

Next Wave, Annual Report

2024

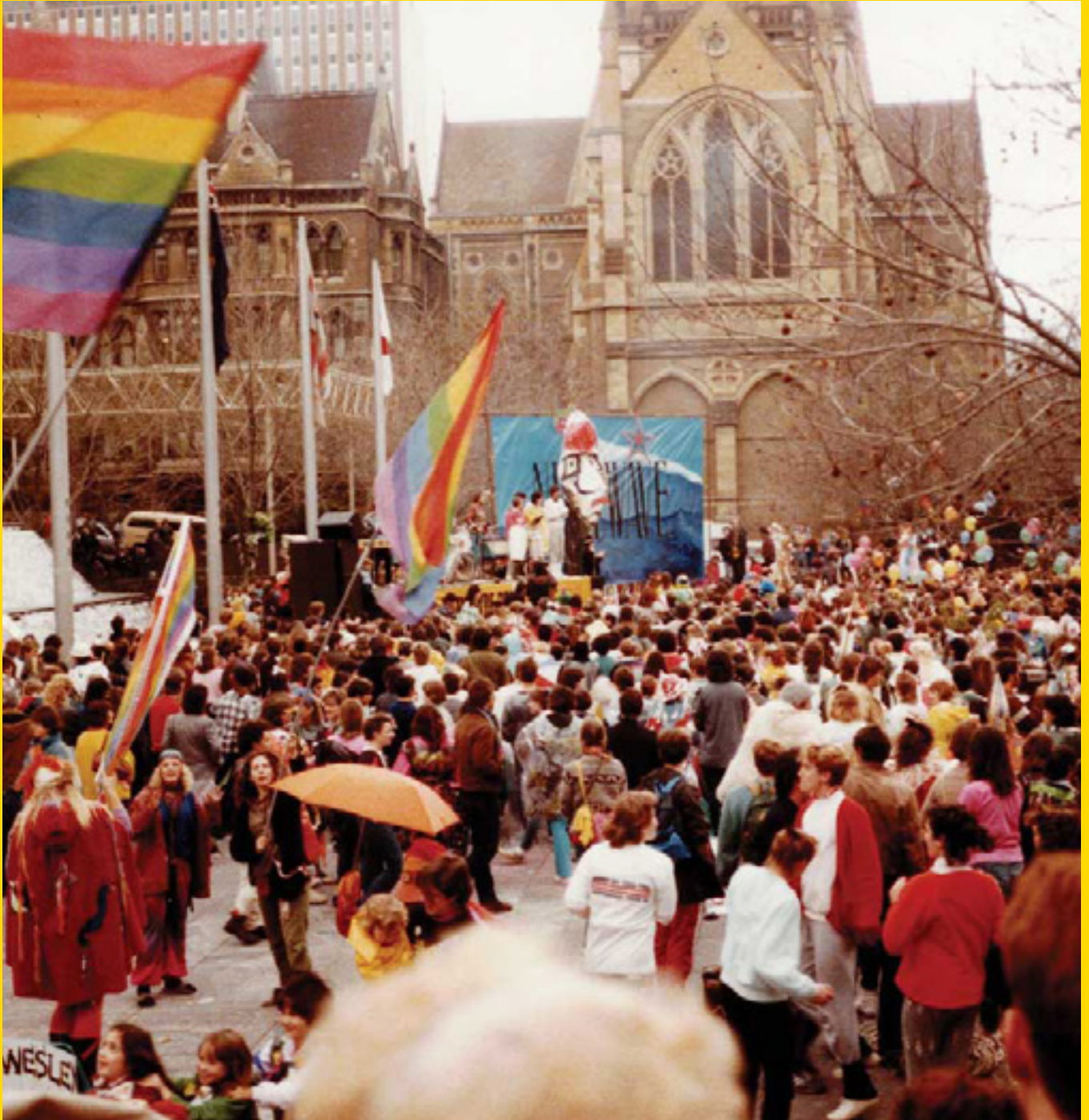


Next Wave's birthday cake at our 40 years party, *during:next*, photo by Mae Hartrick.

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From the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Eastern Kulin Nations, Next Wave is privileged to traverse the land and waterways of this continent of many nations – to share in the act of art making and culture building – grounded in values of justice, friendship and care. This always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.



The first Next Wave festival in 1985, image supplied by Next Wave founder Andrew Bleby.

A message from the board

Walk into a room, any room, of arts industry people in Melbourne and you'll hear stories of being a Next Wave artist, or producer during a festival, or a former Board member.

Countless stories, and it's not surprising that this 40 year old organisation has touched the careers and practices of so many in our industry.

As we present the 2024 Annual Report, we reflect on a milestone year for Next Wave—a year that not only marked our 40th anniversary but also reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to supporting early-career artists.

Celebrating 40 years

In 1984, Next Wave emerged as Victoria's Festival for Young People and the Arts, pioneering a platform dedicated to nurturing emerging talent. Over four decades, we have evolved, embracing change and championing experimental practices. Our 40 years celebrations were a testament to this legacy.

The ALL School Lab program, held on May 24 and 25, brought together artists nationwide for a series of workshops, talks,



Amrit Gill
Chair, Next Wave Board

performances, and an epic birthday party. These events not only honored our rich history but also focused on intergenerational knowledge sharing and creative responses to collectivism, preservation, and care.

Mentorship and peer-to-peer learning

Next Wave's mission is anchored in our dedication to early-career artists. Kickstart, one of our signature mentorship initiatives, welcomed seven individual artists and one collective in 2024.

Since 2001, Kickstart has nurtured the early-careers of hundreds of artists, among them Australia's most prolific and relevant contemporary artists. This program underscores our belief that collaboration and shared experiences are vital for artistic growth.

