

Next Wave, 2020 Annual Report

The background features a light gray color with several thick, vibrant red lines. One line runs vertically down the left side. Another runs vertically down the center. A third line starts from the top left and extends diagonally towards the center. A fourth line starts from the bottom left and extends diagonally towards the center. A fifth line starts from the bottom right and extends diagonally towards the center. These lines intersect to create a dynamic, geometric pattern.

Next Wave,

is located on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, as well as to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the wider Melbourne community and beyond. Indigenous sovereignty has never been ceded and we acknowledge that we continue to make art on what always was and always will be, Aboriginal land.

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A note from the Board

No one could have predicted 2020 would have been the year that it was. As we dove into 2020, Next Wave's outlook was full of promise preparing for a Festival that would introduce the country's first Government of Artists. This cohort of 29 artists, writers, curators, producers and collectives were sophisticated, courageous and fierce; their works set to address the most pressing of questions facing our nation. Within 24 hours of the Festival's program launch on March 12, government restrictions banned gatherings of 500+ and restrictions rapidly changed to banning smaller groups from gathering shortly thereafter.

While presenting the planned Festival became impossible, the Next Wave team was committed to finding a way to support artists and connect with audiences in this new, changed landscape. In late May, Next Wave presented *ASSEMBLE!* – an online gathering with a common purpose to share ideas around leadership, community and care in a time of crisis. We applaud the tenacity and dedication of Next Wave staff, participating 2020 artists and all the supporters that all contributed to the delivery of this program.

While *ASSEMBLE!* brought a sense of accomplishment and unity to the team, Next Wave's 2020 challenges were far from over. In June, several staff advised they would be leaving the organisation, which prompted a review of Next Wave's structure and culture. This will remain an ongoing priority for us as an organisation and we are grateful to these staff members for their exceptional contributions to the company as well as their courage and feedback, which has been instrumental in our growth and learning as a Board.

We particularly highlight the leadership of Director / CEO Roslyn Helper, who rose to some of the most exceptional challenges the organisation has faced in recent times. Her vision, ambition and passion for contemporary arts practice was keenly felt during her time at Next Wave.

As an organisation, we ask big, brave things of ourselves and this doesn't always equate to immediate success. One thing we believe to be consistent across our 35+ years is that it's better to try, fail and learn from our mistakes than to tread familiar or conventional pathways without risk. 2020 was a challenging year but it was also an unexpected year of reckoning, giving us some necessary space to pause, reflect on our strengths and weaknesses, and consider how we might best serve our artistic community in the future. With the appointment of a new Executive Director/ CEO and other roles to be recruited in the first half of 2021, we are optimistic about the future of Next Wave and committed to remaining one of Australia's most vital arts organisations.

A note from the CEO

Next Wave entered 2020, ready to propose a new kind of governance. We knew it was a moment for artists to step up, to be centred in the conversations and concerns of our time.

This new kind of governance was devised over twelve months in collaboration with an inspiring cohort of artists from across the country. We proposed the kind of governance that asks the questions: How can we use artmaking to rethink ways of being together in this time and place? What is possible if we centre ourselves in a politics of hospitality and multiplicity?

What can we achieve together? With this vision, we invited artists to set the agenda for change.

2020 encountered devastating bushfires, the COVID-19 global pandemic, and the Black Lives Matter crisis. Next Wave responded to a cancelled Festival, to a Melbourne lockdown that lasted the better part of eight months, and to an urgent need for developing new modes of connection and community building.

We worked with our artists to re-imagine A Government of Artists as *ASSEMBLE!* A crucial gathering of artists online. Against a background of financial precarity, we prioritised artists' pay. We invited artists to take over our physical and digital infrastructures. We provided opportunities for artists to continue practicing and to remain visible amidst a cultural shutdown. We reflected deeply on the ways that broader social and political imbalances reverberate through our own organisational systems and structures, and enacted consultation with staff, artists and sector peers to make steps towards positive change.

I am proud of the way Next Wave channelled this enduring, collaborative vision into a responsive framework for art and action. I am proud of the deep listening, difficult conversations, sector consultation and advocacy that we achieved through a relentless year, with a vision to a brighter, more just and equitable future. And mostly, I am proud of the ways in which our artists adapted, responded, persevered and took opportunities for rest; continuing to provide critical reflection, reprieve, mourning, hope, joy and inspiration.



