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31 January 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter in support of Arts Project Australia.

The proposed programs have great potential to develop and deliver an original and thorough curatorial and professional development initiatives that will help elevate and professionalise Arts Project's 2019, 2020 and 2021 curatorial program. Of particular note is Arts Project's objective to place their artists alongside their contemporary Australian peers. There are very few organisations that can do this and at this scale: Arts Project has the foresight and capability to make these projects happen and to do it well.

I am very excited to see that Arts Project Australia plans to continue and extend their **External Curator Program**, which recently saw Dr Rebecca Coates, Director at Shepparton Art Museum and Patrice Sharkey, former Director at West Space invited to participate. The curators Arts Project engage with are highly regarded and have great industry connections, which helps to broaden Arts Project's networks and build their sector profile. Arts Project's latest initiative, a biennial **External Artist As Curator** exhibition launched in 2018 with Rhys Lee, complimented this program and opened up another space in their programming to introduce dynamic curatorial projects and which deserves future support.

It is also great to see that over the next two years Arts Project plans to link and support their studio artists with Victorian, national and international **Artist Residency Programs**. I am also aware they plan to start a paid residency program for external artists to spend time in their Northcote studio – a great initiative to broaden learning, professional development and awareness of their artists in the sector. Taking this one step further, is their commitment to support and present artists and their work in **External Venues** – we know how much work and support initiatives such as this requires, especially in the case of Arts Project whose artists need a great deal more support, which requires a much greater staffing and financial commitment to be made.

I have been aware of Arts Project Australia and their artists for many years and have watched their reputation—both here and abroad—go from strength-to-strength in recent years. Some of the reasons for this is the strength of the work, the clear and unwavering vision that they have about representing their artists, as well as their ability to generate strong networks and partnerships. I was at the opening of Arts Project artist Terry Williams' solo exhibition that Ricky Swallow curated at White Columns in New York in 2015, which was an incredible sell-out show. Recently I approached Arts Project to feature one of their artists Chris Mason in my co-curated exhibition *THE PUBLIC BODY .02* at Artspace in Sydney.

It was fabulous to see Arts Project recently at Spring1883, where they shared a penthouse space at The Establishment with Dutton Gallery from New York. The hotel space was carefully considered and curated, and Dutton's artists sat seamlessly alongside the artist's work from Arts Project. Following Spring1883, I was in Melbourne with my Artspace team, and we visited the Arts Project studio and gallery in Northcote. It highlighted for me the invested and long-term concern the organisation has for supporting its artist's and their careers. Arts Project plays such a vital role in developing, maintaining, and elevating their artist's profiles.

The programs proposed by Arts Project will provide invaluable opportunities for their artists as well as a significant number of other Victorian artists: not to mention the professional development opportunities for the curators and staff involved in each project.

It's with great pleasure that I support Arts Project Australia. I know they will deliver the programs with great enthusiasm and professionalism, which they will develop in partnership with the invited artists, curators, and organisations across Australia.

Yours Sincerely,

Alexie Glass-Kantor
Executive Director, Artspace

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28 January 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter in support of Arts Project Australia.

These internal and external curated and professional development projects will be key initiatives over the next two years and are conceived to achieve specific goals for Art Project and its artists: to generate an innovative and rigorous curatorial, residency and external studio program that places Arts Project artists alongside their contemporary peers, broadening their connections with the contemporary arts sector. Arts Projects programs are highly successful, and through their multitude of meaningful partnerships with individuals and institutions, they generate new avenues for artists to advance and enrich their individual practice.

They will generate opportunities for artists by developing three main initiatives by: engaging external artists and curators; linking artists with residency programs; and sourcing new spaces for artists to work and exhibit in. These ambitious enterprises will allow Arts Project Australia artists to deeply engage with their practice, expand research scope, facilitate networking in the arts sector. Creative Victoria funding will allow Arts Project Australia to fund this as a pilot program that will be supported by collaborations and partnerships, which Arts Project Australia has a very good track record in fostering.

After receiving an invitation from Arts Project in 2017 to curate an exhibition, I developed *Let's Dance*, which featured a diverse selection of painting, sculpture and video works that spoke to dance's enduring manifestations as something symbolic, physical, social and emotional. The exhibition featured the work of Arts Project artists Peter Ben, Valerio Ciccone, Boris Cipusev, Alan Constable, Leo Cussen, Patrick Francis, Brigid Hanrahan, Paul Hodges and Daniel Pace, alongside the work of guest artists including Angela Brennan, Cate Consandine, Sarah Contos, nova Milne and Tony Schwensen.

Over several months I worked with the Arts Project staff and artists and established an intimate knowledge of the way that Arts Project supports its 144+ Victorian artists through their studio and gallery. They continually strive to create new and engaging opportunities for their artists to connect with curators and the broader arts sector. I have great respect for the work they do and loved my time working with the artists and staff throughout my curatorial endeavour.

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Arts Project Australia continually support, promote and advocate for their emerging, mid-career and established artists and, as a result, they have become respected leaders in the disability and contemporary art industries. I think it's extraordinary how consistently they meaningfully collaborate and partner with leading curators, artists and arts organizations, and they do it successfully and professionally. The three proposed initiatives beginning 2019 through to June 2021 will provide invaluable professional development opportunities for artists and staff and will assist with the cross-pollination of artists from all walks of life.

It's with great pleasure that I support Arts Project Australia's Creative Victoria Application, which I believe will provide invaluable to Arts Project Australia in its objective to be a leading organisation whose work breaks down barriers, provides positive models and increasingly resonates with audiences across Australia.

