



2022/23

ANNUAL REPORT



Lilli. Clown Town. Denmark Youth Theatre. Brave New Works 29. 2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Denmark Arts Council acknowledges the Noongar Nations of Bibbulmen (Pibleman) and Menang (Merningar) and recognise that they have a history of thousands of years of custodianship and culture and spiritual connection to the country on which we live and work. We pay our respects to their elders past and present and value their ancient belief systems.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Denmark Arts Council receives core funding support from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, through the Royalties for Regions funded Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program and Regional Arts WA and annual funding support from the Shire of Denmark.

In 2021/2022 Denmark Arts received project funding from;

- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- The Australian Government, via the Regional Arts Fund, Regional Arts Australia and Regional Arts WA
- Lotterywest
- Healthway Act Belong Commit
- Tourism WA
- The Shire of Denmark



COMMUNITY & SECTOR SUPPORT

Denmark Arts would like to acknowledge the following organisations and small businesses who provided in-kind or financial support for programs and services, or who partnered with us on the delivery of programs.

- South Regional TAFE
- Southern Forest Arts
- Butter Factory Studios
- Denmark Chamber of Commerce
- Denmark Community Resource Centre
- Denmark FM
- Denmark Art Club
- Denmark Environment Centre
- Writing WA
- Southern Edge Arts
- Denmark Youth Theatre
- St Leonards Church
- Greenskills
- Denmark Bulletin
- Artisan Brewing
- Rockcliffe
- Hyperstage
- The Shire of Denmark
- Denmark Community Foundation
- Denmark Bakery



Paul Llewellyn, Raymond Ashton, Aunty Jack, Sister Whimsy, Punters. Brave New Works 29. Denmark Arts. Image: Nic Duncan.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Despite the need to approach event planning in a somewhat more fiscally responsible manner, 2022-23 has truly been a bumper year for events and activities ... the team at Denmark Arts has reinvigorated the Arts' House as a place of energy and creativity.

We began this financial year with great relief and renewed energy. The world emerged from the dark months and years of Covid-19, and the arts once again was permitted to flourish.

From July 1 2022 to June 30 2023 our staff team consisted of:

Amber Launay – General Manager
Nelson Gilmour – Projects
Ruby Hughes – Ops / Programs
Angela Brown – Administration

Each of these wonderfully talented people has a passion for the arts and this has been reflected in their commitment and enthusiasm for their roles within the organisation. We thank them for their dedication and creative spark that so imbues Denmark Arts.

In addition to our team Denmark Arts employs a range of community members who bring their valuable skills to many of our events. We thank all the creatives, techs and consultants for their contributions.

Amber Launay's Contribution

We have had a year of stability and development as an organisation. Amber Launay's appointment as GM in May 2022, provided the leadership we required to overhaul our administrative systems and review our strategic direction. Amber's wealth of experience in arts management at both community organisation level, and at a state level was invaluable to Denmark Arts. She provided us with a 3 year strategic plan which allowed for 2 possible outcomes dependent on funding. Unfortunately, we were not successful in achieving the Arts Organisations Investment Program funding from the DLGSC, which would have allowed us to independently manage the organisation for the next 3 years. Sadly, the need to be more conservative or small scale in our planning and direction resulted in Amber choosing to resign in order to allow for this.

After a very busy year of creative management and leadership, Amber tendered her resignation effective from June 30 2023. We are indebted to her for her imagination and productivity in the face of ever narrowing funding options. We wish her well in her career and personal plans.

A Bumper Year!

Despite the need to approach event planning in a somewhat more fiscally responsible manner, 2022-23 has truly been a bumper year for events and activities. Apart from the larger annual events, Denmark Festival of Voice and Brave New Works (superbly curated by Nelson Gilmour) the team at Denmark Arts has reinvigorated the ArtsHouse as a place of energy and creativity. On any day a visitor would discover some activity taking place, from the weavers weekly sessions, to the School of Rock holiday programs. Of the 72 events which took place in the past year, the







vast majority occurred at the ArtsHouse. The space is once again a place for community and it now thrums with a vibrancy and activity.

In addition to these regular events, an Artist in Residency Pilot Program with Jeff Phillips (in a partnership with Greenskills) soft-launched DAIR. We look forward to at least 4 residencies per year which provide both visiting artists and our community to benefit creatively.

