

STRONG ARTS STRONG CULTURE STRONG COMMUNITIES



 arts

STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 - 2026





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ku Arts acknowledges the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on whose unceded lands we are living. We acknowledge Kurna yarta where our office is based and pay our respects to the Kurna people as the custodians of land, sky and water.

We pay respects to elders past and present, especially our founders, the artists of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands. This plan includes Pitjantjatjara language in honour of Ku Arts history.

Ku Arts is owned and governed by Aboriginal artists as a not-for-profit Aboriginal corporation. Our board represents a diversity of Aboriginal artists and art centres from across South Australia.

Access to our services and programs is extended to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and art centres in South Australia.

Within this plan, Ku Arts uses Aboriginal and Anangu when referring to Aboriginal and/or Torre Strait Islanders (ATSI).

Strong arts =
strong culture =
strong communities

Arts kunpu, tjukurpa kunpu, waltja Tjuta kunpu

Arabana Songlines, Kati Thanda, Lake Eyre National Park, SA, Vivian Wong and Colleen Strangways, SA, 2021, Photo: Mel Henderson

VISION

Ku Arts is the peak service organisation for Aboriginal artists and art centres in South Australia, one of five peak bodies across the central and northern regions of Australia. Ku Arts looks forward and outward to support artists in their practice, where professional development will benefit individuals, their communities and the arts and cultural sector.

PURPOSE

Built on twenty-five years of listening and learning, Ku Arts understands how to work with Aboriginal artists. Our cultural values and principles define Ku Arts as a safe, familiar space for all artists. Our best practice processes ensure artists have agency in their creative work, their decision-making and their engagement with commercial markets.

Ku Arts works through a nuanced process of consultation which involves deep listening and knowledge sharing, a respectful assessment of needs and aspirations, the development of programs and resources best suited to an individual's or community's circumstances, to achieve mutually agreed outcomes.

VALUES

Culture is the heart of our art and all that we do.

Respect for people, culture, language, difference and ideas.

Inclusive being open and honest, listening to the views of others, encouraging participation and collaboration.

Integrity professional service delivery, ensuring we are always ethical, accountable and transparent.



PRINCIPLES

NGAPARTJI NGAPARTJI KULINMA MUNU IWARA WANAMA
RESPECT EACH OTHER AND FOLLOW THE LAW STRAIGHT

PILUNTJUNGKU PEACEFUL AND CALM

KALYPANGKU CONCILIATORY

KUTUTU MUKULYANGKU KINDHEARTED

TJUNGUNGKU UNITED

Ku Arts upholds best practice in our engagement with Aboriginal artists and communities. Leading and listening, learning and sharing are qualities embedded in everything we do. Making contact with artists and discovering their creative practice is achieved through dialogue and interpersonal connection.

Working in community, in partnership with locals, gives us insights into how best to craft professional development opportunities. At each stage in their artistic growth, Aboriginal artists are supported with encouragement and stimulation to develop their practice, and to tell their stories.

Ethical, artist-centred practice and decision-making are core values for Ku Arts. We partner with organisations that share these values and respect the integrity of the way in which we develop and deliver our services and programs.

Our organisation is led by collegiate, clear-minded Aboriginal artists who reflect diverse views and perspectives, bringing robust deliberation to the direction of Ku Arts. Our staff are engaged to bring professional expertise and knowledge, to collaborate with our leadership, to be responsive to the needs of artists and art centres, and to uphold the values and principles of Ku Arts.

Supported by the Australian and South Australian Governments, Ku Arts makes a significant contribution to public policy that affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the arts sector and our national identity. Every aspect of our work enhances and elevates the recognition and appreciation of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From the public's enjoyment of arts and culture, to the engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, our work at Ku Arts makes a meaningful social and economic investment in a more just, more cohesive, more imaginative and more resilient Australia.

2023 MARKS THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF KU ARTS.



OVERVIEW

Founded by women artists in the APY lands in 1998 from Pukatja (Ernabella Arts), Fregon (Kaltjitji Arts) Indulkana (Iwantja Arts) and Amata (Tjala Arts), their collaboration and vision led to the establishment of more APY Aboriginal art centres in Nyapari (Tjungu Palya), Kalka (Ninuku Arts) and Mimili (Mimili Maku Arts).

These valuable community-run facilities sit at the centre of townships and communities, as hubs of creative and social interaction, and sources of wellbeing and economic security. Together they support the Anangu (people), whose distinctive artworks are respected and recognised nationally and internationally. Whether members or not, Ku Arts provides services and programs for all Aboriginal artists and art centres, responding to individual and community needs, and designed to address opportunities and challenges. Importantly, Ku Arts supports the varied and distinctive artforms and styles that have developed and evolved over the years.

In 2005, our founding artists looked beyond the APY lands to regional areas of South Australia and, with the support of the South Australian Government, established a state-wide program for independent artists. As challenging as this may seem, there are many awarded and highly regarded artists whose work has been nurtured and enhanced through the Ku Arts' Statewide Indigenous Community Arts Development (SICAD) program.

A survey of ten regions across South Australia indicates the importance of maintaining this strategic program, with high-levels of engagement to date in the Far North, Far West, Flinders Ranges, Upper Spencer, Central areas and opportunities in future years to develop practice across the Murraylands, Riverland, Adelaide and South East. Ku Arts has built a suite of workshops and services such as the Strong Arts Program, Dunjiba Designs, Arabana Songlines, Our Mob exhibition and Young Our Mob prize, the Tarnanthi and DAAF Art Fairs in delivering the essential components of our SICAD program.

The inter-generational transfer of knowledge and storylines is fundamental to Aboriginal culture and tradition, supported by Ku Arts through our focus on young artists' involvement in our governance and leadership processes. Guided by our leaders, Ku Arts is developing an on-country residential program that nurtures and encourages these future leaders in their artistic and cultural practices.

Looking forward, Ku Arts continues to enrich, empower and elevate Aboriginal arts and cultural practice for the benefit of independent artists, Aboriginal Art Centres and, more broadly, for communities in South Australia and beyond.



