

SCHOOLHOUSE STUDIOS

**Annual Report
2022-2023**



Schoolhouse Studios acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants and Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, learn and work.

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VISION

To be Melbourne's most joyful, inclusive, and collaborative creative commons.

MISSION

In collaboration with the local community, we overhaul disused buildings and thoughtfully convert them into ever evolving places for creative expression.

CORE VALUES

- Relationships, inclusivity, and collaboration
- Creative expression
- Responsiveness, agility, and experimentation
- Celebration, and connection



ABOUT US



In 2012 founders Alice Glenn and Elizabeth Barnett noticed a dearth of welcoming, inclusive and diverse arts spaces in the community. The hallowed site was St. Joseph's Technical College in Abbotsford, which was converted into an impressive arts hub boasting studios, a gallery, an events space, a backyard orchard and even a basketball court. Schoolhouse Studios came to life.

Fast forward to 2015, Rupert St, Collingwood and Cross St, Brunswick East, two retrofitted warehouse studios were born with artists, NGO's and creative businesses across both sites. Our model during this time grew to incorporate private and shared studio spaces, a cafe, gallery, bar and event space with a full calendar of gigs, performances, exhibitions, professional development workshops and artistic residencies with grants.

In 2021, Schoolhouse Studios signed a lease agreement with Coles and Merri-bek City Council for the former supermarket building in Coburg, next to Coburg Station. This is now our current home. We house a gallery, and event spaces including an outdoor courtyard and loading dock.

Today, we are an ACNC registered not-for-profit cultural organisation with DGR status.

Chair's Report

Hayley Percy

2023 has seen many exciting changes and evolutions within the Schoolhouse org. One of the biggest developments was the change in Directors with Holly Fifer stepping down after a 3yr successful tenure in the role.

After a considered recruitment process we were very lucky to have Bron Belcher accept the role as Director for SHS in February 2023. Bron's approach to the space has seen so many positive internal updates to process and structure.

One major key event for 2023 was our annual planning day with Bron & targeted on our yearly strategy with some core focuses being long term plans for the building, tenancy retention, council advocacy and ongoing budget and fundraising planning. Another core outcome of this strategy session was the creation of the board 3 sub-committees: Governance & Finance, Fundraising and Events and Communications. The intention was to create more focussed sub groups to allow for improvements and actions in the areas that we highlighted as priorities for the yearly plan.

In March of 2023 we welcomed Lore Awaad as our new Operations Manager working very closely with Bron across the day to day running and administrative needs within the space.

2023 also saw the board welcome Deanna Smart as Treasurer. Deanna brings to the organisation a wealth of knowledge and background in the arts and has previously worked as Co-CEO of Dancenorth and is currently Head of Creative Program at RISING Festival.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Merri-bek Council, The Mayor Angelica Panopoulos, our management team and of course our incredible community of artists and residents within the space. The investment in community connection within Coburg and the surrounding organisations is integral to the ongoing success of Schoolhouse Studios so we are very grateful for the ongoing support from our stakeholders and friends and family of the space.

Director's Report

Bron Belcher

2023 has been an era for growth at Schoolhouse Studios. We started the year with all new staff and a doubling of our available studios, and it's been non-stop since.

I have learned a lot about who we are inside and out; mostly by listening hard and being present. My key takeaways are that we are deeply impacted by what the lights decide to do on any given day, and that temperature control in our beloved old Coles building is integral for good work to happen. I also learned that we all appreciate it when there is a lot happening, when there are plenty of things to bring us out of our studios and get us working together.

I saw this in action with *Warm Welcome*, our first resident's exhibition in June. An experiment that paid off; the exhibition was a perfect coming together for our residents and a great way to get acquainted with each other's work. Whether it was helping curate, performing at the opening, or exhibiting work, residents contributed wholly and our community came to support, so much so we had to extend the exhibition an extra week. We are committed to making an exhibition like this a seasonal fixture and are already planning Summer 2024.

Another event building momentum is our market. Each one has had a different character, shaped by who gets involved. I love seeing the building full of dogs, families, art, music, snacks. Our Kid's Market introduced us to the next generation of budding creative entrepreneurs and we spread into new areas of our building to accommodate, with bands and sausage sizzles in the courtyard and mask-making workshops and portraits in the gallery.

A collaboration with Merri-bek City Council brought the work of our residents out into Coburg along Louisa Street. Working with Abbey Rich to design and deliver, ten residents painted planters that have made Louisa St a little brighter and hopefully slightly safer (for anyone who is familiar with chaos of cars and pedestrians that can take place out there!). This is the first phase of three and we look forward to continuing work with Council to platform the work of our creatives locally.

Our resident community doubled, there was an uptick in exhibition openings and events, and we finally cleaned our front windows. It's been great.