Volunteer Program

Amber’s ambitious plan to raise membership fees for those who could afford it, has been a great success and we are very appreciative. Even more importantly, the alternative membership option – 7 hours per year in lieu of payment – has revitalised Denmark Arts and its volunteer program. Members have offered their time and skills across a range of activities and necessary jobs. We are immensely grateful to each and every one of the volunteers and their efforts in the past year. The regular ‘members’ social’ nights have been a really enjoyable addition to the Denmark Arts’ calendar.

We would like to acknowledge the loss of 2 of our highly respected and appreciated volunteers, Fergus McManus and Heather Williams during this past year. Their presence will be sadly missed.

A Year of Collaboration

Denmark Arts highly values collaboration with other community organisations. In reviewing the various events over the past year it is striking how many were the result of successful community collaboration. The combined Christmas Arts Market/Parade is a great example of a collaborative effort with the CRC.

A Fun Year!

I can honestly say as Chair of Denmark Arts’ Board, and as an active volunteer at events, it has been an exciting, creative and, yes, a FUN year! This has been achieved through cooperation between the team, the volunteers

“I can honestly say as Chair of Denmark Arts’ Board, and as an active volunteer at events, it has been an exciting, creative and, yes, a FUN year! This has been achieved through cooperation between the team, the volunteers and the participants in events.”

and the participants in events. Overall, events ran smoothly, resulting in a positive, vibrant and enjoyable experience for all involved.

We look forward to another year of collaboration, exciting event planning and creativity for all.

Finally I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board – Vice Chair Mary Ellen Cliff, Treasurer Duncan Munro, Secretary Barb Helsby, Board Members Brad McDougall and Paul Moncrieff.

I am proud of the way we have worked together so successfully throughout the year. A big thank you to two outgoing members – former Chair and long-time Board Member Rosemary Ingham, and Don Anderson, who contributed so much creatively and practically.

**Louise Cato,
Chair
October 2023**

Left clockwise
from top: Nicola
Eddington in Birth
Story, Dir. Myla
Rose.

Angela, Lena and
Wendy at The
Shameless Hollywood
Sundowner.

Amber Launay.

Images: Nic Duncan.

Dave Nile and
trainees in Tech
Training.

Image: Unknown.

PROGRAMS



Top: Laura at the Zine making Workshop.

Kobi Morrison leads Moort and Community in The Big Sing rehearsals. Denmark Festival of Voice 2023.



Images: Gaia Boranga.



Denmark Festival of Voice is a festival that focuses on the beauty and power of the human voice through song and story. This year the Noongar led and held elements of story, truth-telling and sharing of language were particularly strong and ultimately built the vibe of the festival from choirs and music to community and culture.

The festival was returned to the traditional June long weekend after last year's 4 weekend trial. The program built on the 'writer's voice' component in lieu of not continuing the Kwoorabup Writers Festival in 2022.

In response to feedback from last year, the festival program was smaller and focused on quality rather than quantity to avoid too many clashes. We also expanded the offering of workshop opportunities so that people could learn new skills and engage rather than passively consume material.

There were 56 acts, 170 artists, roughly 616 paying attendees (excluding free community events where 474 people attended) 74 volunteers and a total engagement of roughly

2005 people. There were 5 venues in close proximity. The festival provided a base for training community members in MCing, technical production and event management.

The opening and closing ceremonies, 2 dedicated Noongar led and held spaces, The Big Sing in Noongar language, **Karlak-abiny** and the Act Belong Commit free youth stage for young performers were highlights for a majority of the attendees.

There were 54 responses to our post-event survey. Of these, 26.9% said this was their first time attending the Denmark Festival of Voice, and an increase in the percentage of Great Southern

residents attending – building on last year’s increase. Perhaps higher Great Southern attendance is a trend post-Covid or can be attributed to other factors such as 76% of the acts being from the Great Southern, complemented by some big names from outside the region.

Crucially, 98% of respondents said the festival increased their sense of belonging and connection to the Denmark Community. This is an increase that is unprecedented in the festival’s 20 year history. Feedback indicates this was due to more workshop and participation opportunities (which was programmed following feedback from last year where 75% of respondents said they wanted more participation to grow their capacity) and was instrumental in ensuring attendees felt their creativity or inspiration to be creative had increased, especially with skills **learned and shared**.

A second factor was a renewed focus on ensuring the festival was **co-led by Noongar mob** and focused on language and story, not just music. This meant a highlight of the festival was the opening and closing ceremonies and The Big Sing, sung in Noongar language and taught to more than 60 participants. Feedback indicates the **generosity** of Della Rae Morrison, Kobi Morrison and Moort in **sharing their language** and songs contributed greatly to ‘**genuine connection**’ and creativity.

