



Sunshine Coast  
Arts Advisory Board  
Annual Report  
2022/23

Edition November 2023

[sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

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#### Acknowledgements

Council wishes to thank all  
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#### Reference document

This document should  
be cited as follows:

Sunshine Coast  
Arts Advisory Board  
Annual Report 2022/23.

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## Traditional Acknowledgement

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Sunshine Coast  
Country, home of the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara  
peoples, the Traditional Custodians, whose lands and waters  
we all now share.

We recognise that these have always been places of cultural,  
spiritual, social and economic significance. The Traditional  
Custodians' unique values, and ancient and enduring cultures,  
deepen and enrich the life of our community.

We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional  
Custodians and the broader First Nations (Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander) communities to support self-determination  
through economic and community development.

Truth telling is a significant part of our journey. We are  
committed to better understanding the collective histories of the  
Sunshine Coast and the experiences of First Nations peoples.  
Legacy issues resulting from colonisation are still experienced  
by Traditional Custodians and First Nations peoples.

We recognise our shared history and will continue to work  
in partnership to provide a foundation for building a shared  
future with the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples.

We wish to pay respect to their Elders — past, present and  
emerging, and acknowledge the important role First Nations  
peoples continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

Together, we are all stronger.

#### Cover artwork

Image: Alison Mooney | *'Yeah, still nuthin'* | 2022 |  
re-purposed construction polystyrene, acrylic paint |  
36 x 90 x 70cm | Photo: Warwick Gow

*'Yeah, still nuthin'* is one of 9 concepts in the developing body  
of work *'(Juicy lil') Sidepiece'* — a collection of ideas exploring  
elements of live comedy through painting, sculpture and play,  
conceived during the artist's participation in *The Path*, 2022.

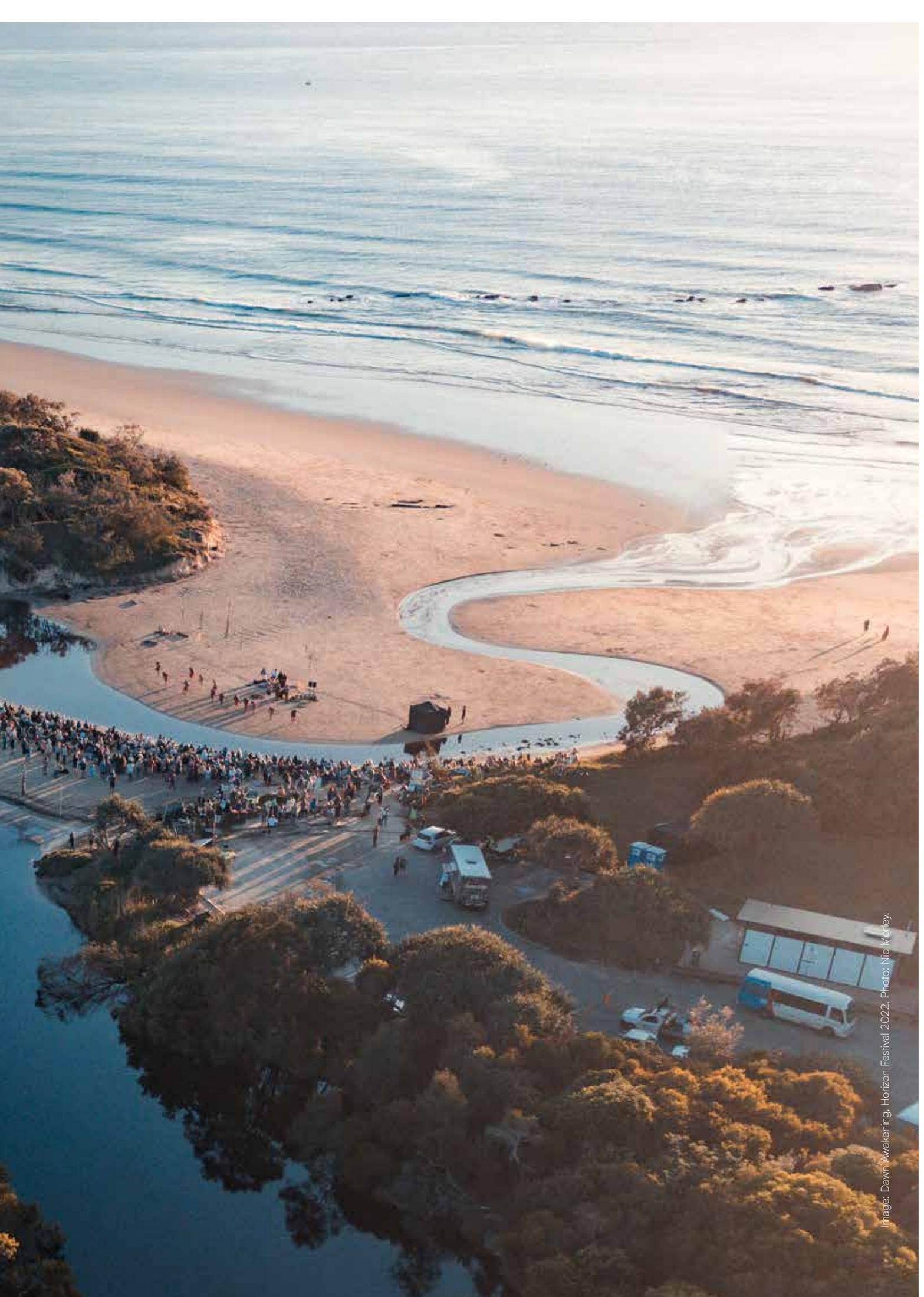


Image: Dawn Awakening, Horizon Festival 2022. Photo: Nic Morley.





## Table of contents

Chairperson's address .....	7
About the Board .....	8
Membership.....	9
Meetings .....	12
Finance.....	13
Building a profile for the Arts.....	14
2022/23 Arts Plan Outputs, Profile and Outcomes .....	16
First Nations .....	18
Grants and funding .....	22
Development initiatives .....	28
Horizon Festival .....	36
Caloundra Regional Gallery .....	38
Priorities for 2023/24 .....	42
Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board Alumni .....	43