2024 was also a significant year for our A Rising Tide program, which supported four early-career creative practitioners

to deliver a series of events prioritising experimentation, risk-taking and innovation in curating, community-building, and culture-making.

Adapting to a changing landscape

At the midpoint of our 2022–2025 strategic plan, we conducted a comprehensive review to assess our impact and adapt to these changes.

This reflection reinforced our mission to support early-career artists and highlighted the importance of mentorship and peer-to-peer learning. It affirmed our decision to move away from a festival model, focusing instead on sustainable working practices and year-round programming that better serve our community.

Our review also revealed that a national approach to program delivery and Artistic Directorate was increasingly difficult to sustain in the current funding environment and within the capacity of a small-to-medium organisation. As we begin delivering our new strategic plan 2025–2028, these adaptations are all part of Next Wave’s journey—constantly evolving and experimenting in response to the times and the needs of the industry.

Securing our future in Merri-bek

A significant achievement this year was securing the Brunswick Mechanics Institute as our home until 2034. This achievement ensures a stable and inspiring environment for our programs and the artists we support. Our focus on Merri-bek has deepened, reinforcing our commitment to this vibrant community and its cultural landscape.

Evolving leadership

We acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our Artistic Directorates and the Young Artistic Directorates - two cohorts that have shaped Next Wave’s programming. Their diverse voices and brilliant minds have enriched Next Wave’s journey since 2022, and as we wrap up the national Artistic Directorate, we are grateful for their dedication, vision and creative leadership.

As we bid farewell to Jamie Lewis (CEO, 2021–2024) and Jacina Leong (CEO, 2024), we express our heartfelt gratitude for their leadership and commitment as Next Wave’s leaders. Their guidance has been instrumental in shaping Next Wave’s direction, and their legacy will continue to inspire our work. In April 2025, Elyse Goldfinch will commence as our new CEO, marking a new chapter in leadership.

Looking Ahead with Gratitude

We extend our deepest thanks to the Board, whose strategic vision and support have been unwavering. To our dedicated team, your passion and hard work are the lifeblood of Next Wave. Together, we look forward to another year of experimentation, collaboration, and continued support for the next generation of artists.



“It has been a privilege to steward a small chapter in Next Wave’s 40 years. I am grateful for the trust of the sector, and the Board and Staff, especially in supporting the model change. Next Wave has seen many lives — and it enters another iteration, as I am re-entering artistic practice as a parent. I am excited

to see how Next Wave will continue to flourish — responding to and enabling the creative practices of young people and their communities, now and into the future.”

— Jamie Lewis



“I want to express my gratitude to the extended community of practitioners whose collaborative generosity and commitment to the future of Next Wave made stepping into this role possible. I look forward to seeing how Next Wave continues to evolve and build on its impactful legacy, supporting early-career

practitioners to test, develop and share their creative practice, and creating open and welcoming spaces for communities to gather and engage in creative experimentation.”

— Jacina Leong

Program overview



Young Artistic Director MaggZ performing at *Future River: International Women's Day Performance* for Brunswick Music Festival, photo by Simon Fazio.

\$281,074

paid to artists and their projects

134

creative practitioners supported to develop, test or deliver new work as part of our artistic program

20

early career creative practitioners engaged across two long-term mentorship programs

19

new works developed at Next Wave

16

multi-artform events presented by Next Wave

876

attendees at Next Wave events

See appendices for details (pages 46–48)



A fruit feast at *Radical Hospitality*: 剉冰 + equatorial fruit-opening party. Photo by Mae Hartrick.

Wet Season-ing

An interstate ALL School Exchange brought artists Tiyan Baker and M@ Cornell to Testing Grounds for a two-week residency.

ALL School Exchange, a branch of Next Wave's artist-led learning programming stream, facilitates the sharing practice and ideas between artists from different locations.

Throughout the residency, M@ built sci-fi choreographies and texts through his speculative-physical-futuring process, joined by Nasim Patel and Antony Hamilton.

Tiyan continued her research into Bidayŭh bamboo culture, joined by artist James Nguyen.

The residency concluded with a public event *Radical Hospitality: 剉冰 + equatorial fruit-opening party*—curated by M@ and Tiyan.

The event included screenings of film works by James Nguyen and Kent Chan, as well as artist talks facilitated by Ana Tiquia—complemented by bingsu by Nimbo Cloud and an elaborate fruit feast.

7

artists supported

84

attendees at *Radical Hospitality: 剉冰 + equatorial fruit-opening party*



The Young Artistic Directorate (left to right): MaggZ, Matisse, Banda and Lydia. Photo by Tallulah.

Completion of the 2023–24 Young Artistic Directorate program: A Rising Tide

By Anthony Bandalan

A Rising Tide was a leadership and curatorial development program initiated in partnership by Next Wave and VicHealth, involving four early-career practitioners—Matisse Laida, MaggZ, Lydia Tesema, and Banda—collectively known as the Young Artistic Directorate.

Launched in August 2023, this inaugural iteration of A Rising Tide was guided by Next Wave’s Young Creative Lead Nickila De Silva and Lead Program Producer Frances Robinson. The program aimed to prioritise experimentation, risk-taking, and innovation in curating, community-building, and culture-making. Over the course of 15 months, the program evolved to meet the unique needs and challenges faced by its participants.

Central to A Rising Tide was the Next Wave concept of ‘radical hospitality’. Each member of the collective to curate projects tailored to their respective communities and practices that featured shared feasts as a vehicle for creative exchange. This approach was informed by a commitment to accessibility, cultural safety, and ethical practice in the arts.

Highlights of the program included:

Future River: International Women's Day Performance

Next Wave's Young Artistic Directorate partnered with Brunswick Music Festival, PHOTO 2024 and BlakDot Gallery to present a special performance inspired by the exhibition *Future Rivers: When the Past Flows*. This was the directorate's first curatorial project, and invited them to experiment with their collaborative/curatorial framework—asking the question, 'Who gets to decide and why?'

