

ARTS NORTHERN
RIVERS

**CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
RECOVERY FORUM**

BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS

The Northern Rivers Creative Industries Forum was held over 2 days: July 28 & 29, 2022. The Forum was a crucial component of the Arts Northern Rivers 2022 floods medium term recovery strategy for the region's creative sector. Over 200 sector members were in attendance representing a range of art forms, practitioners and LGA's.

Patternmakers were engaged to deliver a subsequent report (coming soon) with key insights and findings into the impacts to the sector of the floods and key pathways forward.

The Forum was supported by:



FRRR
Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal

BusinessConnect

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Australian Government
National Recovery
and Resilience Agency



All notes and opinions presented within this paper have been presented exactly as penned by those contributors at the Forum. Arts Northern Rivers has not altered, edited any part of these transcripts. All opinions presented through the following topics are not those of Arts Northern Rivers, its employees or partners.

TOPIC

Land security/tile for Public Art

Topic Holder Name

Paula M Cordeiro

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Consult with existing Public Art Groups and Digital media Groups regarding programs

Action Point / Comment

Create 5 coordinator positions for the task to address all sides of Richmond

Action Point / Comment

Allocate at all Community Halls, free (set) time for consultation and coordination of programs. The programs can be then shared with local councils existing Panels, and community groups.

TOPIC

Public Art Sculpture

Topic Holder Name

Andrew Parry

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Brass, strong metal durable materials that won't float away

Action Point / Comment

Raised like the 'ARK' on Woodlark ST. Memorialising the events, rescues, people, pets.

TOPIC

How Can Artist Access Studio Space?

Topic Holder Name

Sharla Lavars

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Opportunity:

- Contacting real estates to ask if any place can be rented or squat. Pidcock's real estates deal with industrial spaces. Potentially local high schools - Richmond River? Big Telstra building - currently empty, do we petition for it?
- Liaison with local businesses.
- Create a directory of spaces available
- Approach reconstruction committee
- Land and titles register
- Gallery/show space or studio space for long termers

Action Point / Comment

Challenges

- WHS issues arise in being in abandoned places. Infrastructure needs to be addressed in the space
- Length of time: we want long term, use arts bodies i.e. Arts NSW to advocate for us in getting long term
- Location: We need a central location
- Money: grants to pay for rent and utilities
- Insurance
- Funding: need a grants proposal, get funding from ArtsNR to get funding to present a good deal to give to real estates
- Data: which artists need spaces? Create a database, ArtsNR database
- One like elevators - good model

TOPIC

How can local Businesses and Government Organisations support artists with opportunities to progress their ideas and projects

Topic Holder Name

Brett Belot

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Healthy North Coast Grant application - Better communication, a longer time to apply. Businesses to support emerging artists with the process of showcasing their work, better process and procedures.

Connecting Business with local Artist - How? Business N.S.W - Jane Laverty and local chamber of commerce. A.N.R to create a quarterly forum for Business and Artists to connect to develop relationships.

Looking outside the region for Business support. Businesses/Council to support artist with funding and grant writing applications. Business connect and Creative + Business can provide support.

What about "Grants in the Pub" as a connecting series of events.

Action Point / Comment

Council to employ artists in community spaces with recovery projects and provide appropriate funding. Each Council to have a dedicated Arts OPcer.

Community radio stations advertising artist content. Artists to be paid for producing content

Action Point / Comment

Streaming services to buy Northern Rivers content to show online. Also Arts Northern Rivers data base to be better connected to local business to showcase the local artists.

Create a connecting directory for Business and Artists that is accessible and marketed well. This could include networking events. E.G. A.N.R event with chamber of commerce, one per year or quarterly.

Connecting artist with advertising opportunities. E.G local billboards, open spaces. (APRA)

Building strong connections through existing Business networks/Arts networks/forums etc...Small Business Week - speed dating sessions

Action Point / Comment

Arts in the streets program - employing local artists to partner with local businesses to showcase their work

TOPIC

Deaf Theatre -Live Movement Theatre - follow on to Public Arts Sculpture

Topic Holder Name

Andrew Parry

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Artists could reimagine it - add substance by adding sculptures - recognising flood affected people.- in a physical performative way

Action Point / Comment

Northern Rivers Healing Hub @ CASPA (Nin) + Lighten Up could be good partners

TOPIC

Accessibility Coordinator - Officer @ ANR - or Access Arts Officer

Topic Holder Name

Andrew Parry

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Awareness of process for booking interpreters. Coordinator for accessibility requirements.

Action Point / Comment

How would this be funded?

TOPIC

The importance of making sure our creative sector & community voice is strong on the Recovery Reconstruction Commission (RRC) and on the local Councils

Topic Holder Name

Claudie Frock & Katie Cooper-Wares

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

The 7 local mayors are meant to be feeding info to the RCC- were they invited to this forum?

Action Point / Comment

Scotia from Creative Recovery Network (Brisbane) advocates at state & fed levels for arts representation- we need a Collective voice, inputting for next 10 years. We need to formalize, read the Nood enquiry outcomes, & reference them for what we are asking for. Use research & stats already available eg from NORPA. The Lismore Council DOES NOT have an Arts & Cultural Strategy! First Nations voices & accessibility need to be encoded in what we ask for.

Action Point / Comment

We already have the Creative First Aid Alliance (CFAA) who have made a submission to Nood enquiry.

Let's work on a statement we all sign, identifying partnerships & support. The Theatre Network NSW can help advocate too, both for orgs and independents. Blueshield is UN-related org also good for lobbying.

Action Point / Comment

Email addresses of all group members taken- Zoom link to next Creative First Aid meeting will be sent to all- try to formalize what we're asking for. We can't just survive, we want to THRIVE :)

TOPIC

how to disaster, fire proof , boat, save, facilitate & survive as an artist

Topic Holder Name

Sarah-Jane McGrath: Ross, Benjamin, Zimmi, Robyn, Fiona, Geraldine

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

ethical & moral facility to protect creative practise eg artist or creatives ripping of other designs/mitigation against damage or loss 7 get out of flood zones/disaster management manual template/Process action plan/priorities/emergency: local people to assist/Artists need more say in our community to mitigate situations

Action Point / Comment

Education for the Northern Rivers, to help art collections be renovated with conservator, with funding and local NGO assistance/ with writing to create funding, simplify the funding process and access eg, name, address, phone, email and dates of disaster/ there is a gap in the process: missed opportunities due to homelessness, PTSD and lack of work/ need containers large and small with new locations/ facilitate bulk buy before and after disasters

Action Point / Comment

Proactive support and streamline processes/ a survey for artists before and after disasters to inform the local funding bodies eg. Nava, Arts Northern rivers, The Australian Arts Council .

Action Point / Comment

In general, ways in which the collective artists in the Northern Rivers can feel supported to continue their work in safe environments

TOPIC

Create Safe Storage for Art works and Lismore Museum Collections and Archive

Topic Holder Name

Ross Davies

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Create offsite storage for Lismore Art gallery and Lismore Museum

Action Point / Comment

Need lead Agency for creation of safe store maybe Arts NR

Action Point / Comment

May be offer create individual storage facilities in the same place use for a small fee, create business model.

Action Point / Comment

Need a space for Arts on the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation steering committee, need to create a out of the Flood Art Gallery/ Museum/ Cultural Centre under one roof outside the Lismore basin Flood zone.

TOPIC

Utilising and creating spaces within the region to run collaborative community arts and healing activities

Topic Holder Name

Ninsidhe Moon

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Connecting with/creating online community network portals, boost the ones already in place; training for Arts and other practitioners in Indigenous mental health and other appropriate knowledge using the ongoing We Al-i induction processes for the Hub; the idea for a Collective Grieving Portal and block parties. Ongoing public performance art, open source public art opportunities (ongoing community mural project). Dance therapy, art therapy, music, bringing in the Traveller, Doof, Burner and other communities who are experts at semi-nomadism.

Action Point / Comment

Accessibility, make sure all spaces are healthy and appropriate, find/identify buildings and spaces we would like to use. Creating intentionality around the various practices being designed to transmit the new social, interpersonal and physical practices needed to be disaster responsive.

