



ORANA
arts inc

**2022
YEAR IN
REVIEW**

ORANA ARTS INC.

CREATING EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR REGIONAL ARTISTS AND CULTURAL
ORGANISATIONS ACROSS NSW.

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We'd like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the unceded lands upon which we work, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.



FROM THE CHAIR DIANE MCARTHUR

Artists have played a significant role in our society, providing historical context, promoting expression and creativity, evoking healthy and thoughtful cultural discussion, and translating experiences across space and time. In short, art helps us survive and thrive.

The past few years have been challenging for everyone, particularly regional artists and cultural organisations. During the COVID pandemic, we saw the closure of art spaces, galleries, theatres and museums, significantly affecting the lives of regional artists. Not only were regional artists isolated physically and socially, but their ability to earn a living was also greatly affected, and, in many cases, their income ceased.

But this is a good news story. Over the past year, we have seen a significant positive shift in the regional arts and cultural sector, and life appears to be returning to a new normal. Invitations to exhibition openings and cultural events are arriving regularly, offering opportunities to get out, network, socialise, and experience art and performance firsthand.

As you read this annual report, you'll note that there has been a substantial **increase in opportunities offered to regionally-based artists** of all ages, stages and genres over the year in the form of grants, residencies and professional development, exponential **growth in Studio Co!Lab memberships**, and **increased traffic to our website** from across our digital platforms, as we maintain an active and targeted audience for our communications.

Additionally, and perhaps our most significant announcement is that **Orana Arts has been granted \$507,107 in addition to its core funding of \$217,000**. We have some exciting philanthropic opportunities coming in 2023, and we will be promoting our **Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status**.

None of this could have occurred without the dedication, commitment and unrelenting passion for the arts, shown by our team. Over 10 years, our **Executive Director Alicia Rodriguez Leggett**, has raised the profile of regional creatives across Central West NSW and Regional NSW, nationally, and more recently, internationally.

Manager of Partnerships and Engagement for Orana Arts, Andrew Glassop has also worked tirelessly to grow stakeholder investments to ensure that regional artists are provided with professional development opportunities, are valued and seen as agents of change, and are given the opportunity to challenge expectations.

Alicia and Andrew are supported by a team that brings much-needed skills to our small but very effective regional arts organisation. **Amanda Donohue, Georgie Saunders** and contractors **Kim V. Goldsmith, and Camilla Ward** make up the team that gets everything done. And special mention to our dedicated bookkeeper **Greg Vaughan** for his attention to all things financial. Finally, to our Board of Directors, who provide much-needed advice and support throughout the year—thank you.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALICIA LEGGETT

We are staying true to our mission when we transitioned from a service organisation to strategic and project based program, that celebrates the creatives in the regions, as well addressing the gaps in opportunities and growth in the sector.

The team closed the year with news of our successful application with the **Stronger Country Communities Fund**, supporting the cultural infrastructure for the **Maliyan Cultural Centre** in Wellington NSW. Cementing the path for our partnership and collaboration with **Wellington Local Aboriginal Land Council** that began with discussions in 2020.

