

OUTER SPACE

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Christopher Bassi
Grow (2020)
featured in Outer Space projection series 'Location, location, location', Judith Wright Arts Centre
Photography by Cian Sanders, 2021

Acknowledgement

Outer Space acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and specifically on our country, Meanjin, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the 70,000+ years of creative and educational activity that has taken place on the land where we live, make, and present work. We aim to tread lightly and respectfully when contributing to this long history of storytelling.

Our vision

Our Vision is to be a platform for artists and arts workers to ambitiously develop their practice.

Our mission

Our mission is to collaborate with artists and arts workers to develop, make, and present critically engaged creative practice in a supportive professional environment. Our exhibitions, events, and programs welcome those involved in, and curious about the arts. Outer Space is committed to fostering a sustainable creative community in Brisbane that engages local, regional, national and global contexts.

Our history

Outer Space was founded by Brisbane-based artists Lewellyn Millhouse and Caity Reynolds in 2016. As the organisation has grown from an artist-run initiative to an emerging contemporary arts space, Outer Space moved from West End to the Judith Wright Arts Centre in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane in April 2021. This new space has allowed different forms of exhibiting artwork, including the projection artwork on the exterior of the building on Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley. In 2020, Outer Space obtained Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) federal government funding for the launch of an online exhibition and billboard project in regional Queensland, inner-city Brisbane and online platforms.

Outer Space is also the recipient of Arts Queensland Organisations Fund 2022-2025, a crucial investment which will support the evolution of Outer Space as a dynamic and inclusive contemporary arts space in Brisbane.

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Woven Kolektif
Cascade, 2021 (Installation view)
photo: Louis Lim

SECTION 1**AN OVERVIEW OF OUTER SPACE****ABOUT US**

Outer Space is a not-for-profit Contemporary Arts organisation. We collaborate with artists and arts workers to develop, make, and present critically engaged creative practice in a supportive professional environment. Our exhibitions, events, and programs welcome those involved in, and curious about the arts. Outer Space is committed to fostering a sustainable creative community in Brisbane that engages local, regional, national and global contexts.

Outer Space is committed to fostering a sustainable creative community that launches careers, connects people with opportunities and creates a platform for open and constructive dialogues with art. We aspire to grow and diversify our audiences through compelling and challenging programs, a heightened digital presence and strong collaborative partnerships. We advocate for and support diverse artists and arts workers by guaranteeing fees, commissioning writing and documenting each exhibition to our distinct industry standard.

As we are moving into 2022 and beyond, Outer Space will continue to be an exhibition and studio space that encourages emerging and mid-career artists in our new space at the street level of the Judith Wright Arts Centre, and our studios on Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley. With our new RISE funding, we have partnered with regional Queensland contemporary arts venues, and we will endeavour to work with other regional venues into the future to support Queensland artists; connecting the local arts scene to the greater place within art history and supporting artists and arts workers to do so.

OUR PEOPLE

Outer Space has a committed community of people as its backbone. Courtney Coombs was the Director until July 2021, when independent curator and writer Hamish Sawyer was appointed to the position. A new part-time Exhibitions Coordinator's role was established in 2021 and Isabella Baker and Simone Hine acted in the position on a casual basis, until emerging artist and arts worker Georgia Hayward was appointed in August. The Management Committee (the Board) includes artists and representatives from the Brisbane arts sector, education and professional industries.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (THE BOARD) 2021

Name	Position
Peta Bryant	Chair (term ceased Oct 2021)
Holly Hart	Treasurer, term commenced Oct 2020
Robert Hughes	Secretary, term commenced Oct 2020
Al Poiner	Board member from Oct 2020, Co-Chair from Oct 2021
Libby Davis	Board member from Oct 2020, Co-Chair from Oct 2021
Sarah Werkmeister	Term ceased May 2022
Robert Andrew	Term ceased Oct 2021
Natalya Hughes	Term ceased Oct 2021
Hannah Williamson	Term ceased Oct 2021
Amelia Hine	Term ceased Oct 2021
Georgia Boe	Term commenced Oct 2021
Sam Harrison	Term commenced Oct 2021
Sandra Selig	Term commenced Oct 2021
Dirk Yates	Term commenced Oct 2021






