks / Yogi  
Jewelry (C)  
Cups / T-shirt  
Socks  
Dress



## Our Tenants

### **Ableton**

Ableton makes Ableton Live, a unique product for producing and performing music with a computer, Push, an instrument that puts the fundamental elements of music-making at your fingertips, and a technology that keeps devices in time over a wireless network. You may or may not have heard of Ableton, but you've almost certainly heard it: in your favourite songs, at concerts, in clubs, in TV theme tunes, during awards shows, and at the theatre.

### **agency**

agency celebrates and promotes Indigenous art, culture and people on a local, national and international scale through the initiation and facilitation of ethical and sound investments into Indigenous-led projects and partnerships.

### **Arts Project Australia**

Arts Project Australia is a creative social enterprise that supports artists with intellectual disabilities, promotes their work and advocates for their inclusion in contemporary art practice. Arts Project has aimed high since 1974 and has since been an award-winning leader in the arts and disability sectors.

### **Auspicious Arts Projects**

Auspicious Arts Projects Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation that provides artists with a secure and accessible management framework to assist them with creative developments and producing new work. Working with Auspicious means that artists have all the benefits and financial protection of working with a larger organisation, whilst remaining independent and in creative control. With an open door policy and over 25 years of industry experience, they have worked with projects across the complete independent arts spectrum.

### **Baracco + Wright**

Baracco + Wright Architects is a small experimental architectural practice established in 2004. They make buildings, theatre sets, gardens, books, curate and design exhibitions, and teach. Baracco + Wright do this to explore architecture and also advocate a role for architecture. Their work sits between academia, practice and multiple creative fields such as art and landscape.

### **Bookshop by Uro**

Founded in 2009, Uro Publications is a vendor and publisher of architecture and design books, focusing on Australian titles. In a world awash in ephemeral media, Uro believes the unique rigours of book publishing remains a critical means of refining, testing, expressing and disseminating ideas.

### **Bone**

Bone is a digital development studio who collaborate with creative agencies, brands and people.

### **Bus Projects**

Bus Projects is an artist-run organisation dedicated to supporting the practices of Australian artists. In addition to its core gallery based program of exhibitions, events and residencies, Bus Projects collaborates with a range of artists and organisations to produce projects off-site and within the public realm.

### **Centre for Projection Art**

The Centre for Projection Art develops the medium and practice of projection art, providing support and mentoring for artists, along with consultancy services. The Centre is behind the Gertrude Street Projection Festival—Australia's longest running festival of its type, with a reputation for discovering new artists and places, exploring ideas and bringing people together by night to experience playful, thoughtful and inspiring new media work.

### **Collingwood Neighbourhood House x Play On**

The Collingwood Neighbourhood House (CNH) is a community organisation based on the Collingwood public housing estate. CNH delivers a range of programs and regularly teams up with local artists from the estate to produce arts and community projects like hip-hop nights, mural painting, theatre, video and dance projects. Play On is a performing arts company that presents classical, contemporary and electronic music. Its primary performance space is the Collingwood Underground Car Park on the Collingwood Estate.

### **Collarts**

Collarts (Australian College of the Arts Pty Ltd) is a dynamic independent tertiary education college full of passion, individuality and opportunity. Focused on creating real career pathways into the creative sector for students, Collarts delivers industry-based learning coupled with strong personal and professional development.

### **Common Ground**

Common Ground is a First Nations not-for-profit working to shape a society that centres First Nations people by amplifying knowledge, cultures and stories. Common Ground exists to bring connection, truth and deeper understanding through storytelling.

### **Composite: Moving Image Agency & Media Bank**

Composite: Moving Image Agency & Media Bank is an Artist-Run agency dedicated to supporting artists' moving image practices in Australia through exhibition, research, and education. Composite works in concert with other organisations, initiatives and festivals to champion artists moving image practice to a wide audience.