Action Point / Comment

Strong focus on Indigenous connections, practitioners and practices, as well as the alternative and more marginalised communities within the region- Queer youth, Homeschoolers, etc

Action Point / Comment

Action point was to connect in with The NRCHH at CASPA and the Creative First Aid network to form further action groups and projects. Connect in with the Lismore Chamber of Commerce to see which property owners would be willing to offer their spaces for activities.

TOPIC

SLOW Textiles & Fibre

Topic Holder Name

networks and what do people want

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Raising the profile of textile artists. Potential for a Forum for Fibre and Textiles (interest in having Arts NR facilitate it with people offering to help). Potential for a Fibre & Textile Festival (June or July 2023) - potential for this to be a region wide activation linking with different galleries and open studios for a specific month of the year. Slow textiles and fibres need to be seeing remuneration in relation the time and skill level of the artist.

Action Point / Comment

Ethics, morals and intellectual property. Respect of more experienced people. Differentiate between makers and copiers distance to artists pushing the boundaries. Respect for people's experience otherwise there is copying and ripping.

Action Point / Comment

Current activities in textiles and fibres: school projects dealing with trauma and youth issues in Kyogle funding by health funding going for a year (March 2023, potential for ongoing) to help you people speak about their concerns. Looking for tutors. Also there is a survey by Caldera Contemporary Textile Collective - encouraged artists to put their work on Northern Rivers Creative.

Action Point / Comment

Networking, learning and mentorship. Being kept informed. There is an extreme sense of isolation among textiles artists as the work is slow to produce. Quality of quantity. Being part of international dialogue of SLOW Textiles.

TOPIC

Mentoring groups and support for new artists

Topic Holder Name

Amanda Bromfield

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Create a FUNDED CURATORIAL MENTORING program for emerging artists of all ages in the Northern Rivers.

Action Point / Comment

Write mentoring guidelines and objectives

Create mentor database

Create emerging artist database

Form a panel for selection

Identify practicing artist mentors

Call for emerging artists

Match mentors with emerging artists (like a matchmaker service)

Run pilot program

Apply for funding for an ongoing program using the results of the pilot

Mentors to be paid from the funding pool

Clear structure for the program needs to include:

1. Mentor guidelines
2. Legalities, copyright, boundaries, contract
3. Specific time frame and outcomes
4. Communication structure (ie: meetings, zoom, social media platforms, social gatherings training programs) - not only for training but also for feedback and support
- 5 Develop a pool of resources for mentors and artists.

Action Point / Comment

Involve Byron School of Art and Arts Northern Rivers and other professional arts organisations to develop a plan, syllabus, guidelines and resources.

Involve experienced mentors from other disaster zones to help develop, eg Fiona WA and Lara NZ.

Build checks and balances during the program to monitor progress

Provide ongoing professional development of mentors

Identify spaces/ environments for training and final exhibition

Action Point / Comment

Objectives:

1. To create a group exhibition/ performance/ multimedia presentation using the skills learned during the program - which will be part of the syllabus
2. To create an artist collective /support network/ community that has a life beyond the program and provides camaraderie, support, increased artist profile and professional practice.
3. Create confidence building and professionalism for participants.
4. Promote the arts in the wider community
5. Promote the funded curatorial mentoring (FCM) program.

TOPIC

Art in public spaces

Topic Holder Name

Steven Giese

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Art in Public Places - site artworks in unused public spaces, specifically banners on electricity poles, (specifically in the CBD) public transport surfaces (taxis and buses) and bus stops. Stencils on pavements a good idea too.

Other possible venues - "pods"- mobile containers that display art...could be placed in shopping centres. Benefit - banners would re badge the town as a cultural hub, make the place more beautiful and interesting post flood. Specifically for Lismore but could be applied to other towns.

Artists- Identify local artists, perhaps early career / emerging artists to promote as well as more established artists.

Funding- seek grant money from state and federal bodies, banners could be self funded by artists as a professional development activity. Collaborative relationships needed between local government and artists via Lismore Regional Gallery or existing organisations such as Laneway mural group or a new group. Would probably need a paid co ordination to organise.

Precedents -Renew Newcastle, Geelong, Traces Biennale, Shine Festival and Bendigo public arts.

There is an App for NSW self guided walkscould be a directory for public artworks.

Action Point / Comment

Artists should be paid.

Action Point / Comment

Communal venue for musicians to access for performance.

Action Point / Comment

Inflatable sculptures in the river....

TOPIC

What to do we need, what can we offer? How do we share resources? Knowledge, gear, spaces. Roles of organisations.

Topic Holder Name

Alice Cadwell

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Grants:

- + Need to demystify the language and process.
- + Zoning (eg. Murwillumbah is considered metro under the Modified Monash Model used by Regional Arts Australia).
- + Changing models of 'excellence' - how do flip the narrative on regional vs metro and how funders evaluate our work?
- + Share knowledge on grants and get more artists/orgs from the Northern Rivers applying.
- + Matching willing writers and journalists with artists to assist with their grant writing?
- + Sharing Community Grant Hub alerts

Action Point / Comment

People/time/money:

- + All agreed we need more! Support and help with networking.
- + Connections to philanthropy opportunities
- + Flip the ask for an offer! Alice shared an example of a company that offered a corporate partner/philanthropist professional development workshops in exchange for money.
- + Galleries: supporting artists with residencies, spaces, workshops & PD (bursary available for flood affected artists), opportunities to sell their work

Action Point / Comment

Space:

- + Safe places to store equipment, artwork, collections, supplies
- + Tweed & Ballina Gallery have artist residency spaces
- + Creative People's Collective are rebuilding on Keen St in Lismore, will relaunch with a community program
- + Empty spaces: how do we utilise them during the rebuild?
- + Red tape: How can we get people into non-traditional art spaces more quickly?
- + Rethinking spaces: inspired by Christchurch's public arts program
- + Activating spaces on private property: connecting to builders - especially those with an interest in creative spaces, property owners opening up spaces to artists and creatives

Action Point / Comment

Connection:

- + Today has been amazing: more of this please! Philip suggested a social with a disco ball!
- + Call on our neighbours: we've been quiet - letting our colleagues and supporters in neighbouring places (Brisbane, Coffs, Sydney) and beyond know how we're doing and what we need?
- + Reviewers: it's incredibly difficult to get reviewers to our region for our main stage works, festivals
- + Peers: Creative First Aid Alliance - join the FB group! Meeting fortnightly and have a Slack channel going to connect people with interests and projects

TOPIC

How can we ensure that unfounded/emerging/amateur and community art can be included/supported and involved in efforts to foster creative arts as recovery.

Topic Holder Name

Miriam Tee

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Lismore needs a true grassroots community arts space/centre run by the people for the community.

All levels, not just professional artists, need to be included and welcomed into the creative art space.

Without the amateur there can be no professional.

Action Point / Comment

The essence of a project is not about remuneration but process. Community arts practitioners have a range of invaluable lived experience. They need Validation to foster community empowerment and share skills

Action Point / Comment

Every culture has folk art as a part of life..movement, song, craft. We want Lismore to have that creative response to disaster that we have seen 'just do it" to continue and have longevity

Action Point / Comment

Work towards an annual Carnivale which invites the whole community to participate with artists sharing skills and enabling costume and art making, self expression through movement spoken word and song: collaboration is key. In particular embracing and considering the river which is in the heart of our community as a process of healing and 'coming to terms' Studios hosting events and

workshops storing and sharing resources. Encouraging Active participation and empowering action rather than being passive consumers of culture eg big commercial music festivals.

TOPIC

How to involve creatives in the design of Lismore's rebuilt and new physical environment/buildings

Topic Holder Name

Sandra Kaji-O'Grady

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

have an architectural ideas competition, pitch visionary proposals for a show at the art gallery; involve architecture/art/design students in creating and exhibiting ideas; get architects to collaborate with infrastructure designers and engineers working on big stuff like dams, levees, etc.