Maz McGann  
Chair  
Sunshine Coast  
Arts Advisory Board

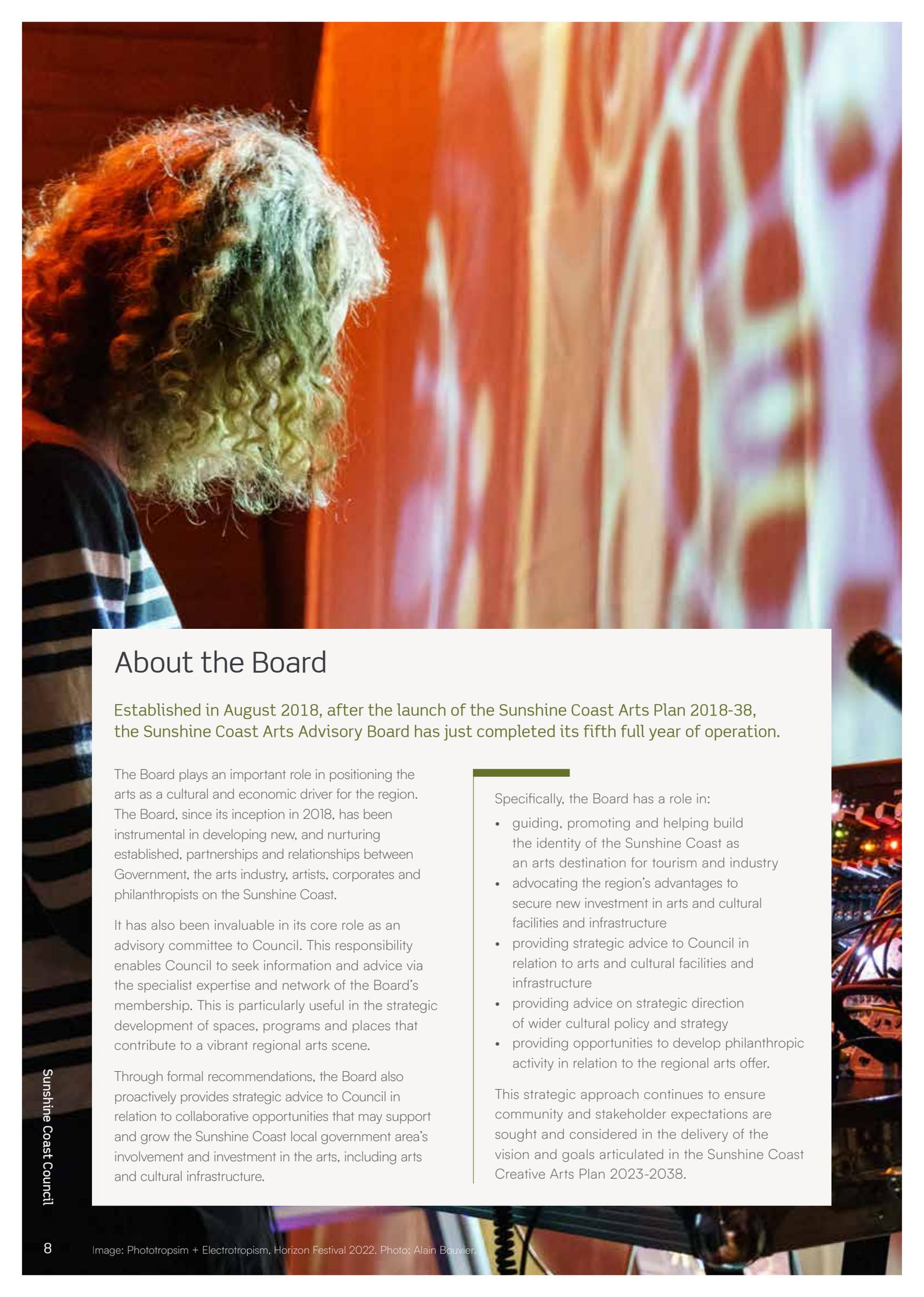
## Chairperson's address

What a huge year this has been for the Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board, Sunshine Coast Council, and the region in delivering on the Arts Plan goals.

2023 marks five years since the Plan was launched and Council, in collaboration with the Board, undertook a detailed review of the strategy. The review, along with further engagement with the sector, has resulted in a new and refreshed Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan 2023 — 2038, which was endorsed by Council on 24 August 2023.

This year has also seen the development and endorsement of a detailed Business Case for a new regional art gallery at Caloundra. It is also the first year delivering Council's arts and cultural program with the support of the Arts and Heritage Levy, and marks Horizon's return to the stage post-COVID .

The Board will continue its work with Council in delivering on the new Creative Arts Plan, and as we look to the future, including the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, we recognise the significant opportunities on the horizon — opportunities to grow all areas of the arts and cultural sector and establish a flourishing arts ecology that supports liveability, wellbeing, and the vibrancy of our community.



## About the Board

Established in August 2018, after the launch of the Sunshine Coast Arts Plan 2018-38, the Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board has just completed its fifth full year of operation.

The Board plays an important role in positioning the arts as a cultural and economic driver for the region. The Board, since its inception in 2018, has been instrumental in developing new, and nurturing established, partnerships and relationships between Government, the arts industry, artists, corporates and philanthropists on the Sunshine Coast.

It has also been invaluable in its core role as an advisory committee to Council. This responsibility enables Council to seek information and advice via the specialist expertise and network of the Board's membership. This is particularly useful in the strategic development of spaces, programs and places that contribute to a vibrant regional arts scene.

Through formal recommendations, the Board also proactively provides strategic advice to Council in relation to collaborative opportunities that may support and grow the Sunshine Coast local government area's involvement and investment in the arts, including arts and cultural infrastructure.

Specifically, the Board has a role in:

- guiding, promoting and helping build the identity of the Sunshine Coast as an arts destination for tourism and industry
- advocating the region's advantages to secure new investment in arts and cultural facilities and infrastructure
- providing strategic advice to Council in relation to arts and cultural facilities and infrastructure
- providing advice on strategic direction of wider cultural policy and strategy
- providing opportunities to develop philanthropic activity in relation to the regional arts offer.

This strategic approach continues to ensure community and stakeholder expectations are sought and considered in the delivery of the vision and goals articulated in the Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan 2023-2038.

## Membership

The Board, which is governed by its Sunshine Coast Advisory Board Charter, is comprised of locally and nationally recognised arts and creative industry leaders who represent a wide range of experience, skills and creative insight in strategic planning, policy and advice, artistic practice, community and audience engagement and development, First Nations arts, and arts and cultural festival and events.



**Maz McGann (Chair)**  
**Founder and Principal,  
Play Your Part Consultancy**

Maz McGann is a consultant working across arts, culture, tourism, and community development with experience in leading the development of strategies and business plans.



**Mark Jamieson**  
**Mayor,  
Sunshine Coast Council**

Mayor Mark Jamieson is an honorary member of Council endorsed Boards. In relation to the Arts Advisory Board, the Mayor receives briefings on all recommendations before they are considered by Council.



**Rick Baberowski**  
**Councillor,  
Sunshine Coast Council**

Deputy Mayor Rick Baberowski has an extensive background in the arts and holds the Community Portfolio — Arts, Heritage, Transport.



**Jennifer Radbourne**  
**Emeritus Professor**

Emeritus Professor Jennifer Radbourne has extensive experience in performing arts, arts governance, philanthropy and academia.



**Helena Gulash**  
**Strategic Arts Consultant**

Helena Gulash is a Kabi Kabi (Gubbi Gubbi) woman who brings strategic leadership experience from her work with First Nations within both Government and Community.



**Patricia Adjei**  
**Director, Stand-Alone  
Legislation,  
Creative Industries,  
Office for the Arts**

Patricia brings experience in governance, legal skills and cultural protocol as it applies to the Indigenous sector.



**Liz Burcham**  
**President, Sunshine Coast  
Creative Alliance**

Liz Burcham brings to the role a wide-reaching career in the arts and creative industries, focused on strategic planning and professional development.



**Kris Stewart**  
**CEO QMusic**

Kris Stewart is a creative industries executive and artistic leader whose work has been seen through the US, Canada, Europe and Australia and New Zealand.



**Andrew Maccoll**  
**Founder of Saturate**

A Creative Director and Cinematographer, Andy is an expert in brand strategy and culture changing creativity, with a skill set including photography and film direction.



## First Nations Sub-Committee

The Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board's First Nations Sub-Committee (FNSC) was fully established in 2023 with six members, three of which are Traditional Owners.

The FNSC acts as an advisory group on First Nations interests, including cultural protocols that inform the strategic delivery of the Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan 2023 — 2038. They provide advice connected to First Nations programming; provide a forum for discussing Indigenous community engagement, and existing issues faced by communities within an arts context; a mechanism to provide advice for First Nations arts development in the region and provide advocacy for First Nations artists and arts in the region.



**Helena Gulash**

Helena Gulash is a Kabi Kabi (Gubbi Gubbi) woman who brings strategic leadership experience from her work with First Nations within both Government and Community.



**Patricia Adjei**

Patricia Adjei brings experience in governance, legal skills and cultural protocol as it applies to the Indigenous sector.



**Lyndon Davis**

Lyndon Davis is a Gubbi Gubbi (Kabi Kabi) man and internationally acclaimed artist, educator and cultural performer.



**Jason Murphy**

Jason Murphy is a Dungidau man of Jinibara descent and visual artist whose work critiques social, political and cultural issues affecting Aboriginal people.