ROSLYN HELPER
Director/CEO

2020 Highlights

\$150,000

paid to artists

122

interstate artists engaged

360

artists engaged

30

alternate format events offered
across Festival program

85

new works presented

25%

of Festival program led by
First First Nations artists

237

Victorian artists engaged

100%

of Festival ticketed events offered
Blaktix

150%*

increase in audiences who identify
as Deaf or having a disability*

100%

of artist fees and contractor
fees paid despite cancellation
of Next Wave Festival

**through ASSEMBLE!*

2020 Highlights

28

festival works developed

13,840

followers on Facebook

12K

users*

13,632

likes on Facebook

15.8K

sessions*

8,666

followers on Instagram

65,890

page views*

6,405

double taps*

32.5K

reach on Facebook

8,618

video plays on Instagram

**Next Wave Org website statistics*



Make or Break billboard, presented as part of ASSEMBLE!. Image: Ella Sowinska (2020)

2020 Highlights

124

tagged photos on Instagram

500

Government of Artists posters distributed

12,100

followers on Twitter

173

volunteer applications received

60

@next_wave mentions on Twitter

12

Virtual Rose and drinks purchases

4

billboards taken over in Melbourne with artwork by Festival artists

331

transactions on *WAVEMart*

12,000

copies of Government of Artists Agenda distributed

\$7,174

to artists through *WAVEMart*

Program & Artistic Highlights

“It felt like a bit of a life line. Connecting me with the arts community, seeing friends and collaborators live on screen.”

—*NEXT WAVE* audience feedback

Next Wave Festival 2020: A Government of Artists – Festival Launch

BREAKING: AUSTRALIA'S ARTISTS ARE FORMING A GOVERNMENT

These are the words that drove Next Wave's Festival campaign, launched on Thursday 12 March, 2020 to 200+ attendees at the public event and 400+ online attendees. This message was centered across our digital spaces, printed on large posters emulating iconic political campaigns of our past and on the ticker of our livestreams.

We set the scene at Argyle Square, a public plaza and civic space in the heart of Carlton, with sector peers, media representatives, artists, and curious bystanders looking on. Live-streamed to YouTube, complete with rolling ticker tape, the Program Launch took its cues from political press conferences, positing attendees as citizen journalists and artists as our leaders. The event was rounded out with a media wall for photo opportunities, a cake cutting ceremony, celebratory smoke bombs, the hashtags #NWF2020, #GovOfArtists and the encouragement to cheekily feed into national political context with #AusPol.

Following a Welcome to Country with Uncle Colin Hunter from the Wurundjeri Land Council, Next Wave artists Libby Harward (QLD), Ayesha Ash (NSW), and Roshelle Fong (VIC) launched the Festival with inspiring, visionary speeches and performances, including a cameo from Poona: a lesbian cyborg presidential campaign for 2050. The event was hosted by Bo Svoronos and featured speeches by Boon Wurung Elder, Gheran Steel, and Martin Foley MP, City of Melbourne.



President Poona takes to the stage, Next Wave Festival launch. Photo: Anne Moffatt (2020)

“Imagine our country nurtured. Imagine every part of this land, water and sky country is someone’s responsibility and is cared for. Imagine your identity is embedded within. Imagine you do not feel alone in the world because you know deeply you are interrelated to all living things. Imagine this is your law and you can trust this as it will never change. Imagine that sustainability principles are fundamental to culture and integral to all your daily affairs. Imagine you have [a] community to hold counsel when relationships between people and the environment and people and people go wrong. Imagine this counsel would sit until a mutual agreement was reached and everyone was satisfied. Imagine if we made decisions on a local level based on our own deep understanding of our place within it. Imagine if every decision was based on long-term visions from knowledge that extends back further into the past than we can think into the future. This model we would imagine already exists, and prior to colonisation it served us for millennia. This model, Aboriginal Governance, is what needs to be reinstated because our collective survival as humanity depends on it.”

—*Libby Harward, NWF2020 artist*

[Revisit the Artist Speeches →](#)

[Revisit the livestream →](#)

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+ LIBBY HARWARD (QLD)
+ ROSHELLE FONG (VIC)
+ AYEESHA ASH (NSW)
+ PRESIDENT POONA

artist speeches

33%

interstate artists engaged

3

new works presented

200

audience members in attendance
in Carlton

67%

Victorian artists engaged

400

tuned in via livestream

Next Wave



Libby Harward addresses the audience, Next Wave Festival launch.
Photo: Anne Moffatt (2020)

Next Wave Festival 2020 Program

Next Wave gives special mention to all our programmed artists and their works to acknowledge the love, hard work, care and preparation that went into preparing for Next Wave Festival 2020.