Throughout the festival, anecdotal feedback from artists and punters was that there was a nicer vibe this year compared to last year (due to 1 weekend rather than 4) and that spontaneous collaborations were happening between musicians, both local and non-local. The festival hub became a hotbed of sharing and engaging with cross-genre musicians.

Improvement feedback was from artists offering ideas for tech elements and timing. These

Below: The Opening Ceremony at Karlak-abiny. Denmark Festival of Voice 2023.

Image: Gaia Boranga.



concerns have been addressed technically for next year with an integrated tech rider generator added to the EOI form.

The Festival of Voice is the significant opportunity for local artswokers, musicians, tech operators, designers and event staff.

Following last year’s recalibration of the sustainability, the festival in 2023 had a reduced budget for artist fees and technical elements, but we focused on quality not quantity to make a robust, fair paying festival.

The festival continues to be a shining light for the local visitor economy in winter when tourist numbers would otherwise be low. Although many punters this year were from the Great Southern region, there was a noticeable influx from outside Denmark.

Engagement Summary

There were **74** volunteers plus board members.

Most volunteers contributed 6 hours of time equating to **444** hours across the festival.

There were a total of **170** Artists involved across **56** works and events.

Total number of community participants in works or events: **90**

Total number of audience members who purchased tickets: **616**

Total number of audience members who attended free events: **474*** (approx)

Total reach of festival: **2005** (approx)

*Excludes paying audience members who also attended.

BRAVE NEW WORKS

Brave New Works is a multi-artform community arts festival that provides a platform for all artists, new, emerging and established, to test out brave new ideas and works.

Brave New Works encourages experimentation in a supportive environment while building community connections through arts projects and experiences.

Brave New Works ran 18–22 January 2023 with 37 works and events scheduled across a 4 day program as well as workshops and rehearsals occurring in October–December. The events included music showcases, art installations, workshops, community arts projects, theatre, performance, film and dance.

Presenters had the option of ticketing their work with proceeds going directly to them sans a 20% box office taking to Denmark Arts; offer a free event or take only ‘reasonable donations’ which were exempt from the 20% ArtsHouse cut.

Analysis of the feedback demonstrates that the self-imposed measures of success in the Brave New Works Community Engagement Plan were not only met, but exceeded. Brave New Works delivered an activation of the Artshouse and an increase in new people or

people who had not been in a while. There was an increase in youth and family programs and attendance. Further, for both locals and visitors there is now increased social interaction and connections in the community.

Engagement Summary

There were **35** volunteers plus board members.

Most volunteers contributed **4** hours of time equating to **140** hours across the festival plus **3** volunteers (and **15** hours) for the Peaceful Bay Mission.

There were a total of **179** Artists involved across **37** works and events.

Total number of community participants in works or events: **90**

Total number of audience members who purchased tickets: **357**

Total number of audience members who attended free events: **2691*** (approx)

Total reach of festival: **3050*** (approx)

*Audience in free events includes foot traffic through Artshouse (FTA) of 175 approx per day – more on weekends, less on weekdays– and repeat attendance factor of approx 25%

BOUNCE BACK

Bounce Back was a four day school holiday workshop and creative development program for young people aged between 10 and 17 and involved over 20 participating artists and crew who collaborated together to facilitate skills and create a short performance for the general public on the final day.

The project was the springboard for the formation of the **Denmark Circus Collective** and will lead to the development and implementation of further youth

focused creative programs, workshops and performances.

The project focussed on the theme of resilience and the Act Belong Commit message for positive mental health was actively communicated throughout the program.

Overall the project was a resounding success. So was The Denmark Bullethole.

DENMARK ARTS ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Amber Launay (General Manager) planned, developed and launched the **Denmark Arts Artist In Residence Program**. **DAIR** commences in July 2023 (next financial year).

The Denmark Arts Artist In Residence Program supports up to four visiting artists per year to undertake a residency at the Denmark ArtsHouse for up to approximately 6 weeks.

YOUTH

With a strategic need for family and youth programming, Denmark Arts increased youth and school holiday programs over the later half of the financial year. Support for Denmark Art Club addresses after-school Art activities.

Ruby Hughes (Programs) established a Youth Advisory Council and has worked tirelessly to ensure that youth had the opportunity to lead the ArtsHouse space and events.