**Deline Brisco**

Deline Brisco is a Yalanji woman of song whose practice explores Wulgkubadi (Yalanji traditional singing) with jazz, hip-hop and soul infusion.



**Nicole Reilly**

Nicole Reilly is a proud queer Wiradyuri woman, whose work spans the roles of creative producer, director, performer and teaching artist.

## Meetings

The Board holds regular scheduled meetings throughout the year, structured to allow open and informed discussion and are supported by the Manager, Arts, Heritage and Libraries.

Board meetings for 2022–2023

Meeting Dates	Board Members Attendance	Guests attended
13 May 2022	Maz McGann Jennifer Radbourne Nicole Voevodin-Cash Liz Burcham Helena Gulash Amy Clarke Tricia Adjei	Nadine McDonald-Dowd Zoe Graham Fiona Forrest
26 August 2022	Maz McGann Cr Rick Baberowski Jennifer Radbourne Nicole Voevodin-Cash Liz Burcham Helena Gulash Kris Stewart Amy Clarke Tricia Adjei	
18 November 2022	Maz McGann Cr Rick Baberowski Jennifer Radbourne Liz Burcham Helena Gulash Kris Stewart Amy Clarke Tricia Adjei	
21 February 2023	Maz McGann Cr Rick Baberowski Jennifer Radbourne Liz Burcham Helena Gulash Kris Stewart Amy Clarke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nina Shadforth, Senior Curator (Collections), Caloundra Regional Gallery</li> <li>• Grantley Switzer, Sunshine Coast Program Lead — Brisbane 2032</li> <li>• Skye Parker, Sunshine Coast Olympic and Para Olympic 2032 Legacy Community Reference Group</li> <li>• JOC Consulting</li> <li>• Victoria Newton — ANACTA</li> </ul>
12 May 2023	Maz McGann Jennifer Radbourne Liz Burcham Helena Gulash Kris Stewart Amy Clarke Tricia Adjei Andrew Mccoll	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bronwyn Edinger</li> <li>• Jen Burrows and Kevin Radbourne — Sunshine Coast Events Centre Board members</li> </ul>

## Finance

The Queensland Government's 'Remuneration procedures for part-time Chairs and Members of Queensland Government Bodies' (Category E-1) allows for the payment of local government appointed boards. Under this arrangement, the board has been remunerated as outlined below:

Chairperson	\$167 half day	\$334 full day
Ordinary Member	\$141 half day	\$281 full day

The Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board member fees and costs are outlined below:

### 2022/2023 (Financial Year)



Board member fees and contract services  
**\$10,871.36**



Catering and Hospitality (including Premises Hire)  
**\$1,837.48**



Materials, Printing and postage  
**\$4,345.18**



Travel costs  
**\$6,156.63**

As an advisory board of Council, the Board does not have authority to allocate funding or endorse arts programming. It provides long-term strategic advice and recommendations to achieve the vision, goals and outcomes as articulated in the Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan 2023-2038.

## Building a profile for the Arts

Members of the Board, both formally and informally, represent and promote the Sunshine Coast as an arts destination, engage and connect with the arts and creative sectors and industries, and maintain and develop new relationships and networks locally, nationally and internationally. They do this to build the region's arts profile and identify opportunities for partnerships and advocacy.

The representation during 2022/23 included formal and informal roles at:

- World Intellectual Property Organisation meeting, Geneva
- Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Philanthropy and the Arts Lecture, USC
- Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Alliance Annual General Meeting
- City Hall Arts Assessment Panel
- Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation panel discussion
- Meeting with the Friends of the Regional Gallery
- Sunshine Coast Music Industry Collective networking event
- Meeting with Sunshine Coast Representative of the indigenous awards
- Green and Gold runway event for the Olympics
- Sunshine Coast 2032 Olympics workshop
- AIATSIS Conference/Summit and Panels for First Nations artists
- Meeting with MP for Nicklin
- Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Board meetings
- Meeting with Editor Glasshouse Country News regarding Hinterland artists
- Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Gifted Announcement event, Tory Richards Studio
- Sunshine Coast 2032 Community Consultation
- Arts Advocacy Event
- First Nations artist gathering
- Public Artwork Launch Beerwah

- A range of arts festivals and events including: Horizon Festival, exhibitions and events at Caloundra Regional Gallery, UniSC Gallery and Noosa Gallery, Wearable Arts Festival, Refinery Bootcamp and showcase, Pastel Expo Caloundra Events Centre, Open House Launch, Off Beat Festival, Red Hot Summer Tour, The Mystery of Valkyrie QPAC Playhouse, 'Drizzle Boy' Queensland Theatre, 'La Lume' Melbourne, 'Mary Poppins' Her Majesty's Melbourne, The Australian Ballet, 'Don Quixote' Victorian Arts Centre, 'As You Like It' Queensland Theatre, Queensland Opera at The Events Centre, Brisbane Writers Festival, Melbourne Writers Festival, Yirramboi Festival, South by South West, Brian Robinson Printmaking show, Noosa Alive, Sunshine Coast Chamber Music Festival, 'In Process' Fiona Jopp Performance, TATE Modern, Picasso Museum, Outspoken Maleny Community Centre, Odessa exhibition at Lantana, Project 24 showings at 2ND Space, Kawana College Performing Arts students Showcase, 'Girl from North Country' Queensland Theatre, 'Othello', Noosa Open Studios, 'Mousetrap' Queensland Performing Arts Centre.



Image: Dawn Awakening, Horizon Festival 2022. Photo: Nic Morley.

## 2022/23 Arts Plan Outputs



**832**  
events, programs  
and exhibitions +  
**232**  
digital programs  
presented to  
**243,230**  
audiences/  
participants



**165**  
training development  
opportunities  
undertaken by  
**1388** artists



**110**  
art collection  
pieces valued at  
**\$5,049,200**

**74**  
new works added to  
the Sunshine Coast  
Art Collection 22/23



**553**  
local artists contracted  
or funded by Council



**208**  
of which were  
First Nations



**\$590,279**  
council funding  
provided to **91**  
art projects valued at  
**\$3,245,896**



**172**  
total grant  
applications  
received



**53%**  
applicant  
success rate



**1598**  
volunteers engaged

## 2022/23 Arts Plan Profile



WEBPAGE VIEWS

**236,344**

Horizon, Gallery,  
Creative and  
ArtsCoast



INSTAGRAM  
FOLLOWERS

**12,411**

Horizon, Gallery,  
and ArtsCoast



E-NEWS  
SUBSCRIBERS

**21,265**

Horizon, Gallery,  
and ArtsCoast



FACEBOOK  
FOLLOWERS

**14,014**

Horizon, Gallery



MEDIA

Reach

**9,099,892**

Value

**\$1,116,167**

Placements

**558**

## 2022/23 Arts Plan Outcomes



Satisfaction

**89% good to excellent\***



Cultural Vitality\*\*

**4.1 out of 5**

\* Satisfaction derived from 569 Regional Gallery, Creative Program and digital event surveys conducted across the 2022/23 financial year. Attendees were asked to rank their score on a scale of 1 to 5 from poor to excellent.

\*\*Cultural Vitality — Indicates the level at which 1,592 attendees at a range of branch events agreed to 5 statements relating to individual well-being, local economy, community pride, capacity building and appreciation of the arts.

Based on the measures 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. The scores can be indicative of the cultural value of the community, with a higher score indicating higher levels of vitality. Note these surveys are integrated into all branch surveys. The questions do not relate specifically to the service or program being surveyed, they are generally based around Council's broader cultural services and programs.



## First Nations

The Arts Plan has a key focus on supporting First Nations peoples to protect their cultural knowledge, and also to further develop their innovative contemporary expressions.