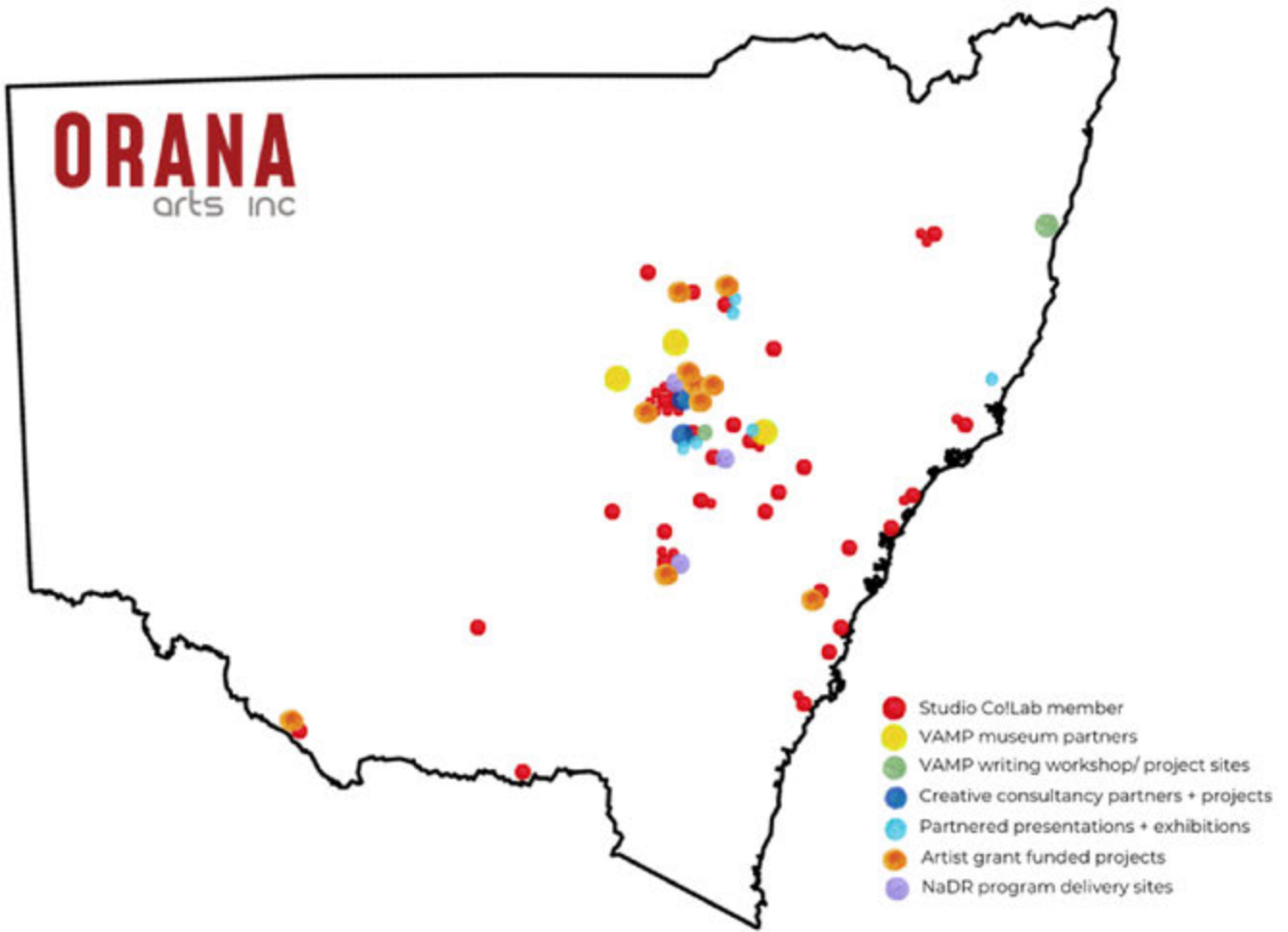


In 2022, we continued supporting the writing sector with the launch of the **inScribe project Centres and Peripheries** book of short stories, as well as beginning a new project—**enCounter**, immersing writers in volunteer run museums to inspire new stories.

We have stuck to our guiding principals of **Being Bold**, taking risks with our creative ideas, submitting nine grants—five of them successful. We ask of ourselves to **Be Passionate**, to use that drive to engage, inspire and challenge expectations.

Being Real and Being Collaborative is a testament to the ongoing relations with some of the most respected arts leaders in the sector and we are thankful for their generosity in sharing their expertise. Working with the **Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP)** and **Percussion Australia (Taiko)** has extended the work we can do for young people in the region.

Being Excellent is an objective for ourselves as an organisation and our community of artists and cultural volunteers.



BE BOLD

Take risks, be entrepreneurial, experiment, reach beyond boundaries.



I made great leaps in my thinking with regard to my practice. But it was the reflecting, discussing, talking about arts practice that led me to the work I began to do. And the advice and support given to me while there led me to submit to other opportunities, which have since borne fruit, and will have massive positive effect on my arts practice. It has led to other things already!