### **Hope St Radio**

After years of broadcasting from the city's favourite bars, restaurants and zoos, Hope St Radio has laid down roots and set up (permanent) shop in Collingwood Yards. Melbourne's finest artists, musicians and tastemakers live broadcasting behind the bar, soundtracking your post work wine and dinner.

### **ILBEJERRI CO**

ILBIJERRI is one of Australia's leading theatre companies creating innovative works by First Nations artists. The longest established First Nations theatre company in Australia, ILBIJERRI creates, presents and tours powerful and engaging theatre by First Nations artists that gives voice to our Cultures.



### **Licorice Pie**

Licorice Pie is a records store with a focus on second-hand vinyls from all corners of the globe.

From the avant-garde through to Zydeco, most genres reside within the racks and shelves. Established in the South Eastern suburbs of Melbourne in 2002, and now within the walls of the Collingwood Yards, Licorice Pie has become a magnet for collectors, music producers and fans alike searching for that perfect beat.

### **Liquid Architecture**

For the past 20 years, Liquid Architecture has been Australia's leading organisation for artists working with sound and listening. LA investigates the sounds themselves, but also the ideas communicated about, and the meaning of, sound and listening.

### **Monde Studio**

Designed and made to order in Melbourne Australia, Monde's sculptural shape is based on the contours of the human body, commanding unmatched comfort and support. Each seat is designed to interlock with another so that one seat can expand or contract into many sculptural shapes, configurations, and sofa sizes, providing endless possibilities to adapt to homes and spaces. Sculpted entirely from premium, Green tag\* Certified foam the sofa is designed for the last generations.

### **Music Victoria**

Music Victoria is an independent, not-for-profit organisation and the state peak body for contemporary music. Music Victoria provides advocacy on behalf of the music sector, actively supports the development of the Victorian music community, and celebrates and promotes Victorian music.

### **Open House Melbourne**

Open House Melbourne is an independent organisation that fosters public appreciation for architecture and public engagement in conversations about the future of our cities. They do this through the much-loved Open House Weekend in Melbourne, Ballarat and now Bendigo, where tens of thousands of people come out to celebrate architecture and the city. Increasingly, they are tackling big city topics through major public talks, tours, and debates – they produce over 100+ special events that are designed to build a groundswell of interest in critical issues for the city.

### **Padre Coffee**

Padre Coffee are specialty coffee roasters, wholesalers and retailers. With existing bases in Melbourne and Noosa, they are proud to now also be a part of the community at Collingwood Yards. Padre Coffee stands for quality produce, sustainability, and fostering long term relationships throughout the

supply chain. The team at Padre are committed to creating a community that values collaboration, teamwork, support and approachability; this ensures the Padre bean lives up to its name, wherever you might find it.

### **PBS106.7FM**

Since 1979, community broadcaster PBS 106.7FM has been an integral player in Melbourne's diverse music community – with more than 80 specialist music programs ranging from soul to garage to country to jazz – PBS is dedicated to nurturing, inspiring and championing Melbourne's diverse music community.

### **The Push**

The Push is an Australian youth music organisation based in Melbourne. At the forefront of emerging trends, The Push delivers a range of programs that are responsive to Australia's future music industry leaders, artists and audiences. For over three decades, The Push has engaged more than 700,000 young people.

### **Runner Up Bar**

Perched above 35 Johnston St in Collingwood Yards, with views of Melbourne's magnificent inner north, Runner Up Rooftop Bar offers a casual and carefree venue to frequent with familiar faces or future friends. Brought

to you by the minds of some of Melbourne's finest enterprises, such as a Lounge, Colour Club, Midlife & Confetti Studio. Runner Up, simply the second best.

### **The Social Studio school and production**

The Social Studio operates as a not-for-profit social enterprise, serving as a hub for learning, creativity, and social impact. It celebrates and fosters the skills and contributions of Australia's diverse communities of refugee and new migrant youth. Within its fashion school, it functions as both an ethical manufacturing studio and a socially conscious retailer. The organization leverages fashion and the creative industries to offer educational opportunities and pathways to employment for its participants.