Next Wave 40 Years Party: during:next

The Young Artistic Directorate were responsible for collectively curating Next Wave's 40 year birthday party. Titled *during:next*, the party transformed Brunswick Mechanics Institute into a futuristic performance space, emphasising the idea of evolution that builds on the past. Audiences were invited to dress however they liked, bring whoever they wanted to soak in the past, present and future of Next Wave.

(nexus) launch by MaggZ

MaggZ' project (*nexus*) was a multi-sensory event of experimental dance battles, cuisines and a party. (*nexus*) invited you to explore the theme of 'devour', where they implored us to ask the question, "What does it mean to Devour? How does it feel to Devour? And why are we being Devoured?"

ShareHouse by Banda

ShareHouse took over Brunswick Mechanics Institute for a weekend in October for community-led workshops, performances and conversations. Carefully curated by Banda, this event helped him realise his long term goal of holding an event that invited people to think of 'art spaces' more like a community living room or sharehouse. Half of ticket sale profits for this event were donated to Baluk Arts, supporting First Nations artists.

Free Breakfast by Matisse Laida

In collaboration with artist Winni Birner and We Eatin' Good, Free Breakfast was an event informed by the values and legacies of the Black Panther, Polynesian Panther and Australian Black Panther parties. This event was a celebration and meditation of global Black and Brown resistance and mutual aid. As well as this, it was a space for knowledge exchange and the sharing of resources, food and words. Funds raised from this event were donated to mutual aid.

Below the Surface: Vision Board and Networking Event by Lydia Tesema

Delivered in 2025

Lydia Tesema's *Vision Board and Networking Event*, was designed to empower attendees to visualise their dreams, set meaningful goals and take actionable steps toward their future. By combining creativity, reflection and networking, this event aimed to provide a transformative experience for all participants in a vibrant, supportive atmosphere.

Funds raised from ticket sales were put back into the growth of Lydia's business Below The Surface.



Left to right: *during:next*, photo by Mae Hartrick. *ShareHouse*, curated by Banda, photo supplied. Middle left: *Free Breakfast* curated by Matisse Laida, photo by Dan Dan. *(nexus)* launch curated by MaggZ, photo by Nam Chops. *Below The Surface: Vision Board and Networking Event* curated by Lydia Tesema, photo by Senpai Studio.

ALL School Lab

The 2024 Lab program invited artists from Next Wave's past, present and future, and focused on intergenerational knowledge sharing and creative responses to notions of collectivism, preservation and care.

ALL School is an artist-led learning program by Next Wave, designed to facilitate knowledge sharing and idea swapping. This was the second iteration of our biennial lab.

This two-day program included:

- A keynote lecture by Nat Randall on *The Second Woman*
- A presentation by Luke D King on *I am a...*, in conversation with Ravi Vasavan.
- *Tarot Futures*, tarot readings for creatives by Erica McCalman
- *Seeking to Care*, a values-based workshop curated and delivered by Next Wave's national Artistic Directorate.
- *Preserving Practice*, a pickling workshop, presented by Marian Abboud and An.Other Collective.
- *Taking Stock*, a transcendental tiny restaurant experience by Bethany J Fellows.
- *Past Life Regression*, a nostalgic morning ritual by Deep Soulful Sweats.

These events were held between narm ngarrgu library and MPavilion Parkville and were supported by City of Melbourne.

The program concluded with our 40 years party *during:next*, curated by our Young Artistic Directorate (see page 14), aka *A Rising Tide*.

The *A Rising Tide* program was supported by VicHealth through their Future Healthy Initiatives.

Next Wave engaged Accessible Communications Collective and Tibi Access to help make ALL School Lab was accessible and inclusive. You can read more about our work on accessibility on page 28.

500+

attendees across all events

77%

of audience members surveyed rated their overall experience as excellent

73%

said they would be very likely to attend another Next Wave event in the future

“What I enjoyed most was the connection with the wider arts community from different states. It was a big cup filling experience as well as an eye opener on things I haven't necessarily thought about within the arts—especially the *Seeking to Care* workshop and Luke D King's conversation in ways to think about accessibility.”

—survey respondent



From top left: *Past Life Regression* at MPavillion Parkville, photo by staff. Members of An.Other Collective and Marian Abboud at *Preserving Practice*; *Seeking to Care* and *Tarot Futures* at narrm ngarrgu library, photos by Mae Hartrick.



Georgia (foreground), Young Artistic Director Matisse (left), Ellamay (centre) and members of An.Other Collective (right) at *Preserving Practice* for ALL School Lab. Photo by Mae Hartrick.

Kickstart 2024–25

Kickstart is a long-form residential program that prioritises time and relationships, and supports artists to dream and make where they are, in place, within their context and communities.

The artists are guided, mentored and supported by the Artistic Director in their state or territory, and encouraged to develop, experiment and share their practice with local and national audiences.

The 2024–25 cohort are:

- An.Other collective, mentored by Marian Abboud (NSW)
- Ellamay Fitzgerald, mentored by Libby Harward (QLD)
- Georgia Lucy, mentored by Lucy Bleach (TAS)
- Jayda Wilson, mentored by Yusuf Ali Hayat (SA)
- Jen Datu, mentored by Bruno Booth (WA)
- Rachel Morley, mentored by Yuhui Ng-Rodriguez (VIC)
- Rarriwuy Hick, mentored by Rosealee Pearson (NT)
- Sophie Dumaresq, mentored by Sally Golding (ACT)

Next Wave engaged producer, curator and community arts worker Lana Nguyen to facilitate the Kickstart program. Lana works alongside Next Wave's Lead Program Producer, Frances Robinson, to develop and deliver a workshops and regular touchpoints to support the artists throughout the program.