Yours sincerely,



Charlotte Day
Director - Monash University Museum of Art

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Museum of Art

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1 February 2019

Re: Letter of Support for Arts Project Australia

To Whom it May Concern

I am a Melbourne-based, multi-disciplinary artist and Associate Professor in visual arts at the Australian Catholic University (ACU). My practice responds to issues that affect the community and strives to raise awareness about these concerns. In my role as an artist and art educator I have an ongoing commitment to socially-engaged practice and have initiated projects in my role at ACU that involve creating opportunities for students and culturally diverse, local, ethnic groups to be involved in creative workshops and exhibitions at the ACU gallery.

I have an ongoing relationship with Arts Project and bring third year Bachelor of Visual Arts and Design students for a Professional Practice and Community Internship excursion each year to demonstrate the benchmark for leadership in community arts and cultural development. The students are so impressed with this organisation they have selected to undertake internships and volunteer experience placements there. Arts Project is a vibrant hub of creation, innovation and social inclusion. It has an aura that envelops everyone that visits; you can't help but be inspired and want to return.

My involvement in APA's portrait exchange with studio artist, Cathy Staughton in 2010 was so incredibly positive that I agreed to take part in a yearlong collaboration with Cathy as part of an Arts Project exhibition called *Knowing me Knowing you*. Since then, Cathy and I have undertaken an artist residency at Norma Redpath Studio in Melbourne, with the work developed presented in Sydney in 2018 at First Draft Gallery and Cathy Staughton's portrait of me, from the residency, made it into the 2018 Salon des Refusés at S.H Irvin Gallery. Creative initiatives like this provide an example of an art-based, reciprocal learning relationship and forefronts Arts Project's pioneering vision for promoting art as a vehicle to generate an understanding and awareness of different cultural communities through shared experience.

Investment in Arts Project will ensure that these opportunities are expanded on and fostered, and that more artists get to actively participate in meaningful, sustained, creative dialogues, cultural exchange, artistic development and community partnerships.

Yours Sincerely,



Associate Professor Catherine Bell

Visual Art Lecturer, School of Arts

ACU Gallery Director, St Patrick's Campus, Melbourne

Faculty of Education and Arts, Australian Catholic University

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Dear Sue

We wanted to write to express our sincere congratulations to you on being a finalist in the first Telstra Business Awards - Victorian Charity Category 2016.

We understand the effort that all charities put in to deliver on our missions and the significant amount of time that has gone in over many years – often against the odds and relying on good will. The extra mile that you have to go and special relationships and personalised focus that you depend on is unique and often much harder than any other business sector!

We really enjoyed being made aware of and inspired by the important work that you do. Given both our organisations have been acknowledged as outstanding businesses, we hope there will be future opportunities for our paths to cross.

We are supportive of your success in the future.

Warmest wishes

Miriam and Nicky

Miriam Dexter, CEO Snowdome

Nicky Long, CEO MRV

making hope real

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#FightLikeMaddie

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Re: Letter of Support for Arts Project Australia

In the late eighties while studying painting at VCA I was fortunate enough to get a part time job as an artswoker at Arts Project Australia. The direct and raw approach to be making was a refreshing contrast to the emphasis on theory at art schools at this time and offered an alternative which has continued to influence my practice. My association with Arts Project evolved over a 30 year period and in 2010, I had the privilege of curating '*Portrait Exchange*' which aimed to introduce new artists into the Arts Project community.

Arts Project has come a long way from the shop front it inhabited twenty years ago, yet the organisation has consistently delivered programs for those who might be unable to access studios, materials and mentors themselves. Meanwhile the contribution to the broader art world continues to develop as new audiences are engaged with a diverse and interesting exhibition program, and Curated shows challenge our preconceptions of what art can be. The possibilities of extending the boundaries of art making was brought home to me during *Portrait Exchange* where studio artists were paired with artists from outside the organisation. There was consistent enthusiasm for the originality and authenticity of the work produced in the studio that reminded me of my own response to Arts Project some 30 years before. Similarly the artists within the organisation were exposed to new ideas and ways of making work- and because of the willingness of Arts Project to engage with the community many of these partnerships have continued beyond the exhibition date.

Arts Project occupies an important space in the contemporary art scene in Melbourne. It contributes to our diversity and breadth of practice and provides opportunities for artists to think differently about their own work. The organisation consistently reaches out to the broader community and these partnerships are always mutually rewarding. I am grateful to Arts Project who has created many opportunities for me to be involved with the project and through my role as an independent curator over many years I have been able to think deeply about disability and art making, and its importance to the development of an inclusive and innovative art scene in Melbourne.

Lindy Judge
3 Yarra Grove
Hawthorn VIC 3122

2 November 2019

My experience working as an external curator at APA was incredibly valuable and memorable, I was given the support I needed, from financial support for the research and writing of an essay, to install help, media assistance, the opening was taken care of, and the studio staff helped me every step of the way to ensure that the artwork was produced and documented in time for the show. Of all the external/independent projects I have worked on, this was by far the best experience.

Arts Project Australia has created exciting possibilities for me (as a curator), and the artists that I have established connections, to collaborate with artists, and to forge meaningful relationships and networks.

APA has been able to provide a space where we can explore ideas, forge new connections with artists through collaborations, and present projects in a professional and artistic environment.

The work they do is forward-thinking, evolving and life-changing. Not only for artists with disabilities but for the wider community of artists in Australia.

Arts Project Australia has a unique ability to connect high-caliber practitioners, emerging artists, museum staff, independent galleries, including commercial and non-profit spaces, with new and established art audiences.

I'm in awe of the work they do!

Louise Klerks

Independent Curator

Co-Founder/Gallery Director of Chapter House Lane (2011-2018)

Founder/Gallery Director of Missing Persons (2017-ongoing)