[View the NWF2020 program →](#)

Whilst Next Wave Festival didn't go ahead due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will continue to work with these artists to find new opportunities to present their originally intended works, developments and new iterations with peer organisations locally and nationally in 2021 (and beyond).

210

artists engaged

40%

Victorian artists engaged

28

new Festival works developed

60%

interstate artists engaged

A Government of Artists cake cutting ceremony, Next Wave Festival launch. Photo: Anne Moffatt (2020)



THE AGENDA

NEW WAYFINDERS TO GO FORWARD SOFTLY
AND VERY GENTLY

MARCUS WHALE POSSESSION

BLACK BIRDS ORA I MATE

LIBBY HARWARD DEADSTREAM_DABILBUNG
(BROKENWATER)

MAKE OR BREAK INFLUENCE OPERATION

IVEY WAWN IN PERPETUITY

MOREBLESSING MATURURE MILK & HONEY & LEMONS

ALEX LAST BEAST OF BURDEN OF PROOF

ROHELLE FONG & KEZIAH WARNER POONA

BELINDA LOCKE UNDER MY TONGUE

AARON CLARINGBOLD & REBECCA MCCAULEY LEISURETIME I

WARRABA WEATHERALL THE REVOLUTION WILL
NOT BE AESTHETICISED

BEN BROOKER BELOW THE LINE

NGIOKA BUNDA-HEATH BIRRPAL

ISABELLA WHAWHAI WARU KAITIAKI: STRIKING LAVA

NANA BILUS ABAFFY & PARVIN SALJOUGH GREEN NASIM

MATT AITKEN & LYNDON BLUE WHITE LINE FEVER

KALANJAY DHIR LIVESTREAM

RIOT STAGE EVERYONE IS FAMOUS

NEIKA LEHMAN RRUYTINA: ABOVE AND BELOW

RACHEL MEYERS SOUTHERN ECOPHONY

DAZ CHANDLER THE PARALLEL EFFECT

NANETTE ORLY & ANDY BUTLER SHIFTING CENTRE

RE:GROUP PERFORMANCE COLLECTIVE COIL

BRUNO BOOTH DEAD ENDS & DETOURS

SAPNA CHANDU & MICHAEL WARNOCK FILTER MY PREJUDICE

EFREN PAMILACAN & LAY THE MYSTIC COUNTERBALANCE

FINE PRINT MAGAZINE RALLY

ASSEMBLE!

ASSEMBLE! was a gathering of artists online with a common purpose – to share ideas around leadership, community and care in a time of crisis.

Taking place from 22 - 31 May, *ASSEMBLE!* was led by Next Wave's Festival artists and community in response to the cancellation of Next Wave Festival 2020. Following consultation with the Next Wave artists, it became clear that many artists craved an opportunity to create, and do something during the lockdown while many of their prior commitments began to disappear on account of cancellations due to the pandemic. *ASSEMBLE!* provided a tangible way to adapt their work in a digital context, or present a new work or offering.

radioWAVE is an online radio station to broadcast artists' ideas through sound and visual experimentation, conversation, and celebration broadcast live from Studio 1

at Brunswick Mechanics. The program included a suite of projects spanning live streamed artistic presentations, online workshops and public billboards.

WAVEmart – a shop for artists and friends to sell, trade and share their wares with the aim of putting \$\$ into artists pockets and fostering a community of shared prosperity. *WAVEmart* included a takeover of the Testing Grounds digital infrastructures (Instagram and website) with Next Wave taking the reigns and hacking the codes to their websites and socials. *WAVEmart* also offered a care package made with love by Next Wave and delivered to 250 homes nationally aiming to bring tactile and connected experiences to homes reiterating the strong and wide network of our artist communities. The contents included treats, trinkets, art and gifts from our sponsors and community.

Makeda livestream DJ set at Brunswick Mechanics for ASSEMBLE! Photo: Ella Sowinska (2020)

[Revisit Next Wave *ASSEMBLE!* →](#)