WHAT WE DO

Access to Industry Opportunities

As a first point of contact for Independent Aboriginal artists Ku Arts is a safe, familiar place as they try to navigate a range of opportunities in the arts and cultural sectors. Listening, understanding and interpreting the circumstances of Aboriginal artists, whether they live and work in the city, regional or remote locations, enables us to guide them towards mentorships, residencies, entry into prizes and awards, sales and marketing avenues for their arts practice.

Advice for Independent Artists

Deep listening and learning over more than two decades of close contact with Aboriginal artists across South Australia, gives Ku Arts an on-the-ground appreciation for the conditions in which artists work and the joys and frustrations affecting their creative and cultural practice. We connect artists with the relevant professional advisors to match their needs in areas such as copyright, licensing, intellectual property, fees, pricing, retail and exhibition arrangements. In the process of establishing themselves, we offer Aboriginal artists the opportunity to have a professional photographer take a headshot for their use as part of projects and programs. This is accompanied with assistance in devising a biography, notes for their artworks and ways of capturing the creative process.



Advocacy & Research

Ku Arts operates as both a service delivery organisation and a peak body representing the interest of all Aboriginal artists and Art Centres in South Australia. We are recognised nationally as one of five peak bodies who form a trusted network for sharing information and experiences, influencing development of public policy as it affects Aboriginal artists and their communities. We contribute to research projects, and government Inquiries, information and data collection and the making of recommendations for sector improvements. Ku Arts is sought after for our expertise and connections with independent Aboriginal artists across South Australia and for our commitment to culturally appropriate consultation with individuals, communities and art centres. Recently we have contributed to: the Productivity Commission's Study into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts and Craft Market in Australia through multiple consultations; the ORIC investigation into the Intangibles of Governance in Aboriginal Corporations for which Ku Arts was chosen as an 'Insight' organisation; PhD research conducted by Dr Maree Meredith 'Mapping the health promotion benefits of art centres of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands' which we will present to the sector; planning for data collection as part of the National Survey of Remote ATSI Artists during 2023-24 across remote areas of South Australia to complement the 2017-18 survey of ATSI Artists in Central Desert and APY Lands.



Business Support for Aboriginal Art Centres

Ku Arts assists Aboriginal Art Centres to recruit new staff, providing valuable support for the Artist-led Boards of these corporations. We produce job briefs, advertise, interview and referee check, all the time working alongside Board Directors to ensure suitable appointments are made. Ongoing wrap-around support includes contracting, induction, probation & performance reviews, and access to HR services for Art Centre personnel, most of whom are practicing artists, as they take up these exciting but somewhat challenging positions in remote places. Ku Arts has instigated a Kulintja Palya (clear mind) program that aims to bring together and support all Art Centres in their delivery of services and enabling roles supporting artists in these diverse communities across the State.

Arts Ceduna gallery, Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation, 2022, Photo: Arts Ceduna

Creative Skills Development

Identifying the specific career and professional development of Aboriginal artists' needs and their capacity to access facilities and resources is the hallmark of Ku Arts as a service organisation. Creative skills development takes many shapes and forms based on trusted interaction whilst in-community with mutually agreed outcomes between Ku Arts, participating artists and workshop leaders. We enable Aboriginal artists to access mainstream training and development programs conducted by our partners including Jam Factory, Guildhouse, AGSA by contributing towards the tuition fees, securing subsidised rates for participation, or simply helping to complete the registration form. Whenever we are in-community we deliver creative skills workshop that engage Aboriginal artists, enrich their practice, empower their connections, all the while providing insights into ways forward for their career development.

Cultural Advice and Connections

Ku Arts routinely responds to requests for information, advice, connections and access to Aboriginal elders and leaders made by the general public, government agencies, partner organisations, schools, community groups and individuals. Typically, inquiries result in connecting Aboriginal artists with opportunities to participate and provide leadership in broader cultural activities such as translation, welcome to country, committee and board roles, media interviews, speeches and presentations. We approach this service with care, ensuring the Artist is well supported through the process, clear about expectations and appropriately acknowledged. Often these connections lead to further involvement by Ku Arts with a range of organisations and programs. As an example, we facilitated: the donation of an original artwork from Ninuku Arts for the fundraising Gala of the Royal Flying Doctor Service; an Artist was sourced for a Guildhouse mentoring project; we will contribute a chapter to an educational resource reflecting connections between South Australian Aboriginal arts and culture with the environment.

Indigenous Governance

The Board of Ku Arts has initiated a program of Youth Governance Workshops with nine young Aboriginal artists (18-30 yrs) joining our Board in a two-day residency in the Adelaide Hills. This intergenerational transfer of knowledge, expertise and stewardship is crucial to the future of Ku Arts, all Aboriginal Art Centres and other corporations seeking to engage with Aboriginal individuals within their governance processes. On an ongoing basis, we provide advice, support and training for the Artists who are directors of the Boards of Aboriginal arts and cultural corporations. The Ku Arts Board emulates best practice in governance with its Directors representing Aboriginal Artists from six remote and regional communities in South Australia. Considerable effort and expense is allocated to bringing our Board together whether via teleconference or in-person, incorporating a translator so that each meeting is conducted in Pitjantjatjara and English.



2022 Youth Governance Workshop, Back row L-R: Dre Ngatokorua (Port Augusta), Pearl Berry (Adelaide). Third-row L-R: David Miller (Pipalyatjara), Roxanne Carroll, Anne Thompson (Ernabella), Lavene Ngatokorua (Port Augusta), Marita Baker (Kanpi), Aiden Coco (Pipalyatjara). Second-row L-R: Latoya Baker, Celena Tunkin (Kanpi), Carlene Thompson (Ernabella), Selisha Miller (Pipalyatjara), Alison Carroll (Ernabella), Josephine Lennon (Ceduna), Lachlan Miller (Pipalyatjara), Beaver Lennon (Ceduna). Front row L-R: Deanne Brown, Josephine Mick (Pipalyatjara) Dana Shen (Adelaide). Photo: Catherine Baldwin.