### **The Social Studio shop**

The retail store of The Social Studio features its in-house label, crafted from repurposed materials rescued from landfills. Additionally, it showcases items from REMUSE, Badaam, North, Gammin Threads, and Bananalands.

### **Stay Soft Studio**

A collaborative community arts and events space, Stay Soft Studio is home to a multidisciplinary group of creatives who work flexibly in and for the space. These creatives include XXFlos, Jay-Dee Pitcaithly, Sinead Holmes, Bryce McCoy, Liam Alexander, Rick Douglas, Regina Hi-Lin Kelly, Vidad Narayan, Ellen Porteus, Kristen Augeard, Confetti Studio, Alex Kimpton, Anna Benner and Monde Studio. Stay Soft Studio also presents a seasonal night market in the Collingwood Yards courtyard.

### **Tantri Mustika Ceramics**

Tantri Mustika is a Melbournebased ceramicist who makes a range of light-hearted and colourful hand-built ceramics. Her current collection of work incorporates a modern spin on traditional terrazzo tiling, applying it to bespoke functional forms making terrazzo adaptable to everyday life.

### **Typecast and Birrarangga Film Festival**

A collaborative film, television and events production house. Typecast produces Birrarangga Film Festival, a biannual Festival celebrating Indigenous films from across the globe made by Indigenous people and facilitates, Blak Masterclasses in film and television for Indigenous creatives.

### **unProjects**

un Projects publishes writing that emerges from art making, providing an independent platform for critical discussions about local artistic practice. With a focus on artists, writers and independent practice, un Projects publishes essays, artists' work and reviews, in print and online. Our flagship publication is un Magazine which was founded in 2004 by Melbourne artist Lily Hibberd.

### **Victorian Music Development Office**

The Victorian Music Development Office (VMDO) provides support directly to the Victorian music industry's many businesses. The VMDO assists Victoria's small and micro music businesses in reaching their full potential through research, professional development, and more, ensuring a vibrant, thriving music industry for all to enjoy.

### **West Space**

West Space was founded by artists in 1993. Almost three decades on, West Space operate as a contemporary art gallery, a commissioning organisation.

## **Our Studio Artists**

### **Andy Butler**

Andy Butler is an artist, writer and curator. His practice is an ongoing study into how dynamics of political and economic power shape art and culture. His writings on art and politics has been published widely, including in *The Saturday Paper*, *The Monthly Art+Australia*, *Overland*, *Runway* and more. Andy was the exhibitions curator at West Space, and a participant in Arts House's 2021 *Makeshift Publics* program.

### **APHIDS**

APHIDS is a 25-year-old artist-led experimental art organisation. Collaborative and future-focused, APHIDS is led by Co-Directors Lara Thoms and Mish Grigor. The work of APHIDS is feminist, intersectional, angry and funny; bringing artists into meaningful exchange with audiences through performance, critical dialogues and unpredictable encounters in the public realm. APHIDS' projects promote open, accessible yet complex and rigorous encounters between artists and the public.

**Ben Clement**

Ben Clement is a photographer, filmmaker and art director based in Melbourne AU, Amsterdam NL and Aotearoa NZ.

**Carolyn Lewens**

Carolyn Lewens' work offers sites of interpretation, a creative play with ideas of science through the poetry of art. She investigates properties and metaphors of light in ecological and cosmic-themed works. Light permeates her photograms leaving traces, potent variants of the sensate and the coded, the natural and the unnatural.

**Danielle Brustman**

Danielle is a highly experienced and awarded interior designer whose work encompasses a broad spectrum of design practice. She specialises in residential interior design and commercial design for the education, hospitality and retail sectors. Danielle was the inaugural recipient of the Bank of Melbourne Studio Residency.

