
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**Memorandum of Understanding between Regional Arts Victoria and the
Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres (VAPAC)**

OCTOBER 2014

PARTIES	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Regional Arts Victoria of Level 3, 370 Little Bourke Street Melbourne VIC 30002. The Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres (VAPAC) of 79 Bryces Lane Newham VIC 3442
PURPOSE	This MOU formalises the long-term strategic partnership between Regional Arts Victoria and VAPAC. The key elements of the partnership are the collaborative presentation of the three annual industry events: the Victorian Touring Workshop, Showcase Victoria; and the Victorian Touring Forum, as well as ongoing advocacy and professional exchange between the two organisations.
REVIEW BY	OCTOBER 2015
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1. Definitions and Interpretation

The following definitions apply unless the context requires otherwise.

Agreement means this Memorandum of Understanding between Regional Arts Victoria and VAPAC signed on 29 October 2014.

Confidential Information means any information which is designated by either party as confidential, and includes any commercial or financial information and any cultural or anthropological or archaeological information. Confidential information does not include:

- a) information which is in the public domain;
- b) information which a party can prove was lawfully in its possession at the time it was first received from the disclosing party; or
- c) information if and to the extent that a party is required to disclose that information by law or any applicable regulation

Touring Committee means the subcommittee of the Regional Arts Victoria Board which includes external members from VAPAC.

2. Statement of shared purpose

Regional Arts Victoria and the Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres are committed to maintaining a strategic, collaborative, long-term relationship for the benefit of arts across the state.

This Agreement sets out the framework and major areas of focus within which the relationship will be conducted. This Agreement does not create a legal partnership between Regional Arts Victoria and VAPAC, and neither party to this Agreement will be liable for the actions of the other.

Regional Arts Victoria and VAPAC will:

- Work together to advocate for strengthening the performing arts sector to improve opportunities for the presentation of performing arts and the cultural development and engagement of Victorian communities;
- Utilise their networks and appropriate communications to advocate for one another where appropriate, and to publicise collaborative events;
- Acknowledge each other with equal billing on appropriate marketing, communications and web-based information relating to the work of this MOU;
- Participate actively in the business, communications and meetings of the Touring Committee;
- Recognise the Touring Committee as the advisory body of our Industry Collaborations;
- Jointly deliver three Industry Collaboration events annually – Victorian Touring Workshop, Showcase Victoria, and the Victorian Touring Forum, contributing equally to their administration and costs as determined annually by negotiation;
- Invite key office-bearers of one another's organisations to attend and participate in committee and planning meetings where appropriate.

3. Partnership context

Regional Arts Victoria and VAPAC work in partnership to provide better community cultural engagement for our constituents through facilitating performing arts touring of quality productions, building closer relationships with producers and offering opportunities to create linkages with other key players in the sector.

3.1. About VAPAC

Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres (VAPAC) is a membership based organisation of professionally managed venues in Victoria and Tasmania which strives to build the capacity and professional standards of industry through professional development events and key stakeholder relationships.

VAPAC's objectives are:

- Fostering community cultural development and audience engagement by facilitating a network of Performing Arts Centres across Victoria;
- Providing leadership, developing collaboration and maintaining best practice in programming, presentation and production.

VAPAC envisages a state where:

- Participation in the arts is an important part of everyday life;
- People of all cultures, abilities and backgrounds can interact and affirm themselves through the arts;
- All people have the opportunity to experience live performances;

- Artists (professional and community) create and perform work that is innovative and leads in the development and exchange of ideas;
- There is a sustainable network of cultural facilities to connect artists (community, emerging and professional) and their audiences;
- Cultural facilities are well designed, well managed, risk responsive, appropriately resourced and sustainable;
- Cultural facilities provide a hub around which broader community cultural development activity can centre and which serve the needs of communities close-by, as well as those who may be more remote;
- Public and private sectors support the creation, production and presentation of performing arts.

3.2. About Regional Arts Victoria

Regional Arts Victoria inspires art across the state. Through creative facilitation, touring, education, specialised resources, artistic projects and advocacy, we develop and sustain creative communities and artistic practice all over Victoria. Regional Arts Victoria is an independent, not-for-profit, membership-based organisation working in long-term partnerships with every level of government, fostering contemporary and innovative regional cultural practice across five decades.

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES	CREATIVE PLACES	CREATIVE CATALYSTS
Regional Arts Victoria stimulates and connects our state's communities of practice.	Regional Arts Victoria champions the places where art is made, experienced and discussed.	Regional Arts Victoria fosters current and next generation creative capacity and practice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members and membership services • Resources, workshops and events • Networks and Strategic partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing Arts Touring • Education & Families • State-wide projects including <i>Home is where the hall is, Eco-Cubby and Small Town Transformations</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy and leadership • Creative Leadership Program • Creative Arts Facilitators • Access and diversity • Devolved grants programs

3.3. Partnership history

For over 50 years Regional Arts Victoria has played a leading role in the development and delivery of touring professional performing arts in Victoria. Since its establishment in 1980, VAPAC has been working with Regional Arts Victoria on both strategic and operational aspects of the development and delivery of performing arts touring. Both organisations are committed to strengthening and deepening this relationship for the benefit of the entire state.