Shani Nottingham, Cowra, Co!Lab@CORRIDOR AIR recipient

MEETING THE NEEDS OF REGIONAL CREATIVES

2022 was a year of consolidation for Orana Arts on the back of the previous year's change in strategic direction. We were keen to ensure our three key platform areas—**The Studio, Volunteer Artists Museums Program (VAMP)** and the **Creative Consultancy**, remain the keystones to our offering with the mission of creating equitable opportunities for regional artists and cultural organisations across NSW. Our target for these platforms are:

- Regionally-based creatives and young people;
- Independent community museums in the regions;
- Organisations and agencies working in the regions requiring cultural advice and expertise.

HIGHLIGHTS

GROWING STUDIO CO!LAB MEMBERSHIP

2022 highlighted the needs of regionally-based creatives through strong growth in the **Studio Co!Lab membership platform**, indicating our offering is appealing to artists seeking opportunities through residencies, funding through our small grants programs, and professional development, conversations and connections.

YOUNG PEOPLE SHARING THEIR STORIES THROUGH DRAMA

Also falling under The Studio is our performing arts for regional youth program, **Not a Dress Rehearsal (NaDR)**. In Term 3 2022, we ran a school holiday workshop at **Trangie Central School**, in partnership with **Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP)**, where students learned skills and techniques to creatively share their own stories. They used the published and performed story of local Elders, Richard and Ruth Carney, *A Little Piece of Heaven* as a resource in the workshops. The students were so engaged by this experience, several had the confidence to apply for the Summer Drama Camp at the end of the year. Participating student, Ashton Davis was also awarded the **Richard Carney Memorial Scholarship**, providing him with a trip to Sydney to visit and work with ATYP.



I've learned how to make new friends and have good teamwork, and not to shut anyone's ideas down—just come up with a different idea.

Ashton Davis, Trangie NSW, Recipient of the Richard Carney Memorial Scholarship

Creating equitable opportunities for regional artists and cultural organisations across NSW.

THE STUDIO
Studio Co!Lab
Residencies, Grants,
Professional Development

+

Not a Dress Rehearsal
Drama Workshops
Kumi Taiko Drumming

VAMP (Museums)
Artist Residencies
Writing Programs

CREATIVE CONSULTANCY
Project Management
Grant Writing
Art Commissions

Watch the Time to Shine Drama Camp video on Vimeo



JAPANESE DRUMMING IN THE REGIONS

Distance and access make it challenging for young people wanting to learn about other cultures and develop performance stagecraft from professionals in the sector. Our continuing partnership with **Taikoz** over the past year has continued to guide and develop our taiko drumming ensemble, **Kumi Taiko**. Our investment in drums for the group, and ongoing discussions with organisations with an interest in Japanese culture in the regions, secured the ensemble several performance opportunities in 2022—at the Maturi Festival in Cowra and the 20th Anniversary of the Shoyoen Japanese Gardens in Dubbo.

RE-IMAGINING LOCAL HISTORIES

The **Volunteers. Artists. Museums. Program (VAMP)** continues to address the pressing needs of small, community and volunteer-run museums across our regions. With limited capacity to make the improvements needed within their collections, our artist residency programs—**Heritage Artist Residency (HARd)** and **enCounter**, have provided museum staff and volunteers the chance to re-examine their collections through the eyes of artists, who have been inspired to create works that tell the stories of our communities from a different perspective. This has brought new audiences through the doors and created renewed interest in local histories.



LEFT TO RIGHT, FRONT TO BACK
2022 Kumi Taiko ensemble members
Front to back/ left to right:
Georgie, Madelyn, Harry, Lucas and Leo



Australia's leading Indigenous and intercultural dance theatre company, **Marrugeku** and Orana Arts partnered in 2022 to bring Marrugeku's unique dance vision to the Central West of NSW, introducing participants to the way Marrugeku uses improvisational movement processes to generate theatre and exchange stories and experiences. Workshops and excerpt solo performances were held in **Coonabarabran** and **Wellington**.

BE PASSIONATE

Co!Lab @ CORRIDOR AIR

is a residency partnership between Orana Arts' Studio Co!Lab and the CORRIDOR project (tCp) at Cowra for Studio Co!Lab members. Since 2021, five artists have spent time at tCp thinking about their practice and developing ideas for new work. It's for visual artists, performing artists and writers.



