



Same Same But Different: SA Public Gallery Sector Forum

Radford Auditorium • Thursday 29 June, 2017

REPORT

South Australia has a diverse ecology of not-for-profit public galleries of varying size, management structure, audience & charter, but despite the differences, there is much in common. Until now, there has been little opportunity to connect, collaborate, share & discuss industry information & issues. This forum brought us together for networking, knowledge sharing and inspiration to build our capacity to deliver rich cultural experiences to our communities, whoever they may be.

Presented jointly by Regional Galleries Association of South Australia and Museums Galleries Australia (SA) with support from Country Arts SA and Art Gallery of SA.

The following message was sent to participants following the event. See below for the Program Outline.

THANKS FOR COMING!

For this first time gathering of South Australia's public gallery sector, there were 61 of us (with a further 20 interested but unable to attend).

We represented **16 regional and 26 Metro organisations** with a broad mix of galleries - local government (16), not-for-profit (7), Artist-Run Initiatives (6), State Government funded (4) and Universities (3) plus 9 other arts organisations.

Those of you who were unable to come are welcome to join us in the future and add your voice to the issues we've raised.

THE KEY ISSUES WE RAISED

Following an overview of the sector by representatives of different parts of it, and a lively presentation from Art Gallery of SA's Director Nick Mitzevich, we addressed what makes us 'Same Same But Different'. Thanks to Gail Kovatseff from the Arts Industry Council of SA (AICSA) for facilitating this session. This summary will form the basis of future discussion and actions from those able to contribute.

We can and should:

- **identify how better to evaluate, celebrate and articulate that impact both within our own organisations and beyond. Because...** Visual art is the most commonly engaged-in artform

but the least funded. We don't charge for the majority of experiences we provide. The outlet we provide early-career artists is crucial. Our impact in communities goes way beyond the artwork on the walls. Our contribution to sector training is enormous. Our volunteers make a huge contribution to our organisations. We should celebrate and promote our contribution to an increasingly visual culture.

- **identify and share best practice resources** and models for public sector galleries and share them in a central online repository (see RGASA's contribution below)
- **talk to each other more** (now that more of us have met face to face) - to ask for advice, share success stories, exchange exhibitions and collectively source funds
- **explore ways to share our spaces and events with each other**
- **be individually and collectively engaged as activists** to feed out thoughts collectively into the bigger picture
- **explore the tension between community and contemporary practice** and source best practice models
- **keep AICSA informed about our sector.** To help us do that, AICSA is currently:
 - Developing forums on measuring impact and a business model for changing times and a template for data collection for the small to medium sector to better illustrate the breadth of impact
 - Identifying 3 State Government seats in which to campaign following the success of a similar campaign in the Federal seat of Hindmarsh
 - Prioritising the small to medium sector

ANYTHING TO ADD?

Now you've had a little more time to think about it, is there anything you'd like to add to the above summary? Send your thoughts to RGASA Project Officer jopike@adam.com.au

GALLERY ECOSYSTEM IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Melinda Rankin set the scene for the day with an outline of the Gallery Ecosystem in South Australia. You can find the updated graphic [here \(put on RGASA website\)](#). Send any corrections or additions to Mel at m.rankin@murraybridge.sa.gov.au

SAME SAME BUT DIFFERENT MKII

We agreed that meeting at least once a year will be valuable. MGA(SA) and RGASA have agreed to co-present a similar forum once a year in June.

SA PUBLIC GALLERY SECTOR EXECUTIVE

As a result of the forum, representatives from Museums Galleries Australia (SA), Regional Galleries Association of SA, Arts Industry Council and Guildhouse have agreed to meet regularly to keep in touch regarding issues relating to the Public Gallery Sector in SA. Feel free to approach one of them if there's anything you'd like brought to attention.

Mirna Heruc: Museums Galleries Australia (SA) mirna.heruc@adelaide.edu.au

Naomi Fallon: RGASA m.rankin@murraybridge.sa.gov.au

Emma Fey: Guildhouse emma.fey@guildhouse.org.au

Gail Kovatseff: Arts Industry Council SA g.kovatseff@mrc.org.au

CONSIDER JOINING ONE OR MORE REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS

RGASA membership is open to all regional not-for-profit galleries and also has associate membership for anyone who doesn't fit that criteria but would like to stay in touch with like-minded galleries for networking and professional development. See www.rgasa.org.au/joinrgasa

Museums Galleries Australia (SA) is the SA branch of a national organisation with a busy local program. Contact the Branch Secretary, Elizabeth Pascale,

at masainfo@museumsaustralia.org.au for details of upcoming events and find more info here. www.museumsaustralia.org.au/south-australia and here www.museumsaustralia.org.au

Arts Industry Council SA (AICSA) is South Australia's sector-wide, membership-based, representative arts body. Consider becoming a member, if you're not already, to add your voice and the voice of the public gallery sector to the current debates. More info at aicsa.net.au

Guildhouse is the leading SA organisation supporting and connecting artists, designers and craftspeople. For membership and other information: guildhouse.org.au

USEFUL DOCUMENTS

RGASA has created a repository of useful documents and resources on its website at www.rgasa.org.au. If there is anything else to add, send a pdf or a link to the resource to RGASA Project Officer jopike@adam.com.au

PROGRAM

Several guest speakers, a brief look at our public gallery ecosystem, a facilitated workshop to tease out a way forward & time to mingle.

- MELINDA RANKIN: DIRECTOR, MURRAY BRIDGE REGIONAL GALLERY
Setting the Scene: the Gallery Ecosystem in South Australia

- SA PUBLIC GALLERY SECTOR OVERVIEW
Erica Green: Director, Samstag Museum
Leah Grace: Arts Officer, Alexandrina Galleries
Rachel Mcelwee: Director, Hahndorf Academy
Toby Chapman: Curator, Ace Open
Brigid Noone: Director, Fontanelle



- SPEED NETWORKING

- NICK MITZEVICH: DIRECTOR, ART GALLERY OF SA • CHASING THE EDGE
Chasing the Edge is a wonderful term that Nick uses in acquiring new works for the Art Gallery of South Australia's collection. With an (apparent) fearlessness towards the concept of the gallery as a shape shifter, Nick has explored new places of innovation and relevance....and brought others (his team, sponsors and the audience) along for the ride.



- GAIL KOVATSEFF: CHAIRPERSON, ARTS INDUSTRY COUNCIL SA
Response to the State Budget

- FINDING OUR COMMON GROUND:
Facilitated by Gail Kovatseff, this session will help us recognise and accept the differences between us, find our shared purposes and goals, explore how we can share, support and learn from each other and resolve how to move forward together. *(see summary above)*

- NETWORKING DRINKS