Act Belong Commit and Healthway funding were vital to the success of the youth components of our program. Equally crucial has been recognising the importance

of Denmark Art Club and Denmark Circus Collective.

School of Rock with Rusty, Adam, Mark and Willow has been a demonstrable success story as a school holiday program for youth.

ARTISAN MARKETS

Denmark Arts partnered with Denmark Community Resource Centre for Christmas 2022. The CRC produced the parade and major event logistics whilst Denmark Arts delivered the Twilight Artisan Markets and assisted with the Live Music Stage. It was a holy night.



Jazztrix Quintet: Lady Day A Tribute to Billie Holiday



Denmark Circus Collective's Bounce Back. Image: Nic Duncan. Note:: Ruby Hughes (Ops / Programs) in the stripes, far right.



OPERATIONAL



Denmark Arts adopted a new 3 year strategic plan in 2022 titled **We Find Us in The Space Between**.

The plan supported Denmark Art's pivot towards being more community responsive and highlights how crucial arts spaces are for creating intersectional spaces of collaboration, connection and harmony.

The Five main objectives of We Find Us in The Space Between are:

- 1. Activate the ArtsHouse**
- 2. Operate sustainably**
- 3. Harness Denmark's creative spirit**
- 4. Embrace the broader community**
- 5. Collaborate for community outcomes**

Broadly, Denmark Arts has met or exceeded these objectives, and is developing programs that will ensure we are on track over the next financial year.

The ArtsHouse is used as a regular meeting and workshop space for many different groups and projects, in addition to being a highly rated **Live Music and Gig** venue.

Activating the ArtsHouse and using the building innovatively as a vibrant creative hub has demonstrated that it is a vital and well used community asset. See page 14 for an overview of activities at the ArtsHouse.

Behind the scenes, we face ongoing maintenance issues with the gutters, concrete carpark and general age of the building. We will prevail.

Over the financial year of this report, Denmark Arts adopted a new policies and procedures compendium, overhauled our website and digital assets, changed systems and confronted tired programming legacies head-on.

Denmark Arts is proud of what we have accomplished over the recent years, building on a solid history, and acknowledging the massive shoulders of all of those who have come before us.

Over the next year we will continue to work collaboratively with our neighbours in the precinct (Community Garden, Denmark FM and the CRC), adapt to changing demographics, serve our creative community, inject whimsy into Denmark, and lead bravely in the Western Australian arts sector.

Left clockwise from top: Della rae Morrison, Kobi Morrison, Moort and Community in The Big Sing in Noongar language. Denmark Fesrtival of Voice 2023.

Image: Gaia Boranga.

Lena Grayson w/ Kate Bush, Kate Bush, Kate Bush and Kate Bush in Kate's Whimsical Wuthering Bush. Brave New Works 29.

Jackson Brown and Wren. Brave New Works 29. Denmark Arts.

Images: Nic Duncan.

ACTIVATING THE ARTSHOUSE*

CATCH MUSIC . WEEKLY SESSIONS
ACTING MASTERCLASSES W. BILL MCCLUSKEY
DENMARK WEAVERS
WEAVING GROUP
TOBY OR NOT TO BE
A STORY AND A SONG
JAZAZA GYPSY JAZZ TRIO
MARIANNA GREENHAM IN CONCERT
FUNK THE SYSTEM
BRILLIANT BACHARACH: DAVID RASTRICK AND JAZZTRIX
FAIRY QUEEN PLANNING DAY
BOUNCE BACK
KIDS ARTSPACE . HOLIDAYS
DENMARK FM 1ST BIRTHDAY PARTY
THE WAYWARD EARLS
LIGHTING DESIGN TRAINING W. STAFF AND BOARD
SOUND . LIGHTING DESIGN TRAINING . TAFE
ANNETTE CARMICHAEL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TRAINING . BNW29
MAKERS FILM FESTIVAL
PRIVATE MEMBERS EVENT X3
OUTCOME UNKNOWN W. EDUARDO, MATT, CAMPBELL, ANNE, LENA
SUNSET SERIES W. ADAM GROK
CHRISTMAS PARADE AND TWILIGHT MARKETS
SATIRICAL WRITING . BNW29
WITCHY DJIPSIES
MC TRAINING W. GERTRUDE WELLEASE
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TRAINING 2
BRAVE NEW WORKS 29 2023
SCHOOL OF ROCK
SINGING GROUP
SINGING W. RUSTY
TANIA RANSOM AND WILL THOMAS CONCERT
FORMIDABLE VEGETABLE MICROBIOME ALBUM LAUNCH
DRUMMING W. TUARRI
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE W. JEFF PHILLIPS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GREENSKILLS
MONTHLY MEMBERS SOCIAL X5
LADY DAY A TRIBUTE TO BILLIE HOLIDAY
THE 6 TRIPLE 3
PAPERCOLLAR PICKERS
SHAKE
YOUTH WORKSHOP . HIP.HOP, POETRY . SONGWRITTING W. JACKSON BROWN
YOUTH WORKSHOP . DANCE W. JORDINE RAINE
YOUTH WORKSHOP . POTTERY (SECONDARY)
YOUTH WORKSHOP . POTTERY (PRIMARY)
YOUTH WORKSHOP . CREATIVE WRITING W. SILVIA LEHMANN . ANGELA BROWN
YOUTH WORKSHOP . WEARABLE ART W. TESSA MONCRIEFF
YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
RASTATRIX . BOB MARLEY AND THE WAILERS TRIBUTE
MC TRAINING 2.0 W. LIZ JACK
SCREEN PRINTING . T.SHIRTS
FESTIVAL OF VOICE 20, 2023
MY MONEY MATTERS . SOUTHERN EDGE ARTS W. VERITY BYTH
FIGHTING GIANTS FILM SCREENING
EXP: A TRIBUTE TO THE ROLLING STONES