Expectations were exceeded, as I collected a lot of material and learned from the other residents...I feel as though the process is still percolating and I haven't exhausted the material I collected. - Jason Richardson, Leeton NSW

A completely immersive experience...I hope to exhibit this river and wetland series in 2023/24. I have started approaching galleries. - Inel Date, Cowra NSW



Co!Lab @ CORRIDOR artists in residence, 2022—
Jason Richardson, Inel Date and Shani Nottingham

BE REAL + BE COLLABORATIVE

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING WITH STATEWIDE IMPACT

Five years ago, a couple of national studies showed the impact of the arts in the regions was as significant as it is in metropolitan Australia; more than two-thirds of survey participants engaged in online arts activity, but artists living in regions earned almost a third less from their creative work than their city cousins, feeling their location contributed negatively to their practice. Since then, we've had a pandemic. Our programming aims to address these issues directly.

STUDIO CO!LAB MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT.

Our platforms and programs are designed to create equitable opportunities for regional artists and cultural organisations across NSW—filling gaps in delivery and offerings. This has underpinned our member-based **Studio Co!Lab** offerings, such as residencies, grants and professional development resources, but the real innovation has been establishing a regular, monthly online **Studio Co!Lab Talks** program, providing a place and space for regionally-based artists and audiences to learn more about the experiences of artists, their processes and practices. In 2022, this regular, accessible, program grew in audience attendance and the

breadth of topics covered, putting member artists in the limelight to share their knowledge and findings, providing an opportunity for creatives across NSW to connect, learn, exchange and grow in their practices without the tyrannies of distance and time constraints. For some speakers this was a paid opportunity.

REGIONAL FUTURES CROSS-REGION CONVERSATIONS.

Rarely are artists consciously made part of the conversation about planning for the future. Through the Create NSW funded **Regional Futures** project - an initiative of the Regional Arts Network, 29 regionally-based artists from across NSW were commissioned to explore what the future of the regions will look like. We took the brief one step further, forming a partnership with **Arts Mid North Coast** and **Dubbo Regional Council**, to commission



Sharing creativity through collaborative experiences connects people to each other and provides an opportunity for them to make further connections between place, art belonging and how it can all link together. - Tina Pech, Studio Co!Lab member, Baradine NSW

24 regional artists joined Studio Co!Lab

20 artists presented Studio Co!Lab Talks

237 people engaged with the 2022 Studio Co!Lab Talks program

5 Studio Co!Lab artists were awarded residencies + 3 were selected for Regional Futures Stage 1

\$21,000 was given to artists in grants

Watch video highlights of our 2022 Studio Co!Lab Talks program



Learn more about Regional Futures



four artists to explore the topic in light of renewable energy developments in the regions and targets of a net-zero economy by 2050. The artists spent time in each other's regions, met with knowledge specialists and each other, and shared their findings through the Studio Co!Lab Talks program. The group were offered an exhibition at the **Manning Regional Art Gallery** in Taree, for early 2023. The next stage of Regional Futures will provide an opportunity for the regional artists involved to present their work in Western Sydney through an exhibition and symposium at **Casula Powerhouse**, where the Statewide conversation will continue.

TIME TO SHINE (NaDR).

With the fallout from COVID still impacting the ability to deliver accessible yet meaningful performing arts skill development to young people in the regions in 2022, most of our drama/theatre planning went into creating a summer drama camp opportunity for the summer holidays at the end of the year that would give young people time to shine. This was done in partnership with **Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP)**.

The five-day camp at Lake Burrendong was oversubscribed by the time EOIs closed, with applications from across NSW—from Byron Bay to Bathurst, Gunnedah to Trangie, Leeton as well as closer to Orana Arts HQ, Dubbo, Narromine and Wellington, all passionate about their need for this opportunity. The camp was held in January 2023.

DRUMMING UP PERFORMANCES (KUMI TAIKO).