ARTISTS & COLLABORATORS

Aaron Claringbold & Rebecca McCauley (VIC)
Aida Azin (VIC)
Alex Last (TAS)
APHIDS (VIC)
Ayebatonye Abrakasa (NSW)
Ben Brooker (SA)
Blindside (VIC)
Bruno Booth (WA)
Bobby Virgona (NSW)
C.Frim (VIC)
Ceri Hann (VIC)
Corin (VIC)
Danielle Reynolds (VIC)
Daphne Campf (VIC)
Daz Chandler (VIC)
Despoinas Media Coven (TAS)
DJ Fizzi (VIC)
DJ Kyaanz (VIC)
Emma Stevenson (VIC)
Field Theory (VIC)
fine print magazine (SA)
GENERAL FEELINGS (VIC)
Georgie Boy (VIC)
Isabella Whāwhai Waru (VIC)
Ivey Wawn (NSW)
Kalanjay Dhir (NSW)
Kiki House of Devine (NSW)
Libby Harward (QLD)
Liquid Architecture (VIC)
Lonelyspeck (SA)
Magic Steven (VIC)
Make or Break (NSW)
Makeda (VIC)
Marcus Whale (NSW)
Matt Aitken & Lyndon Blue (WA & NSW)
Merve (VIC)
Moopie & Bayu (VIC)
Ngioka Bunda-Heath (VIC)
Nina Buchanan (VIC)
Rachel Meyers (TAS)
Roshelle Fong & Keziah Warner (VIC)
Sapna Chandu & Michael Warnock (VIC)
Soda Lite (TAS)
Sullivan (VIC)
Tal Fitzpatrick (VIC)
Testing Grounds (VIC)
Vibe Positive (NSW)

83

artists engaged

20%

interstate artists engaged

31

new works presented

41,827

engaged audiences*
cumulative audiences across
socials, google analytics

11,067

website views (across *ASSEMBLE!*
websites)

2,436

Facebook reactions

18,283

Facebook reach

1,873

likes on Instagram

560,000

Bruno Booth billboard (Fitzroy)
visibility*

588,000

Make or Break billboard (Brunswick)
visibility*

**Mr Moto advertising visibility supplied 2020*



ASSEMBLE!: "We Are Stronger Than The System You Left Us" Tal Fitzpatrick Photo by: Ella Sowinska

“Next Wave create unrivalled creative and professional development experiences for artists and producers.”

—*Next Wave Festival 2020 artist*

mood_board

mood_board was a digital project that ran from 16 November - 14 December via Next Wave's e-newsletter. Each week, we invited a different artist to take over the usual Next Wave "Pegboard" enews with each mood board taking readers on a "walking tour of the internet". *mood_board* was conceived as a kind of "collage of ideas and feelings"

providing an insight into artists' clickholes, browser histories and hyperlinked streams of consciousness. More specifically, this project explored the relationship between the way artists research, navigate and use the internet as a working process for art making.

5

artists engaged

21.6%

average open rate

5

new works presented

842

click-throughs

20%

Victorian artists engaged

19,949

total recipients

80%

interstate artists engaged



mood_board documented via Next Wave instagram

Participating artists

- HANNAH BRONTÈ (QLD)
- JACKIE DE LACY (NSW)
- NATHAN BEARD (WA)
- DEBRIS FACILITY (VIC)
- RAINBOW CHAN (NSW)

PRODUCER: LUJAYN HOURANI

Front and Centre - Motherless Haus

This program was curated by Next Wave Producers in Residence Moorina Bonini & Kalyani Mumtaz.

Front and Centre, by artists Motherless Haus, was a Blak Out exhibition at Brunswick Mechanics, illuminating First Nations queer experiences in this moment of global disruption and change. The project was conceived in response to the Black Lives Matter protests and COVID-19 lockdowns as the final project for Next Wave's Producers in Residence program.

The artists were invited to "take-over" the building, with the intention to lend visibility to Blak Queer artists at a time when they were unable to perform, live and embodied. This exhibition celebrated the voices of artists Cerulean, Mo Money, Oyana and Stone Motherless Cold – occupying the windows of the building with paintings and a series of poems presented in the poster box installed at the entrance to Brunswick Mechanics. The artists received mentorship for their writing by artist Neika Lehman.

5

artists engaged

80%

Victorian artists engaged

9

new works presented
(including written components)

20%

international artists engaged

17,000

estimated daily visibility of Sydney Road & Glenlyon Road, Brunswick*

ALWAYS MOB

AYER TO MAMBO AYIZAN
OYANA (SHE/HER)
HAITIAN

Ayiti, Arrernte, Arawak,
 Dahomey, Wiradjuri, Meriam,
 From the unceded lands of the Kulin Nation,
 We call you, Mambo Ayizan.

Herbalist spirit living in palm trees,
 Mistress of Commerce,
 Guardian of Ancient Medical Technology,
 Racine Lwa of herstone knowledge, initiation,
 Speaking language of primordial Inter-Indigenality,
 Organic, Veye growing from a centerline
 Tells a story of two serpents intertwined.

Resting in the Iridium rich soil of a high mountain land of gods,
 We call your name from the unceded lands of the Kulin Nation,
 We request your guidance towards an outopian society manifestation.