I want to thank our Chair and Board Members for their ongoing support. I am so proud and privileged to spend my days as part of the Schoolhouse Studios community, and we are looking forward to what 2024 has in store.

“

Being a resident at SHS has given me the confidence and resources to run my first solo exhibition. Equitable access to the gallery space has been invaluable for me as an emerging artist.

I've been in many studios over the past 10 years and I think SHS is my favourite. People in studios often talk about community without any support or sense of community but at SHS it seems genuine and that means a lot as a sometimes sole trader who works alone. The temperature control was amazing in winter, great to not have to wear 8 layers of clothes.

From Our Residents

Schoolhouse is a fantastic space to share with like-minded creatives. I always feel supported by the community and feel welcome to bring my ideas and thoughts to the space.

I am very grateful to have space at SHS, it has allowed me to continue my art practice at weird hours while I juggle children and teaching life. My hope to use it more and more in the future and be a bigger part of the community.

SHS has helped me establish a home for my practise where I feel safe and secured. I feel supported and part of something bigger than myself.

I love my studio and the amazing girls Bron and Loor.

”

RESIDENTS STATISTICS



Schoolhouse Studios is currently home to 87 artists and creatives, encompassing a broad range of practices and uses for our building. We have 64 different studio spaces, and we added Studio 25 to our shared spaces available to anyone by the hour. The resident community requires different things from our space and we are glad to have accommodated so many distinct groups and variety.

We hosted over 300+ events; exhibitions, classes, gigs, film screenings, workshops, festivals and markets and raised \$395,000 revenue this financial year.

The annual Tenant Survey helped us better understand who we are.

70% women
55% LGBTQIA
22% with a disability
33% CALD
63% living in Merri-bek

It also provided invaluable insights for enhancing Schoolhouse's services. Key findings underlined a desire for more professional development and grant writing workshops, and a high level of collaboration across the space. 95% of tenants have met more than one new person, and 32% have undertaken one or more paid projects borne from those new connections. The main concerns cited were general maintenance and lighting (42%) and a few wished we did a little more weeding (11%).

63% were satisfied with their experience at Schoolhouse, and the remaining 37% were very satisfied. 100% of residents surveyed said they felt Schoolhouse staff were supportive and approachable.

Occupancy for FY 22/23 was 96%.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Key Programs



SHS Markets

We ran four bi-monthly markets, partnering with Merri-bek City Council to feature live music and food trucks for our markets in October. We have an average of 40 local stallholders and a Trans N Treasure.

Joke Club

A flagship school holiday program, we received a grant from Inner North Foundation to run comedy workshops for children ages 8 - 12. We met 13 budding comedians over the two-day workshop.

Residents Exhibition

Warm Welcome was our inaugural Residents Exhibition, featuring works from 26 residents, and opening night performances. The exhibition was extended a week due to popularity.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Partnerships



Louisa Street Project

With Merri-bek Council, we worked with Abbey Rich to design a street mural and 10 residents to paint planters to help pedestrianise Louisa Street in Coburg.

Chantelle Lucyl Runway

Resident Chantelle Lucyl launched the next season of her label, complete with DJs and full runway show.

Old Coburg Station

We curated four events in the newly renovated Old Coburg Station; making four artist archives available to the local community in the form of events and a reading room.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Gallery



Lachlan Denton Album Launch

To accompany his wood-worked themed album, Lachlan launched his record *Furnishings*, alongside furniture merch at his successful one night event.

Second Stitch Workshop + Exhibition

Led by the work of 12 artists from refugee, Indigenous and culturally diverse backgrounds, alongside contributions by more than 160 community members, *Cross Stitch* was an exhibition and workshop series.

NCAT Photography Prize

The Northern College of Arts and Technology offers important bridging courses for their students, and we hosted their photography students and their final works for the semester.