Infrastructure Support for Art Centres

The women Artists who founded Ku Arts led the development of each of the APY Art Centres, working closely with communities to build suitable facilities and sustainable enterprises owned and led by Aboriginal Artists. We continue to auspice infrastructure projects and facility improvements for Art Centres within the APY lands, and negotiate access to existing and new buildings and facilities for Aboriginal artists across regional and remote areas of the State. We support artists who are part of formally structured corporations or in nascent collectives, in response to local needs, opportunities and future aspirations as expressed by the Aboriginal artists who live and work in these communities. Our work is often, by nature, diplomatic as we assist Artists to navigate and negotiate for themselves rather than becoming caught up in projects driven by 'settler' behaviour or insensitive ambitions.



Documentation and Promotion

Ku Arts has a large collection of photographs, video and audio files that capture the history of our organisation and, as such, the development of Aboriginal Visual Arts and Crafts practice in South Australia. With 2023 marking our 25th anniversary, we plan to convert these treasures that tell the stories of arts practice and community engagement into accessible digital media resources. There are hundreds of Aboriginal artists who have connections with Ku Arts and our programs, who have been part of these storylines. They will be honoured by our improved capacity to give this body of work greater public visibility. As with all of our work this Digital Storytelling Project will be produced hand-in-hand with our Anangu Mayatja and key Board members to ensure the documentation of creative and cultural practices is shared 'right way', founded on Ku Arts' cultural values.



Roxanne Lorenz from Arts Law, presenting at Strong Arts Program, Ceduna, 2022, Photo: Margaret Rose Photography.

Project and Program Delivery

Ku Arts provides support for Independent Aboriginal artists who do not have the benefit of participation in one of the State's Aboriginal Art Centres. We walk alongside artists in their creative development, identifying opportunities and developing projects and programs, situated in their communities, that advance their artistic skills, knowledge and techniques. We source studio facilities, provide art supplies and equipment, engage in hands-on practical assistance, develop their biographies, headshots, artwork notes, documentation and cataloguing of work. Our projects and programs are delivered in 2-3 stages over a couple of years to allow time for independent practice, incorporation of learning, and an iterative development process. Focused on outcomes, very often the project or program results in an exhibition, sale of artworks at Art Fairs, retail sales direct with the artists and/or via Ku Arts, entry into prizes and awards, establishment of a community-based studio, or supporting entrepreneurial and commercial activities initiated by independent artists.



BEST PRACTICE

Ku Arts believes best practice empowers the voices of Aboriginal artists, gives them agency in their art and cultural practice and promotes their rights to self-determination. Services, advice, projects and programs provided by Ku Arts are accessible and available to all Aboriginal artists in South Australia. We invite Aboriginal Art Centres and artists to join our nearly 400 strong membership as corporation members however this is not compulsory or exclusive. The free flow and exchange of artists in the APY Lands has been hindered in recent years due to misuse of a western capitalist notion of membership and ownership. We know that Anangu artists are linked by connections to family, language and country, not by association with institutions. Our work supports the wellbeing and optimal working conditions for Aboriginal artists, especially those who are vulnerable due to their health and economic circumstances. Ku Arts observes the principles stated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples regarding survival, dignity, wellbeing and fundamental freedoms. Our long track record provides evidence of our careful observation of best practice and our reputation for services, advocacy, arts and cultural development founded on respectful interaction, inclusivity and enablement of all Aboriginal artists. We build partnership with organisations that share our values and principles, and we seek to influence others in the sector in their understanding and capacity to emulate best practice.



OUR HISTORY STAYS WITH US, LIKE A STRONG OLD TREE IT GROWS, ANOTHER BRANCH IS ADDED. THE NEW BRANCH IS SUPPORTED BY THE STRONG TRUNK. THIS IS ANANGU. THIS IS HOW WE KEEP GOING AND WILL DO FOR GENERATIONS INTO THE FUTURE. WE WANT SOMETHING ON OUR OWN LAND ON OUR OWN COMMUNITY TELLING OUR OWN STORIES, DREAMING, NGURA (COUNTRY). NOW YOUNG PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT HISTORY AND ARTS. IF WE SHARE ALL THESE THINGS FROM A LONG TIME AGO, EVERYONE CAN COME AND LEARN, THEY CAN LEARN AT ALL ANANGU WAY.

ALISON MILYIKA CARROLL
ANANGU MAYATJA, KU ARTS

Artwork detail: Atipalku Intjalki, Tjukurpa Mulayangu, Acrylic on Linen, 1690 x 1000, 2022, Photo: Ernabella Arts

Intergenerational knowledge in Aboriginal communities is fundamental to the sustainability of culture, and Elders and children are vital in these cycles of cultural knowledge and relationality.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Strategy, Arts South Australia

PRIORITIES

Giving artists 'voice' not only in their artistic practice but as cultural leaders is a core priority for Ku Arts. We are designing activities that incorporate a focus on the next generations of artists. Our senior artists are mentoring and nurturing the future leaders within the sector, sharing knowledge and teaching them how to become the custodians for their culture.

Self-determination is fundamental to our work with artists, communities and organisations, enabling Aboriginal people to maintain control and authority within the lore and the law. Our Strong Arts Program increases understanding and knowledge for artists in relation to their cultural and intellectual property rights, their ownership and legal position, and how the visual arts industry and market operates.

Ku Arts is inclusive, welcoming and open to all Aboriginal artists and art centres, whether or not they are members within our governance structure. Our creative skills workshops are tailored in response to our distinctive consultation and consensus building processes in response to the needs of particular groups or individuals. We respect and value differences in approach and style, all the while striving to support artists to be the best they can be in their artistic and cultural practice.

The connection between language, culture and art is threaded throughout our work in recognition of Aboriginal heritage that is equally important for those who have continuing connections and for those whose connections have been broken. Through our initiatives we seek to facilitate greater agency and increase opportunities for Aboriginal artists.

For Ku Arts, best practice honours traditional knowledge and connection to country, achieves artistic excellence and genuine cultural expression, and is inclusive, truth-telling, diverse and distinctive.

GOALS

Nganana kunpu kanyinma arts munu culture nganampa tjitji nganampa tjutaku

Success for Ku Arts is reflected in our mission for Strong Arts, Strong Culture, Strong Communities. Ku Arts works for, and with, Aboriginal artists, art centres and arts workers across South Australia, delivering support services and strengthening connections that allow them to realise their aspirations.



