

Artsource Now

REDEFINING THE ARTSOURCE BUSINESS MODEL IN 2020

Our core purpose of supporting Western Australian artists in their professional practice is unwavering. We recognise excellence, uphold freedom of expression and participation, advise and inspire State government, evaluate impact and respond to vital needs for professional practice.

The legacy model of Artsource, which began in 1986 supported by State and Federal Governments, allowed Artsource to grow from eight artist studios to over 80, and to broaden its purpose to include membership support, advice, professional development and advocacy.

From December 2018, the State Government withdrew recurrent Arts Organisation Investment Program (AOIP) funding. Over the past twelve months, the Artsource board has initiated an adjusted management model, reviewed and improved governance structures and overseen the ongoing provision of services to its members. The organisation has also sustained significant membership support and engagement throughout this period.

The State Government has recently advised Artsource of a minimal new 2020 funding provision through AOIP of \$100,000pa (equivalent to one third of our required operational budget), as well as proposals to open up Old Customs House to a public expressions of interest process in mid 2020. The level of AOIP funding reinstated in 2020 is for one year only and unsustainably low, leaving few options for evolving the organisation's focus on agency, advocacy and practical support.

The board has subsequently considered two options:

- 1) Research and define a new business model for Artsource, and reduce the managed studios to those within Old Customs House, or;
- 2) Cease operations.

Option One

Option One involves balancing the scaling back of services, while continuing to engage membership and supporters. Artsource will ask its members to reinvent what a viable 21st Century peak arts body should be in order to represent its members and the Western Australian visual arts sector. Limited membership services of insurances, OCH studios, news and networking will be maintained by a single staff member and members will be called upon to organise working groups, steering committees and participate in advisory panels, Board membership, advocacy and ambassador roles.

Fresh thinking, new alliances, innovation and adaptation are prospects the Artsource membership will be encouraged to explore and navigate during a year of embracing progress, seeking financial viability and building public investment. We will act as the 'artist-collective', as we are in fact depending on increased membership involvement.

This option provides the opportunity for our current membership of over 600 members to continue as a united collective acting to develop a renewed vision of a 21st Century visual arts membership organisation. Though this option is necessitated by our current circumstances it nevertheless provides an opportunity to break with legacy concerns and build a new way forward.

Option Two

Option Two will see the deregistration of the organisation, the closure of its services including studios and the transfer of any remaining monies to a selected charitable organisation.

This wind-up scenario is a serious consideration due to diminished capacity to continue membership services and a lack of financial reserves to implement new strategies.

Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) has been called for Thursday 12 December 2019 from 6pm at Holmes a Court Gallery, 10 Douglas Street, West Perth. Current members will be presented the two options of either embracing the reinvention of Artsource from the ground up or closing the organisation in 2020 via Special Resolution. Those who cannot attend in person can submit their vote via Proxy Form.

To register attendance and for more information about the EGM, visit: <http://artsource.net.au/egm>

The Artsource Constitution can be found at: <http://bit.ly/ArtsourceConstitution>

PROPOSED MOTIONS:

- 1) That Artsource winds up its operations, including all ongoing studio support and management operations and membership services.
- 2) That Artsource adopts a new, reduced operational model appropriate for its existing and projected funding and develops a new operational model that is relevant to its core membership and the changing nature of visual arts practice.

This model will be formulated in consultation with membership and government to determine a sustainable operational model into the future.

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