Salaried staff employed in 2021

Name	Position
Courtney Coombs (followed by Hamish Sawyer, incumbent)	Director
Isabella Baker, Simone Hine, Georgia Hayward (incumbent)	Exhibitions Coordinator

VOLUNTEER COHORT 2021

Austin King, Alice Rezende, Olivia Trenorden, Bek Gregory, Emma Kenward, Neil Moorhead, Renee Kire, Lyle Duncan, Tahlia Kristjansson, Freya Black, Isabelle Vesey, Shana Barker, Madison Tanks, Harry Molyneux, Alexandra Perestrelo, Judy Lewis, Lora Lama, Phaedra van Wersch, Izzy Vesey, Georgia Scott, Mairaed Roache, Summer Yang, Victoria Lenton, Louise Truan, Tess Bakharia, Druscilla Handebo, Daniele Lamarche-Sarvia, Molly Pekol, Jenni Baxter, Hannah Currie, Katie Howell, Maria Hill, Myfanwy Halton, Jenna Muir, Madeline Holt, Cassandra Dimitroff, Phaedra van Wersch, Lauren Spriggs, Luca Masnata, Charlee Carthew-de Looze, Imogen Corbett, Emma Kenward, Judy Lewis, Thomas Langham and Flynn Stewart.

OUR SUPPORTERS

 <p>Australian Government RISE Fund</p>	 <p>Queensland Government</p>	 <p><i>Dedicated to a better Brisbane</i></p>
<p>Australia Government via Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund</p>	<p>Arts Queensland through the Queensland Government</p>	<p>Brisbane City Council</p>
		<p>creative partnerships australia</p>
<p>Artspace Mackay</p>	<p>NorthSite Contemporary Arts, Cairns</p>	<p>Creative Partnerships Australia</p>



Director Hamish Sawyer leading a workshop for Outer Space volunteers.

SECTION 2**GOVERNANCE****CHAIR'S REPORT**

On behalf of our fellow Management Committee members, we would like to thank the artists, curators, writers, arts workers, photographers, supporters, visitors, and our dedicated and talented staff and volunteers who helped bring our program to life in 2021.

Throughout what continues to remain a challenging time for the arts, as we navigate the financial and logistical ramifications of the pandemic, Outer Space actively supports and champions emerging visual artists and arts workers. In 2021 our organisation provided a professional environment to serve Queensland's visual arts community through dynamic exhibitions and programs, artist studios and paid employment opportunities.

Outer Space's activities could not happen without our funders and partners. In 2021 we were successful recipients of Plus1 Matched Funding, generously supported by Creative Partnerships Australia via the Australian Cultural Fund. This opportunity enabled us to double funds we raised during our 2021 auction fundraiser, allowing us to generate investment to support continued capacity building. We are grateful for the support and guidance we receive from the Arts Queensland Investment team, and our colleagues at the Judith Wright Arts Centre (JWAC). Thank you for believing in our mission and supporting us to grow our community.

2021 saw a great deal of change for our organisation, including a move to a new home at JWAC, increased programming, plus the beginnings of our largest project to date – SUPERCUT, funded by the Federal Government's RISE initiative. We would like to thank our former Director Courtney Coombs for their contribution and initiative. We'd like to extend our deep gratitude to our colleague Hamish Sawyer, Outer Space's Director, for his leadership, and for developing and crafting a program that uplifts Outer Space's values, continuously championing artists and elevating their practice.

We would like to sincerely thank our extended Outer Space contractors, volunteers and staff, and a special thank you to our Exhibitions Coordinator Georgia Hayward, for her dedication and utmost professionalism and creativity. Thank you to our fellow Management Committee members: with our recent successes securing federal investment via RISE funding, and the exciting milestone of securing Arts Queensland Organisations Funding, Outer Space has a bright future ahead, with a vibrant program locked in for 2022-23.

See you in the gallery.

Al Poiner and Libby Davis
Co-Chairs, Outer Space

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I joined Outer Space in July 2021, taking over from Courtney Coombs who, after two eventful but successful years as General Manager and inaugural Director, decided to return to their own practice and undertake an MFA program in Bergen, Norway. I want to begin by thanking Courtney and the previous Board for their incredible work navigating the multiple challenges of the COVID pandemic, securing new premises and funding which has allowed Outer Space to transition from an artist run initiative to an emerging contemporary art organisation.