**Emily Floyd Studio**

Emily Floyd works in sculpture and public installation. She explores the history of play, employing it as a frame for investigations into public philosophy, socially engaged design, typography and the legacies of modernism. Emily is a lecturer at Monash University Art, Design and Architecture and is represented by Anna Schwartz Gallery.

**Eugenia Lim**

Eugenia Lim is an Australian artist who works across video, performance and installation. Interested in how nationalism and stereotypes are formed, Lim invents personas to explore the tensions of an individual within society – the alienation and belonging in a globalised world. From Japanese hikikomori to gold Mao-suited ambassadors, Lim is interested in the dialogue between place and performance and the push-pull between the mono and the multicultural.



### **Good Sport**

A magazine out of left-field. The vision to connect and inspire has long been at the heart of the magazine. Good Sport was created to re-think what a sports magazine could be with an uncompromising pursuit of quality, integrity, and originality. The interests and influences that inspire their magazine sit under a large, inclusive, cross-generational umbrella.

### **Kate Beynon Studio**

Kate Beynon's practice is shaped by storytelling and hybrid cultural identity, with interests in portraiture, auspicious imagery and guardian figures. To create her artworks, Kate draws from diverse influences and works across a range of media including painting, textile and soft-sculptural installation, animated video, public art, collaborative projects and ethical fashion. An important figure in the Australian contemporary art world, Kate's extensive exhibiting history reflects her curatorial appeal and rigorous approach to making. She is featured in significant Australian and international private and public collections, is a 9-time Archibald Prize finalist, and winner of the 2016 Geelong Contemporary Art Prize. When she is not in the studio, Kate works as an Associate Teacher in Fine Art at MADA: Monash University, and in Design at the VCA, University of Melbourne. Kate was the 2021 Bank of Melbourne Collingwood Yards Resident.

### **Long Prawn**

Long Prawn is a platform for spaghetti gazing, events, food research and publishing. The focus here is to create content and small events which pushes back against a homogenised discourse on food. It favours the long view of food which avoids trends and hierarchies. A cross-cultural boil which hopes to preserve older knowledge about food and bring it to the surface again.

### **Louise Marson**

As an emerging artist living in the City of Yarra with disability from an acquired brain injury and mental illness, Louise's art practice is both her voice and her mindfulness. Louise typically works with natural recycled stone such as marble, travertine, slate and limestone. The individual marble tesserae resonate a powerful voice of mental health and wellness. The stone is cut and faceted to show the unexpected.

### **Pamela Kleemann-Passi**

Pamela Kleemann-Passi is a multi-faceted visual artist working on themes of identity, bodily rituals, and illness through photography, textiles and sculpture. Her current work features the strays shed from the body - human and animal hair. Her interest lies in exploring the emotional and physical sensations and extremes that evoke simultaneous oppositional responses.

### **PractiseStudioPractise**

PSP is a creative office with a healthy handle on full-flavour art direction, creative content and event design. PSP creates content for institutions or brands, saddling up resourcefully and communicating potently. Each project for PSP is about starting anew. Mustering varied co-conspirators for each project, allowing the office to edge into new fields, materials and subcultures.

### **Sean Morris**

Sean Morris is an artist who currently splits his time between personal painting and print projects, murals, and freelance illustration work for various clients.

### **Studio 15**

The residents of Studio 15's artistic endeavour's explore concepts related to contemporary abundance. Felstead, a seasoned artist joined forces with Daniella Ruffino for an exhibition sponsored by the City of Melbourne at Meat Market. Ruffino specializes in sustainable sculptural materials. Madeleine Lesjak-Atton primarily engages in drawing, concentrating on the confluence of geometry and personal expression.

### **Susan Reddrop**

Susan is a sculptor and installation artist who works with a range of materials and has a strong background in community arts based practice. She exhibits regularly, teaches, collaborates and generates new opportunities to engage and inspire others in creative projects.