In 2024, there were three Kickstart workshops, including an in-person 'internal lab', delivered adjacent to the ALL School Lab in May.

To support the artists in sharing and documenting their practice, Next Wave's Communications Manager Maddie Lakos co-developed a series of prompts. These prompts were delivered in line with the themes of each workshop.

Workshop 1/Internal Lab

May 2024

The internal lab allowed time and space for the national Kickstart artists and Artistic Directorate to gather and connect in person for the first time.

Held at Abbotsford Convent, the day-long program included sessions on absorbing and situating practice and establishing collective ways of working. Guest artist Jackie Sheppard led the group through an embodied practice session. The artists remained in Narm/Melbourne for the ALL School Lab public program.

Both Kickstart artists and the Artistic Directorate were invited to share a reflection on the experience of ALL School Lab. Georgia Lucy and Lucy Bleach, An.Other Collective and Rachel Morley responded, and their reflections can be found in the [ALL School Digital collection](#).

Workshop 2: Starting a creative process

July 2024

This was the first online workshop, fittingly themed 'Beginning'. It laid the foundation for how the artists would work as a cohort to support the development of their creative practice and Kickstart projects. Kickstart 2016 alumni James Nguyen [joined the conversation](#) to share his insights on the art world, and how he starts a creative process.

Following this workshop, the artists were invited to share and discuss examples of their past work and how it informs their art today. These were published on social media.

Workshop 3: Dreaming

Sept 2024

This workshop started with a reflective moment for the Kickstart artists to 'walk and talk' together via a one-on-one phone conversation in their own local area. The artists were encouraged to check in with each other about the Kickstart process, and unpack together the types of conditions they need to do their best work. This was followed by a presentation by Lana on the topic 'How do we best dream' and covered all things money, budgets and collaboration.

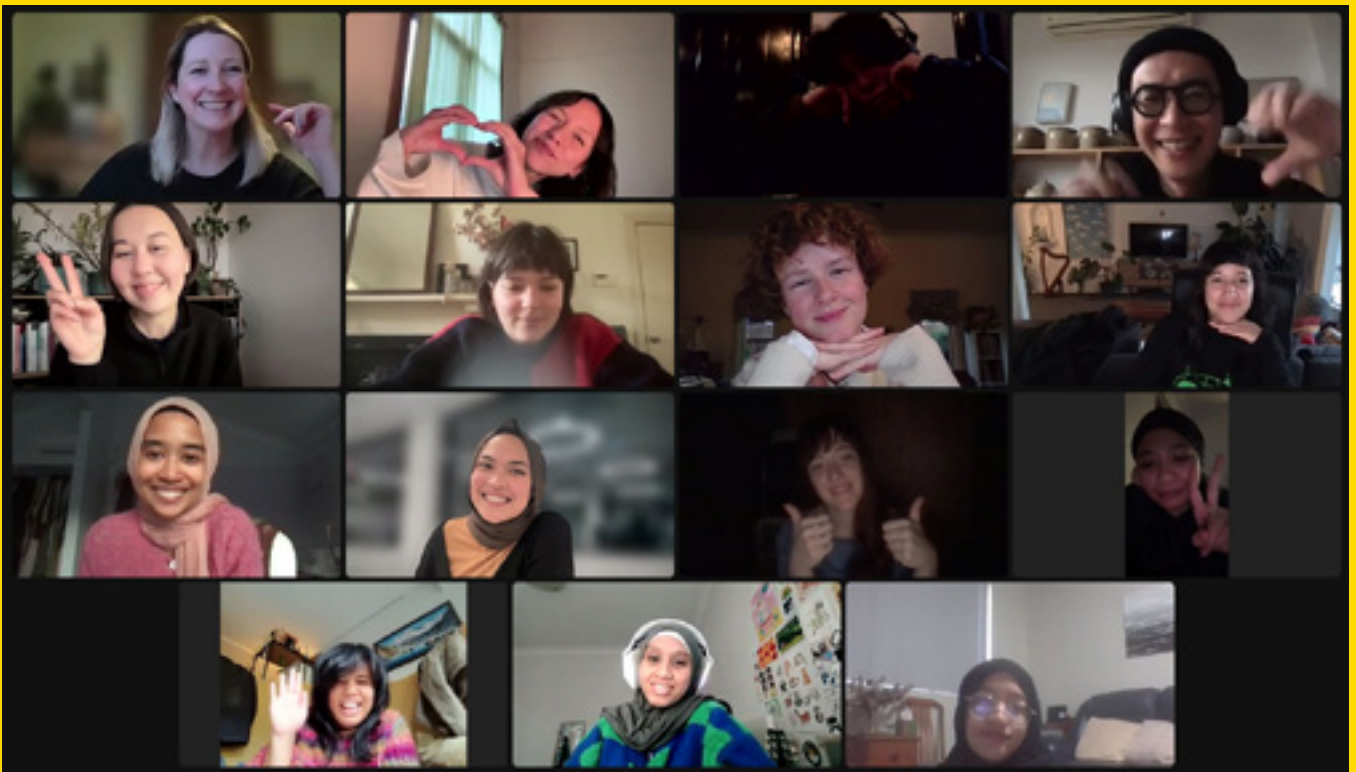
To wrap up this online session, we heard from artist, Katie West, who shared her experience as a Kickstart artist from 2015 and how this experience shaped her practice.

In response to this workshop, the artists were asked to share three things they need to create to create the conditions for their creative practice. These were aggregated and published in the [ALL School Digital collection](#).

The Kickstart program is supported by Creative Australia.

Ellamay Fitzgerald's participation in the Kickstart program has been made possible by the City of Gold Coast Arts and Culture Unit and Generate GC.

Rachel Morley's participation in the Kickstart program has been made possible by Wyndham City Council.