Action Point / Comment

share ideas for flood-proofing with the public. architects could volunteer time to advise people (see James Davidson's Good advice on his architectural practice site, or Five Mile Radius). Some ideas include sacrificial spaces at ground level; developing a post-flood aesthetic; protective pods for stuff during a flood; floating buildings; marking the flood lines across all buildings in a dramatically visual way

Action Point / Comment

Involve first nation's knowledge and creativity in the design process

Action Point / Comment

build a more sustainable future, connect to the environment, greening buildings and planting flood resilient landscapes

TOPIC

First Nations Aspirations

Topic Holder Name

Paris and Kylie

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Aspirations:

- LAND BACK
- Funding for Bundjalung Collective to go to Garma Festival
- Dundarimba Council: First Nations council
- Cultural space for First Nations cultural practitioners
- First Nations art space - multiple spaces in different places
- Language lessons for adults
- Pathways into arts for First Nations
- International exchange with First Nations
- Intergenerational knowledge exchange
- Aotearoa professional development trip

Action Point / Comment

Cultural tourism:

- How do we build capacity for First Nations?
- How do we build sustainability for programs/aspirations?
- Reciprocal partnerships

Action Point / Comment

Cultural Infrastructure - hard and soft

First Nations built environment and infrastructure - integrating First Nations knowledge systems, values, aspirations and vision

Action Point / Comment

Business and professional development for artists

- Back end support needed for black business
- Strengthen business support network
- Build partnerships with business support orgs - development for FN individuals

TOPIC

Sustainability and Risk Management Strategies for Arts/Artists into the future.

Topic Holder Name

Fiona Fraser

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Develop a disaster manual template for artists, covering general preparation, annual review, what to do before, during and after disaster, priority list of actions/things to pack/evacuate, links/resources for floodproofing/fire protection equipment, contact lists of helpers/landlord etc, what needs documenting for insurance,

Action Point / Comment

Rebuilding studios/art spaces better/smarter - sustainable materials, repurposing, disaster resilient structures, sharing of info/web links for good tips/practices, developing social/professional networks to protect what we value and help cope after disasters, learn from previous disasters, can be a process (working towards better)

Action Point / Comment

Disaster Conservation Workshop - Professional Conservator to give workshop to artists in the community on what to do immediately after a disaster, and in the following months to give best chance of saving artworks after a flooding disaster. Also sharing of digital resources on disaster conservation for a range of materials/artforms.

Action Point / Comment

Encourage arts orgs to run other useful workshops for artists... Regional Arts NSW has upcoming online workshops, Create NSW regional grant writing workshops, connect with National Recovery and Resilience Agency's Recovery Support Officer, M-Arts has workshop spaces for this sort of workshop.

TOPIC

Upcoming Events

Topic Holder Name

Tara Coughlan

'Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Announce "Reflections": a Sprung show on September 10th to celebrate Sprung's 10th Anniversary.

Please come to the show at Lennox Head Cultural Centre. We invite you all and all sorts of artists to see the show and to see the work that we do and who we are. We also welcome donations.

Action Point / Comment

We welcome other opportunities and announcements about events.

TOPIC

Local Government and State Government Support For the Arts

Topic Holder Name

Ruth Tsimbinis

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Educating Arts event organisers and artists in how to communicate with government agencies in support for event management and DA applications etc. Provide workshops for people in creative industries in how local government works in relation to policy development and financial planning that would enable events to go forward.

Action Point / Comment

State government reducing barriers so local government can enable events

Action Point / Comment

Policies- how local government activities these

Action Point / Comment

Councils are not seeing their investment in the Arts. Identify and expose the mutual benefits the Arts brings to the social and economic structure of local government. Councils are not seeing their investment in the arts

TOPIC

writing songs from the Floods

Topic Holder Name

Zac Mifsud

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Write songs about your own experience of pain and joy. making about how you Feel..

Action Point / Comment

singing songs to people you Love

Action Point / Comment

set up a website for people to publish their songs, music and people can Listen and join

Action Point / Comment

people on website can donate to artists.

TOPIC

Musical Festivals and Eisteddfods

Topic Holder Name

Yvonne Stevenson

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Ongoing Funding - for musical festivals/ eisteddfods/ projects
- approach State government, local government
- Sponsors - local businesses, community members/ corporate

Action Point / Comment

Volunteers - places to register interest/ connect with group
* website - local government
* community noticeboards - Facebook, leaflets
* Arts Northern Rivers to publicise
* Brochures distributed in local community outlets
* Community newspapers

Action Point / Comment

Publicise groups - Regional Arts groups - eg. Arts Northern Rivers
- An umbrella group encompassing - local eisteddfods, arts and musical festivals, gallery exhibitions
- local councils to include information on their websites.

Action Point / Comment

Develop relationship with Conservatorium of Music - Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Lismore
* performance venues, volunteers, student performers, publicity

TOPIC

Regional Community "In Residence" facilities to support artists.

Topic Holder Name

Amber Anderson / Alex Rubin

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Benefits - There is no current spaces for artists to work and network and mutually support each other.

These type of facilities could be a hub for resilience and mental health first response. These spaces would provide a valuable sorting point for aspiring artists to begin their journey. This is envisioned to be rolled out across the entire region (including bespoke locations) to support arts development / exhibitions /create learning opportunities / leverage knowledge transfer.

Action Point / Comment

Options - These facilities would offer modular and flexible options for artists to work 'in residence' similar to the Mens'Shed program. This would be able to support artists to grow skills and generate income, supported by marketing advice and professional development opportunities.

The Facilities would be able to double as Workshop locations / Exhibitions Hubs and Mini Galleries.

This is envisioned to be a digitally enabled location to support the emerging next generations artists.

Consideration of having this follow the <WA> Mid Northlands arts project model.

This project could provide temporary / overflow studios for artists.

This is envisioned to be a focal point for Philanthropic investment.

Could potentially provide art supplies support to users

Potential Marketing Advisory Service / Appraisals Centre for valuation and 'at value' sales for artworks.

Action Point / Comment

This Concept will need further development and will need to be weaved into the other motions / ideas from the forum

TOPIC

TIME: longevity of practice

Topic Holder Name

Geraldine Balcazar

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

SHARED PRACTICE / CONNECTION

- URGENCY for connection and paying for artists time
- need for more space for discussions, truth telling, different perspectives and exchange.
- artists to be paid to share their practice

Action Point / Comment

OPEN-TIME PROJECTS

- valuing that elements take time
- challenges for regional artists
- how do we make process and practice more "open", less held too strict timelines, to allow more fluid and connected outcomes i.e. time in community, developing concepts, supporting the diverse ways we make work
- supporting research with funding

Action Point / Comment

VALUE / EDUCATION

- artist salary!!!!
- security of time
- local Council to understand art practice better i.e. face to face contact, more space for connection with community, more value and support

Action Point / Comment

CURRENT SYSTEM

- URGENCY for change in how the system supports artists (process and practice)
 - LONGEVITY: how can we use the time we have right now and make money stretch over time.
 - undervalued, underpaid.
 - need for more value to be placed on process and the full spectrum of practice.
 - art is not a "soft" cost to be cut from budgets / art is a hard cost
 - interest in changing the way the support is currently structured i.e. in-kind-offerings
 - embedding more informal opportunities i.e. AusCo an CreateNSW at the Forum for discussion, put a face to funding bodies
-
- EASE: need for a more connected process especially in securing support i.e. as opposed to a grant application, potential for studio visits

TOPIC

Artists in residency program crossing disciplines and with salaries, space, stability and outcomes

Topic Holder Name

Julian Louis, NORPA

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

There are opportunities for multi-arts supported residencies partnering with

1. NGOs such as National Parks, bushfire recovery, etc
2. Non-art organizations in science, education, justice and health such as CSIRO, universities, and hospitals
- 3: Corporate businesses such as banks, construction companies and Airbnb
- 4: private philanthropists
5. Festivals

Residencies could be inter-regional or international exchange or one-way. The aim is not only to ensure artists have an income, but to integrate art making in the region's recovery across different sectors.