### **this mob**

this mob is a blak arts collective, creating spaces and producing projects that bring emerging First Nations artists together; including running workshops, curating exhibitions, hosting events, discussions and more. this mob provides opportunities for collaborating, cross-pollination, cultural support, and mentoring, so that young artists can freely create. In 2020/21 the artists working from the this mob studio were: Maya Hodge, Jenna Lee, Kalyani Mumtaz, Arkie Barton, Moorina Bonini and Kate ten Buuren.



### **Yarra's Room to Create Studio**

The Room to Create (RTC) Studios at Collingwood Yards is a Yarra City Council initiative in partnership with the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, which provides subsidised studio spaces for artists in the community. The RTC program was set up by Yarra City Council as a direct response to the constant challenge of securing affordable spaces to work and live for creative

people, typical of gentrifying cities across the world. The RTC Studios at Collingwood Yards is one way the program is working to support artists and creative organisations across our community. Current RTC artists are Luke George, J Davies, Mira Oosterweghel, SLO Collective, Elvis Richardson and Torika Bolatagici.





# Our Community

## Festivals and events

Our leafy courtyard and attractive public realm saw high demand as a venue throughout the warmer months, hosting more than 200 events of diverse scale and profile. Openings, workshops, exhibitions, celebrations and performances explored and experimented with this new cultural space. Monthly night markets, curated and produced by key tenants Stay Soft Studio, received large audiences flocking to stalls selling arts, crafts and independently produced items.

Our space and tenants proved a drawcard for major cultural partners, looking to spotlight and leverage our unique community.

## Craft Contemporary

As part of Craft Contemporary 2022, the precinct was activated with a series of craft related exhibitions and activities. Agency Projects presented Lharagula Ngididin (Crocodile Trap), a collaborative piece from eight Numburindi artists. Bookshop by Uro hosted The shape of things to come: new forms of digital craft in architecture, a discussion with David Leggett, Paul Loh, Roland Snooks and Maitiú Ward on digital design technology. Stay Soft Studio staged their Spring Night Market in the courtyard. Tantri Mustika hosted a Nerikomi Masterclass workshop, teaching

participants clay staining methods. At Hope Street Radio, studio artist Luke George staged the rope-based installation Display of Affection #4: Soft Opening. Collingwood Neighbourhood House exhibited new works from their African sewing group. Hosho Paper ran a jewellery making workshop by artists Angela Pollock and Paula Mahoney.

## Live Leisure Yabby Fishing Restaurant (Melbourne Fringe Festival)

For one weekend during Melbourne Fringe Festival, Long Prawn staged a Live Leisure Yabby Fishing experience in the courtyard. Ticket holders were given instructions and a rod and were given an hour of 'fishing' time. The caught yabbies were then cooked by Chef Lorcán Kan (Things Palace, ex Where The Light Gets in, ex Attica) over a hot coal grill. Long Prawn writes "While yabbies are an Australian endemic freshwater crayfish, live crustacean fishing restaurants are a widely practised Taiwanese pastime. In one of his books, Taiwanese essayist Lin Ching-hsuan once said that prawn fishing is "idiotic and does not achieve anything meaningful." This project was funded by Cash to Create (via the Melbourne Fringe Fund) and was a Collingwood Yards Public Space Commission.





### **Hopeful Chae**

On the eve of Labour Day, we welcomed Jung Eun Chae of eponymous Korean restaurant Chae, tenants Ellie Bouhadana and Jack Shaw of Hope St Radio, Bar Liberty's head chef Zackary Furst, Nagesh Seethiah of Mauritian restaurant Manze and Pidapipo to the courtyard for a party celebrating the twilight of summer. Guests received a small plate from each stall, with additional drinks from Hope Street Radio to accompany them. The event started at midday, with live music keeping the vibes strong into the early eve.