**WE HELP KEEP ARTS AND CULTURE
STRONG FOR OUR CHILDREN WHO
ARE OUR FUTURE LEADERS.**

Strong Art Centres

Over the next generation we seek to strengthen established art centres and develop new facilities in each of the ten regions of South Australia. By partnering with, and leveraging support from, collaborating organisations, Ku Arts will lead many of these initiatives. Enabled by our close and trusted relationship with artists on the ground and in community, we help to navigate community dynamics, bring together diverse language groups and interests, manage interactions with multiple mainstream stakeholders, in reaching mutually beneficial outcomes.

Strong Arts Practice

Independent Aboriginal artists at varying stages in their career trajectory, live and work across the State's diverse and varied terrain, representing the 46 language groups in South Australia. Ku Arts encourages cross-cultural exchange through our programs and services and is committed to enabling connections between artists and our partners. We appreciate seeing our initiatives shared, developed and extended by other organisations within the arts sector. Ku Arts looks forward and outward to the next generations, to where independent artistic practice is taking place and in response to communities yet to be serviced.

Strong Communities

A discoverable outcome of the COVID pandemic is the opportunity for artists to capture, share and promote their artworks, biographies and stories online. A persistent challenge for Aboriginal artists is the poor or sometimes non-existent connectivity in some regions of South Australia. Coupled with a lack of confidence and low-level technical skills their potential for professional development is diminished. Ku Arts has advocated for improved IT for regional and remote communities and aims to provide training for Aboriginal artists in the use of social media. An appropriately curated online presence for Aboriginal artists is vital for business and entrepreneurial empowerment to enhance their artistic practice and bring due recognition of their valuable contribution to our national identity.

Strong Legacy

Our treasure trove of photographs, videos, audio recordings and artworks are a rich cultural legacy that we wish to share with artists, communities and the wider public. Ku Arts seeks to establish a collection, properly conserved and digitised, that can be easily accessed and distributed via online and live presentations. We are committed to engaging expert personnel and production facilities to professionally curate and produce these resources. Celebrating our first quarter century, this is an exciting opportunity for Ku Arts to elevate and promote the storylines of Aboriginal artists in South Australia.

GOALS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Strong Art Centres – Enhance established Aboriginal art centres and improve access to facilities including new developments in each of the ten regions of South Australia

ACTIVITY DETAIL	2023	2024	2025	2026
Governance & business support for Art Centre boards	1 Art Centre Per Year	1 Art Centre Per Year	1 Art Centre Per Year	1 Art Centre Per Year
Annual Kulintja Palya workshop & mentoring	4 Art Centres	6 Art Centres	8 Art Centres	10 Art Centres
Advocate for new facilities	Port Augusta & Yalata	Port Augusta & Coober Pedy	Coober Pedy & Port Lincoln	Port Lincoln & one other region
Enable access to studios and materials	Port Augusta artists	Coober Pedy artists	Port Lincoln artists	Artists in another region

Strong Arts Practice – Empower artistic practice and cross-cultural exchange through creative skills development, services and resources for all Independent Aboriginal artists.

ACTIVITY DETAIL	2023	2024	2025	2026
Access to services and resources	550 artists	600 artists	650 artists	700 artists
Creative skills development	200 artists in Far North, Upper Spencer & Adelaide	200 artists in Flinders Ranges, Central & Adelaide	200 artists in Far West, South East & Adelaide	200 artists in Riverland, Murraylands & Adelaide
Industry and career opportunities	200 artists in Far North, Upper Spencer & Adelaide	200 artists in Flinders Ranges, Central & Adelaide	200 artists in Far West, South East & Adelaide	200 artists in Riverland, Murraylands & Adelaide
Partnerships and collaborations	Maintain existing partnerships	Develop 2 new partnerships	Develop 3 new partnerships	Develop 4 new partnerships



By telling their grandfather's and grandmother's story young people can be strong, they can listen to the story, see where the story was for their grandfather, grandmother, father and mother, in the family line. We need to show the young people how to talk about themselves and the place where the story comes from. We want them to stand in two worlds – our stories and stories from the other side. Learning and speaking in English and their own language.

**DAVID MILLER
CHAIRMAN, KU ARTS**

Strong Communities – Amplify Aboriginal arts practice by utilising digital media to capture and share artworks and stories that support professional development and opportunities

ACTIVITY DETAIL	2023	2024	2025	2026
Improve access to IT infrastructure	1 advocacy initiative per year	1 advocacy initiative per year	1 advocacy initiative per year	1 advocacy initiative per year
Digital media training for all	200 artists in Far North, Upper Spencer & Adelaide	200 artists in Flinders Ranges, Central & Adelaide	200 artists in Far West, South East & Adelaide	200 artists in Riverland, Murraylands & Adelaide
Business and entrepreneurial initiatives	200 artists in Far North, Upper Spencer & Adelaide	200 artists in Flinders Ranges, Central & Adelaide	200 artists in Far West, South East & Adelaide	200 artists in Riverland, Murraylands & Adelaide
Advocate for improved artistic outcomes	·1 Inquiry or research project per year	·1 Inquiry or research project per year	·1 Inquiry or research project per year	·1 Inquiry or research project per year

Strong Legacy – Celebrate and honour our Aboriginal knowledge keepers by sharing their stories, language, arts and culture with next generation artists and communities.

ACTIVITY DETAIL	2023	2024	2025	2026
Intergenerational transfer of knowledge	2 youth governance workshops per year	2 youth governance workshops per year	2 youth governance workshops per year	2 youth governance workshops per year
Curate and conserve material and digital collections	Curate legacy material	Access to collection	Ongoing digital media program	·Touring exhibition
Promote documentation and research	Documentary on Ninuku	Capture interview with artists	Ongoing digital media program	·Touring exhibition
Heighten awareness of language, arts and culture	MLT language collaboration	Tjukurpa Kunpu space at Ernabella Arts	Ongoing digital media program	·Touring exhibition

Our art practices have been with us since the dawn of time, the stories have not changed but the medium has changed. We are an evolving culture in our practices and how we tell the stories, but our stories remain strong. Ku Arts helps us keep up with modern time, but ours is a timeless culture. This has kept our culture strong, as the oldest continuous living culture in the world.