Following a challenging first year of the pandemic, 2021 marked the start of an exciting new chapter for Outer Space. In January, the organisation moved into a recently refurbished shopfront in the Judith Wright Art Centre (JWAC). The office provided a physical site for Outer Space to re-start its program in earnest, after the lease on its former premises in West End expired in 2020. Taking advantage of funding opportunities offered in response to the pandemic, staff and board members devised a series of innovative professional development and online showcase opportunities for emerging artists. Through these initiatives, a range of emerging artists and arts workers received paid employment during a period of gallery closures and wider uncertainty.

In April, Outer Space was delighted to receive via tender, the JWAC Gallery space and associated funding support, from Arts Queensland. This development consolidated our position within the JWAC and allowed us to restart our exhibition program, through an open-call out held in early 2021. With the support of JWAC Centre Management and funding from Arts Queensland, the Australian Cultural Fund and Australia Council for the Arts, Outer Space was able to present a series of outward-facing exhibitions on the building's facades and in our office window, extending our program into highly visible public locations. As ongoing COVID lockdowns disrupted gallery exhibitions, the façade and window projects allowed audiences to engage with art in new and responsive ways.

Building on these achievements, Outer Space applied for and received RISE funding from the Australian Government for an ambitious project of online, window exhibitions and regional billboard presentations. SUPERCUT will support more than 40 Queensland emerging and contemporary artists (selected through a competitive call out process) and will be rolled out through 2022. As part of this funding, Outer Space has been able to appoint emerging artist and artworker Georgia Hayward to an ongoing part-time Exhibitions Coordinator role, a position she has taken to with gusto and ability. I am very grateful to Georgia for her invaluable role in developing SUPERCUT, as well as delivering the JWAC Gallery program.

I also feel incredibly fortunate to have been supported by Outer Space's Board during an exciting but incredibly busy period of transition over the past twelve months. As COVID restrictions have finally eased over the early months of 2022, it has been incredibly exciting to see audiences return to our JWAC Gallery and we look forward to welcoming more people back as we launch our 2022-23 program over the coming months.

Hamish Sawyer
Director, Outer Space

OUR OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and our relocation to JWAC, 2021 proved to be another big year for Outer Space.

We hosted six gallery exhibitions, six window exhibitions, ten projections, one vinyl artwork commission, two offsite projects and one Shandy party.

We provided paid opportunities for 60 artists, 8 curators, 9 writers and 21 other arts workers in 2021.

We collaborated with Artspace Mackay, NorthSite Contemporary Arts Cairns, the Institute of Modern Art and the Brisbane Art + Design (BAD) Festival.

ACTIVITIES

The following list outlines the range of activities presented by Outer Space during the 2021 calendar year and the numbers involved in their delivery.

1. *Critically Engaged Exhibition Program*

- 6 gallery exhibitions
- 6 window exhibitions (*As We Stand*)
- 10 artwork projections (*Location, Location, Location*)
- One vinyl window commission (Dylan Mooney)
- 2 offsite exhibitions
- 9 emerging writers engaged to provide critical texts in response to exhibition program
- 8 curators were supported in the development of their practice
- 21 arts workers provided with paid employment to facilitate workshops and support the delivery of Outer Space's programs.
- *THE ESSENTIALS Professional Development Series*
- 13 workshops focusing on professional development were delivered onsite and online. Workshops were recorded and uploaded to our website for artists to access free of charge on an ongoing basis.
- Workshops were presented by 15 local arts workers
- The program was organised by 2 emerging arts workers

2. *Fundraiser*

- 56 artists contributed work for sale
- 60% of the sale price was retained by Outer Space, and 40% was paid to the artist

3. *Artist studios*

- 6 artists continued to operate out of Outer Space studios in Chinatown.
- Three studio artists discussed their respective practices in interviews which were published online.