Left to right: Marian, Jen, Frances and members of An.Other Collective pose for a photo at *during:next*, photo by Mae Hartrick. Jayda, Georgia and participants of *Seeking to Care* put their heads together at Queen Vic Market, photo by Mae Hartrick. Kickstart artists gather online for Workshop 2, featuring with James Nguyen (top right), Frances (top left), Lana (right of Frances) and interim CEO Jacina Leong (below Frances). Jen reacts to a lullaby formed for *Seeking to Care* at ALL School Lab, photo by Mae Hartrick.



Next Wave Neighbours

Next Wave held its first *Next Wave Neighbours* community gathering in November 2024.

Next Wave Neighbours was created to bring artists, creative practitioners, arts organisations, businesses and community members together at Brunswick Mechanics Institute, our home.

We invited anyone and everyone to join us for a drink (on the house) and explore the venue—including hearing from our new resident, Composite Moving Image Agency & Media Bank.

The event booked out online and was attended by around 35 artists, arts workers and community members.

Our inaugural event opportunity for the team to share some details about how Next Wave plans to support local creative practitioners, and ask the community for feedback.

A survey was conducted by providing guests with three dot stickers, which they could place under six nominated uses for Brunswick Mechanics Institute. The results (detailed in the next column) were shared in our regular enewsletter and on social media.

Next Wave Neighbours gatherings will be held triannually in 2025, with each one highlighting different areas of our programming and organisation.

27%

of votes were for ‘space for artists to test and show new works’

26%

of votes were for ‘space for artists to rehearse and develop their practice’

25%

of votes were for were for ‘artist-led workshops’

22%

of votes were divided among ‘creative networking’, ‘artist talks’ and ‘screenings’



People placing their votes on our survey at *Next Wave Neighbours*, photo by Tom Noble.

Audience overview



Radical Hospitality: 割烹 + equatorial fruit-opening party by Tiyan Baker and M@ Cornell, photo by Mae Hartick.

52%

identify as female

21%

identify as male

16%

identify as gender diverse

48%

identify as LGBTQIA+

40%

identify as people of colour

44%

identify as culturally and
linguistically diverse

4%

identify as Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander

14%

identify as Deaf or as a person
with disability

*Sourced from audience data collected through our
ticketing platform.*

Commitment to access and inclusion

We're committed to making our programs and venue inclusive and accessible.

Next Wave upholds an organisation-wide commitment to access and inclusion, from programming through to marketing and staff professional development.

We prioritise listening, taking responsibility and adapting to make sure everyone can participate.

In 2024, we engaged the following artists and organisations to support our commitment to access and inclusion:

Accessible Communications Collective (Fiona Murphy)

Next Wave engaged Fiona Murphy to support the delivery of ALL School Lab. Fiona helped us:

- Create visual stories for all venues (Brunswick Mechanics Institute, MPavillion Parkville and narm ngarrgu library).
- Develop a contact list of organisations to help distribute the program, ensuring Deaf community and people with disability knew about the events.
- Improve the accessibility of our EDMs, social media posts and graphic design.

Fiona also helped produce a public version of our *Strategic Plain 2025–28*—providing

support on making this complex document more accessible. This included developing a plain English glossary, simplifying the design of the document and providing plain text versions online.

Luke D King

We programmed Next Wave alumni Luke D King for ALL School Lab, who was joined by Ravi Vasavan for a conversation on repetition and difference in access and artistic practice.

Luke returned later in the year to present a Deaf Culture and Auslan Workshop at Brunswick Mechanics Institute.

Next Wave also engaged Auslan interpreters across multiple events to ensure Deaf artists felt supported and welcome in our programs.

Tibi access

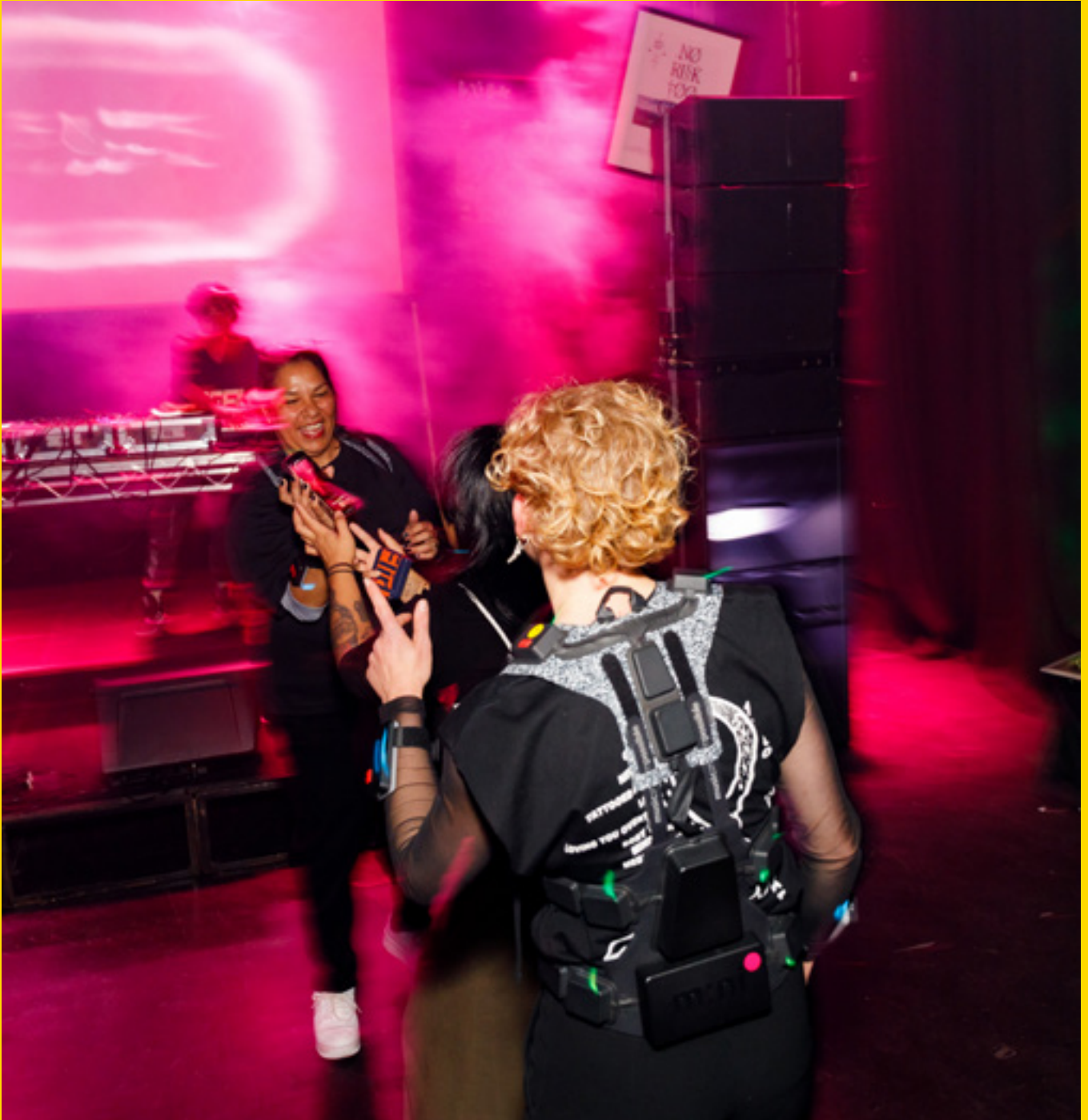
Next Wave worked with Tibi Access to:

- Create a low-sensory space and provide sensory kits at *during:next*.
- Develop a 'venue tour' video of Brunswick Mechanics Institute, created to help hirers and visitors familiarise themselves with the space, know what to expect before visiting and understand the venue's access features.

Newmarket Collective

Newmarket Collective provided haptic vests for *during:next*, our 40 years party.

All of this was made possible through funding support from Deakin.



Haptic vests at *during:next*, photo by Mae Hartrick.

A case study: accessibility at ALL School Lab

ALL School Lab was our way of celebrating 40 years of Next Wave, and it was vital that these events were welcoming, inclusive and both physically and financially accessible.

Many events were free—including Deaf artist Luke D King’s presentation on *I am a...*—and free tickets were provided for First Nations peoples and Deaf and disabled communities.

Our post-event survey and received 40 responses, which included positive feedback on around access (detailed in the next column).

57

attendees for Luke D King on *I am a...* in conversation with Ravi Vasavan

9

free Deaf/disabled tickets booked to *during:next*, our 40 years party at Brunswick Mechanics Institute

27.5%

of survey respondents identified as neurodiverse, d/Deaf or disabled

“I really enjoyed Luke's discussion and it opened my mind to accessibility issues in the arts and made me think about how we can create a more welcoming space in galleries and art spaces”

—survey respondent.

“My biggest takeaway was... thinking about spaces for accessibility, can arts ever be fully accessible for all and what does that look like? What can care mean beyond traditional kinds of care, and is it transactional in the arts?”

—survey respondent



Ravi Vasavan (left) and Luke D King (right) at ALL School Lab, photo by staff.

New programming collaborations

Next Wave initiated three long-term programming partnerships in 2024.

These partnerships provide support to other small arts organisations and activate Brunswick Mechanics Institute with artist-led events and projects.

Composite

Next Wave welcomed Composite Moving Image Agency & Media Bank as a resident of Brunswick Mechanics Institute in September 2024.

Led by Channon Goodwin, Composite has been holding their regular Assemble gatherings in our studio, as well as delivering a program of screenings and events in our theatre space.

In 2024, this included:

- *Snap: You Have Nothing to Reconnect But Your Chains* by Catherine Ryan.
- *DAMP Video Anthology*
- *Web Working Bee* with Emily Simek
- *Homing Instinct* Featuring works by Ananta Thitanat, Ari Angkasa, and Kahurangiari Smith with Buntheun Oung
- *Anak* by Caleb Ribates

Composite also launched Radio Composite in 2024, which is broadcast live from Brunswick Mechanics Institute.

CAST

RMIT's Contemporary Art and Social Transformation (CAST) research group produces art research that critically engages with social and public spheres.

Next Wave initiated a two-year collaboration with CAST to deliver a series of critical-creative exchanges in the form of workshops, public programs, artist talks and mentorship.

These exchanges will focus on the intersection of art, activism, social transformation and research, with the intention of engaging with diverse audiences including early-career creative practitioners.

Next Wave's collaboration with CAST rests on our dual commitments to justice, friendship and care, and aligns with Next Wave's ALL (artist-led learning) School platform.

The partnership commenced in December 2024 with the *Activating Truth* symposium, held at Brunswick Mechanics Institute.

ACFA

Next Wave has been a member of A Climate For Art since 2023. At the end of 2024, initiated a new collaboration agreement to co-curate and deliver a series of climate-focused events in 2025.

550+

attendees at Composite
screenings and events

65

attendees at CAST's
Activating Truth symposium

10

emerging and established artists
presented their work through
Composite events

7

emerging and established artists
presented at *Activating Truth*

“Thank you for the
Activating Truth
program. It was gentle,
profound, and riveting.
r e a is inspirational and
important.”

—attendee at *Activating Truth*

Space for creative development

Brunswick Mechanics Institute's blackbox theatre and flexible studio space can be hired for creative developments.