Sound business practice – Ensure Ku Arts maintains good standards of compliance with regulatory, governance and financial management requirements

ACTIVITY DETAIL	2023	2024	2025	2026
Comply with the Rule Book for Ku Arts as an Aboriginal Corporation	4 board meetings & an AGM per year	4 board meetings & an AGM per year	4 board meetings & an AGM per year	4 board meetings & an AGM per year
Minimum variation between budget and actual result	Less than 5% variation per year	Less than 5% variation per year	Less than 5% variation per year	Less than 5% variation per year
Maintain accurate and timely reporting	1 x ORIC; 5 x Govt funders per year	1 x ORIC; 5 x Govt funders per year	1 x ORIC; 5 x Govt funders per year	1 x ORIC; 5 x Govt funders per year



THE CULTURAL AUTHORITY AND LEADERSHIP OF OUR BOARD IS ONE OF OUR GREATEST ASSETS. BUILDING ON OUR 25 YEAR LEGACY, OUR INTEGRITY AND COLLABORATIVE APPROACH PROVIDES KU ARTS WITH A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR EXTENDING MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT SERVICES TO ABORIGINAL ARTISTS ACROSS SOUTH AUSTRALIA.



Artwork by David Miller on the Sydney Opera House, 2022 Photo: Anna Kucera, Courtesy Australia Day Council of NSW

MAPPING THE REGION

For twenty-five years Ku Arts has provided advocacy, services and resources, creative skills and professional development opportunities for artists and arts workers across all stages of their careers in support of a strong and dynamic Aboriginal visual arts and crafts sector.

Ku Arts is responsive to the needs of Aboriginal artists and communities, providing support for community-driven projects and connecting with a diversity of sector partners, to build a stronger future now.

APY LANDS

TJUNGU PALYA, NYAPARI
MIMILI MAKU, MIMILI
IWANTJA ARTS, INDULKANA
KALTJITI ARTS, FREGON
ERNABELLA ARTS, PUKUTJA
NINUKU ARTS, KALKA
TJALA ARTS, AMATA

FAR WEST

ARTS CEDUNA, CEDUNA
YALATA
KOONIBA
SCOTDESCO
PORT LINCOLN

FAR NORTH

COOPER PEDY
DUNJIBA, OODNADATTA

FLINDERS RANGES

MAREE
FLINDERS RANGES
NGAPALA ARTS, COPLEY

CENTRAL

GAWLER
POINT PEARCE
YORKE PENINSULA
JAMESTOWN

SOUTH EAST

MT GAMBIER
KINGSGTON
NARACOORTE

UPPER SPENCER

PORT AUGUSTA
WHYALLA
PORT PIRIE

RIVERLAND

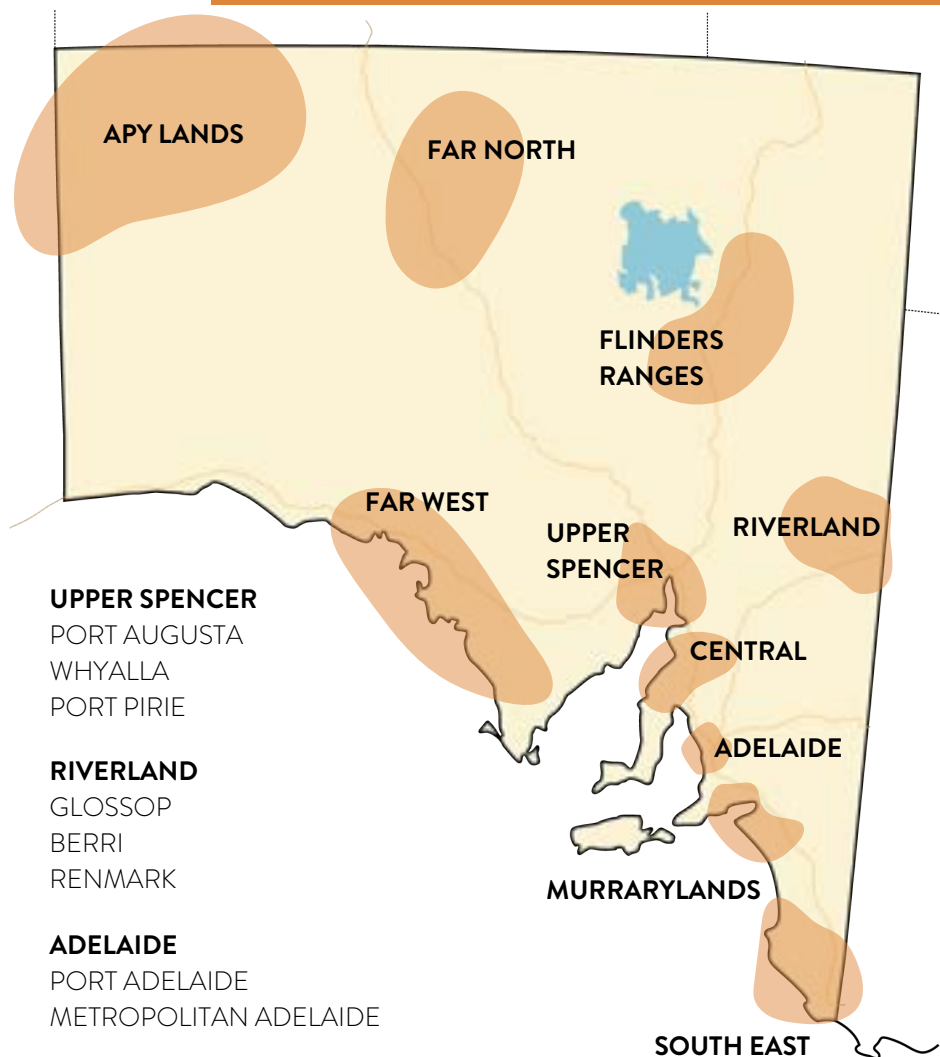
GLOSSOP
BERRI
REMARK

ADELAIDE

PORT ADELAIDE
METROPOLITAN ADELAIDE

MURRAYLANDS

MURRAY BRIDGE
TAILEM BEND
RAUKAN
COORONG



OUR STATEWIDE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ARTS DEVELOPMENT (SICAD) PROGRAM IS VITAL AS A VOICE FOR ABORIGINAL ARTISTS. SICAD CREATES SAFE SPACES FOR INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING AND CREATIVITY, AND BUILDS CONFIDENCE, PROMOTES SELF-DETERMINATION AND CREATES PATHWAYS INTO LEADERSHIP ROLES.