The Kumi Taiko Japanese drumming ensemble, supported by **Taikoz**, continued to grow and develop through performance opportunities in 2022, which provided this group of young people from the regions the opportunity to reach a wider audience and learn from more experienced percussion performers, by attending the **BOOM International Festival of Percussion** in Sydney, and giving performances at the Matsuri Festival at Cowra Japanese Gardens in Cowra and anniversary celebrations at Shoyoen Garden in Dubbo.



Find out more about
Not a Dress Rehearsal



LEFT TO RIGHT
Regional Futures artists **Ronnie Grammatica** (Crescent Head), **Kim V. Goldsmith** (Dubbo) and **Kit Kelen** (Buladelah) exploring Wellington in May 2022. Missing is artist **Allison Reynolds** (Coonabarabran).

MUSEUM STORYTELLING REVISITED

Our **VAMP** platform is one of the most innovative offerings we have as there is no one specifically addressing the needs of the regional independent community museum sector in Regional NSW. In 2022, VAMP saw the **Heritage Artists Residency (HARd)** project, started in 2021, finalised with work developed and presented at **Mudgee Museum** with Wiradjuri artist **Josh Yasserie**, working with guest curator, **Nathan Sentance from the Powerhouse Museum**. This prompted a conversation about how the way museums tell stories must change.

CROSS REGION COLLABORATION

VAMP's offering in 2022 also included a new project - **enCounter**, an initiative of Orana Arts, supported by **South East Arts, Arts Mid North Coast** and **West Darling Arts**, networking to bring creative practitioners together from across the NSW to work, collaborate and share. enCounter saw us working with on residencies at museums in Trangie and Gilgandra, and a mentored writers' program. The cross-region support attracted regionally-based writers and artists from across the State. The results of this project will be unveiled in early 2023.

PARTNERSHIPS TO BENEFIT REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Our partnerships with agencies and cultural organisations across NSW extend our reach into areas where we can utilise the skills and talents of our member artists, and/or use our professional expertise to provide advice and project management services.

In 2022, on the back of a successful creative community project with artist, Dennis Golding, we were able to assist the **Maliyan Cultural Centre** in Wellington access a **Create NSW Creative Capital Program grant** to fit out their exhibition space at the Centre. With additional money for programming in coming years, this will be a drawcard for creatives from across the State to come to Wellington to work with and learn from the community and share their skills in the process.



Learn more about
VAMP projects

A black and white photograph of artist Robert Salt. He is wearing a patterned t-shirt and is smiling while holding a camera up to his eye, photographing a collection of round, light-colored objects (possibly bread or pottery) displayed in a glass display case. The background shows a wooden wall and some other items in the display case.

Artist **Robert Salt** photographing the collection at the **Wungunja Cultural Centre** in Trangie as part of his **enCounter residency**, 2022



Wonderful collaboration.

What an amazing pair!

Love the different languages intertwined.

Great discussion of the creative process.

A very insightful conversation.

Very informative and accessible.

Terrific conversations.

Love your generosity.

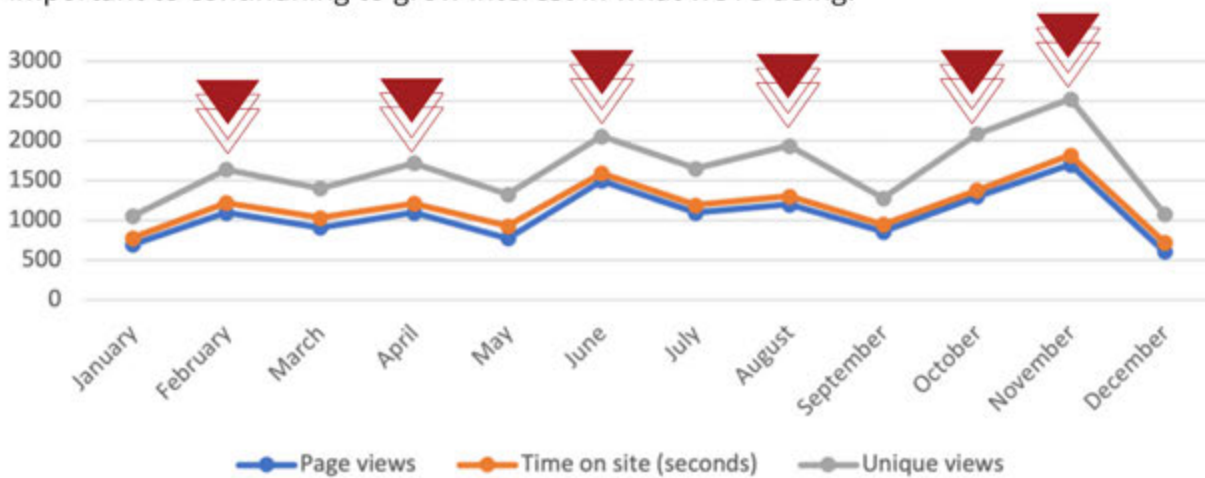
Live audience comments from our 2022 Studio Co!Lab Talks