HAUS
 THE
THE MOTHERLESS ACKNOWLEDGES
TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF
THESE LANDS AND WATERWAYS,
THE BOON-WURRUNG AND
WURUNDJERI PEOPLES OF
THE KULIN NATIONS. THE FIRST
PEOPLES THAT HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN AND CONTINUE ON THESE LANDS
AND CELEBRATE ON THESE LANDS
FOR TIME MILLENNIA. WE PAY OUR
RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS,
PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE.

WINDY MONTH
NO MONEY (THEY/HE)
WIRADJURI
@INDIAN MONEY

Ayizan is the windy month here. A month to pay tribute to herstory that
 is beginning. The sharing of seeds. The beginning of new life. I was
 born on the border of Wiradjuri and Djaara country. I was raised on
 Wiradjuri and cared for by the people of my people. I am a Wiradjuri person
 living as a guest language on these lands. I would like to pay my respects
 to the spaces I live in, while reclaiming my language. I have created a few
 words that are different ways to refer to the wind. This is to pay tribute
 to the past current of wind, but also to the future. I have created a few
 words: Wind, DANPURAIGUWA, GARRANARRA, GARRANARRA
 Beaching up wind, GARRANARRA
 Cold west wind, GARRANARRA
 Wind, DANPURAIGUWA, GARRANARRA
 Cold west wind, GARRANARRA

3 WHERE IS HOME?
CERULEAN (SHE/THEY)
MERIAM/ERUB KEBI LE
@CERULEANUWU

Water is powerful.
 Water is home.

Cerulean the Meriam goddess, wades amongst the salty waves. Future
 in one eye, past in the other. Misuse of the planet is turning the essence
 of life into something fearful. With the rising of the tides, her traditional
 homeland is submerging slowly.

Cerulean's portrait illustrates the gender-w inclusion of flowers and blaik
 hair. Flowers on her great-grandfather's ear, her grandmother and her
 mother before her. Roots passed down through generations. A feminine
 energy interrupted. Earrings cut from kulap seeds, shaking, echoing the
 sound of powerful voices in protest.

Heading out to sea with totems of the shark, beizum, leaning into
 something unseen. A world that we are fighting for but may not receive.
 In twilight, Cerulean dives deeper into the sea where beizum can carry
 her toward day or toward night.

WE ARE ALL FACTORS
OF A LARGER
ENTITY AT WORK...
SYNERGISE...
WE ARE ALL ASPECTS,
OF ALL ELEMENTS,
ALWAYSQUEER-ALWAYS
MOB - STILL HERE

4 CRYSTAL FEAT
STONE MOTHERLESS COL
ARRERNT
@STONE_MOTHER

Crystalline
 Gathering around
 Stuck in the
 Essence app
 Through br
 Cre



ALWAYS

Documentation of *Front and Centre* written components
 from Motherless Haus. Photo: Anne Moffatt (2020)

Praise!

– Marcus Whale and Eugene Choi

In partnership with Asia Topa, Next Wave was delighted to commission *Praise!* by Marcus Whale and Eugene Choi. Billed as the “gay goth wedding of the year”, *Praise!* was presented from Thursday 20 – Sunday 23 February at Brunswick Mechanics.

Collaborating with Mossy 333, Arben Dzika and Mohini Hillyer Sharma to create a new hymn, Whale and Choi presented a grand saturnine path to epic revelry and reverence, where twin souls balance on the precipice of new union.

Praise! a choral performance based on Psalm 150, celebrating the intersections of the sacred and sensual, gothic and divine in Christian traditions of worship. Psalm 150, known as ‘the musician’s psalm’ encourages congregations to honour with music and dancing.

5

artists engaged

40%

interstate artists engaged

1

new work presented

235

engaged audience

60%

Victorian artists engaged



Praise! - Marcus Whale, Eugene Choi performance, Brunswick Mechanics. Photo: Anne Moffatt (2020)

Brunswick Mechanics' Creative Development Program

Next Wave runs a biannual Creative Development program in which artists or companies with a new performance project are offered up to two weeks of free space, along with access to tech, production and industry support. Approximately 30% of projects chosen were from artists who live in the City of Moreland.