### **Autumn Room**

In collaboration with Monash Architecture students, with the support of our tenants Baracco + Wright, a Design Make/Unbuild process was used to design and construct an Autumn room in the courtyard at Collingwood Yards. The room is constructed using the large Plane trees, which were in various states of Autumn defoliation, as a structure. The primary purpose of the room was to serve as an event space during Melbourne Design Week, and then it will function as a Winter room for the community/precinct after the event.

The 'Autumn Room' was intended to provoke and demonstrate alternative ways of creating semi-permanent spaces in response to seasonal needs.







## First Peoples Reference Group (FPRG)

CAP acknowledges the First Peoples of the land on which CAP is situated. We extend our respect to their Elders and Ancestors and all First Peoples past, present, and future.

CAP respects that Collingwood is and has always been a place of great cultural significance to First Peoples, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and musicians, and acknowledges the vital role that these communities have played and continue to play in the cultural life of the Collingwood community.

CAP recognises that for our creative community to fully succeed we must:

- Pay ongoing and appropriate respect to the First Peoples of the land in which we work and create
- Actively support Aboriginal artists as a vital part of our community
- Create an organisation, a tenant community and a culturally safe place that engages First Peoples as artists, participants, workers and audiences
- Explore and embrace opportunities to develop relationships, collaborations, partnerships, exchanges and dialogues between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people both within and beyond the CAP community

CAP has established the First Peoples Reference Group (FPRG) to ensure that our operations, programs and activities are meaningfully engaged with and respectful to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This is particularly the case for any aspect of CAP's operation that identifies as being by, about, for, or engaged with First Peoples.

The FPRG is empowered as a subcommittee of CAP's Board. It reports to and can make recommendations directly to CAP's Board and CEO. Members include both First Nations CY tenants and local community leaders and experts. During FY2022/23, members of the FPRG included:

- Uncle Andrew Gardiner, Chair
- Tony Briggs
- Alex Paige
- Angela Flynn
- Kerry Kennell
- Moorina Bonini
- Natasha Carter
- Theodore Cassady

The group aims to:

- Play an active role in ensuring that CAP is open to, utilised by and welcoming to Aboriginal artists, communities and audiences and, where required, assist CAP in the development of specific programs, strategies and targets
- Support the development and prioritisation (within time and budget constraints) of proactive initiatives to support Aboriginal artists, individuals and organisations. Initiatives under consideration as CAP develops may include artist residencies, an Elder in residence program, employment and career programs and/or other initiatives suggested by the group
- Support the establishment of appropriate protocols for engaging with Indigenous communities in a creative context
- Support CAP and our tenant community to build meaningful relationships and partnerships with First Peoples
- Support the development of appropriate protocols for Welcoming and Acknowledgement of Country for CAP and our tenant community
- Facilitate CAP connection to appropriate knowledge and history about the area
- Identify and advise the CAP Board and CEO of any other matters, opportunities or issues that group members identify as important

# Our Operations Team

## **The people behind the service**

The Operations team, Dale Buckley, Rob Mackay-Clift and Richard Stringer, brings together a diverse range of expertise and skills across the performing and visual arts, facilities, production, construction and project management fields. These collective skills serve the distinctive needs of our unique space we fondly refer to as The Yards.

Beyond being traditional property and facility managers, the operations team is acutely attuned to the unique role Collingwood Yards occupies in the realm of the arts community. They facilitate access to systems, processes, and procedures that enable artists to transform their ideas into tangible expressions in the real world. Leveraging a diverse range of spaces, they play an essential role in facilitating artistic visions to everyday life.

Another facet of the Operations Team's responsibilities involves collaborating with current and potential tenants to enhance their spaces. Ongoing and upcoming projects involve the installation of weatherproof awnings for the Runner Up Bar rooftop, streamlining processes to introduce air conditioning into tenant areas, ensuring a seamless and high-quality fit-out for the new Stefanino Panino sandwich shop, engaging in a collaborative effort to reimagine the studios, establishing a new community hub (CY Space), and resurfacing the courtyard to enhance accessibility.