KU ARTS PROGRAM 2023

Access to Industry Opportunities

- Mentor 8-10 Independent Aboriginal artists in a Ku Arts immersion program conducted at the Darwin Aboriginal Arts Fair supporting their career development and artistic aspirations.
- Regular e-newsletters, social media posting and website updates providing information about industry opportunities, reaching 550 Aboriginal artists across South Australia.
- Weekly phone and online inquiries about career development from over 200 Independent Aboriginal artists each year, linking them to state and national sector grants, prizes, awards, sales and exhibition opportunities.

Advice for Independent Artists

- Strong Arts Program for 90 Independent Aboriginal artists in Coober Pedy and Port Pirie including presentations and one-to-one advice bank with ArtsLaw, Copyright Agency, Indigenous Art Code, NAVA, Country Arts SA.
- Produce digital resources, based on their feedback, to help Aboriginal artists in their understanding of the 'money story' for their artworks, how the market works and how to recognise best practice.
- Weekly phone and online inquiries about career opportunities, rights and protections, sales and exhibitions for Independent Aboriginal artists reaching over 200 Artists each year and connecting them with resources and services.

Advocacy and Research

- Respond to the recommendations from the Productivity Commission's ATSI Visual Arts and Crafts in Australia study, having contributed significantly to their understanding of conditions and dynamics within the Aboriginal arts sector in South Australia.
- Promote the outcomes of the ORIC investigation into the 'Intangibles of Governance' for Aboriginal Corporations, in which Ku Arts demonstrates best practice for inclusion, respect, agency and voice of our Board Directors and Members, as practicing Artists.
- Enable research being undertaken by Prof David Throsby AO for the National Survey of Remote Aboriginal Artists to gather data from remote communities in South Australia as part of Ku Arts' Statewide Indigenous Community Arts Development (SICAD) Program.
- Utilise Culture Counts effectively and consistently to measure outcomes.

Business Support for Independent Aboriginal Artists and Art Centre

- Ongoing support and advice to all Aboriginal Art Centre boards and their staff, from sales and marketing, to recruitment and HR services, fundraising strategies, improved business processes, governance and sector services and resources.
- Consult with Aboriginal artists in Port Augusta and surrounding lands as they develop the concept and strategy for a new Aboriginal Arts Centre, bringing together 40 language groups into a dynamic and interconnected multi-disciplinary arts and crafts facility.
- Deliver the Kulintja Palya ('clear mind') workshop designed for Art Centre staff as an annual gathering to promote wellbeing, cultural awareness and a collegiate professional network.

Creative Skills Development

- Visual arts and crafts workshops in Coober Pedy and Port Augusta aligned with our Strong Arts Program to respond to the needs of local Aboriginal artists in creative skills development and masterclasses.
- Follow up consultation with Aboriginal artists in the Far West from the 2022 Women Artists' Camp conducted in partnership with Arts Ceduna with 20 participants from Ceduna, Yalata, Oak Valley, Kooniba, Port Lincoln, Kalka and Pukatja, to develop a series of creative skills development workshops and masterclasses.
- Quarterly gatherings of Independent Aboriginal artists living in Adelaide, connected to diverse language groups to identify creative skills development needs and build entrepreneurial capabilities.
- Deliver a series of creative skills development workshops in Port Augusta in collaboration with Yarta Purtli .

Documentation and Promotion

- Provide a platform via Ku Arts for Independent Aboriginal artists to participate in DAAF, Tarnanthi, Our Mob Art Fairs both online and on-site according to their needs and capacity.
- Improve Ku Arts' ability to capture and distribute digital media that elevates the work being produced by Aboriginal artists across South Australia with increased prominence on social media platforms, websites and media channels in a digital story-telling project.
- Convert our archive of photographs, video and audio recordings into an accessible resource for documentary story-telling about the 25 years of Aboriginal arts and crafts practice in South Australia and the associated legacy and impact of Ku Arts.





Cultural Advice and Connections

- Provide advice and guidance regarding cultural protocols and access to Aboriginal leaders in response to hundreds of inquiries from the public, the arts, education and tourism sectors, employment initiatives, and from our sector partners in their desire to develop best practice.
- Work closely with our partners in their progression towards greater and more meaningful engagement with Aboriginal artists through implementation of cultural values and protocols within their programs and activities, and in their organisational culture and work practices.
- Continue to deliver a weekly Pitjantjatjara course for Art Centre and Ku Arts staff, and open this up to partner organisations, with the potential inclusion of other languages.

Indigenous Governance

- Build on the success of our 2022 Youth Governance Workshop bringing together Aboriginal artists aged 18-30 years who are identified as future custodians of Aboriginal arts and cultural corporations, growing their skills, knowledge and confidence through iterative learning, deep listening and shared experience.
- Conduct workshops for Boards of Aboriginal arts and cultural corporations that have artists as their members and directors, sharing insights and best practice including recommendation from the ORIC commissioned research in which Ku Arts was identified as demonstrating best practice in the 'intangibles of governance'.
- Maintain accurate and timely corporate reporting requirements for ORIC the regulator of Aboriginal corporations, the ACNC, and State and Federal Governments as outlined in funding agreements, ensuring our Board Directors meet their fiduciary responsibilities and are supported by Ku Arts Management.
- Bring together our Board Directors, who are practicing artists living in regional and remote areas of South Australia, for quarterly meetings that involve listening, learning, sharing, prioritising future directions for Ku Arts and Aboriginal arts development across the State.



Infrastructure Support for Aboriginal Art Centres

- Build a Tjukurpa Kunpu ('strong culture') cultural knowledge and safe keeping space at Ernabella Arts, the first Aboriginal art centre in Australia, to share the rich history of cultural traditions and artistic evolution, for the benefit of visitors and younger generations of artists to see finished artwork displayed and understand its cultural significance.
- Implement phase 3 of the Infrastructure program for Ninuku Arts, Ernabella Arts and Tjungu Palya Arts Centres in the APY Lands.
- Advocate for improved IT connectivity for Aboriginal artists living and working in remote areas of South Australia where in many cases phone reception and wifi connectivity remains poor or non-existent having a limiting effect on their promotional and networking capabilities.