Action Point / Comment

Need to develop a coordinated and strategic approach to the above possible partners. Target partners with capacity and identify benefits to them in the partnership, as well as the social impact of their activity. For example, a health organization might benefit directly from activities that support corporate mental health, as well as through reputational benefit.

Action Point / Comment

In addition to securing funding need to consider

1. where artists who are not local would live during studio residencies, or if work and live are combined in one space
2. how the program is reviewed, marketed and venues for exhibition, performance, etc
3. How it is 'curated', especially whether or not it is open-ended or thematically directed.

Action Point / Comment

Need to develop an infrastructure for enabling artist in residency programs including, as priority, a funded role to define the benefits of the program, and to coordinate and produce the program so that existing organizations are not overwhelmed. The coordinator would broker partnerships and match artists to programs. Other functions may include, facilitating a register of artists and partners; supporting artists to pitch their practice and project; supporting artists in residency to achieve outcomes;

TOPIC

Students and Prospective students to talk/share

Topic Holder Name

Benjamin Gully + Erica Gully

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Equitable distribution of funding between ALL creative groups. Utilising existing buildings and spaces where creatives can work. Creatives coming together to make decisions for themselves. How do we retain student numbers when displacement occurs? Financial support, Mental health support to assist in maintaining numbers. Peer support/check in... SRC? Support even in an unofficial capacity.

Action Point / Comment

Arts Club - S.C.U. Lexsa? Cross institutional student run collective eg Tafe + SCU. Social hierarchy occurring between S.CU and TAFE students. Even 'in house' eg Ceramics students vs Diploma students (TAFE). Separate 'body' OUTSIDE of the actual physical institution to break down barriers. Breaking down barriers by addressing commonalities/shared experiences. A creative collective of students, irrespective of the institution they attend. S.C.U Arts Club as a starting point for a cross institutional collective. Student led support. Students helping students. "Leave you art ego at the door".

TOPIC

Renew Lismore Festival and ongoing process of utilising empty spaces

Topic Holder Name

Chris Lego

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Using empty spaces in town for creative uses
Liasing w/ Council to let us get on with it
Dedicated Council liaison person
Forum w landlords to encourage cheap/peppercorn rent for empty shop
Examples from Newcastle/Brixton
Cultural / financial benefits showcased
Artists making in windows in town
Help w insurance and WHS- make the process more nimble
Liase w Elly, Ben Roach from SCU and Saffin and Mayor
Umbrella insurance/in kind support ie closing roads.....broker in between artists and council such as Community Engagement Officer and Community Recovery officer

Action Point / Comment

Annual Flagship Festival 'Activate Lismore'
venues such as Red Rooster
The Peoples Collective
Roller rink
ideas: workshops
take ideas from the shipping container festival of Amsterdam and 'mini Woodford'
Zine fair
Artist Market
Kids element of festival- treasure hunt
Walkable/shuttle buses/bike trail
Pottery trail
comedy nights
Lionise convergence
Queer element
Screenprinted work artshow

Live bands nights
DJ workshops
NORPA element/showcase

taking ready made resources and events such as lanterns /pottery trail/artist market and bringing them into festival

Action Point / Comment

Rebrand Lismore
get locals to stay here

Action Point / Comment

Bring hundreds of people to town and showcase the region as a cultural and artistic hub which shows the financial and cultural benefits of sustaining and nurturing creative communities.

TOPIC

If These Rivers Could Talk

Topic Holder Name

Richmond Riverkeeper (Kristin and Ilka)

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Stories, voices of the river across the creeks and tributaries of the Richmond (perhaps all of Northern Rivers) - film, audio. Distributed, participatory. First Nations wisdom, children, schools, young people, Elders, community. Need to think about the long journey, creating time and space for the conversations. Community engagement/river awareness - artists can be powerful communicators of messages that may be lost in everyday noise. Moments for imagination. Collaborative. Listening to the river - the river is always talking, are we listening? Eco-acoustics. Deep connection to place. Catchment crosses many Countries within the Bundjalung Nation, all of these action points need to be culturally informed. Diversity community-wide.

Action Point / Comment

River Festival - across communities with site specific works, performative experience. Healing ourselves healing the river. Creating safe space, Immersive storytelling powerful, moving dance theatre. Moments for imagination. Ephemeral art. Link with Firewire - the river crossing project. Links with Lantern Parade and other events already happening in community, ideas for river projections. Collaborative, inclusive, accessible!.

Action Point / Comment

Art activism/interventions to acknowledge issues- eg burning coffins heading out to sea at Ballina, a monster poo sculpture to bring attention to the broken sewage treatment plant south of Lismore. River Trails - immersive on river adventures, canoeing, walking, meeting, connecting. Explore tensions, perspectives and conflict. Ephemeral art. Media publicity, provocative, attention seeking. Performative events eg coffins out to sea. Ritualistic performances - could also link back to River Festival.

Action Point / Comment

Creating opportunities for artists in place based policy making, connections between water, land – art science environment law and community development - so the creative knowledge is at the table.

Connections, building networks, again opportunities to explore, therapeutic, explore long-term, slower creative process.

TOPIC

How do we make sure that the voices of our young jarjums (children 0 to school age) is heard, both around the flood and flood recovery, and in the future in our cities and towns.

Topic Holder Name

Miriam O'Grady

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Approach/ support people who are already doing this:

- Byron Writers Festival have Story Board can be appropriate to this group
- Early Childhood (EC) services / families (Preschool/ daycare/ Home school families/ Toy Library) are working with children around the flood/ recovery. Some of these people may need support and up skilling or the expertise to support children unpack and capture ideas and thoughts.
- Artists in Residence in Early Childhood spaces would be ideal
- Explore ways we can build this into current events/ Festivals

Action Point / Comment

Look at simple new things that can be set up to honour the voice of young children;

- Have a designated city or town space where children's voices can be heard eg A wall at a gallery?

Themes can be designed so that the EC centres/ families can work towards and have displayed regularly.

- If we have a Community Creative Day - have a focused area for children voices through art, dance, song etc

Action Point / Comment

Families and Neighbourhoods can be supported to contribute to the voices of children being celebrated by:

- Looking at ways neighbourhoods and streets can come together to create with their children - creating a sense of place
- having resources and ideas that could be used by parents and neighbourhoods especially during covid/ flood recovery times - constructive play time together

- How do we get the importance of neighbourhoods back on the map NB A Neighbourhood Day submission led by artist leading the making, was put to Reconnecting NSW, Events Day and was unsuccessful)

Action Point / Comment

Contact and connect some key people and groups have or may be interested in projects that honour the voices of Young Children. Key links and people include:

- Research being done for SCU by Louise Phillips- Children and Citizenship - Community Practise.
- Northern Rivers Reggio Emilia Network - Shauna McIntyre
- Creative Recovery Network - have seeding money for children and recovery in regional areas
- Creative First Aid (Lismore based)
- Sara Daley Madera from Midjum Jarjums - Social Futures is running a story making book for families (related to the flood) via ZOOM. This could be rolled out to EC settings and other groups
- Judy Aitkenson would be a great person to have conversation with around this
- Lorenza also has carpeted children dance through film
- Frank (Tarras dad who works for Social Futures) runs the Imagery Festival

TOPIC

Self Sustainability & Mental Health Hacks 4 Artists

Topic Holder Name

Conducted by Sarah-Jane McGrath, Proposed by Ilona Harker, sharing by Jessie, Rin, Heath, Brett, Zac, Linsey, Tamara & Emma

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

productivity and distractions post study: give time to changes in yourself/ multimedia, networking & collaboration with a safe space on a regular basis/ get support with likeminded people/ play, make, create, adventure new ways/ the need for face to face and online interaction/ volunteer in the industry@ art forums, exhibitions, social media, pop-ups, galleries, events, informal eg creative First Aid Alliance formed post Lismore.