### Key highlights for 2022/23



**442** First Nations artist beneficiaries (funded, promoted, engaged)



**11** First Nations Events delivered during Horizon Festival, which featured:



**112** First Nations artists and attracted more than



**4500** attendees



**2** First Nations visual art exhibitions at Caloundra Regional Gallery and Maroochydore Library Artspace:



**2075** *Veiled Histories* attendees of which **95%** were satisfied to very satisfied



## The Refinery: First Nations Series

For the first time in 2023 The Refinery Creative Incubator program included a First Nations Series. First Nations Business is one of the fastest emerging sectors in the creative, cultural and economic landscape. The First Nations Series, alongside the core Refinery program, aims to support established, new and emerging creative businesses to; explore new opportunities, increase visibility, strengthen business skills and cultural integrity, network and connect.

The four 'Mob only' sessions were led and delivered by 15 reputable First Nations facilitators. The series, which included an Elder in Residence and one-on-one mentorship, to support the five First Nations Refinery participants, attracted an additional 30 community attendees.

The Refinery First Nations Series was funded by The Sunshine Coast Regional Arts Development Fund.

“Connection is so important — reconnection to culture, learning about our culture — we all come from so many walks of life so that connection is really important... good just to have that cultural awareness around us and the connection with other mob. The Aunties have been great with their wealth of knowledge and the stories they're willing to share — that's what my business is about, storytelling and story sharing.”

**Chloe Watego, Yiman + South Sea Islander descent, artist**

## Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board's First Nations Sub-Committee

The Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board's First Nations Sub-Committee (FNSC) was fully established in 2023 with six members, three of which are Traditional Owners.

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The inaugural members of the group are Aunty Helena Gulash (Chair), Lyndon Davis, Jason Murphy, Patricia Adjei, Deline Briscoe and Nicole Reilly.

## Blak Creatives

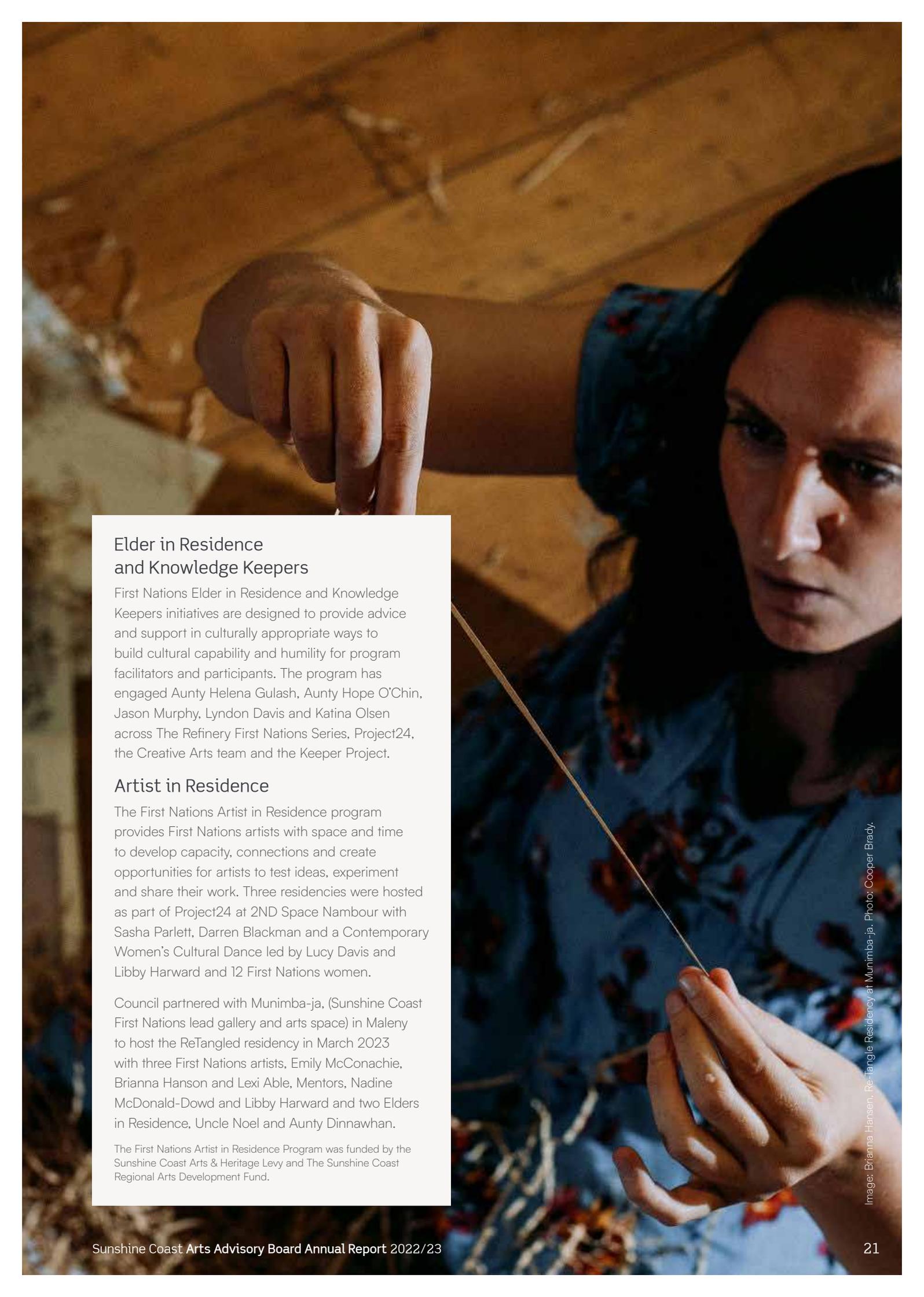
Blak Creatives is designed to build the profile, recognition and capacity of First Nations artists and cultural practitioners; living on or connected to the Sunshine Coast region. The project focuses on arts business development, informal mentorship and networking, contemporary urban Indigenous practice development, cultural protocol, industry development, and pathways for emerging and mid-career artists hosted in culturally safe spaces.

Blak Creatives is a significant outcome of the three month First Nations Regional Creative Development Project in partnership with Noosa Shire Council and Gympie Regional Council. The project concluded in November 2022 with a presentation of findings and recommendations to 30 leaders from across Noosa, Gympie and Sunshine Coast including Councillors and senior Council officers.

The First Nations Regional Creative Development Project was led by Libby Harward, Ngugi people of Mulgumpin (Moreton Island) in the Quandamooka, Bridgette Williams Birri-Gubba and Woollumbin woman from the Juru (Bowen) and Bundjalung (Tweed Heads) Nations and Lulu Littler (Gamilaraay). The objective was to begin the process of developing lasting and meaningful connections with First Nations artists and cultural practitioners in our regions, consider engagement protocols and provide an opportunity for First Nations peoples and arts and cultural practitioners to determine how they would like to engage with councils and determine priorities for the future.

Blak Creatives is funded by the Creative Industries Investment Program through the Sunshine Coast Arts and Heritage Levy and The Sunshine Coast Regional Arts Development Fund.



A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a blue dress with a red and white floral pattern. She is focused on working with a long, thin, light-colored wooden stick or piece of wood. Her hands are positioned to carefully manipulate the stick. The background is a warm, textured surface, possibly a wall or a piece of wood, with some dried plant matter visible. The lighting is soft and directional, highlighting the texture of the wood and the woman's concentration.

## Elder in Residence and Knowledge Keepers

First Nations Elder in Residence and Knowledge Keepers initiatives are designed to provide advice and support in culturally appropriate ways to build cultural capability and humility for program facilitators and participants. The program has engaged Aunty Helena Gulash, Aunty Hope O'Chin, Jason Murphy, Lyndon Davis and Katina Olsen across The Refinery First Nations Series, Project24, the Creative Arts team and the Keeper Project.

