

artsource

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STATEMENT OF CURRICULAR PHILOSOPHY

December 2019

AIMS. The Artsource Professional Development programme aims to provide professional development opportunities for visual artists of all career stages, who are engaged in professional arts practice. Artsource seeks to educate reflective professionals committed to furthering both their artistic and professional practices. Artsource offers an inclusive curriculum that provides choice for individuals, respects individual values and contexts, and is available for all arts professionals not just visual arts.

CURRICULAR THEORY. Our philosophy is underpinned by a belief in empowering artists in their creative and innovative practices, by developing their skills in opportunity recognition and effectuation. Our philosophy is underlain by innovative teaching and learning research, twenty first century learning design, and progressive principles in which the concept of learning is experiential. Our philosophy is also based in critical theory. We see education as the vehicle for social change achieved through dialogue and critical consciousness, and the development of awareness to overcome oppressive circumstances. We provide opportunities for collective critical discourse about social and political issues, and opportunities for reflection and action oriented to changing social conditions, to improve artists' present and future working lives. We see teaching and learning as a process of inquiry. We foster critical practices that activate political dialogue and radical practices that transform and educate in tacit ways.

THEORIES OF LEARNING. We understand how learning occurs and that learning is contextual, and we apply learning theories to suit these contexts. We help participants to develop strategies for thinking and remembering new information; we reinforce positive outcomes through recognition; we build on the learner's previous experiences and trigger their motivation to learn through critical reading or by creating cognitive dissonance. Artsource provides learning opportunities that transform experience into knowledge, through the use of action learning, self-direction, reflection and teacher-as-facilitator learning models. We encourage inquiry, dialogue, and multiple perspectives, community-based learning and testing ideas in real life. Lastly, we provide opportunities for social learning such as mentor-mentee relationships, critique groups, skill sharing and artist talks, in which the interactions of beginners with more experienced artists, facilitate the learning process.

HOLISTIC INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM. We provide a holistic learner-centred approach to lifelong learning for visual artists, that develops both artistic practice and professional practice, as two

aspects of the professional practice of an artist. Artistic practices and professional practices are supported through a teaching curriculum, that outlines content areas and topics based on research of current trends and future needs. Artists' capabilities are developed through a learning outcomes curriculum that offers experiential opportunities to build knowledge, skills and attitudes, needed to thrive in the arts and world at this time. Notions of professional arts practice include the fostering of both traditional, innovative, critical and radical artistic practices. It also includes an expanded notion of professional practice that develops business skills, enterprising behaviours and attitudes that add value. It fosters collective critical engagement with social and political issues, dialogue and advocacy.

GRADUATE GATEWAY. We aim to provide a gateway for graduates entering the field and transitioning to careers as visual artists, through career management strategies including; aspects of non-profit culture, promotional strategies, mentoring, work experience and internship opportunities.

HUMANISTIC APPROACH AND PRIORITIES. Finally, we honour and respect the intrinsic motivation that we believe is the artist's nature, through our humanistic approach. Our belief is in the basic goodness of artists and the contribution they make. We know that they understand through the senses, and that learning is gradual and takes time. We support the artist in control of their own destiny, with freedom of choice, and responsibility. To this end, we identify priorities that permeate our curriculum, and these are physical health; psychological and emotional wellbeing; inclusion and diversity; and self-fulfilment.

PARTNERSHIPS. Our partnerships with government and educational institutions, arts organisations, and practitioners, ensure that we offer a robust and high-quality programme and pathway, for beginning artists and artists at all career stages. It creates opportunities for beginning artists to meaningfully interact with established practicing visual artists and arts practitioners from other disciplines, as part of an arts industry wide effort in provision of professional development.

OUTCOMES. The Artsource professional development programme targets artist outcomes that are multidimensional, lead to multiple pathways and offer choice for artists in their career paths. We aim to bring about social change, social justice and significant positive changes for the artist participants and for the artistic community at large.