AARTI JADU – *Ciel Métallique*
ALYA MANZART – *Handmade*
CHELLE DESTEFANO –
We Deaf Invisible
KATE LEFOE – *Wicked Women*
KATIE SFETKIDIS – *How Good Is It?*
LYDIA CONNOLLY-HIATT – *SF*
NEBAHAT ERPOLAT –
Conquest of the Garden.
RACHEL PERKS – *An Exhaustive
Treatise on Queer Desire*
SUMARLINAH RADEN WINOTO –
An(other)

9

artists engaged

100%

Victorian artists engaged

Archive of SF, Lydia Connolly-Hiatt Creative Development (2020). Photo courtesy of the artist.



Compass Rose - New Student Precinct, University of Melbourne Partnership

In partnership with the University of Melbourne's New Student Precinct project, Next Wave developed *Compass Rose* – an exhibition of visual art and creative writing which explores perceptions of the University's built environment.

Accessible online, each artwork navigates through memories, dreams, hauntology, nostalgia, mythology, history, politics and the poetics of space associated with locations throughout the University. Anjelica Angwin,

Bingyao Liu, Kanghui Yu, Boya Duan, Jun Bin Lee, Cindy Song, Con Anagnostopoulos, Darcy Moore, Fiona Martin, Georgina Duckett, Henry Sundram, Jo Stubbs, Kelly Soderstrom, Maria Callista, Mikaylah Lepua, Nicholas Currie, Quynh Anh Nguyen, Sebastian Zylinski, Talie & The Lost Art, Yi Xia, Autumn Royal, Made Spencer-Castle, Anita Spooner, Rowan McNaught.

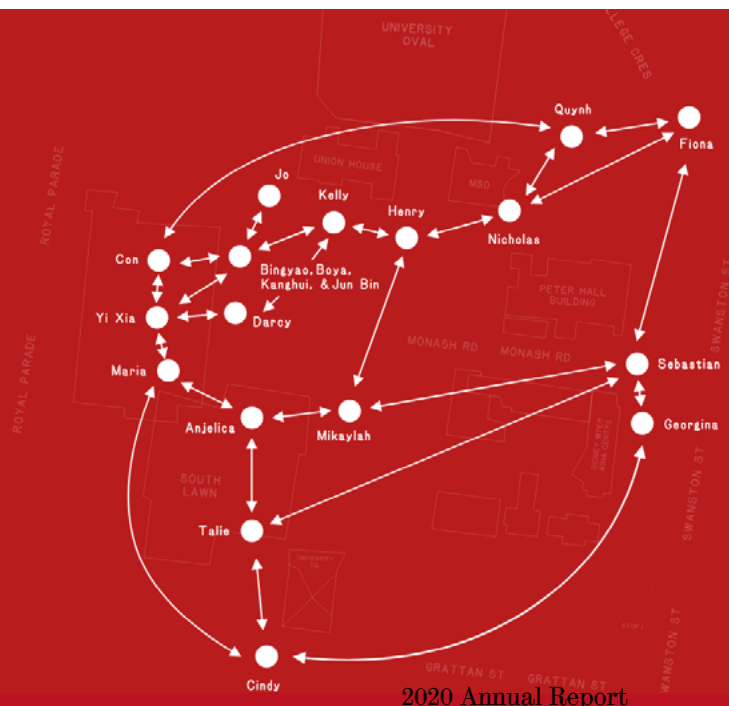
[Explore *Compass Rose* →](#)

24

artists engaged

100%

Victorian artists engaged



Our Values

Next Wave has an enduring commitment to social and environmental sustainability, cultural inclusion and broad accessibility. These commitments are enshrined as actions and protocols in our Sustainability Action Plan, Disability Action Plan and Commitment to First Nations Peoples.

2020 Sustainability Initiatives

- 90% of artists applied environmentally sustainable principles to the development and/or presentation of their project
- 100% of *ASSEMBLE!* program and promotions were delivered digitally
- Recycled paper, environmentally friendly inks were used across all printed collateral
LED lighting installed at Meat Market office
- 100% of NWF2020 Marketing campaign pushed to online spaces

2020 Disability Inclusion Initiatives

- Two major works led by artists with a disability developed for NWF2020
- Continued collaboration with Arts Access Victoria in 2020
- Program offered in PDF download; in large print for PDF, RTF and Word file types
- Auslan video introduction to NWF2020 by Luke Duncan King
- Audio described and plain english version of the program was developed
- NWF2020 was scheduled to occur in 100% wheelchair accessible venues
- 30 accessible format events were offered across the original NWF2020 program. Services offered included: audio description, tactile tour, Auslan interpreting, relaxed performance, open captioning, language no barrier, audio notes, works with no music or dialogue, fully and partially surtitled works
- 4 x Auslan fluent volunteers were recruited through the NWF20 volunteer call out
- National Relay Service offered for all organisation enquiries