## Artist in Residence

The First Nations Artist in Residence program provides First Nations artists with space and time to develop capacity, connections and create opportunities for artists to test ideas, experiment and share their work. Three residencies were hosted as part of Project24 at 2ND Space Nambour with Sasha Parlett, Darren Blackman and a Contemporary Women's Cultural Dance led by Lucy Davis and Libby Harward and 12 First Nations women.

Council partnered with Munimba-ja, (Sunshine Coast First Nations lead gallery and arts space) in Maleny to host the ReTangled residency in March 2023 with three First Nations artists, Emily McConachie, Brianna Hanson and Lexi Able, Mentors, Nadine McDonald-Dowd and Libby Harward and two Elders in Residence, Uncle Noel and Aunty Dinnawhan.

The First Nations Artist in Residence Program was funded by the Sunshine Coast Arts & Heritage Levy and The Sunshine Coast Regional Arts Development Fund.

Image: Brianna Hanson, Re-Tangle Residency at Munimba-ja. Photo: Cooper Brady.



## Grants and funding

The Creative Arts team works in partnership with Sunshine Coast Council's Community Planning and Development Branch to support not-for-profit arts organisations, independent creative businesses, and individual artists across the region through several grants and funding programs.

## The Regional Arts Development Fund

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Grants Program supports independent projects and artist development.



**\$174,000** awarded



**39** projects



**200** artists, creative practitioners and producers supported



**40,000** audiences reached



**\$585,000**

total value total value supported

A successful RADF Grant Recipient, *The Sunshine Coat*, a multi-layered slow fashion and photography project capturing visual stories and aesthetics unique to the climate and culture of Nambour, was awarded a \$6000 RADF grant in the July 2022 round.



Seamstress Shaye Hardisty and photographer Ketakii Jewson-Brown collaborated with **11** other artists with a shared love for the town to create a collection of **17** coats and accompanying photography showcasing Nambour's diverse and creative community.

More than **4,500 people** visited the exhibition at the Old Ambo Gallery during Fashion Revolution Week in April 2023. Collaborating artists were: Humble Dumping, Colouredtapesmatter, Nicole Voevodin-Cash, Jordyn Burnett, Mathilda Muller, SWAK, Darren Blackman, Silver Wizard, Lucky Phil, Kirsty Williamson, and Lee Hardisty. The connections created through this project established new collaborations and led to multiple opportunities throughout Southeast QLD.

RADF is an annual partnership between the State Government, through Arts Queensland, and Sunshine Coast Council, promoting the role and value of arts, culture and heritage as key drivers of diverse and inclusive communities and strong regions.

“The Sunshine Coat offers social commentary on the absence of ethics, sustainability and identity in the fashion industry whilst holding a postcard to the vibrant, creative community holding root in the overlooked town of Nambour. The coats pay homage to the natural, industrial, and ethereal surrounds without sacrificing their design or functionality. Together, Ket and Shaye are actively resuscitating the old adage ‘wear your heart on your sleeve’ and I would wear all of these jackets.”



## Creative Industries Investment Program

The Creative Industries Investment Program (CIIP) provides up to three years of funding for established arts and cultural initiatives that support the strategic development of the local arts ecology and deliver significant cultural benefit to the Sunshine Coast Region.



**\$130,000**  
awarded



**7**  
initiatives



**150**  
artists, creative practitioners,  
and producers



**10,000**  
audiences reached



**\$485,000**  
total value supported

Successful applicants are required to participate in a skills exchange and capacity development program involving group and one-on-one mentor sessions. Other local creative leaders are also invited to participate in these development opportunities. The 2022/23 financial year sessions were Creating a Vision, Being Strategic, Making Change facilitated by Maz McGann (Play Your Part) and First Nations Cultural Capability & Humility facilitated by Uncle Noel Blair & Libby Harward (Munimba-ja) & Carly Forrest (The Dreaming Collective).



2022/23 CIIP initiatives include:

- **IN | artist run initiative** — IN | SITE Program: Deliver a program of exhibitions, events, performances, and residencies with a focus on site and place at the Old Lock Up, Maroochydore
- **Munimba-ja** — Blak Creatives: Deliver a series of Indigenous led networking and professional development opportunities embedding cultural safety to support First Nations artistic endeavours on the Sunshine Coast
- **Outspoken Maleny** — Outspoken Maleny: Deliver an extended literary festival consisting of programmed conversations with writers. Each conversation presents two authors; a major name and an emerging name. The interviews are published as podcasts and available on major streaming services
- **Red Chair** — The COMPASS Project: Deliver the micro touring circuit program of nine performing arts tours (36 concerts) presenting local and visiting contemporary music-based productions of various genres including classical, folk, world, popular, comedy and cabaret in diverse venues across the Sunshine Coast
- **Sunshine Coast Arts Industry Precinct** — Old Ambo TAKEOVER Project: Activate the Black Box Theatre, RAMP and Galleries with diverse contemporary artist-led programming
- **Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance** — Annual Creative Development Program: Deliver a program of activities to promote and develop professional contemporary practices and stimulate connection and collaboration. The program includes Good Chats and Big Chats events, Professional Masterclasses, Horizon Festival industry development and co-presentation of The Refinery Creative Incubator
- **Sunshine Coast Film Festivals** — Sunshine Coast Film Festival: Present a diverse program of cinema including European, World, Art House and First Nations content. The festival provides industry development experiences including a professional round table event and opportunities for screening local original work.

The program is jointly funded through The Sunshine Coast Arts and Heritage Levy and the Sunshine Coast Regional Arts Development Fund.

Image: Blak Creatives, Munimba-ja. Photo: Cooper Brady.

## Community Partnership Funding Program

The **Community Partnership Funding Program (CPFP)** provides a contribution to the operational expenses of well-established not-for-profit local arts peak bodies and creative spaces for up to three years.



**\$107,500** awarded



**8** creative not-for-profit organisations



**\$800,000** total value supported



**400** volunteers engaged



**50,000** people benefited

CPFP partners include Arts Connect, Buderim Craft Cottage, Caloundra Arts Centre Association, Kenilworth Arts Council, Maleny Community Centre, Sunshine Coast Arts Industry Precinct, The Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance, and Sunshine Coast Screen Collective.

## Creative Development category (Major and Minor grants)

The **Creative Development category (Major and Minor Grants)** supports not-for-profit organisations to deliver projects, events and activities that strengthen the creative ecology of the Sunshine Coast by nurturing connections, promoting experimentation, and inspiring collaboration.



**\$158,438** awarded



**26** projects



**\$1,400,000** total value supported



**800** volunteers engaged



**60,000** people benefited

One successful Major Grant recipient, Sunshine Coast Chamber Music Festival, was awarded a Major Grant of \$15,000 towards artists fees for the 2023 festival, which presented a program of seven bespoke events staged in natural locations and intimate venues across the Sunshine Coast. The artistic vision of the festival included introducing new audiences to chamber music through innovative programming, embedding First Nations artists, producers, and stories throughout the program, and reflecting and promoting the diversity and excellence of the Australian classical contemporary musical culture by engaging international, national, and local artists of the highest calibre.



Big Chats: Kim Guthrie and Warwick Gow, 2022. The Big Chats series is part of Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance's program of events funded by CIIP.



## Development initiatives

Council's Creative Arts and Events team lead and support a series of focused development programs, designed to build the capacity of local artists and strengthen the region's creative sector. The programs provide opportunities for artistic growth, conceptualising new ideas, and developing new work. They provide increased visibility within both industry and community, and offer opportunities through connection for professional networks, audience development, partnership pathways, and artistic collaborations.

## BEYOND

In September 2022, Council hosted South Australian psychedelic multimedia artist Orlando Mee to experiment with elements of a new immersive digital work combining movement and footage of the Sunshine Coast natural landscape. Orlando will return to the coast for a second residency in November 2023 to continue his research and project development aiming to present the work on the Sunshine Coast in the future. This residency follows on from previous successful residencies which include: October 2021 residency of Sunshine Coast based Courtney Scheu and Itamar Freed at KCAT for presentation in 2024 Triennale ; and the May 2022 residency of South Australian choreographer Lewis Major on the Sunshine Coast for the development Kintsugi, which will be considered for the 2024 Horizon Festival.