An appreciative audience at the **Marrugeku** performance at the **Maliyan Cultural Centre** in Wellington, September 2022

CONNECTING WITH OUR AUDIENCES

Regionally based artists and cultural organisations across Regional NSW are our primary audience, followed by **young people in the regions** interested in our youth performing arts programming, our **project partners**, and then **arts consumers** with an interest in what our artists are doing. **Our website** is central to our communication strategy, a hub of content that informs our direct communications and social media activity. All roads lead back to our website, whether it be for the Studio Co!Lab Talks bookings, callouts for projects such as VAMP enCounter, and grants for Studio Co!Lab members. It's not hard to see the difference in traffic and time on the website when things are happening across the year. Making the site as accessible as possible is important to continuing to grow interest in what we're doing.



KEY INTERESTS FOR OUR 2022 AUDIENCES

- ▶▶▶ Studio Co!Lab Talks program on What's On
- ▶▶▶ The launch of the inScribe project book
- ▶▶▶ Dennis Golding workshops in Wellington
- ▶▶▶ VAMP enCounter museum project callout
- ▶▶▶ Studio Co!Lab Talk by Powerhouse Museum's Nathan Sentance
- ▶▶▶ Time to Shine summer drama camp callout

TARGETED COMMUNICATIONS with our membership base is essential to ensuring our messaging as an organisation is relevant and timely. Our success in reaching our primary audience is evident in the **growth of our Studio Co!Lab membership base** over the year—providing monthly updates on opportunities and offerings. This also includes regular, direct opportunities to connect face-to-face online, formally and informally.



General interest, artists and influencers



Artist to artist conversations

SMALL GRANTS. BIG IDEAS.

2022 Country Arts Support Program (CASP)

2022 Country Arts Support Program (CASP) funded projects included **filmmaking, community storytelling, a soundscape composition collaboration and soundwalking, community art workshops and ballet performances** in Sydney. The **\$17,000** of CASP funding went to individuals and groups in **Dubbo Regional Council** and **Warrumbungle Shire Council** LGAs, and to **Studio Co!Lab** members. *CASP is an annual small grants program funded by Create NSW and administered by Orana Arts.*

TOP TO BOTTOM

1. Cast and crew of the Fell Purpose filmmaking project lead by Erifili Davis
2. Textile artist and bookbinder, Tina Pech (Baradine) who collected community stories in handmade and bound books
3. Sound artist, Kim V. Goldsmith leading a soundwalk of the Wambuul/ Macquarie River in Dubbo

