



Art from the Margins

Strategic Plan 2019 - 2022





About Us

Art from the Margins (AFTM) is a creative initiative of Wesley Mission Queensland and has been instrumental in bringing artists together and bridging the gap between artists living in isolation and the wider community since 2008. AFTM supports and promotes the work of artists living with adversity, including artists living with mental health issues, physical or intellectual disabilities, or experiencing homelessness and social isolation. AFTM currently provides exhibition and professional development opportunities for artists living in the greater Brisbane region and wider Queensland community. It is intended to extend the AFTM reach nationally.

Message from the AFTM Chair

Art from the Margins (AFTM) held its first exhibition in 2008. The seed for AFTM was planted by a person living an isolated life. He understood homelessness. He described the curse of boredom for a homeless person. With no structure to frame one's activities, the day for a homeless person can be very long indeed. Like everyone else, the person living in isolation requires activities to avoid a sense of hopelessness. Engagement with art is one way such a person can obtain a sense of fulfilment. There are a number of organisations which offer art programs which are popular for people living lonely lives. AFTM complements these programs by offering exhibition space for these artists.

When AFTM held its first exhibition in 2008, it became apparent that for artists living with profound adversity, this was a richly fulfilling experience. There is no doubt that the exhibition was an enriching time for people who had received very little recognition in their lives. This was not a one-off. AFTM observes this repeatedly.

AFTM was initially a service for people living with homelessness. Early on, it became apparent that people at risk of homelessness should also be beneficiaries of our program. AFTM expanded the criteria for acceptance into its exhibitions to include physical and intellectual impairment and mental illness. It also holds exhibitions celebrating artists from the Indigenous and refugee communities.

Opportunities abound for AFTM to continue to make a difference to the lives of people living with disadvantage. AFTM has been privileged to be supported by talented staff and volunteers. Without their support AFTM would not be effective in fulfilling its Mission. In addition, it is essential that AFTM has a clear understanding of its goals and direction. This Strategic Plan is an essential tool for ensuring the program remains focused.

The 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan builds on its predecessor – each year the social environment changes. It is important that the Strategic Plan is relevant to the times. In addition, it is appropriate that AFTM takes advantage of new opportunities and reflects on how it can build on its successes – hence the need for regular renewal.

I thank the AFTM Board, staff and volunteers who have contributed to the development of the 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan. I also thank Pricewaterhouse Coopers and in particular Osman Liaquat and Natalia Khamenskaia for their skilful facilitation of the process. This was an amazing donation to the life of AFTM.

Ian Airey
Chair
Art from the Margins

Front cover: Alex Crombie Van-Ewyk, *Gold Fans on Turquoise* 2015, synthetic polymer paint on canvas.

Back cover: Nathan Langdown, *Fish*, 2018, drypoint and chine colle.

AFTM Milestones

Since the first AFTM exhibition at the 2008 Brisbane Festival



AFTM has exhibited original artworks by more than 1000 different artists from Brisbane, regional Queensland and interstate

The AFTM Award exhibition was an official part of the Brisbane Festival program for a decade

Since 2016 AFTM Gallery & Studios has been providing opportunities for disadvantaged artists to exhibit and create new work

AFTM has partnered with more than 50 different Brisbane, regional and interstate community organisations to help promote the work of their artists and art groups. Hundreds of Brisbane artists have had new opportunities to exhibit and sell their creative work through the AFTM Gallery & Studios and other exhibition partnerships such as St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital, Graydon Gallery, FKG Group and DNR Capital

AFTM with the assistance of Albert Street Uniting Church Congregation has a record of supporting disadvantaged artists from marginalised cultural groups including Indigenous, refugee and migrant artists.



Our Vision

Transform the lives of those experiencing adversity and disabilities through the joy of art.



Our Mission

Be a leading provider of visual arts programs and opportunities for people living with adversity and disabilities in Queensland.



Our Goals

- Foster the creative talents of people living with adversity and disabilities.
- Celebrate the achievements of people living with adversity and disabilities.
- Increase community awareness of the creative talent of people living with adversity and disabilities.
- Continue being a sustainable organization by securing resources needed to deliver the program.



Our Values

- Integrity
- Respect
- Empowerment
- Hope
- Justice
- Compassion
- Innovation



Key Strategies

The following goals and strategies will guide Art from the Margin's direction, planning and operations for the next four years:

| Goal 1 | Key Strategies |
|--|--|
| Foster the creative talents of people living with adversity and disabilities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create and deliver a program of workshops, studio residencies and mentorships for NDIS supported and other clients 2. Extend the AFTM program and accessibility to artists 3. Develop NDIS supported Australian and International art tours and professional development opportunities for clients. |
| Goal 2 | Key Strategies |
| Celebrate the achievements of people living with adversity and disabilities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver an ongoing program of innovative and diverse AFTM Gallery exhibitions 2. Curate the AFTM National Biennial Outsider Art Awards exhibition. |
| Goal 3 | Key Strategies |
| Increase community awareness of the creative talent of people living with adversity and disabilities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tour the AFTM Emerging Artist Awards exhibition within Australia and internationally 2. Provide opportunities to profile and promote AFTM artists 3. Establish commercial opportunities for AFTM artists 4. Create recognition of the AFTM Gallery & Studios. |
| Goal 4 | Key Strategies |
| Continue being a sustainable organisation by securing resources needed to deliver the program | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build partner, sponsor and donor support with the assistance of the AFTM Board and Patron 2. Secure arts and disability funding support through art and health funding bodies 3. Efficiently manage AFTM funds and resources sustainably and ethically, with minimal environmental impact. |

Acknowledgements

Art from the Margins gratefully acknowledges the generous support of organisations that are making our program possible.



Corporate Sponsors

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze



Corporate Donors



Support Art from the Margins

Your generosity means we can keep helping Queensland artists living with adversity.

Your donation enables us to provide positive cultural and social activities and creative opportunities for artists experiencing disadvantage through a combination of exhibition and mentoring programs.

YES, I would love to support Art from the Margins

Title:..... First Name:

Surname:

Company:

Address:.....

.....

.....

Suburb:

State: Postcode:

Phone:

Email:

PLEASE ACCEPT MY GIFT OF

Amount \$_____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Cheque / Money Order payable to Wesley Mission Queensland

Visa Mastercard

Card No: ____ / ____ / ____ / ____

Expiry: ____/____ Signature:.....

Name on Card:.....

ONLINE

www.artfromthemargins.org.au

Your donation along with this form can be posted to

Art from the Margins

Locked Bag 7005, Chermside Qld 4032

Gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



Art from the Margins

136 Brunswick Street
Fortitude Valley QLD 4006
aftm@wmq.org.au
artfromthemargins.org.au

wmq.org.au