A typical day might involve orienting a group of new tenants to the precinct. This typically involves covering essential details such as Emergency and Evacuation procedures, explaining access into and out of the precinct, and providing guidance on utilising the online Tenant Dashboard.



Following the induction session, a guided tour of the precinct often ensues, serving as an introduction for tenants to meet fellow tenants, artists, organisations, and frequent visitors in the corridors and arcades.

The Ops Team frequently handles inquiries about events, whether it's a small-scale gathering within a tenancy, such as a book launch and author's discussion at Uro Bookshop and Composite, or a precinct-wide takeover, like the Movember/Lululemon activity extravaganza in October. Tenants and potential hirers are encouraged to creatively utilize the spaces, and the team actively supports them in turning those ideas into reality.

Nearly 400 individuals collaborate and create within 47 galleries, arts organisations, studios, and commercial office spaces, utilising primarily shared resources. It is imperative for the productivity and well-being of everyone in this unique artistic enclave that the infrastructure and systems operate as intended. The team collaborates with a dedicated group of consultants, suppliers, and subcontractors to uphold safety measures, adhere to emergency procedures, and ensure the continued functionality of essential amenities such as lifts, water, power, and services on a daily basis.



## Our Staff

**Nail Aykan,**  
Interim CEO

**Sophie Travers,**  
CEO (until May 2023)

**Julia Gregg,**  
Executive Manager, Development & Strategy,  
Acting CEO (until June 2023)

**Darise Pulfer,**  
Business Manager (until October 2022)

**Noah Sutton,**  
Business Manager

**Tom Abud,**  
Operations Manager (until March 2023)

**Dale Buckley,**  
Acting Operations Manager

**Richard Stringer,**  
Operations Coordinator

**Jensen Tjhung,**  
Operations Coordinator (until October 2022)

**Robert Mackay-Clift,**  
Operations Coordinator

**Sarah Cooper,**  
Marketing & Communications Manager

# Our Board

**Miriam Silva, AM**

Chair

**Uncle Andrew Gardiner**

Deputy Chair

**Veronica Pardo**

Company Secretary  
(until May 2023)

**Michael McMahon**

Company Secretary  
(from May 2023)

**Ian Horne**

Treasurer

**Bridget Little**

Director

**Alice Wells**

Director

**Dan Hill**

Director (from September 2022)

# Financial Reports 2022-2023

Collingwood Yards recorded a deficit of \$242k over the past financial year. The result reflects the organisation's commitment to adapting and growing amidst unprecedented circumstances, notably the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It's important to highlight that this financial outcome is largely linked to the substantial growth in facilities and operations over the past 12 months. This growth signifies a strategic investment in the precinct's long-term sustainability and development.

Collingwood Yards remains steadfast to the growth and sustainability of the precinct and confident that these strategic investments will generate long-term benefits for our tenant community and the creative industries.

| <b>Statement of Financial Performance</b> | <b>2023</b>      | <b>2022</b>      |
|---|------------------|------------------|
|   | <b>\$</b>        | <b>\$</b>        |
| Rental income                             | 1,096,491        | 1,024,886        |
| Grants & Partnerships                     | 363,304          | 360,141          |
| Donations                                 | 37,559           | 6,286            |
| Other Income                              | 12,166           | 1,035            |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                      | <b>1,509,520</b> | <b>1,392,348</b> |
| <b>Less Expenses</b>                      |                  |                  |
| Operations & Facilities Maintenance       | 1,030,810        | 967,360          |
| Employee Expenses                         | 696,319          | 519,552          |
| Marketing                                 | 17,214           | 4,648            |
| Keith Haring Mural                        | 7,966            | 4,442            |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                     | <b>1,752,309</b> | <b>1,496,002</b> |
| <b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>                  | <b>(242,789)</b> | <b>(103,654)</b> |

