VAPAC Member Meeting #73 & Professional Development Conference

Tuesday 19h & Wednesday 20th March 2024

The Round (397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading, VIC, 3131)

Tuesday, March 19th

9.00am	Coffee and tea on arrival
9.30am	Welcome to Country
9.40am	Introduction to the Venue - Shayne Price, Manager of Arts and Cultural Services, City of Whitehorse
9.50am	Member meeting commences

VAPAC Member Meeting #73 Agenda

1. **Welcome and introduce new members**
2. **General business**
    - Chair's Update – Tammy Ryan, Frankston Arts Centre
    - Executive Director's Update – Patrick McCarthy, VAPAC
3. **Subnetwork Updates**
    - Box Office and Marketing Network Update
    - Technical Managers Network Update
4. **VAPAC Equity Action Plan**
5. **PAC Australia Update**
6. **VAPAC Mentorship Program**

End of formal member meeting.

This event is proudly supported by

10:40am **Morning Tea**

11.00am **Professional development conference commences**

The Future of Programming

This gathering will be focussed on the future of programming, understanding current trends and emerging challenges. With increasing costs to touring, the emergence of slow touring, and a greater focus on equity and inclusion within programming practices, venue managers and programmers need to ensure their practices and policies are evolving and adapting. Over the next two days we will hear from sector leaders on ways of strategising and collaborating that will shape our venues for years to come.

11.00am **Public Space - Contested Place: The Promise and the Perils of Public Space Programming with Matt Jones**

What are the markers of a successful public space? How are public spaces programmed and activated in ways to encourage visitation and ongoing community loyalty - and what happens when it all goes wrong? Matt Jones will share a potted history of his two decades managing and consulting on a variety of iconic and distinctive public environments. From both operational and strategic perspectives, Matt will share examples of what has worked, what has not, and why our public spaces remain such a compelling opportunity for community-building.

11.50am **New Spaces, New Visions**

With a number of new venues opening across Victoria, we will hear from managers and programmers about how they are activating these incredible new performance spaces to meet the current and future needs of their audience.

- Joel McGuinness - CEO and Creative Director, Geelong Arts Centre
- Josh Sanders - Programming Team Leader, The Round
- Virginia Lovett - Director of Performing Arts, University of Melbourne Arts and Culture
- Malcolm Russell - Arts Culture & Heritage Coordinator, Berninneit
- Tammy Ryan - Manager Arts and Culture, Frankston Arts Centre (Panel Chair)

12:50pm **Sponsor: Industry Partner Presentation – Jands**

1.00pm **Lunch**

1.45pm **Panel: The Evolution of Inclusive Programming**

How do we ensure that our programming processes are meeting the needs of our communities, and providing safe spaces for artists? A conversation between organisations that have been leading the way in breaking down barriers and building new audiences.

- Görkem Acaroğlu - Training Consultant, Diversity Arts Australia
- Jodee Mundy OAM - Creative Lead for Alter State, Arts Centre Melbourne
- Lauren Mullings - CEO & Creative Director, Multicultural Arts Victoria
- Tamara Jungwirth - Director & CEO, Gasworks Arts Park (Panel Chair)

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2.30pm **Where to for touring?**

Touring is a tricky one, a complex system that has long been subject to debate, reviews, proposals, and challenges. Considering the rising costs of touring, capacity for tour coordination, and the emergence of slow touring, this panel discussion will delve into the need for change and adaptation in touring structures, methods, and funding to find a road forward.

- Bec Bennell - Team Leader, The Cube Wodonga
- Bindi Green - Touring Manager, Regional Arts Victoria
- Nic Clark - Director, Nicholas Clark Management
- Rob Gerbert - Director, Rob Gerbert Arts Consultancy (Panel Chair)

3.20pm **Industry Partner Presentation – Theatre Safe Australia**

3.30pm **Afternoon tea**

3.50pm **Breakout Discussions: Bold Ideas for the Future**

What do we want programming to look like in five years time? How will we shape what's on our stages, collaborating and investing in new projects? During this session attendees will hear a series of bold ideas on the future of programming, opening up discussion in the room and generating more new thinking. We invite you to submit your bold idea for inclusion HERE.

5.00pm **Venue tour (optional)**

6.00pm **Drinks & dinner at The Round.**

Dinner and drinks are covered in the cost of your registration.

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Wednesday, March 20th

09.30am **Welcome back, coffee and tea on arrival**

09.35am **Panel: Let's Get Together: The Future of Festivals**

Festivals provide an impetus for communities to gather and collectively experience a diverse range of work. How does a festival context inform programming decisions, and how can this approach intersect with the year-round programming of venues? A conversation featuring some of our industry's leading festival programmers.

- Jeff Khan - Creative Director, Asia TOPA
- Danny Delahunty - Head of Programming / Deputy Creative Director, Melbourne Fringe Festival
- Edwina Lunn - Executive Producer, RISING
- Patrick McCarthy - Executive Director, VAPAC (Panel Chair)

10.30am **Morning Tea**

10.50am **The Relationship is the Project with Jade Lillie**

Jade Lillie is invited to share her thoughts on what contemporary community-engaged practice is for venues and arts centres in Australia. She asks how we can consider communities and audiences as stakeholders in programming and operations while sharing practical suggestions on relevancy, self-determination and agency. Her new book, The Relationship is the Project, created in collaboration with over 40 Australian practitioners, will also be available at the event. Jade's presentation will be followed by a Q&A with Daniel Santangeli, Artistic Director & CO-CEO of Footscray Community Arts.

11:35am **Panel: Programming with and for children and young people**

The variety of work available for children and young people is rapidly expanding, with an emphasis on agency and interactivity. How are venues in the VAPAC network approaching this area of their programming, and what can we expect in the years to come?

- Ruth Oakley - Senior Producer, Monash University Performing Arts Centres (Panel Chair)
- Marcia Ferguson - Producer, Abbotsford Convent
- Nadja Kostich - Artistic Director & CEO, St Martins Youth Arts Centre

12.35pm **Final discussions and the meeting closed.**