BEYOND has been funded by the Australia Council, Sunshine Coast Regional Arts Development Fund and The Sunshine Coast Arts and Heritage Levy.



## The Refinery

**The Refinery** transforms creative practice into sustainable business. Launched in 2019 through a partnership between Sunshine Coast Council, SunCentral and the MET, and the Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance, the program supported over 60 creative entrepreneurs across four successful years.

In 2023, the program was led by The Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance with renewed focus on personal growth and leadership, designed to build participants' capacity to grow their practice, gain visibility, understand their value and the context in which they operate, identify new markets and be positioned to become the Sunshine Coast's next creative leaders. The annual bootcamp hosted 30 new creative businesses and the 18 successful entrepreneurs completed this year's 10-week intensive program, delivered two days per week, across nine locations within the region and eight site visits across

Brisbane. The Refinery once again engaged over fifty recognised industry leaders and creatives to mentor and share their expertise with the Refinery 5.0 cohort, who showcased their businesses in a final event at Venue 114 to over 160 people.

The Refinery was supported by the Sunshine Coast Arts and Heritage Levy.

“ I have gained more confidence in myself and what I make and what I do and how I do it... after 10 weeks I am pumped to share what I do and celebrate the journey I have been on... ”

**Tess Miller, Sculptural Ceramic Artist**



## Spaces for Creatives

The **Spaces for Creatives** program continues to develop capacity, connections and create opportunities for artists to test ideas, experiment and share their work in real life spaces. This year the program shifted dramatically with the launch of Project24 artist in residence program and the expansion of 2ND Space in Nambour.

The **Project24 residency program** delivered 24 artist residencies in 2022/23 financial year. The program provided a stipend alongside time and space for artists to develop, collaborate, experiment and showcase.

Project24 directly supported

-  **191** artists over 12 months
-  **12** reputable industry peers
-  **72** hours of support and provocation

Each residency culminated in an artist showing on the last Wednesday of each month with 460 attendees across the twelve showings.

**2ND Space** is a curated space in Currie Street Nambour for artists and creatives to connect, collaborate and cause commotion. Through Spaces for Creatives, Council is supporting the activation and access to three large multi-use open studios, a makerspace and various breakout and meeting rooms. 2ND Space is now home to the Project24 residency program, creative co-working space and is utilised for the delivery of independent activations and professional development programs. 2ND Space Creative Co-working supported six independent creative enterprises as part of a fully subsidised program for a twelve-month period.

Council continues to work with **IN | ARI**, as curators of The Old Lock Up, Maroochydore. This initiative facilitated four artist residencies, six curated contemporary exhibitions featuring emerging artists and a series of professional development workshops. Council also continues to support **Sub Tropic Studio**, established by Council in 2020 and now led and managed by the Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance (SCCA). The old bus terminal in Caloundra hosts resident creative businesses, a light box gallery and a diverse range of events and masterclasses including the regular Good Chats. In 2023 SCCA secured funding from Arts Queensland to support a significant artist residency for Ruby Donohoe who presented the outcome of her residency *This is incomplete without you* at The Caloundra Regional Gallery in May 2023.

Spaces for Creatives has been funded through the Sunshine Coast Arts and Heritage Levy.

## The Path

**The Path**, led by Kellie O'Dempsey is both a workshop and mentorship that guides emerging artists through the development and production of a series of work of their design. Including group workshops, individual consultations, networking opportunities and production strategies that encourage growth in individual arts practice, critical thinking and context within contemporary art practice. The Path 2022 cohort consisted of; Sasha Parlett, Fiona Harding, Alison Mooney, Shyanne Clark, Jaime Kiss, Libby Derham, Grace Herrmann, Amanda Bennetts, Jordyn Burnett, Jordan Neal and Evelyn Marina.

The Path was funded by Sunshine Coast Council.

## ProjectWLD

**ProjectWLD** is a rapid response incentives scheme for independent activations created to support the presentation of work developed by artists in region. The program piloted in April 2023 providing additional support to the 'Sunshine Coat' project by Ketakii Jewson-Brown and Shaye Hardisty at The Old Ambulance Station, Nambour.

-  **\$2000** funding
-  **3** events
-  **3881** attended

ProjectWLD has been funded by the Sunshine Coast Arts and Heritage Levy.



Image: Amanda Bennetts, Project 24 Residency at 2ndSpace Nambour.  
Photo: Cooper Brady.



## The Keeper Project

The Keeper Project was developed in collaboration with Field Theory (VIC), and delivered in partnership with Sunshine Coast production company Red Chair. The first iteration of the project ran in Coolum from July 2021 to November 2022



20 local artists and creatives engaged



1021 direct participants



54,000 witnesses

The Keeper Project is a live public art project where artists work in a temporary role as observer, collector, maker and storyteller within a community. The Keepers are archaeologists of stories. Unlike permanent public artwork, The Keeper Project has no pre-determined outcome, the work unfolds through interaction with community and place; revealing and creating narratives, connections and capturing stories along the way.

In May 2023, Council hosted The Keeper Project community engagement residency as part of Project24 and in September, Red Chair successfully secured funding through Arts Queensland to partner with Council to deliver the project in three new townships across the Sunshine Coast over the next three years, commencing January 2024.

The Keeper Project has been funded through The Regional Arts Development Fund, Community Grants and Arts Queensland Showcase Program.

## DANCE.HERE.NOW.

Council's three-year dance sector development initiative culminated in 2023 alongside the launch of OUTBOUND contemporary dance and live arts festival, a significant outcome of the initiative.

Informed by the Dance Development Steering Group, DANCE.HERE.NOW. focused on increasing participation, professional practice, programming, networks and spaces for dance through partnerships, collaboration and new approaches between 2020 — 2022.

Over the three years the initiative facilitated



27 residencies



3 public events and activations



8 professional development activities



131 established and emerging artists engaged



2236 participants and attendees.

DANCE.HERE.NOW. seeded and supported a myriad of dance work and artists. Highlights from the year include Michelle Bucci's development of BOUND, an emotive and immersive technically demanding dance work, four new works as part of OUTBOUND, a local series of new dance works for small audiences in unconventional, intimate spaces and Isabella Hood and Jag Popham who worked on a new work designed to explore audience responses to confrontation.

The outcomes of DANCE.HERE.NOW. continue into 2023 with Phluxus2 Dance delivering indepenDANCE for the first time on the Sunshine Coast and Second Echo visiting from Tasmania to develop new work and deliver professional development for Sunshine Coast based Sunshine Troupe.

OUTBOUND, with Artistic Directors Courtney Scheu and Ruby Donohoe will deliver the inaugural festival in October 2023 featuring three international artists, two nationals artists and nine local artists.

DANCE.HERE.NOW. and OUTBOUND have been funded through The Sunshine Coast Regional Arts Development Fund.



Image: Jinihara Emerging Dance Troupe, Horizon Festival Opening Ceremony, Horizon Festival 2022. Photo: Nic Morley.



Image: SAND, Courtney Scheu and Itamar Freed, Horizon Festival 2022. Photo: Alain Bouvier.

## The Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation

Council's Arts Levy enabled the continuing administrative support of the Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation (SCAF) in 2022/23. The Foundation engaged in philanthropy and fundraising events attracting donations of \$48,207 in this financial year.

The following summarises SCAF activities:

- annual Giving Campaign Gifted launch and announcement events
- patron's Program of \$1000 Gifts for artists in selected arts genres
- online donations through the website
- partnerships with arts organisations offering donor management and tax deductibility for donors. A 5% fee is deducted giving SCAF the funds for banking, accounting and administration of those donations
- fundraising events with corporates and prospective donors
- communication including social media featuring artists and arts events across the region, SCAF Newsletter to Subscribers and Friends, and website promotion of partners and donors
- events are held in arts spaces and showcase the work of gifted recipient artists
- partnership with the University of the Sunshine Coast included a student produced video featuring the Sunshine Coast region and its artists.