Project and Program Delivery

- Copley Ceramics Stage 2 project will be conducted in Copley near Leigh Creek, southern Flinders Ranges building on the success of their 2022 Jam Factory exhibition, by enhancing and extending techniques, skills and arts practice for these Aboriginal artists.
- Iwiri & Ku Arts Textile Project Stage 2 will enable senior Anangu cultural leaders to share through screen printing workshops their stories, inspired by homelands, culture and language with emerging Aboriginal artists based in Adelaide, establishing authentic connections and promoting wellbeing in a safe place.
- Young men's arts and cultural program, devised in conjunction with the NPY Women's Council Uti Kulintjaku Watiku (men's) Group publication 'Tjanimaku Tjukurpa' (how one young man came good) and led by Ku Arts Chairman David Miller working on-country with body painting, sand drawing, and canvasses.
- In response to Ku Arts' consultations in Port Augusta, develop and deliver a series of skill workshops in digital media to benefit self-promotion and digital story telling.
- Arabana Songlines VR film is available for touring and, building on this Ku Arts' collaboration with the Mobile Language Team, develop new projects with Kokatha and Barngala language groups.



BEYOND 2023

This 2023 Program together with our Goals, reflects the structure of our proposed activities in future years. Creative skills and professional development programs, sector advocacy, services and resources for independent Aboriginal artists and Aboriginal art centres will be progressively rolled out across South Australia.



CREATIVE PERSONNEL

2023 and beyond



Marika Davies

Wangkangurru Artist and Independent Curator

Marika Davies is a proud Wangkangurru woman of the Simpson Desert, Birdsville area. She is an emerging artist and independent curator currently living and working in Port Augusta. Her interest in pursuing a career in the art industry developed organically through her love and passion for art and its history and wanting to give back to her community in Port Augusta.

Micky Barlow

Kokatha Contemporary Artist and Basket Weaver

Micky Barlow is a Kokatha woman, Aboriginal contemporary artist and basket weaver who grew up in the Clare Valley and currently works from her studio space in the McLaren Vale. Stylistically, Micky uses traditional dot work in her paintings, incorporating symbols and colours passed down from her grandmother and mother. Her works include acrylics on canvas, wood-burning (or "Punu" work) on timber and basket weaving using raffia, natural fibres and grasses.



David Miller

Traditional Law Man, Mentor and Pitjantjatjara Artist

David Miller is a senior Pitjantjatjara man, living in the remote community settlement of Kalka in the Western Desert of northern South Australia. He began painting in 2005 and has achieved much acclaim for his work. He was involved in the setting up of Pipalyatjara Community and the homeland at Inarki. As a traditional law man, he has a vast knowledge of Tjukurpa (ancestral creation stories).

Sonya Rankine

Ngarrindjeri, Nurungga, Ngadjuri Weaver

Lakun Mara (meaning Weaving Hand) is an Aboriginal owned business run by Sonya Rankine, a Ngarrindjeri, Narungga, Ngadjuri woman of SA. Sonya has been weaving for 25 years, her practice is about reviving and maintaining culture and the tradition of Ngarrindjeri weaving through creating contemporary Aboriginal art and sharing this skill with others through basketry workshops.



Lavene Ngatokorua

Photographer, Mentor and Presenter

Lavene Ngatokorua is a Wangkangurru, Adnyamathanha, Kuyani and Luritja woman from Davenport; an Aboriginal community located near Port Augusta. An activist and an artist, Lavene has honed her technical and storytelling ability through the photographic medium producing striking, evocative images which speak of connection to country and personal histories. Lavene has mentored artists in Ernabella (Pukatja, APY lands) sharing her passion and knowledge with community and artists.

Melissa Thompson, Nami Kulyuru, Carolyn Dunn, Barbara Baker, Audrey Brumby

Pitjantjatjara Textile Artists

Senior artists, cultural leaders, and textile artists from APY Lands residing in Adelaide who will lead the Ku Arts textile project in collaboration with Iwiri Aboriginal Corporation.





Ashlee Hopkins

Ceramicist

Ashlee has a Bachelor of Visual Art (Ceramics), University of South Australia, 2016, and completed the JamFactory Associate Training Program in 2018. After working as the Production Manager of the JamFactory's Ceramics Studio she established her own studio practice alongside facilitating ceramics workshops such as the 2021 Ngapala Arts ceramics workshops in Copley for Ku Arts.

Caslake and Pedler

Ceramics and Glass

Caslake and Pedler Glass is a partnership between Meg Caslake, a glass blower and David Pedler, a ceramicist. Their passion is handmade glass. From first designs to the melting and colouring of the sand, to the magic of creating art with molten glass. Their unique collections reflect Australian beachside lifestyle with its bright light, blue skies and aqua seas. David Pedlar facilitated a ceramics workshop at Arts Ceduna in 2019.



Kate O'Callaghan

Ceramicist

Kate O'Callaghan graduated with Honours from the National Art School in 2004 majoring in Ceramics. During her time at the NAS, she experimented with developing large scale installations, large vessel slab design, mixed media sculptures and large wheel-thrown vessels. Kate won the graduate prize for her unique vessel designs encompassed drawing, painting and burnishing clay. She has recently facilitated workshops for Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation assisted by Ku Arts in Port Augusta.

West Maselli

Studio Skills

Wes Maselli is an experienced Art Centre Manager and Studio Manager, having worked across the APY, NPY and Western Desert. He is a sculptor, painter, and filmmaker who explores a broad range of concepts, contemporarily political, witty and whimsical. Wes has supported studio skills programs for Ku Arts including Our Mob Exhibition workshops, studio skills at Arts Ceduna and Artist support in Coober Pedy.



JamFactory

Studio Staff and Associates

Ku Arts will continue to build on its established relationship with JamFactory staff and their highly acclaimed Associate Program. Previous Ku Arts partnerships with JamFactory include Jewellery and Metal Studio with Ernabella Arts and, Glass Studio and Arts Ceduna.