- *ASSEMBLE!* offered events with audio description, Auslan interpreting, open captioning, closed captioning, transcription and language no barrier across the digital program
- Access Guide was developed and available on the *ASSEMBLE!* Website
- High and low visibility toggle modes embedded across websites (*Assemble!* NWF2020, and Next Wave)

2020 Cultural Inclusion and Staff Wellbeing Initiatives

- 40% projects led by First Nation Artists
- *ASSEMBLE!* featured a 100% First Nations led opening night
- 54% projects led by artists from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Blaktix offered \$10 tickets for all First Nations Australians who wished to attend events across the festival
- 100% of proceeds from the *WAVE*mart Essentials Package were donated to three First Nations organisations: Deadly Connections, Seed Mob and the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service
- In consultation with the Wurundjeri Land Council, along with First Nations board and staff members, Next Wave's inaugural First Nations Commitment was implemented
- Through engagement with Greenshoot Consulting as part of Creative Victoria's Capacity Building Initiative, Next Wave undertook an organisational appraisal of Cultural Competency in Respectful Workplaces and in Engaging with First Peoples
- Next Wave sits 40% ahead of like-sized organisations in embedding engagement with First Peoples and 10% ahead of like-sized organisations in building Respectful Workplaces

Staff

In 2020 Next Wave farewelled Roslyn Helper, Priya Pavri, Bron Belcher, Sullivan Patten, Magenta Sheridan, Nikki Lam, Alec Reade, Emily Sweeney, Kalyani Mumtaz, Moorina Bonini, Bart Mangan and Rosie Leverton.

We thank the team for their immense contributions to Next Wave in the lead up to, and during 2020 and acknowledge that during this time staff stepped into new positions and responsibilities.

Next Wave Festival Staff

Roslyn Helper
Director/CEO

Priya Pavri
General Manager

Bron Belcher
Senior Producer

Sullivan Patten
Business & Operations Manager

Jacqueline Hanlin
Programs & Operations Manager
(Brunswick Mechanics Institute)
/ General Manager

Brigitte Trobbiani
Marketing & Communications Manager

Anita Spooner
Associate Producer (Partnerships)

Magenta Sheridan
Administration & Operations Coordinator
/ Venue Manager (Brunswick Mechanics Institute)

Nikki Lam
Associate Producer

Alec Reade
Associate Producer

Emily Sweeney
Associate Producer

Kalyani Mumtaz
Assistant Producer (Brunswick Mechanics Institute)

Lujayn Hourani
Marketing & Engagement Coordinator

Moorina Bonini
Engagement Coordinator (First Nations)

Bart Mangan
Production Manager

Jackson Coe
Ticketing Coordinator until August / Business & Operations Manager

Rosie Leverton
Next Wave Festival Intern

Brunswick Mechanics Staff

Ella Sowinska
Meri Leeworthy
Isabella Hone-Saunders
Andrew Goddard
Ashley Dwyer
Emma Lockhart-Wilson
Oliver Packard
Stacy Jewell

Board

In 2020, Vanessa Pigrum, stepped down from her role as Chair after two-and-a-half years with the organisation. Steven Rhall also stepped down from his role as Board Member at Next Wave.

Board members

Vanessa Pigrum
Chair

Nicole Smith
Co-Chair

Hinda Crosbie
Treasurer

Isthar Vij
Public Officer

Steven Rhall
Kristy Ayre
Stephen Armstrong
Lesley Gillan

A photograph of the Brunswick Mechanics Institute building at night. The building is a light-colored stone or concrete structure with a prominent central column and two large arched windows. The interior of the building is illuminated with a vibrant pink light, which is visible through the windows. The word "INSTITUTE" is written in large, raised letters above the central column. The scene is framed by dark tree branches in the foreground.

INSTITUTE

Praise! Brunswick Mechanics
Photo: Anne Moffatt

A note from the Treasurer

As with many other organisations, COVID-19 caused a lot of disruption to Next Wave throughout 2020. Due to restrictions imposed by the governing bodies throughout Australia and overseas, we were forced to cancel the 2020 Festival as well as the closure of our venue at Brunswick Mechanics Institute in March 2020.

In response to an urgent need for developing new connection and building community, we worked with our artists to re-imagine A Government of Artists as ASSEMBLE! The organisation delivered 31 projects for ASSEMBLE!, an online presentation of work in response to the pandemic which included a platform for artists to stream content, share thoughts and music, as well as to sell artworks and merchandise.