*Doesn't include repeats of weekly/ongoing activities.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*For the year ending
30 June 2023*

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS & OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	2023	2022
INCOME		
Earned Income	\$79,153	\$95,673
Grant Income	\$262,213	\$364,214
Other Income	\$5,994	\$3,489
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries, Wages & Fees	\$186,403	\$235,821
Artist & Elder Fees	\$68,147	\$80,554
Programs & Production	\$61,602	\$98,283
Marketing & Promotion	\$11,847	\$22,205
Venue & Office Costs	\$44,839	\$55,831
Operating result		
Surplus/(Loss)	(\$25,478)	(\$29,318)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	2023	2022
EQUITY		
Accumulated Surplus		
Balance as at the beginning of period	\$137,991	\$167,309
Prior Period Adjustment-Deferred Income	\$0	\$0
Net result for the period	(\$34,142)	(\$29,318)
Balance as at the end of period	\$103,849	\$137,991
TOTAL EQUITY	\$103,849	\$137,991

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2023	2022
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash on Hand	\$282	\$282
Cash at Bank	\$129,118	\$250,272
Accounts Receivable	\$3,810	\$335
	\$133,210	\$250,889
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Plant & Equipment	\$8,289	\$6,888
Furniture & Equipment	\$16,930	\$19,122
	\$25,219	\$26,010
TOTAL ASSETS	\$158,429	\$276,899
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade Creditors	\$21,464	\$60,606
Deferred Income	\$0	\$45,450
Other Accounts Payable	\$19,604	\$29,372
Provision for Employee Entitlements	\$12,484	\$3,480
	\$53,552	\$138,908
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provision for Employee Entitlements	\$1,028	\$0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$54,580	\$138,908
NET ASSETS	\$103,849	\$137,991
Represented by:		
EQUITY		
Accumulated Surplus	\$103,849	\$137,991
Asset Revaluation Reserve	\$0	\$0
TOTAL EQUITY	\$103,849	\$137,991

DENMARK ARTS BOARD

Louise Cato - Chairperson
Mary-Ellen Cliff - Vice Chairperson
Don Anderson - Secretary
Rosemary Ingham - Treasurer
Paul Moncrieff
Brad McDougall

Denmark Shire Council representative:
Councillor Donald Clarke

BOARD MEMBERS FAREWELLED

Don Anderson
Rosemary Ingham
Dina Tabcart

DENMARK ARTS TEAM

Nelson Gilmour – EO / Projects
Ruby Hughes – Operations
Angela Brown – Administration
Brittany Norton – Finance Officer
Tara Devoy – Housekeeping

DENMARK ARTS TEAM MEMBERS FAREWELLED

Amber Launay
Dina Tabcart
Kerry Leahy
Matt Eastwell
Kira Schimmelpfennig

MEMBERSHIP

2022/2023 FY Members – 131

Sofie Lines . DFoV 2018 Coordinator and Patron Member .
Brave-New Works 29. Denmark Arts. 2023. Image: Nic Duncan.