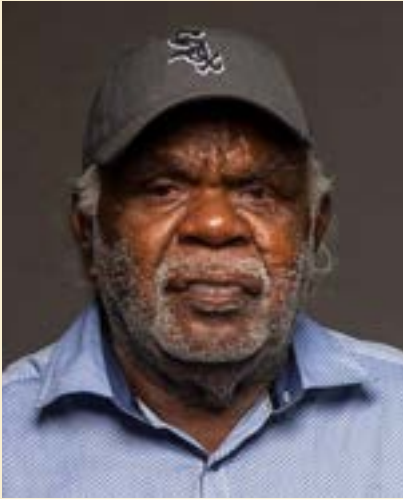
Jakes Holmes

Printmaker

South Australian artist Jake Holmes holds a Bachelor of Visual Art and Design (2010) from the Adelaide College of the Arts and co-founded contemporary art space Tooth and Nail Studio Gallery (2011-2018). Jake has facilitated printmaking workshops for Ku Arts previously in Port Augusta and Ceduna.



MEET OUR DIRECTORS



David Miller
Chair
Director APY (Ninuku Arts)



Marita Baker
Deputy Chair
Director APY independent



Carlene Thompson
Director
APY (Ernabella Arts)



Ashley Pompey
Director
Statewide (Arts Ceduna)



Maureen Williams
Director
Statewide (Coober Pedy)



Lavene Ngatokorua
Director
Statewide (Port Augusta)



Josephine Mick
Director APY Independent



Dana Shen
Independent
Non-Member Director,
Finance, Investment &
Advisory Committee Member



Colin Plowman
Finance, Investment &
Advisory Committee Member

MEET OUR STAFF



ALISON MILYIKA (TJULAPI) CARROLL - ANANGU MAYATJA

Alison Milyika (Tjulapi) Carroll is a Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara artist and leader from Pukatja Community, APY Lands. Her career in the arts spans over four decades. She is the Anangu Mayatja (Director) of Ku Arts, a position she has held since 2007. In this role Alison has been a strong advocate for her community and the APY region and has contributed greatly to the strength of the art centres as we know them today. She also offers important cross-cultural guidance and perspective to Ku Arts staff and directors. She is currently the Chair of Ernabella Arts, Australia's oldest art centre, established in 1948. As an artist, Alison's work across multiple mediums reflects her identity as a contemporary and senior Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara woman, and is held in collections nationally and internationally. Alison relishes her role as a teacher to emerging artists and cultural leaders. She actively develops and advocates for opportunities for young people in her community, so that they remain connected to culture and ensure the strength and pride of their identity and their art centre for years to come.



CATHERINE BALDWIN - CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Catherine Baldwin has been with Ku Arts since January 2022 as our Interim CEO. She grew up on Kurna Yerta (Adelaide) and has worked alongside Indigenous leaders throughout her career. Catherine trained in music and dance, and then transitioned to management as a Producer and CEO with companies such as Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia and Red Sky Performance in Canada. In 2012 she achieved a Master of Public Policy from Sydney University and is experienced in public policy and dealing with governments having worked for many years as CEO of the Actuaries Institute. A previous Interim CEO role was with the Australian Centre of Photography in Sydney where she produced ACP's largest exhibition in Sydney and Melbourne. Fifteen artists were commissioned to create new works including Indigenous artists Christian Thompson, Destiny Deacon and Yvonne Scarce. Catherine is the founding Chair of Ngutu College, a newly established independent college in Adelaide. Since 2019, she has worked alongside Andrew Plastow, who is an innovative Aboriginal educator, and provided business mentoring in setting up this new Kindy to Year 12 college founded on Aboriginal knowledge.



MELANIE HENDERSON - ARTISTS' DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Mel Henderson grew up on the lands of the Ngāi Te Rangi Iwi of Aotearoa (New Zealand), the homeland of the Maori. She is an experienced arts facilitator with over 15 years' experience delivering creative and skills development workshops with Aboriginal artists and communities. She was the Manager of Bindi Inc., Alice Springs, and Tjunga Palya Arts, APY Lands, as well as managing community arts projects throughout regional and remote Western Australia. As Artists' Development Manager for Ku Arts since January 2018, she has supported Aboriginal artists in regional SA communities to realise their artistic aspirations, such as through enterprise development with Dunjiba Designs, Oodnadatta, painting studio workshops in Coober Pedy and overseeing a major development project with artists from Arts Ceduna for Tarnanthi 2019 and Arabana Elders and Artists in Arabana Songlines in 2021.



KATE MCGREAL - ARTS PROGRAM MANAGER

Kate McGreal grew up on Wiradjuri Country in Griffith, New South Wales. With a background in youth programs and project development, Kate brings her passion for community and collaboration, as well as skills across graphic and fashion design, to the Ku Arts team. Kate was Arts Administration Officer with Injalak Arts, Gunbalanya, West Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, where she supported the running of a busy art centre with high tourist visitation and artists working across mediums of painting, weaving, carving and hand printed textiles. She has previously held Youth Programs and Project Officer positions with regional councils in New South Wales and Victoria, developing and delivering programs to engage and empower young people from diverse cultural backgrounds. Kate is the Arts Program Manager with Ku Arts and has worked closely with Arts Ceduna in organising the 2022 Strong Arts Program and Women Artists' Camp



PEARL BERRY - ARTS ADMINISTRATION COORDINATOR

Pearl is a proud Yankunytjatjara woman who grew up on Kurna Country (Adelaide). Throughout her career, Pearl has worked in various office administration roles, and she was delighted to join the Ku Arts team in 2021. Pearl is passionate about supporting community and looks forward to being able to assist in creating opportunities for Aboriginal artists, both established and emerging. Pearl is a keen writer, filmmaker and painter and is always looking to create in her spare time.

**KU ARTS ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF OUR FUNDING PARTNERS
WHOSE CONTRIBUTION MAKES OUR WORK POSSIBLE.**



Australia Council for the Arts

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Arts South Australia

Ku Arts is supported by the South Australian Government through Arts South Australia, Department of Premier and Cabinet, and the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.



Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support

Ku Arts receives funding through the Australian Government's Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program

KU ARTS (ANANGUKU ARTS AND CULTURAL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION)
1/241 PULTENEY STREET, KAURNA YARTA, ADELAIDE SA 5000
KUARTS.COM.AU @KU.ARTS