PEOPLE

President

Hayley Percy

Secretary

Sophie Matthieson

Treasurer

Deanna Smart

Board Member + CoFounder

Alice Glenn

Board Member

Dale Packard

Board Member

Andrew Evans

Board Member

Stephanie Williams

Director

Bron Belcher

Operations Manager

Loor Awwad
Kat Carrington



SAY HI

RESIDENTS



Abbey Rich	Eileen Braybrook	Jude Worters	Open Table
Alex Turpin	Elias Youssef	Kay Abude	Oscar Mortlock
Amelia Lever-Davidson	Fluff Corp	Kristina Tsoulis-Reay	Pey Chi
Andrea Foxworthy	Fozia Akalo	Kristine Kenins	Prue Stent
Anna Ankerlund	Francesca Pezzimenti	Lada Dedic	Rhys Kelly
Anna El Samad	Free Theatre	Leela Schauble	Rianna Macken
Antonia Sellbach	Georgia Polichroniadis	Lichen Kemp	Rigel Maple
Anwyn Hocking	Georgina Cue	Lisa Banh	Ruby Allegra
Ashley Ronning	Gina Gascoigne	LOOM	Safa El Samad
Barb Murphy	Hamish Carr	Luna Mrozik Gawler	Samuel Biddle
Bec Smith	Honey Long	Majed Fayed	Sarah Haq
Chantelle Tarola	Indie Voices	Mat De Moiser	SHS Office
Chris Henschke	Jack Sinclair	Matt Pyrke	Sophie Hayward
Christa Orcullo	James Langer	Matteo Volpi	Stefanie Ulrich
Claire Lehmann	Janetta Kerr-Grant	Melbourne Design Studios	Stephanie Ochona
Claudia Phillips	Jaquelin Vallejo	Mike Fee	Teddy Darling
Coburg Traders Association	Jasmine Hakim	Mimi Vu	Tommy Sura
Dan Elborne	Jean Bachoura	Minna Leunig	Veisia Tonga
Dan Trevarthen	Jenna Corcoran	Myf Hocking	Warsan Mohamed
Denara Amat	Jia Jia Chen	Natasha Postolovski	Zenobia Ahmed
Dennis Grauel	John Gosper	NIYEC	

Income and Expenditure Statement

Schoolhouse Studios Inc For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Income		
Bar Money	2,349	1,138
Consultation Fee	1,048	-
Crowd Funding	965	199
Exhibition Fee	7,191	11,564
Market Stalls	1,145	1,009
Rental Income	273,960	181,276
Square Sales	18,926	11,452
Square Surcharges	937	-
Total Income	306,521	206,637
Cost of Sales		
Purchases	21	319
Total Cost of Sales	21	319
Gross Surplus	306,500	206,319
Other Income		
SHS Fundraiser Artist sale	-	540
Amenities Contribution	24,825	17,878
Event Space Hire	14,758	18,569
Funding	8,700	139,628
Interest Received	271	15
Keys	75	5
Other Income	-	11,497
Total Other Income	48,629	188,132
Expenditure		
Administration		
Accounting Fees	3,460	4,500
Bad Debts	7,724	8,858
Bank Fees	193	(482)
Insurance	8,287	9,201
Stripe Fees	247	416
Square Fees	2,106	1,384
Consultancy Fees	-	30,000
Total Administration	22,017	53,876
Amenities & Maintenance		
Cleaning	12,067	(1,185)
Bathroom Amenities	334	619
Key Expense	1,133	1,830
Property Maintenance	2,217	8,326
Internet Expenses	4,800	(5,362)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

	2023	2022
Electricity & Gas	78,388	25,075
Waste Disposal	3,840	912
Total Amenities & Maintenance	102,779	30,215
Events		
Event Costs	109	-
Event Expenses	10,303	1,511
Event Security	971	-
Gallery Expense	721	193
Placemaking Expense	-	24,913
Bar Staff	3,770	2,276
Bar Expenses	9,752	5,965
Bar Management	-	322
Hire of Equipment (Events)	250	-
Total Events	25,875	35,180
Employment Costs		
Freelance Staff Fees	-	25
Superannuation	14,142	13,418
Wages	139,070	140,907
Workcover	402	-
Total Employment Costs	153,613	154,350
Marketing		
Advertising & Promotions	120	(114)
Website Maintenance	2,318	1,669
Total Marketing	2,438	1,556
Office Expenses		
Office Expenses	893	3,056
Postage & Couriers	148	131
Staff Amenities	804	1,440
Security Costs	1,313	-
Total Office Expenses	3,158	4,627
Rent & Occupancy		
Rent Expense	47,100	27,023
Total Rent & Occupancy	47,100	27,023
Other Operating Expenses		
Petty Cash Expenditure	27	-
Total Other Operating Expenses	27	-
Total Expenditure	357,009	306,826
Operating Profit	(1,879)	87,625
Non-Operating Expenses		
Depreciation and Amortisation	36,252	6,469
Financing Expenses		

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	2023	2022
Borrowing Costs	5,000	-
Interest Paid	10,584	6
Total Financing Expenses	15,584	6
Total Non-Operating Expenses	51,836	6,475
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) Before Income Tax	(53,715)	81,150
Net Current Year Surplus After Income Tax	(53,715)	81,150

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Assets and Liabilities Statement

Schoolhouse Studios Inc As at 30 June 2023

	NOTES	30 JUN 2023	30 JUN 2022
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	32,035	93,199
Trade and Other Receivables	3	38,922	31,426
Total Current Assets		70,957	124,625
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	4	294,786	91,971
Total Non-Current Assets		294,786	91,971
Total Assets		365,743	216,596
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	5	41,449	45,519
Total Current Liabilities		41,449	45,519
Non-Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	5	206,932	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities		206,932	-
Total Liabilities		248,381	45,519
Net Assets		117,362	171,077
Member's Funds			
Capital Reserve		117,362	171,077
Total Member's Funds		117,362	171,077

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