This includes rehearsals, workshops, filming, artist talks, work-in-progress showings, script development, auditions and research—and includes activities that showcase the creative development process.

In 2024, we hosted a diversity of artists for creative developments, this included:

- The development of *Recollection* by Pot Kettle Black Productions (presented at fortyfivedownstairs in June/July 2024).
- The development of three separate ILBIJERRI Theatre Company productions, presented throughout the year.
- Rehearsals for *Duck Duck Goose* by THAT Production Company (presented at Theatre Works in April 2024)
- Rehearsals of *Opera for the Dead* by Monica Lim and Mindy Meng Wang (presented at Asia TOPA in February 2025)

155

days of venue space provided to creative practitioners and peer organisations

22

different creative practitioners and peer organisations and groups utilised the space*

52%

of hires were provided in-kind

11

artist-led activities/events made possible through venue hire.

See appendices for details (pages 46–48)



ILBIJERRI Theatre Company developing an upcoming production in our studio space.

Residency ‘test run’

Next Wave welcomed Merri-bek based artist Emily Simek to our studio space in August 2024 for a week-long residency—named *Friends of the Plants of Next Wave*.

Emily’s practice is in digital art, textiles, installation, writing and gardening. While at Brunswick Mechanics she co-facilitated working bees to tend to the venues many plants, while working on her digital project *worldwideworms.net*.

This residency was intended as early iteration of our Brunswick Mechanics Institute residency program, set to launch in late 2025.

Emily wrote the following reflection on her time at Next Wave:

“We called the residency ‘Friends of the plants of Next Wave’, as it explored how acts of reciprocal exchange can form part of artistic residencies, though contributing to the maintenance of a place (or organisation) alongside personal projects, in my case, by tending to the plants in the Next Wave building, alongside work on a web-based art project

“What I really respect about Next Wave is the way their values lie at the core of how they work with artists and their communities. In particular – friendship: for me, this value was expressed in their durational approach to relationships, with a focus on long term relationships, sharing space through residencies, and inviting opportunities for gathering and local exchange.

“Next Wave’s long-view focus on creative development is so refreshing. As an early career artist, it’s rare to be supported via a paid residency to nourish or fertilise a practice, to experiment before producing for the ‘harvest’ season that so many opportunities focus on. This is the first time I’ve been afforded such resources, which allowed me to invite many artist friends to visit, and experiment with new methodologies, laying the foundations for future work created together.”

—Emily Simek



Emily Simek (left) and Next Wave interim CEO Jacina Leong (right) refreshing the soil of the plants of Next Wave.

Brunswick Mechanics Institute—our home

Merri-bek City Council has offered Next Wave continued tenancy of the historic building—our home since 2017.

Next Wave's tenancy will be extended from July 2025 for up to nine years.

The announcement followed a competitive tender process, with five other candidates applying for use of the space.

A panel determined that Next Wave—as a multi-artform organisation with a 40-year legacy of supporting early-career artists—was best placed to activate Brunswick Mechanics Institute and make it accessible to a broad range of artists and artforms.

The tender news preceded a period of exciting evolution at Next Wave prepared for the renewal our strategic plan.

The resulting *Next Wave Strategic Plan 2025–2028* includes a renewed commitment to supporting early-career artists, with a focus on Merri-bek, Narm/ Melbourne and greater Victoria.

The plan also introduces a number of new initiatives centred on our homebase at Brunswick Mechanics Institute.

This included artist-in-residence programs for early-career practitioners within a connection to Merri-bek, a local Programming Advisory Group and community gathering and more. We held our first community gathering aka Next Wave Neighbours (see page 22) in November 2024, and expect a number of new initiatives will be brought to fruition in the second half of 2025.



The front entrance of Brunswick Mechanics Institute, photo by Tallulah.

2024 marketing



Vision Australia Radio journalist Chris Thompson interviewing interim CEO Jacina Leong and lead program producer Frances Robinson for *Behind The Scenes* in November 2024.

37,602

followers on social media

36,677

monthly social media impressions

1,630

monthly social media engagements

4,180

Monthly video views on social media

1,422

Monthly site users on
nextwave.org.au

380

Monthly site users on
allschool.nextwave.org.au

4,082

subscribers to Next Wave's
regular enewsletter

27

items of media coverage

Team

Staff

Jamie Lewis

CEO/Executive Director (to October 2024)

Jacina Leong

Acting CEO/Executive Director (to December 2024)

Frances Robinson

Lead Program Producer

Maddie Lakos

Communications & Development Manager

Natalia Sledz

Venue Producer & Operations Coordinator

Anthony Bandalan

Associated Producer (casual)

Nickila DeSilva

Associate Producer: Communications and Engagement (to October 2024)

Emma McManus

Creative Producer: Public Programs (to July 2024)

Andrew Goddard

Production Coordinator (to April 2024)

Vivian Cooper

General Manager (to February 2024)

Elise Wilkinson

General Manager (to July 2024)

Nisha Madhan

Lead Creative Producer (to April 2024).

Casual staff

Benjamin Richards

Cameron Harris

Chas Maher

Georgina Bright

Hen Greville

Jamie Brown

Libby Lynch

Pranati Narayan Visweswaran

Board members

Amrit Gill (Chair)

Kate Robinson (Deputy Chair)

Hannah Jensen (Treasurer)

Bec Cole

Jodee Mundy OAM

Nicole Smith (to December 2024)

Next Wave thanks those who finished their roles in 2024 and acknowledged their many contributions to the organisation and its past, present and future.



Left to right: Auslan interpreter Dave Childs, Next Wave Communications Manager Maddie Lakos, Venue Producer and Operations Coordinator Natalia Sledz, Lead Program Producer Frances Robinson and interim CEO Jacina Leong. Photo by Tom Noble.