SCAF has been funded through The Sunshine Coast Arts and Heritage Levy.



Image: Looks Like A Tourist by Daniele Constance, Horizon Festival 2022.



# Horizon Festival

At its heart, Horizon Festival is deeply connected to place. Celebrating the spectacular natural landscape of the Sunshine Coast region, honouring the stories and artworks of our First Nations people and providing a platform for local artists to create work and dialogue.



21,492  
festival attendees



52 events



30 locations

In 2022, the Horizon team created a program that supported this vision, and continued to connect people, arts, culture and place through a carefully curated suite of events and activities. These events were scheduled across **30 locations** in the region and featured **502 artists**, of which **261 were Sunshine Coast-based**.

The program included several participatory events designed to engage the local community alongside the iconic Wonderland Spiegeltent, complete with a world-class program.

Community participation is key to Horizon Festival's core values, and in 2022, participation was at the forefront of the program. Highlights included:

- the festival premiere of **Looks Like A Tourist** with local dance schools and community donning inflatable orange suits and delivering pop up performances around Cotton Tree
- our very own internationally led community synchronised swimming group **The Sinkers**, where community participants led audiences in triumphant performances across the festival
- **Common People Dance Party**, a crowd favourite, saw 33 community members perform to a sold out audience in preparation for the South East Battle during Brisbane Festival.

With support and guidance from the First Nations Advisory Group and the festival's First Nations Curator the festival presented **13 First Nations led projects** across music, dance, visual art and workshops. Including the iconic Dawn Awakening event which attracted over **2000 people**.

An integrated marketing and PR campaign rolled out nationally across print and digital media, while the campaign shoot featured leading artists from the festival in prominent landscapes across the region.

Figures show an increase in audience engagement with strong website traffic, ticket sales and engagement across social media platforms. This reinforced the festivals' reputation as the region's premier arts festival, boosted its reputation with arts visitors to Queensland and elevated the Sunshine Coast's position as a recognised cultural destination.



20%  
Growth in  
Instagram audience



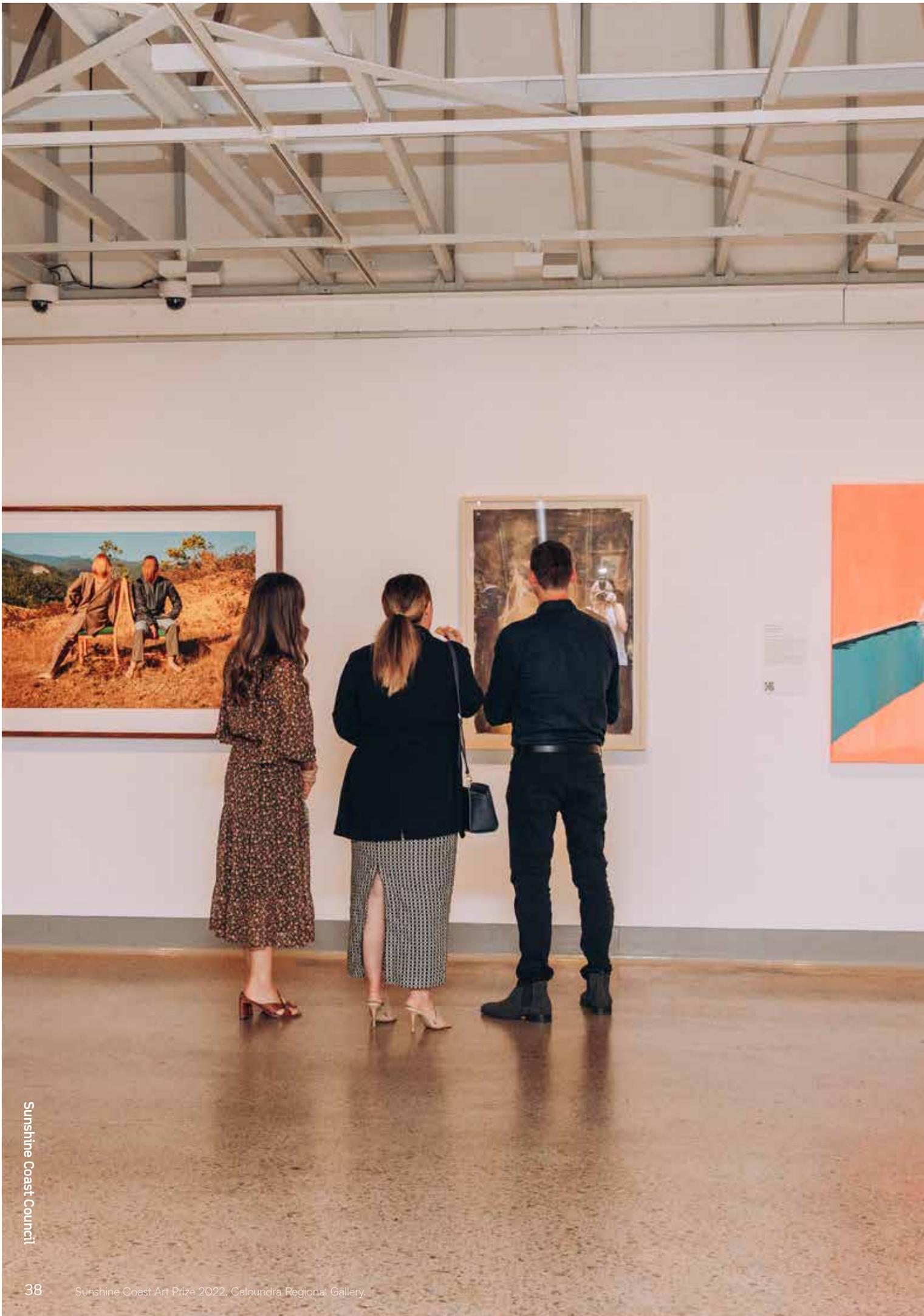
11%  
Growth in  
facebook audience



6%  
Growth in database  
330



Media stories with  
a potential reach of  
**4.12m**  
and value of  
**\$595,743**



# Caloundra Regional Gallery

Caloundra Regional Gallery continued to play a critical development role in the creative industries and cultural identity of the Sunshine Coast. In addition to fostering and hosting national and international exhibitions as well as cultivating one of the most renowned national art prizes, the Gallery continued to incubate and support artists through public and education programs, artist in residencies, art collection acquisitions and public art commissions.

## Sunshine Coast Art Prize

Entering its 18th year, the acquisitive Sunshine Coast Art Prize (SCAP) is a dynamic visual art award reflecting outstanding contemporary 2D arts practice in Australia. This significant art award is the flagship visual art event for Sunshine Coast Council's Gallery.

2022 attracted **487 entries** from established and emerging artists across the nation. This is the highest number of \*paid entries (\$40 entry fee includes freight) since 2016 when the prize money increased to \$25,000 (\*entry was free in 2020 to assist during COVID hardship).

“The exhibition incorporated children by having the child's activity to find different art works around the gallery and I think that is inspirational for the kids and opens their mind to the arts”

Feeling of the Place exhibition



**32,924** total audience



**88%** of visitors rated exhibitions and programs as good to excellent.



**20,643** exhibition visitors



program attendances **5,397**



**6,884** digital attendances



**\$60,106** sponsorship secured



**200** local artists featured in programming



**38** of which were First Nations artists



**7.3%** Facebook growth



**13%** Instagram growth



**12.4%** Growth in e-newsletter subscribers

## Sunshine Coast Art Collection and Public Art Collection

Collections are an anchor point for cultural tourism and civic pride and enrich the community's cultural landscape.