| <b>Statement of Financial Position</b> | <b>2023</b>       | <b>2022</b>       |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | <b>\$</b>         | <b>\$</b>         |
| <b>Assets</b>                          |                   |                   |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents              | 1,123,201         | 1,210,793         |
| Other Current Assets                   | 27,826            | 80,979            |
| Property, plant and equipment          | 25,207,594        | 25,521,117        |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                    | <b>26,358,621</b> | <b>26,812,889</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                     |                   |                   |
| Payables                               | 140,335           | 195,433           |
| Funding received in advance            | 315,838           | 471,276           |
| Employee provisions                    | 13,683            | 21,735            |
| Non-Current Liabilities                | 3,114,973         | 3,107,864         |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>               | <b>3,584,829</b>  | <b>3,796,308</b>  |
| <b>Nett Assets</b>                     | <b>22,773,792</b> | <b>23,016,581</b> |

*Detailed financial reports will be made available on request.*

## Thank You

The success of Collingwood Yards in 2022/23 is a reflection of the strength of our relationships within the arts, philanthropic, corporate and government sectors. As our immediate circle of tenants, studio artists and partners grow our relationships have multiplied.

Our philanthropic partners continued to support our work and our tenants by way of regular meetings, introductions and opportunities. Many of our partners were able to attend our opening events, to witness the transformative power of their gifts.

### Government Partners

Our Key Government Partner, Creative Victoria, has been a supportive pillar throughout a challenging period. We are grateful for your support.

The strong relationship between the City of Yarra and Collingwood Yards has been demonstrated by our collaborative work in the Collingwood Connections program, funded by a VicHealth Everyday Creativity Partnerships grant. This two year project draws on the network, expertise and talent of the City of Yarra's community arts team.

### Corporate Partner

The continuous support from the Bank of Melbourne is highly valued. The innovative financial support model and the ongoing creation of opportunities are crucial to the success of numerous recipients and the precinct as a whole.

### Financial Supporters

The Bowness Family Foundation, Michael and Silvia Kantor, Brenda Shanahan Charitable Foundation, Peter Wettenhall and Jo Horgan, Mr Guido Belgiorno-Nettis AM and Mrs Michelle Belgiorno-Nettis, Paul and Sharon Bassat, Roger Wood, Wood Marsh Architecture, Randal Marsh, Wood Marsh Architecture, Bruno Charlesworth and Victoria Hobday, David Lawn, Leonard Hamersfeld, Stephen Haines, Village Roadshow Limited, the Sun Foundation and Karina Castan.

We sincerely appreciate the energy and talent demonstrated by the organisations and individuals that we work with.

Additive Lighting, Bank of Melbourne, Bastion Effect, Before Compliance, BESEN, Beyond the Box, CAPI, City of Yarra, Creative Victoria, Circus Oz, Das Automat, Fieldwork, Guilty Content, Heritage Victoria, Hub Furniture, Marshall Day, McCorkell Constructions, Neighbourhood Justice Centre, NeoMetro, Neighbourhood Justice Centre, Norton Rose Fulbright, Optical Audio, PBS106.7, Plakkit, Philip Chun Building Surveyors, Plakkit, Red Fire Engineers, Reshape Development, Simone Bliss Landscape Architecture, Slattery, Stomping Ground Brewing Co, Structured Events, TarraWarra Estate, The Company You Keep, The Tote, ThoughtPolice, Tract, The Westpac Foundation and Zilla and Brook.

Finally, we thank the artists and creative organisations who have brought the space to life, and the community who has welcomed us so warmly.



**Contemporary Arts Precincts Ltd**  
**Collingwood Yards**

ACN 600 973 457 | ABN 51 600 973 457

106/35 Johnston St Collingwood VIC 3066

[info@collingwoodyards.org](mailto:info@collingwoodyards.org)

[www.collingwoodyards.org](http://www.collingwoodyards.org)