Action Point / Comment

To work out the external and look at your internal/meditate & support your thoughts with mindfulness/ motional speakers eg Brene Brown/ Get out of the house, walk fresh air, different space/ Journal your ideas/process of hanging out and creating together/ connect with other organisations/ AM: brain work and PM explore and research/ laying foundations 4 the future/ self care

Action Point / Comment

how do we seek help and what happens? - money, needs, Mental Health Plan, shame, friends, spirituality, healthy eating and drinking, hope, song, counselling, intuition, stigma, looking at the world/acceptance of the broken/get a mirror: 'I AM AMAZING' everyday/ look into the flame of candle/don't dis my ability/ego is not a dirty word/embrace our mental WELLBEING and change the language/GET THE LOVE

Action Point / Comment

BE YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF!!!!!!!

TOPIC

Emergence - Emerging Artist Run Exhibitions & Mentoring

Topic Holder Name

Amy Scott-Young

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Emerging Artist Run Exhibitions - staggered throughout the Northern Rivers

Action Point / Comment

Community Group offering regular Workshops targeted at emerging artists - opportunities to have work critiqued, learn/share techniques (continual up skilling), how to curate an exhibition, market conditions and how to price work, how to frame and photograph own work, luncheons with established artists as guest speakers, art/community groups with an emerging artist focus

Action Point / Comment

Facilitated Mentoring - emerging artist sponsorships, government funded apprenticeship/traineeships, opportunities for work experience, creating an accessible network that easily connects mentors with emerging artists

Action Point / Comment

Background: emerging artists are the next generation of arts professionals. And yet, research shows that almost half of the students studying Visual Arts move into non-arts industries after graduation.

There is evidence to suggest that the best way to keep graduating artists in the Creative Industries is to give them a definite goal to work towards after graduation. This goal must consider the fact that emerging artists lack the financial support necessary to make their work sustainable.

Emerging artist run exhibitions that provide a financial incentive as well as opportunities for mentoring and networking have been the most successful initiatives in keeping graduating students within the Creative Industries.

Other suggestions

- Emergence - to be an offshoot of a hub or larger collective
- Australian government funded emerging artist research

TOPIC

What are some creative ways for us to connect as artists/creatives, and with the broader community?

Topic Holder Name

Paul Walker

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Artist-to-Artist Connections:

Hold regular (monthly) multidisciplinary happenings, where dancers/performers, musicians/sound artists, drawers/visual artists, and digital media artists, and... can meet for an improvised jam session. Intention is not to produce work or create anything for public display out of these sessions directly (although after time these sessions could open up to audiences and become more performative), but rather, an opportunity for creatives working in different art forms to come together and foster cross-disciplinary collaborations through a shared process of improvised art making.

Hold regular (monthly) 'Performance Potluck' events where performing artists can share a snippet of their work (sharing something they're currently working on, something from their archive, the seed of an idea they want to try out etc). Again, this is not public facing, but rather, an informal testing ground where artists can share their work and develop it through performance, get feedback from other artists, foster collaborations etc.

An idea was to hold these events at 4 different locations/LGAs a month, with different people taking the lead for facilitating the happenings. Rin at Serpentine Gallery has offered the space for these events to start happening in Lismore and I am ready to get this started as soon as possible. Other suggestions within the region are Tintenbar Hall, Pearces Creek Hall and Ross Hill Hall.

Action Point / Comment

Artist-to-Community Connections:

*Hold a yearly public facing local artists festival / 'Carnival', including art market.

*Public Art projects that invite the community to participate in the arts in spaces such as gardens, disused lots, town centres etc

*Smaller, accessible group art projects.

*Roving/performing artists in the streets.

*Connect with business - showcase arts in their shops and be part of 're-opening' celebrations.

Action Point / Comment

Lismore Art in the Heart Program was mentioned. Said to have been running about 10-15 years ago, with council employing someone to run this. Possibly bringing a role like this back, although I'm not sure if this is now being covered through different roles at the gallery and quad..?

TOPIC

First Nations Representation In Widjabul Wiabul Rejuvenation

Topic Holder Name

Mitch and Amarina

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

COUNTRY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Lismore City Council - a % of every 2M nominated for rebuild goes towards public art, put a motion forward to include First Nation's installation in new buildings, expand current First Nation Advisory to include our arts.

Installations - sculptures, weaving, traditional plants, carvings, etc. as part of new infrastructure, temporary exhibitions in buildings (pre-demo or pre-rebuild), movable art sculptures to tour Bundjalung. Understanding council, real estate, and red-tape around condemned buildings and how we can utilise them for exhibitions. Engage with Re-New Australia.

Regional Art Gallery has pledged to rename to a traditional name. Finding small businesses and community spaces reopening post-flood who can rename.

Action Point / Comment

SUCCINT NETWORKS (mob-to-mob, arts-to-mob, mob-arts):

Communication Styles - Regular advisory chats and catch-ups for artist support, Art businesses to run a workshop post EOI release to show artists and support them in person to create an artist bio, application, and how to present artwork to a gallery or exhibition. Having Indigenous representation in each art space. Engaging with Indigenous people on projects to develop relationships in community. Better understanding of local protocols.

Workshops for business education - ANR has pledged professional development programs, and want to work with community to find what is needed for artists.

Online regional art development options - how do we find scholarships or accessibility for those without internet or with economic barriers.

Regional Art Gallery has pledged a senior art mentorship with bringing world-renowned artists into the region to mentor emerging artists. Up-skilling in current roles. Businesses understanding pricing to pay artists and artists understanding what they can ask for. Elevator Ari has pledged to stay in contact with future partnerships in professional development.

Longer exhibition notice - scheduling Indigenous exhibition into the yearly schedule, outside of NAIDOC, outside of the flavour of the month, Elevator Ari has pledged to support Indigenous art exhibitions, Roxy Gallery (Kyogle) pledged to advertise a six month EOI to include Indigenous exhibitions.

Workshops in Community - Paying each role not the project as a whole.

Action Point / Comment

CULTURAL SPACES:

Practice of Traditional Methods - lack of culturally spaces on Widjabul Wiabul. ANR has pledged to advocate for a business plan and new building spaces to be designated to a blak space. A space in Widjabul for Indigenous to be able to invite in and share with the community as a whole. Indigenify spaces. LAND BACK.

Studio Access - sliding scale for access, to see if Re-New Australia can support. LAND BACK.

Mainstream Spaces - representation on boards and in every business. Allowing advisory groups to meet up outside of boards to discuss cultural matters to return to the boards. Regional Art Gallery has pledged to rebuild an inclusive space.

Action Point / Comment

TELLING OUR STORIES (Topic by Ljudan - Ylm maker):

Filming our stories post flood to create archival stories. VR Experiences. Taking our story telling to a wider audience and to places that don't have access (prison, nursing homes etc.). Soundscapes of country. Understanding the time it takes to create stories from community.

Understanding that Indigenous art is our way of life through storytelling and culture.

Owning Intellectual Property - Mob telling our stories. Producers not governing the story of community. Representation in all aspects of production.

Truth Telling - Acknowledging that the trauma continues after the show is finished and that Indigenous people are not just content. On-site support and councillors to balance trauma with spaces that are safe.

Up-skilling projects - How to access resources and finances, sourcing youth to be a part of the project, offering traineeships or TAFE funding of cadetships.

TOPIC

How to start an artist-run-initiative (ARI) and why?

Topic Holder Name

Ashleigh Ralph and Betty Russ

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Why start an ARI?

- Great step for artists emerging in their career to exhibit and experiment with practice and how to run a space or business
 - Participating in an ARI is not limited in what you can do within the structure (for example you can curate a show, install it, be an exhibiting artist, an arts administrator, a fundraiser etc) and it is a great way to develop your skills in a non-hierarchical setting, to learn as you make mistakes - it is low risk with experimentation.
 - Starting an ARI helps to create your own opportunities and not rely on an institution or art gallery to present your work/give you work.
- ARI's are naturally a creative community of people
- An ARI can be flexible and nimble
 - ARI's can have a high turn over of exhibitions and projects unlike institutions and larger organisations

Action Point / Comment

What is the role of ARI's creative recovery?

- An artist-run-space is non-hierarchical and accessible, a welcoming and familiar place to bond and come together. This makes an ARI an essential space.