Between 2006 and 2012, Regional Arts Victoria and VAPAC participated in the Touring Consultative Committee (TCC), whose establishment was a condition of Regional Arts Victoria's funding relationship with Arts Victoria. The TCC was a broadly representative group, convened to ensure industry engagement and guidance for Regional Arts Victoria's performing arts touring services to both Regional Arts Victoria members and non-members. Its role included providing oversight of this service delivery and ensuring continuous and appropriate supply of touring productions into the circuit for all Victorian presenters. The TCC also provided guidance to Regional Arts Victoria's Performing Arts Touring Program and made recommendations to the Regional Arts Victoria Board.

In 2013, the TCC was no longer required by Arts Victoria, and a newly focused Touring Committee was re-formed as a subcommittee of the Regional Arts Victoria. It adopted a new Terms of Reference, further formalising the relationship between Regional Arts Victoria and VAPAC. In the context of rapidly changing state and national performing arts touring issues and priorities, the continued success of the partnership puts VAPAC and Regional Arts Victoria in a solid position to build on our strengths via this MOU.

4. Industry Collaborations

4.1. Victorian Touring Workshop

The role of the Victorian Touring Workshop is to provide support and inspiration to all Victorian performing arts practitioners looking at touring pathways and opportunities in the forthcoming year. The Workshop is hosted by Regional Arts Victoria and VAPAC. Its Steering Committee includes representation from each organisation. The event is held in the second half of the year (usually around November) and well outside of grant application deadlines.

Specific roles and responsibilities are outlined in the 2014 Terms of Reference.

4.2. Showcase Victoria

Showcase Victoria is the annual event which gathers together presenters, producers and performing artists to discuss and sample the latest works in a wide variety of performing arts genres with a view to developing future tours. VAPAC's Executive Officer and Regional Arts Victoria's Manager of Performing Arts Touring make up the Showcase Victoria Executive, which jointly manages the Showcase Victoria submission and selection process and the event itself. The event is held in the first half of the year (usually around May) and well ahead of grant application deadlines.

Specific roles and responsibilities:

VAPAC will

- Manage the relationship with the Showcase Victoria venue;
- Manage the Showcase Victoria budget and registration process and be responsible for all production, catering and other costs associated with the event;
- Contribute equally to the administration and costs of running Showcase Victoria.

Regional Arts Victoria will

- Manage the Showcase Victoria production submission process;
- Provide staff for Showcase Event management and technical delivery;
- Contribute equally to the administration and costs of running Showcase Victoria.

4.3. Victorian Touring Forum

Managed by Regional Arts Victoria and The Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres and overseen by the Touring Committee, the annual Victorian Touring Forum is a consultative forum that allows sharing and discussion between all sectors of the performing arts ecosystem. The forum also informs Touring Committee's/Regional Arts Victoria's Touring Department's key strategic priority for that year.

The Victorian Touring Forum is held during Showcase Victoria.

5. Terms and termination

5.1 This agreement will commence on the date on which it is signed by both parties and will remain current for three (3) years from the date of signing.

5.2 Prior to termination and at least annually, this agreement will be reviewed to ensure its continuing relevance.

- 5.3 Within 12 months of the expiry of this agreement it will be reviewed with a view to determining whether a further agreement will be entered into after the expiry of this agreement.
- 5.4 Either party can terminate this Agreement by providing seven (7) days written notice to the other party.
- 5.5 During the course of this agreement consideration will be given to amending this agreement to incorporate others to the agreement or to developing additional agreements or other instruments as appropriate.
- 5.6 On termination of this Agreement all materials and publications promoting the relationship between Regional Arts Victoria and VAPAC will be withdrawn immediately at no additional cost to either party.

6. Disputes

6.1 If a dispute regarding any matter under this Agreement arises, the parties will meet and discuss the matter and endeavour to resolve the dispute by direct negotiation using their best endeavours and acting in a spirit of cooperation.

7. Other provisions

- 7.1 Neither party will use the other's name, logo or trademark without prior written consent.
- 7.2 Neither party will be liable to the other for any costs unless previously agreed, nor expected to deliver any services that may or may not incur costs for either party that are not agreed to in this Agreement or in writing in advance.

EXECUTED AS AN AGREEMENT

SIGNED for and on behalf of the Victorian
Association of Performing Arts Centres

SIGNED for and on behalf of
Regional Arts Victoria



JENNY RYSSENBEEK
Executive Officer, VAPAC
Date: 28.10.2014



ESTHER ANATOLITIS
Director, Regional Arts Victoria
Date: 28.10.2014