The collection grew by approximately **3%**



Holdings increased to **1110** individual items



Valued at **\$344,500**



Total value at just under **\$1.1M**



**3** Works added to Public Art Collection  
**\$3.7M** Total value

Collection highlights through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, donations from artists and collectors, philanthropic contributions and public art commissions and community projects include:

- **31 artworks** directly donated by internationally renowned Sunshine Coast ceramicist, Johanna DeMaine
- **70 artworks** by Queensland contemporary artist, Joe Furlonger by philanthropist John Brown (his second substantial donation to the art collection)
- Emergence by Simone Eisler and Russell Anderson, Caloundra
- Yallingbila Dreaming by Luke Mallie, Caloundra

The combined Collection is profiled across the region in Council-owned buildings including its administration centres, libraries and high traffic flow areas in public spaces. The collection is curated to participate in themed calendar events such as NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week.

In 2022-23 works from the Collection were loaned for externally curated exhibition at SCUUni Art Gallery and in the boardroom of our major SCAP sponsor, Argon Law. The continued growth serves to further build upon the Region's cultural value, enriching the community with tangible artworks to connect/interact with thus expanding the arts and culture experience on the Sunshine Coast.

Between 2022-2023, the Collection received gifts via direct donations or through the Cultural Gifts Program from **7 local artists**, **4 artists** from outside of the region and **6 from private collections** (local and Brisbane).

Holdings of First Nations artworks steadily **increased by 6.5%** albeit a low percentage, but significant in terms of artists represented as follows:

- Dolly Jukuja Snell
- Joe Alimindjin Rootsey
- Michael Nelson Jagamara/ Joanne Currie Nalingu and Michael Eather
- Brian Robinson
- Jennifer Herd
- Uncle Noel Blair
- Maurice Mickelo

A Public Art opportunity, presented as a professional development program for Kabi Kabi identified artists to be mentored by an established First Nations artist practicing in Public Art, is underway for the new City Hall building. Renowned First Nations artist, Brian Robinson was mentor to three Kabi Kabi artists considered as emerging in public art practice. The artists were mentored through the process of public art concept development and presentation to the assessment panel, where one artist was awarded the public art commission, including further design development and mentoring by mentor and fabrication contractor. The overall aim of this project is to deliver a major Kabi Kabi public artwork for City Hall and create opportunities for Kabi Kabi artists to expand their artistic practice and skills in public art processes.

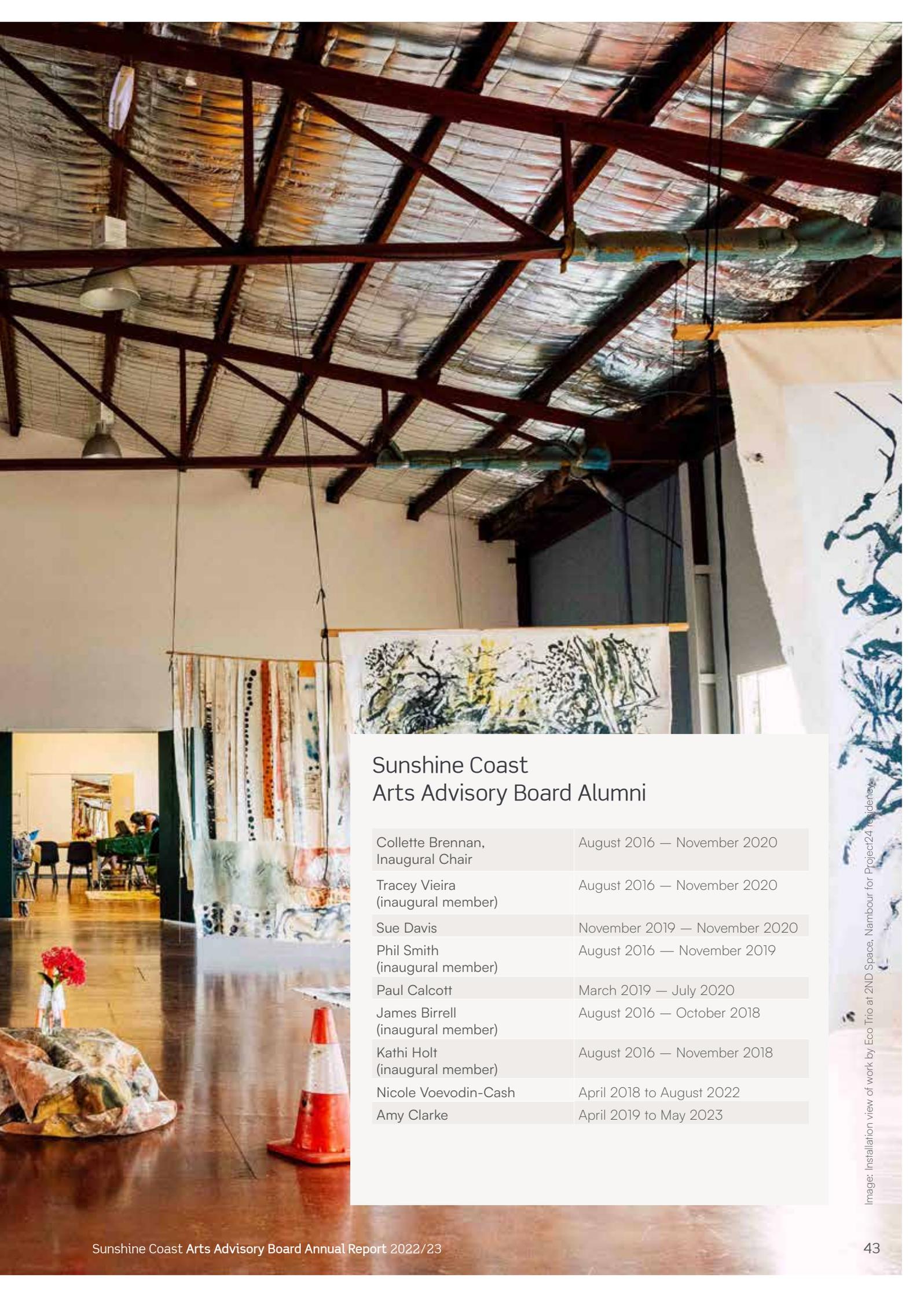


Image: Helmon / by Kabir Kabi artist Brent Miller  
a public artwork installed at BFI.



## Priorities for 2023/24

- implement the inaugural year arts program of the Arts and Heritage Levy
- support the Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board's First Nations Sub-Committee to develop a First Nations Arts Strategy
- continue to support the Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation via partnership agreement
- deliver a successful Horizon Festival in 2023 and seek council support for ongoing funding
- deliver a funding strategy for a new regional gallery
- start planning for the Cultural Olympiad
- deliver a digital literacy and development program
- maintain and build on the achievements of the Caloundra Regional Gallery and support the development of a business case for a new regional gallery at Caloundra
- seek endorsement to implement the Sunshine Coast Music Sector Plan
- continue to collaborate with the sector and other government and non-government organisations to create opportunities for local artists
- continue the delivery of grant funding programs that support, grow, and develop arts and cultural vitality in the region



## Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board Alumni

Collette Brennan, Inaugural Chair	August 2016 — November 2020
Tracey Vieira (inaugural member)	August 2016 — November 2020
Sue Davis	November 2019 — November 2020
Phil Smith (inaugural member)	August 2016 — November 2019
Paul Calcott	March 2019 — July 2020
James Birrell (inaugural member)	August 2016 — October 2018
Kathi Holt (inaugural member)	August 2016 — November 2018
Nicole Voevodin-Cash	April 2018 to August 2022
Amy Clarke	April 2019 to May 2023

Image: Installation view of work by Eco Trio at 2ND Space, Nambour for Project24 residency.



23161 11/23