Action Point / Comment

How do we futureproof ARI spaces?

- ARI's are inherently ephemeral and can pop up under people's houses, in shop fronts, online, outside etc.
- Use funding for sustainable practice and operations.
- Pop up spaces and non-permanent spaces

- Ensure it is a group or collective of people to run the space to avoid fatigue and disenchantment, and spread the work, experience and opportunities around.
- Work with philanthropists, funding bodies and businesses to back the ARI but make sure they are more like silent partners as the more investors involved the more the ARI is shaped in a commercial direction. Partner with local business.

Can ARI's build resilience and solidify community?

- Creatives and artists and organisations are essential and naturally connect community before, during and after disasters.

Recommendations

- Funding needed specifically for ARI's to reinforce the educational and professional relevancies in the wider arts ecology at an individual, collective and sector level. ARI's need intergenerational interns who are interested in participating and helping with arts administration.
- Create a shared arts administrator to help multiple ARI's and small organisations with agreements and insurance etc.
- Share knowledge and develop informal mentorships - have a recurring networking session

How to set up an ARI

- Determine the type of organisation/business (unincorporated organisation with an ABN for small/micro business; business partnership with an ABN; co-operative; incorporated not-for-profit organisation registered as a charity with a Board so you can apply for more funding; incorporated business or social enterprise)
- Get public liability insurance
- Develop a risk management / contingency /mitigation plans for insurance if you can't get insurance (in a disaster zone, ie floods)
- Make your ARI indispensable to the arts like a multi-purpose space with artist studios, a photography dark room etc

Action Point / Comment

Research / look up:

- Bus Projects business model
 - Renew Australia (the middle player between artists and property owners to incubate short term use of spaces)
 - Cementa arts festival reinvigorate the town
 - NAVA for artists
 - 107 space
- Job Access

Quotes

"Why do today what you can do tomorrow" - Betty Russ, 2022

"Your RADO is your greatest resource" - Betty Russ, 2022

TOPIC

Community Led Creative Recovery Projects

Topic Holder Name

Elly Bird

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

IDEAS -

Conversations and training for artists about what community led creative recovery looks like. Training might enable projects.

An annual celebrate culture and environment day across the NR.

Art vs Science Festival as a model.

Mini Lantern Festivals in small communities.

Carve & Yarn workshops- carving spoons - with trauma informed conversations.

Renew Lismore Festival - Annual - Accessible.

Acting Workshops.

Painted pianos in public spaces.

Action Point / Comment

KEY POINTS -

Environment must be included.

Participatory processes

Arts skills as disaster skills.

Very important to fund artists and distribute funds - not keep with key orgs

Address isolation

How do we link practitioners into area of need e.g. Red Cross

Artists are a community

Seed Mullum sustainable environment

Elderly, youth and children

Action Point / Comment

Partnerships with recovery Orgs

Creative Recovery Network - Scotia details below

Red Cross

Resilient Lismore
Community Healing Hub
Seed
Resilient Byron
CWA
Neighbourhood Centres
Men's Sheds
Uniting
Koori Mail
Creative First Aid Alliance
Lismore City Council
Councils

Contacts –

elly@resilientlismore.org.au. 0418 639 927 - 117 Magellan St Lismore
jofranklin@live.com.au

Meg - Forum Theatre 0422 570 346 connect@umbrellatheatricalproductions.com.au

Scotia Monkivitch - Creative Recovery Network 0423 987 207

contact@creativerecovery.net.au

Joan - jakell@yahoo.com.au

Action Point / Comment

PROVOCATIONS & QUESTIONS

Large gatherings - Anonymous - General engagement - Resources

Smaller Events - Intimate - Targeted - Regular

What's the issue and how to use Art as an intervention - a shift for some arts practitioners

Project Underway

Forum Theatre - Community Play

1 week workshop - applicants - full participation community play

Train the trainer concept

TOPIC

Northern Rivers LGA 's together nominate an annual day or weekend for community-initiated celebrations of culture and country.

Topic Holder Name

Jules Mitchel

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

An environmental element of is of critical importance to arts initiatives now. For this concept the environmental concept is "country".

Action Point / Comment

This council mandated initiative would allow for maximum community participation in residents devising, designing and developing activities for grassroots community celebration. Allows for artist/residence collaborations.

Action Point / Comment

Having a specific date agreed by councils provides a focus for the many diverse projects being proposed by creative industries recovery forum for the annual calendar of events and projects.

Action Point / Comment

A simple low cost strategy that can provide creative access across ALL OF the Northern Rivers communities and all demographics to celebrate on one particular day.

TOPIC

Outreach

Topic Holder Name

Cate McQuillen

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Community ideas:

- Story capture + film making
- Docos, shortfalls, podcast
- Festivals - tour to small halls, online clips, Rotary? Support
- Attach a 'producer' to a community to identify/dream up a project
- Community driven + realised + shared
- Localised led recovery - participatory funding
- Need to research who is on the ground + use them first
- Culminate in an event/screening
- Roadshow convoy visiting halls / non-traditional spaces
 - forces change/works by councils
 - locally loved
 - feature an uber local act/artist

Action Point / Comment

Early childcare and aged care ideas:

- Dance workshops
- Story telling
- Nature Play - connect with nature days, and care
- Small halls - social dance, bush dance, rave, called dance
- Art workshops + film making workshop
- Big Mouth - social media hub - young people - TAFE

Action Point / Comment

General ideas:

- Music mobile repairs: van, 2 techs, donated gear. Visit musicians, fix/repair/donate, attach a repair cafe!

- Equipped 'art womb' for everyone to access quality tools, facilitate + free flowing gaming – funding needed
- Pop up stage: create together
- Conservation Volunteers Australia - want to support landowners
- Children + youth resilience fund up to 50k

- All Council we want heaps of \$\$\$ to do up the Priscilla Bus - fit it out as a dressing room
- 'Formally Yours' only for recovering areas
- 'Joy' second hand dresses + suits
- Film
- Netflix doco - big idea
- Hugo Weaving + Maude!

Action Point / Comment

Event ideas:

- Running mini buses to events
- Small gigs!
- Add to existing community events + super charge
- Build on themes + events e.g. Spring
- Mud Army + groups transform to gig volunteers + document their stories

TOPIC

What opportunities exist for local government to integrate art and environment programs

Topic Holder Name

G Broug

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

All arts proposals for Council support should require some environmental consideration.

Action Point / Comment

Sustainability is part of most Council aims and goals. Sustainability should be an element of arts proposals and approvals.

Action Point / Comment

An arts component could enhance some Council operations. e.g. Custom made signage to enhance conventional signage e.g. Dog effigies to bring attention to Dogs in public places protocols.

Action Point / Comment

Artist designed and made sculptures and installations to designate and highlight places of cultural or environmental importance, to bring attention to need for care, respect and adherence to council regulations.

TOPIC

Youth Arts and healing: how can we best support our young people through the Arts at this time

Topic Holder Name

Janelle, Erica, Lisa,

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

collaborative communication network providing a platform where groups/organisations/individuals, artists & therapists can seek & find support, collaboration and connection: this could start with a ½ Day Youth Arts & services sharing with practitioners, organisations, companies including local theatre, dance, music, art, radio, music & headspace, social futures, Red Cross, PCYC, Office of Youth, Regional Arts NSW.

Action Point / Comment

Youth Councils reinstated in each Council in the region. Youth Development Officers reinstated. Mentorship and training in governance and leadership. Youth Council putting forward a proposal of how they see their function and capacity. Legislative Theatre experience for YP (contact Byron Youth Theatre)

Action Point / Comment

Survey young people in the region: what do they NEED immediately, in 6 months, in a year in 5 years.
What do they want? What are their hopes and dreams for future

Action Point / Comment

Actual SPACE for young people to meet and engage in arts projects. While the rebuild is taking place where can YP go? How can we support them getting to and from events and activities if the SPACE is outside of their immediately locality.

TOPIC

How can the creatives Industries, public art and performance interventions heal our local culture through community engagement?