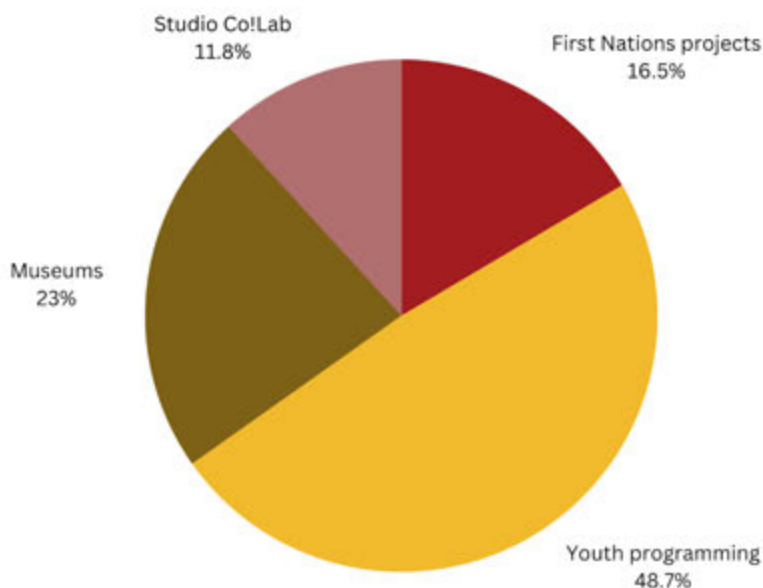


INVESTING IN CREATIVE REGIONS

Our investment in the creative regions of NSW is central to what we do as an organisation. In 2022, major investment of funding and staff resources was strategically spent on **First Nations** projects, **youth** programming and **independent, community-run museums**.

Our **Studio Co!Lab** members were beneficiaries through our investment in small grant offerings, residencies, and our team's time on developing professional development resources and supporting grant applications. **Local Government** members had access to small grants such as the Country Arts Support Program (CASP), investment in key projects and targeted events in their LGAs, for example, Murrugeku dance workshops and performances.

2023 will continue the investment into these key areas, and significantly in First Nations creative and community development in partnership with Wellington Local Aboriginal Land Council on creative programming for the Maliyan Cultural Centre in Wellington.



STUDIO CO!LAB

Grants, residencies + PD \$25,200 (Orana Arts, Create NSW, residency partners)

Includes CASP funding, quarterly members grants, residencies at the CORRIDOR project and Stuart Town, and professional development opportunities.

INVESTMENT SNAPSHOT

YOUTH

NaDR Kumi Taiko \$42,000 (NSW Govt)

In partnership with Taikoz and supported by Dubbo Regional Council, Cowra Japanese Garden, Dubbo Sister City Program

Winter School Holiday Drama Workshops \$7,000 (Regional Youth)

In partnership with Trangie Central School and ATYP.

Time to Shine Drama Camp \$55,000 (Create NSW + Regional Youth)

In partnership with ATYP and Lake Burrendong Sport and Recreation.

FIRST NATIONS

ID Hero \$35,000 from Create NSW

Supported by Wellington Information Neighborhood Centre, WLALC, community e/Elders, Wellington High School and St Mary's Catholic School.

ARTISTS: Dennis Golding, Alex Wisser and Tara Stanley

MUSEUMS

enCounter \$49,770 (Create NSW)

Additional investment from the Regional Arts Network. **ARTISTS:** 11 writers and 3 artists

WITH THANKS TO OUR INVESTORS + PARTNERS

Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP)
Create NSW
Department of Regional NSW
Dubbo Regional Council
Gilgandra Museum
Marrugeku
Mudgee Museum
NSW Government
Office for the Arts (Australian Government)
Regional Arts Network
Stuart Town Advancement Association
Synergy & Taikoz Ltd
The CORRIDOR project
Trangie Central School
Transport for NSW
Warrumbungle Shire Council
Wellington Local Aboriginal Land Council
Western Plains Cultural Centre
Writing NSW
Wungunja Cultural Centre, Trangie

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Executive Director

Andrew Glassop

Partnerships+ Engagement

Amanda Donohue

Operations + Studio Co!Lab Coordinator

Camilla Ward

Not a Dress Rehearsal Manager

Georgie Saunders

Emerging Producer, Taiko

Kim V. Goldsmith

Content production + Marcoms

Greg Vaughan

Book-keeping



**VAMP enCounter artists-in-residence at Gilgandra Museum,
Nat Ord and Vanessa Keenan with museum volunteers,
Shirley Marks and Bob Rogers**

**Orana Arts - creating equitable opportunities
for regional artists and cultural organisations across NSW.**



ORANA

arts inc
oranaarts.com

PO Box 246 Wellington NSW 2820

rado@oranaarts.com

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[@oranaarts](#)