Amongst the changes in 2020, Next Wave took the opportunity to complete an organisational cultural and structural review which resulted in several leadership and staff changes.

Next Wave was eligible for Job Keeper as well as being successful in applying for several other stimulus packages that became available throughout the year, as a result of this and the significant impact the pandemic had on our ability to operate normally and produce the festival, the operating surplus of \$358,220 for the year ended 31 December 2020 is unusually high and has resulted in a retained surplus equity balance of \$ 635,379 as at 31 December 2020.

The ongoing impacts of COVID 19 remain unknown and the levels of activity in 2021 are likely to remain low, negatively impacting the financial results for Next Wave over the near term. The Board and staff of Next Wave are committed to using this surplus for future programming activities to ensure the continuing operations of Next Wave well into the future.

Finally, we are grateful to all our partners, including our core recurring funding partners Creative Victoria, City of Melbourne, and Moreland City Council and to our project partners Australia Council for the Arts who allow us to service the arts national agenda. The 2020 audit was undertaken by BP Audit and a full copy of the audited statements is available on request.



HINDA CROSBIE
Treasurer



ASSEMBLE! Bruno Booth Billboard
Photo: Ella Sowinska

Partnerships & Thanks

Core Funders

Creative Victoria
City of Melbourne
Moreland City Council

Next Wave Festival 2020

Creative Victoria
City of Melbourne

Principal Public Supporter

Moreland City Council

Project Partners

Australia Council for the Arts
Victorian Multicultural Commission
City of Yarra
Create NSW
Moreland City Council
Creative Partnerships Australia

Principle Media Partner

Art Guide Australia

Trusts & Foundations

Besen Family Foundation
Robert Salzer Foundation

Next Wave X partners

ACE
Bleach
Campbelltown Arts Centre
Liquid Architecture
Metro Arts
Pact
PICA
Punctum
Salamanca Arts
Vitals Statistix

Program Partners

Arts House

Northcote Town Hall

The Substation

West Space

Bus Projects

Dancehouse

Chinese Museum

Signal

Darebin Arts

Signal

Hyphenated Projects

Melbourne International Arts Festival
(Rising)

University of Melbourne

Chunky Move

Siteworks

Blak Dot

c3, Abbotsford Convent

Media Player Partner

Lupa

Ticketing Partner

Ferve

Radio Partner

RRR – Triple R

Festival Partners

Mr Moto

New End

Design Partner

Hours After

Hospitality Partners

Four Pillars

Mountain Goat

Noisy Ritual

Mabu Mabu

All Day Donuts

Access Partners

Nilgün Güven-Bouras

Arts Access Victoria

Arts Access Australia

Accessible Arts

Description Victori

ASSEMBLE!

MESS

Moreland City Council

Mr Moto

All Day Donuts

RRR – Triple R

Hours After

Amarillo

Art Guide

Beit e'Shai

Film Never Die

Four Pillar Gin

Gnomes Melbourne Urban Farmers

Heart Cave Yoga

Hope Street Radio

Mabu Mabu

Mountain Goat

MUBI

Newend

Noisy Ritual

Plastic Loaves

Polly's Burgers

Silk Presse

Testing Grounds

UN Projects

United Measures

Wingnut & Co

Tertiary Partners

University of Melbourne New Student
Precinct

Cultural Partners

Asia TOPA

Access Partners

Access Victoria

Description Victoria

Brunswick Mechanics Partners

Moreland City Council

Noisy Ritual

Mountain Goat

Mabu Mabu

Our Thanks to

Nilmini Fernando

The Meat Market

Jazz Festival

BuiltOn IT

Next Wave Collective Donors

(2019 - 2020)

Stephen Armstrong

Kristy Ayre

Chris Cottrell

Matthew Fisher

David Geoffrey Hall

Bonnie Leigh-Dodds

Stephanie Kavall

Stephanie Lyall

Zackary McLennan

Vanessa Pigrum

Lara Thoms

Ishtar Vij

Janenne Willis

Lesley Young

Next Wave is the most comprehensive platform in Australia for a new generation of artists taking creative risks. Next Wave delivers Kickstart, a nationally focused, artistic and professional development program, and major presentation opportunities through our biennial Festival and national partnerships program Next Wave X.

Next Wave also manages the Brunswick Mechanics Institute, a centre for experimental performance and artist-led learning, which enables us to support artists in the development and presentation of experimental work year-round.

Next Wave is a values-driven organisation and, advocating for cultural inclusion, broad accessibility and best practice in environmental sustainability, with deep respect for the traditional custodians of the lands and waters that sustain us, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.