Topic Holder Name

Justine Poplin

Date

Thursday 28 July

Action Point / Comment

Public Art - what artforms? Artists in shopfronts, artist studios, salons, skill share, workshops, ARI models for practice/process and commenece. Self-guided tours an app. Commence through Education SCU mentorships, TAFE and schools.

Action Point / Comment

Research and strategy - Penelope to research shopfronts to investigate viable available shopfronts that are will and available to house artisans for free. Target 10 initially and circle out from there.

Action Point / Comment

Performance Interventions - Choir. Dance. Flash Mobs. Happenings. The River. Trucks with performers onboard travelling through the streets. Picnics and parades. National Artists - Projects to look into Rubber Duckie on the River. A collaborative project with Patricia Piccinini where Local Lismore Artist in a small team of 2 - 4 create a prototype of an inflatable for her to make for Lismore QUAD. Vacant lots in Lismore could be used with artist Shaun Gladwell's Burnout,

Action Point / Comment

performance interventions that involve video/multidisciplinary practitioners
A video event - SHINE - bring it back?
Large text projection projects from poems to lyrics for choirs - Jenny Holzer style.
Empty House project - back project from the inside out so that passers-by can see these abandoned empty houses as sources of narrative - choose a street; such as Magellan St.

Adult play therapy. Artists that use immersive and interactive works such as Hiromi, local choirs such as Zlsabella Acapella.
Utilise spaces such as the Roller Skating Rink and Skateboard park with groups like Branch Nebula working with local artists..

TOPIC

Should the recovering funds for the arts be allocated for Infrastructure or directly to the existing art community groups

Topic Holder Name

Paula M Cordeiro, Suzan Fell, Berry Hill, Penelope Siena, Ami Scott Young

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Forum;
to address all the topics brought up from this event, and any new funding related to calamities and disaster recovery .

Action Point / Comment

The most important element is not new ideas but money to fund the. Artists and creative practitioners do not need ideas, they need clear transparent access to sustainable funding. Arts organisations such as Arts Northern rivers and NORPA who receive funding need to be able to offer the Northern Rivers arts community, community support to participate and access peak funding bodies such as the Create NSW Peer Assessment Panel to make sure the arts funding process is transparent and that the money is made available to all artists rather than just "those in the know"

Action Point / Comment

Community Halls to become Hubs during calamity, floods, and other environment issues;

Local Councils to continue to maintain the buildings and provide financing insurance;

these community hubs shall secure jobs for program coordinators, in alliance with the existing groups such as Arts Northern Rivers.

Action Point / Comment

Each artist group, music, dance, visual and digital arts groups to share space, (swap) Hubs as needed, to become responsible for bringing up projects that will thematically be supportive of the environment.

Projects to be inclusive of regional outreach unpopulated communities.

Shift focus from AUDIENCE BASED ORIENTED FUNDING DECISION MAKING to promoting creative responses to calamities and disaster recovery

TOPIC

The relevance of place in our recovery

Topic Holder Name

Kelly Reiffer

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Where are we?

- We should begin by acknowledging the different regions and land types represented across the Northern Rivers - flood affected low lying areas & landslide/ access affected highlands.

Action Point / Comment

Relevance of place in our creative response

- Acknowledging the "reputational" impact of the river/ waterways and inability for some flood affected residents to go back to - speaks to our disconnect from land
- Acknowledge that we have collectively responded to telling people first (before land) but this can be done together - when you heal land, you heal people)
- Dadirri - deep listening
- LISTEN TO PLACE - all comes back to listening (with ears and eyes)
- "GOOD HEART FEELING" <> What you see, hear and feel, Place inside + reciprocity with place.
- Acknowledge symbols, feelings etc in response to place- Acknowledge ancestors of place - individual process
- Layers + potentiality revealed through destruction to add another lens
- Fluidity of place
- Potential arrogance of word 'place-maker'
- Different layers of understanding of place; Awareness of existing First Nations' stories for every place; our impositions are layered on top of these
- How do we regenerate land no longer being used?
- Art can provide the platform/ window but not necessarily the uniform view

Action Point / Comment

Tie in's with other discussions today

- Links with Richmond River project which questioned 'What if river had a voice?' vs The river already did have a voice and it spoke during the floods, Role of artists is to listen + help people hear
- Links with discussion on Time

Reference material

- Miriam Rose piece on Dadirri
- Northern Rivers Community Healing Hub use this Dadirri (Carly Atkinson)
- 'Gifts across space + time' - Nardi Simpson (speaks to openness and less fixed expectations)
- Another project reference sharing and collecting sounds from a place that maybe others can't access
- AELA's rights of nature projects

TOPIC

Art and Disaster Recovery/Disaster Capitalism

Topic Holder Name

sally newham

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

What is ethical arts practice in disaster recovery?

* Genuinely community-led projects - what does that look like? examples were given from post-fire creative projects in small communities like Tabulam, Ewingar, Bonalbo, Woolloowehya etc. Projects devised and defined and provided by the people for the people. *Ethical practice = gatekeepers/money keepers (local councils, service organisations etc) prioritising and empowering/resourcing these local-people-centred projects. Not bringing in artists or organisations from outside (unless that is clearly requested)

*Valuing and empowering peer-to-peer responses and emotional supports as much as or more than those provided by official mental health and service orgs recognising the distrust many communities have of big organisations like Red Cross etc.

*Communities having input into 'outcomes' definitions - who decides what is an effective outcome/impact and how this is measured is an ethical practice question in itself.

*Requires deeper conversations in community about what recovery is or looks like. coming to shared understandings (including differences). Is recovery true healing or is it a Band-Aid or an escape? What does true healing look like? Art can be a way in itself of having these conversations.

*Sharing funds fairly and equitably between all levels and hierarchies of the arts community. *Funding should be made accessible to people who are not grants-savvy or big self-promoters - it can be an added trauma to be forced to sell yourself when you are already in deep trauma/shock

Action Point / Comment

Art as Activism, Art as Solidarity Action

*Arts activities that go beyond the Band-Aid level. And even beyond the disaster preparedness/resilience/adaptation level.

* Angry art. defiant art.

*Art that challenges state- sanctioned 'recovery' ideas ... recovery implies a return to normal but Art can ask what IS normal? Do we want to return to a normal that is destroying our communities and landscapes? And what kind of 'new normal' do we want? Art and culture as a way for communities and individuals to voice our desires for real change and our visions of a better normal, or something far beyond 'normal'?!

*Are artist's energies being co-opted by the status quo when we provide Band-Aid /comfort/escape recovery responses?

*Do we need to be braver as artists? can we use our anger, frustration, cynicism, grief, trauma to fuel creative work AND activism?

*Art can be both provocative and empowering and recognising these as a vital aspects of recovery

*Different individuals and groups/organisations do activism in different ways. Some more directly confrontational or disruptive and some less so (strategically). validity of diversity of actions/modes. importance of building solidarity between these differences

* Disaster capitalism - profiting off our pain. Art can and should identify, challenge, satirise, call-out this added trauma-creator/ further wave of disaster.

*What role can the arts play in protecting us from disaster capitalism/parasitism? how do we not become part of the problem ourselves??

*Recognition of the BIGGER Disaster that our disaster/s sit within. There are art forms and artists that are DYING. Eg. Musicians due to Covid and bigger socio economic forces - digital age, domination of commodity /disposable/ extractive culture. Just as threatened species are facing extinction, so are our cultural expressions.

Action Point / Comment

Disaster as a Leveller,

*At least temporarily, disaster seems to have removed some of the hierarchies of the art world, more access to resources for all levels - grassroots up. Elites being 'forced' to interact and collaborate with grassroots.

*art can celebrate and validate this experience of levelling and equality - telling the stories of how we saved ourselves, how we were all homeless, how we tasted solidarity with those who were already homeless and displaced, including other species who are losing their lives and habitats.

*Art can (should?) celebrate the aliveness we felt in disaster, the connectedness we had in saving ourselves and surviving together, the openness and meeting we shared, the ending of isolation that happened through these shared experiences

*Climate change/chaos not a leveller in all ways though - climate injustice is a thing, Art can talk about this, culturally- validating and honouring the experiences of those who are suffering unjustly. climate refugees. the already poor.