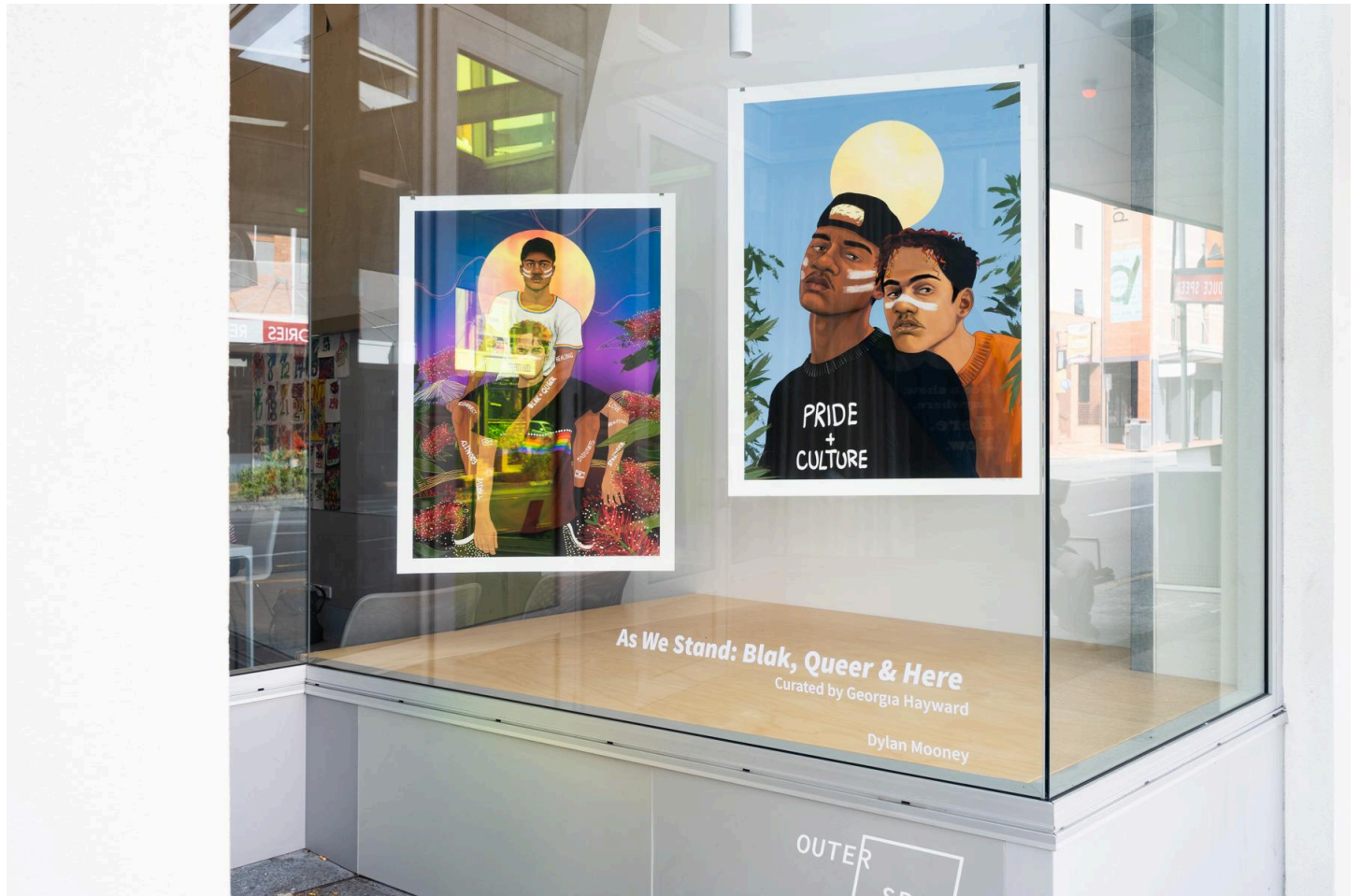
Critical conversations

- Three artists were interviewed by one curator as part of offsite project (Metro Arts)
- One online conversation featuring exhibiting artists Kate Bohunnis and Kate Power, interviewed by former chair, Ellie Buttrose

NUMBERS

Our onsite exhibition and program attendance for 2021 was 1230, an increase of more than 200 visitors on 2020, notable given we only commenced our program at JWAC in April 2021. As we enter the 2022/23 exhibition program period, our numbers continue to grow.

In February 2021, Outer Space launched a brand new website, which boosted our digital reach significantly. There were 9,200 unique visitors to the website until the end of December 2021, with a total of 49,000 individual page views.