Acknowledgements

Funding partners

Creative Victoria
Creative Australia
VicHealth
Merri-bek City Council
City of Melbourne
Deakin University
City of Wyndham
City of Gold Coast



Brunswick Mechanics Institute programming partners

CAST
Composite
Brunswick Music Festival



ALL School Lab partners

Veriu (accommodation partner)
MPavillion Parkville
narm ngarrgu Library



Hospitality partners

Noisy Ritual
Mountain Goat



Design partners

Public Office (Next Wave and ALL School websites)
Rio Ramintas (All School LAB, 40 Years of Next Wave)

Access partners

Tibi Access
Accessible Communications Collective



Brunswick Mechanics Institute illuminated for *during:next*, our 40 years party. Photo by Mae Hartrick.

Appendix 1:

Artists supported

Program/event	# artists supported
A Rising Tide (Young Artistic Directorate)	4
A Rising Tide shoot day	2*
Wet Seasoning	5
Future Rivers: International Women's Day performance	7*
MaggZ' (nexus) launch event	14*
during:next 40 year party	13*
Banda's ShareHouse event	16*
Matisse's Free Breakfast event	11*
Kickstart artists	18
Kickstart guest speakers and facilitators	4
Artistic Directorate	8
ALL School Lab programmed artists	8
Composite events/screenings	10^
Friends of the Plants of Next Wave residency	1
THINKING GROUND	1#
Jessica Tanto Mega Yoga workshop	1
Triangle Playspace	3
Auslan Workshop	1
Activating Truth (by CAST)	7
TOTAL	134

* In addition to the Young Artistic Directorate/The Young Artistic Director organising the event

^ 10 core artists/collectives, does not include Composite staff or additional collaborators

Does not include program participants (51)

Appendix 2:

Public programming

Next Wave events

1. *Radical Hospitality: 割冰 + equatorial fruit-opening party* (Sat 3 Feb)*
2. *Future Rivers: International Women's Day performance* (Fri 8 Mar)*
3. *(nexus) launch* (Fri 19 Apr)*
4. *On 'The Second Woman'* (ALL School Lab, Fri 24 May)
5. *On 'I am a...'* (ALL School Lab, Fri 24 May)
6. *Taking Stock* (ALL School Lab, Fri 24 and Sat 25 May)*
7. *Past Life Regression* (ALL School Lab, Sat 25 May)
8. *Tarot Futures* (ALL School Lab, Sat 25 May)*
9. *Seeking to Care* (ALL School Lab, Sat 25 May)*
10. *Preserving Practice* (ALL School Lab, Sat 25 May)*
11. *during:next 40 year party* (ALL School Lab, Sat 25 May)*
12. *ShareHouse Studio Day* (Sat 5 Oct)*
13. *ShareHouse Exhibition* (Sun 6 Oct)*
14. *Next Wave Neighbours* (Wed 20 Nov)
15. *Free Breakfast* (invite only, Sun 24 Nov)*
16. *Deaf Culture and Auslan Workshop* (Mon 9 Dec)

* *New works developed at Next Wave (11 in total). Total new works developed (19) includes the work of our Kickstart cohort.*

Programming partner events

1. *Future River: When the past flows* presented by PHOTO 2024 (1–24 March)
2. *Composite: Snap: You Have Nothing to Reconnect But Your Chains* (Thursday 17 + Sat 19 Oct)
3. *Composite: DAMP Video Anthology* (Sat 26 Oct)
4. *Composite: Web Working Bee* (Thursday 14 Nov)
5. *Composite: Homing Instinct* (Fri 15 Nov)
6. *Composite: Anak* (Tuesday 10 Dec)
7. *Activating Truth* (Fri 13 Dec)

Appendix 3:

Creative developments

Artists/peer organisations that undertook creative developments at Brunswick Mechanics Institute

1. Aseel Tayah (Jan, Jun, Jul)
2. Jungle City Projects (Feb)
3. ILBIJERRI Theatre Company (Feb, Jun, Aug)
4. Ari Tampubolon (Feb)
5. THAT Production Company (Mar)
6. MaggZ (Mar x 2, Oct, Dec)
7. Pot Kettle Black Productions (Apr)
8. Tilman Robinson (Jun)
9. Alternate Facts (Jul)
10. Monica Lim and Mindy Meng Wang (Jul)
11. Lemony S Lab (Jul—Dec, weekly)
12. RMIT University (Aug)
13. Starlight Children's Foundation (Oct)
14. Judith Walton (Nov)
15. Govin Ruben (Nov)
16. Persona Collective (Dec)

These developments are counted towards the days of venue space provided to independent practitioners and peer organisations for creative development at Brunswick Mechanics Institute.

Artists/peer organisations who delivered events/activities at Brunswick Mechanics Institute

17. DVAN: *Across the Ocean: Viet Thanh Nguyen in Conversation with Nam Le* (Fri 10 May)
18. Bus Projects
Sonic Travellers: Opening Performance (Tuesday 4 Jun)
MEga Yoga: A Counternarrative Experience (Thursday 19 Sep)
19. New North
Concert 15 (Sat 29 Jun)
Concert 16 (Sat 10 Aug)
Concert 17 (Sun 8 Sep)
20. THINKING GROUND
Workshop 1, Building an Idea (Sun 4 Aug)
Workshop 2, Empowered Grant Writing (Sun 25 Aug)
Workshop 3, Writing Ordinary (Sun 8 Sep)
21. Parallel Effect: *Nosferatu with Live Score* (Fri 1 Nov)
22. Bronwyn Pringle: *Triangle Playspace* by Flow Festival (Sat 7 Dec)

These events (11 in total) are counted towards the days of venue space provided to independent practitioners and peer organisations for creative development at Brunswick Mechanics Institute.



Guests at the life drawing event delivered for *ShareHouse*, curated by Banda. Photo by staff.

Next Wave,

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