*how do we maintain the levelling experience as we move out of immediate disaster? How do we not re-stratify? can art play a role in this work? how can/does art build/nourish community and solidarity?

*Art saves lives when shared between equals, as equals, breaking down divisions

Action Point / Comment

Grief and loss and solidarity through art

* Disaster takes your past and your future

*Grief and anger can isolate us into our individual experiences but with courage and skill art/culture (this includes spiritual practices) can be a way that we meet in our grief and anger and find and make solidarity

*Art and culture as a living practice happening right here and now - not just as some product for sale or passive consumption. Art and life as inseparable. Life AS art. Disaster AS art. Survival AS art. Art and culture as a way that we validate and redeem our experiences. TOGETHER and alone. culture as CENTRAL to a life worth being alive for, not just entertainment or luxury but essential.

* Affirming our responsibility and duty to each other in community. Essential-ness of artists and arts workers working in solidarity with community and land - working with, not for. *nothing about us without us - core principle

*Vital importance of Knowing and living the difference between solidarity model and charity model.

TOPIC

CREATING SPACE FOR DANCE MAKERS AKA "LET'S TALK ABOUT DANCE"

Topic Holder Name

Philip Channells

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

TOPICS PEOPLE WANTED TO TALK ABOUT

- Accessibility & Diversity
- First Nations voices

- Dance Capital
- Broad Background
- Festivals
- Disabled dancers
- Did you know.... there is NO Arts and Cultural Policy at Lismore City Council?
- Dance Film (about bodies and buildings) Filmmaker: Karenza Ebejer
- Dance History... what's worked, what are the challenges
- We feel like we (dancer's in this region) work in single silos

WE NEED SPACE

- to conduct regular classes
- share practice
- create new work

*Apollo Hall \$30 / hr or \$50 / day? (It has mirrors) Contact: Ken Wakeman or Lucy?

DANCE FILM FESTIVAL - REELDANCE

OUR LOCAL HISTORY

(Sue Whiteman: unofficial Northern Rivers dance historian - has an archive she would like to donate -

Suggestion to Sue: consider making contact with Ausdance National to contribute to their archives held at the National Library).

- NORART/S - community dance project.
- Dance Now (1990's) - did a show at The Pass, Byron Bay

- Birdwing Youth
 - SnugglePuss
 - The Con
 - NAISDA 4th year students (Sue Whiteman)
- Vision (professional dance company from the 1980's/based in Byron Bay). Several Artistic Directors including Ginny Bradley & Janice Clayton.

OPPORTUNITY

- Document our local dance community

OUR DANCE COMMUNITY

- We have a high per captor dance community in the Northern Rivers region (disconnected).

Action Point / Comment

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- No formal dance accreditation in NSW
- How do we attract people back to the region? In their own way / own time
- Make it relevant
- TAFE accreditation (Inclusive Practice - Ausdance NSW)
- Artists with Highly Skilled Training in the region

Q: Where do they go?

Q: Why do they go?

ACTION:

The community needs to reconnect, create a vision, build an audience

Examples: FLOW (Mitch King) 300pax, ERA (Kimberley McIntyre) 375pax
Both NORPA presentations*

Action Point / Comment

SPACES

- Interdisciplinary, multiple galleries, alleys, site specific works, shop fronts, arcades
- Create new works with live musicians
- Shine Festival - good partnership opportunity
- Natural, park lands - site specific with promenading audiences (e.g. AYDF model), with food carts and WC's

FOR SALE

Alstonville Dance Studio - see Sue Whiteman

The Northern Rivers is so broad - Grafton - Tweed, Byron - Kyogle

Travel is an issue, expensive and non-inclusive

ACTION

- Create allocated spaces (portable hubs) in each location
- Create moveable venues - bubbles. We want new venues that we can save in extreme weather events
- Create a company with a building, associated with a school or theatre
- Activate little halls (e.g. The Corner Dance Lab 2013-2015, Federal)

Examples:

Horror Walks (Lismore) - covid proof, good model, small durational works e.g. 4 X 10min

Dark MOFO reference (shop front windows)

WE NEED PRODUCERS

- Identify who has these skills, who wants to produce
- Emerging Producers Mentorship (chat with Jane Fuller)

Action Point / Comment

WHAT DO WE WANT NOW?

- Dance Register (who's here, what are their skills, knowledge & interests)
- Network database - create the Northern Rivers Dance Exchange

DANCE FESTIVAL

Content suggestions:

- First Nations (planning, design, facilitation and programming)
- Culturally diverse
- Inclusive dance (access and inclusion)
- Intergenerational
- Community engagement (outreach, workshop program)
- Dance Film
- Forum
- Local collaborations*

TOPIC

What are sustainable alternatives to government funding?

Topic Holder Name

Paul Walker

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Reimagine what's possible!

*Fee structures to meet different client situations - sliding scale (considering audiences/participants who have been affected by the flood). Volunteer-ism as a currency - give & receive

*Private funding options - seed funding, crowd funding, philanthropy/donations, loan schemes, commissions, investments

*Sponsorship/partnership models with business - local and national (with branches in Lismore ie Telstra, Bunnings etc)

*Who has the money?! Connect with corporations with social responsibility and mutual benefit, those who have made more money due to floods ie Bunnings, Individuals looking for arts as a commodity.

*Running a business AND being an artist.

*Identify space/infrastructure vacancy and apply to use to generate works for income and sustainability.

*Diversify income streams eg. workshops, education programs, tuition for 1:1, team building events.

*New buildings/refurbishments providing commissioned works.

*Any option to become NFP & donations be taxable.

*Marketing and market research - how to expand customer base and 'champions'.

*Working online to broaden exposure, opportunities, flexible delivery.

Action Point / Comment

NEED:

*Facilitated sessions focused on self-directed funding streams and financial sustainability for artists to attend so they can create ideas for themselves and as a collective.

*Possibly connect with Creative+ Business for this.

TOPIC

More local galleries and Art markets

Topic Holder Name

Dylan Bolt

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Funding to help setup local galleries

Action Point / Comment

Art markets more often to give Artist the opportunity to sell their work more frequently.

TOPIC

Access to the Arts and Creative Recovery

How do we ensure Deaf/Disabled people have access to spaces, funding and a strong voice?

Topic Holder Name

This session was attended by members of the Sprung!! Ensemble and Deaf community as well a small number of other non-disabled practitioners.

Date

Friday 29 July

Action Point / Comment

Questions and comments:

How can we communicate our access needs to broader audiences and spaces?

What is creative recovery from floods, fire, natural disasters, climate change etc?

How do these events affect us as Deaf/Disabled artists and audiences?

- Diminished/inequitable access to information
- Disrupted natural support systems and connections
- Increased incidence of isolation
- Impacts are severely amplified for Disabled/Deaf people

How can creativity and arts help recovery?

- Storytelling to unpack what is lacking and what is needed
- Future proofing, need to explore accessibility best practises
- safeguarding, maintaining and building new connections
- opportunity to lead best practice inclusion initiatives.

Action Point / Comment

Stories/discussion:

- First response phase. People with disabilities were not offered opportunities to help community, making people feel helpless or powerless.
- News and emergency information was not always accessible. Disabled people are left uninformed and it is dangerous during the disaster, as well as a shock when people discover later what has happened.
- Need to explore new or best practise ways to engage people with disabilities to support their communities, utilising different skills for different jobs.
- Alice and Max spoke about their experience washing up for Flock cafe

- How can Disabled and Deaf people get a seat at the table when decisions are made about recovery response?

Action Point / Comment

- Arts Northern Rivers implement Disability Access Officer role
- Advocacy for embedded accessibility into emergency services information and news
- Sprung!! News - Disability led news channel
- SES - recruit for Disabled and Deaf members or consultants
- Fully accessible places to gather, meet and share stories/creative healing
- Clear communication and promotion of activities and what access is available
- Share information in Plain English format