Dylan Mooney
As We Stand: Blak, Queer & Here, 2021
Outer Space Window Gallery
Photo: Louis Lim

REFER TO APPENDIX: OUTER SPACE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SECTION 4**OUR OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION****ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANK YOU****Fundraising Exhibition Donors: art work supplied for fundraising auction**

Aishla Manning, Alice Lang, Ally McKay, Anita Holtsclaw, Amelia McLeish, Anastasia Booth, Azadeh Hamzeii, Bridie Gillman, Callum McGrath, Charlie Donaldson, Charlie Hillhouse, Cosima Scales, Dana Lawrie, Daniel McKewen, Daniel Sherington, David M Thomas, David Spooner, Dhana Merritt, Emmalyn Hawthorn, Gerwyn Davies, Hailey Atkins, Holly Anderson, James Thomson, Joaquin Gonzales, Jordan Azcune, Kate McKay, Elizabeth Willing, Llewellyn Millhouse, Lucy Quinn, Man Cheung, Mandy Quadrio, Mitchell Donaldson, Natalya Hughes, Nicola Scott, Paul Bai, Sam Harrison, Sandra Selig, Savannah Jarvis, Sean Rafferty, Sebastian Moody, Susan Hawkins, Tiana Jefferies, Tim Woodward, Tony Albert, Tyza Stewart, Caitlin Franzmann, Lincoln Austin, Chantal Fraser, Julie Fragar, Kinly Grey, Rachael Haynes, Ross Manning, Sarah Poulgrain, Spencer Harvie, Nicholas Aloisio-Shearer, Amelia Hine

And to the following businesses for providing raffle prizes:

Hotel X
Happy Boy
New Farm Cinema
Hive & Harvest Honey
Double Double
Nodo
Netherworld
Phoebe Paradise

Grants and funding

Queensland Government, via Arts Queensland
The Australia Council for the Arts
Australian Cultural Fund
Brisbane City Council
Creative Partnerships Australia

Volunteers

We could not do what we do without the generous time and enthusiasm of our wonderful volunteers. We simply cannot thank you enough – we cannot open our doors without you!

A very special thank you to our 2021-22 Outer Space Volunteers:

Austin King, Alice Rezende, Olivia Trenorden, Bek Gregory, Emma Kenward, Neil Moorhead, Renee Kire, Lyle Duncan, Tahlia Kristjansson, Freya Black, Isabelle Vesey, Shana Barker, Madison Tanks, Harry Molyneux, Alexandra Perestrelo, Judy Lewis, Lora Lama, Phaedra van Wersch, Izzy Vesey, Georgia Scott, Mairaed Roache, Summer Yang, Victoria Lenton, Louise Truan, Tess Bakharia, Druscilla Handebo, Daniele Lamarche-Sarvia, Molly Pekol, Jenni Baxter, Hannah Currie, Katie Howell, Maria Hill, Myfanwy Halton, Jenna Muir, Madeline Holt, Cassandra Dimitroff, Phaedra van Wersch, Lauren Spriggs, Luca Masnata, Charlee Carthew-de Looze, Imogen Corbett, Emma Kenward, Judy Lewis, Thomas Langham and Flynn Stewart.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer your time

If you would like to volunteer for Outer Space, please email your CV and an letter outlining your experience, what you hope to contribute, and what you would like to receive from volunteering, to Georgia Hayward at admin@outerspacebrisbane.org

Join us: become a corporate partner

As our organisation continues to grow, partnerships with like-minded sponsors, collaborators, neighbours and supporters is crucial to cementing the future of Outer Space. If you or your business is interested in collaborating with us, or supporting our programs, please get in touch for an introduction to the Outer Space Board: admin@outerspacebrisbane.org



Deborah Eddy,
Wis for Women's Work (2022)
Street view JWAC facade, Outer Space Window Commission
Photo: Louis Lim

CONTACT US

Outer Space

Office 2R-C, 420 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley, Q 4006.

<http://outerspacebrisbane.org>

admin@outerspacebrisbane.org

<https://www.facebook.com/outerspacebrisbane/>

<https://www.instagram.com/outerspace.brisbane>

Gallery Hours: 10 am - 5 pm, Wednesday through Saturday (during exhibition periods)

Office Hours: 9 am - 5 pm, Monday - Friday