

Desart Annual Report 2020/2021

Aboriginal people are advised that this report may contain names of people who have passed on.



Culture First. Supporting Aboriginal Art Centres of Central Australia

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Cover image: Nyilyari Tjapangati, *Wilkinkarra*, 2021, 107 x 28cm, Acrylic on Belgian Linen, image courtesy Papunya Tula Artists.

Chairperson's Message



Our job on the Desart Board is to talk up strong for Desart, our art centres and the Aboriginal arts industry. We work hard for all the Desart member art centres, wherever they are. But the one thing that is the same for all Aboriginal art centres is – culture comes first. I feel proud to be Chairperson for a place that understands this idea.

Desart supports art centres – they are the main place in everyone's community that keeps culture strong. This year the Desart Board has really been thinking about the idea that the best way we can support our member art centres by everyone working together – Desart working with art centre Boards, managers, artists and art workers. Desart can show them good ideas and ways of doing things, like art business ideas, using the SAM database, how to have more Aboriginal people working in the art centre, how to work together in art centres and how

art centre Boards can learn good governance. When everyone works together, this keeps the art centre going strong to support our culture.

It has been another busy year, and even though we stayed at home and couldn't travel everywhere, Desart made sure all the art centres were doing OK through the phone and internet meetings.

COVID-19 continues to put up challenges for our art centres and Desart keeps thinking of new ways and ideas to do things.

This was especially important for events like Desert Mob as we took it online to show our art to all of Australia and the world. It was good that we could still share what all the art centres are doing and the stories through the Symposium short films, MarketPlace and exhibition.

Another way to help through COVID-19 was the exciting Art Centre Resilience Project through a partnership with the Central Land Council. This project helped art centres by providing support for new projects and building and IT.

It is important for me to be part of this strong organisation and for us to do this work, to share our culture and stories through art and leave good things for our young people.

The Art Worker Program is really important for our people. It provides training and support for jobs in the future - real training that will help with real employment and real leadership. The Desart Board wants Aboriginal people to work in art centres and to take on important art and cultural work.

I also opened the Desart Art Centre Conference this year which happened in Alice Springs and online for the first time. The conference is good because a lot of good information is shared. The art centre managers, directors, artists and art workers come into Alice Springs, and it is good that everyone can get together. People back home in the art centres could also watch and share and learn.

This is my second term being Chairperson of Desart and I am happy working with the Board members and Desart staff. On behalf of the Desart Board I want to thank the staff because of the hard they work they do not just with art centres.

I want to thank the other Desart Board members too, for another year of hard work coming together, sharing ideas and taking our ideas back home to our own art centres.

Isobel Gorey Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer's Message



Looking back over the year, it is incredible to see all the achievements of Desart and our member art centres as we manoeuvred through and responded to the ever-changing circumstances arising from the COVID-19 emergency.

In 2020–2021, Desart continued to support members with our program of activities focusing on sustainable business models, information technology support, innovative arts practices and activities that support the professional development of art centre governing committees, managers, and Aboriginal art workers and artists. Our core business activities are complimented by advocating for and securing platforms that promote the artistic and cultural aspirations of art centres in our region.

With the ongoing effects of COVID-19 presenting deep challenges for art centres, Desart continued to direct its resources into facilitating income

opportunities and investment in digital advances for members. In a rapidly changing environment, it again highlighted the organisation's ability to adapt and support art centres through our expertise, programs, and resources. Desart's response to the uncertainty faced by our art centre members was aimed at providing relevant health and business operational information and resources, strategies to respond to risks in ways that was accessible and maximized efficiencies in time and resources, maintained business and artistic output and minimised fears, concerns and anxieties. The foundations established in 2020 in response to COVID-19 have informed Desart's ongoing strategic planning and allocation of resources whilst uncertainty remains.

Desart also published research on the impacts of COVID-19 on the sector using available sales and production data and presented to government and industry stakeholders, evidencing financial and operational impact. The COVID-19 Impact Reports enabled evidence-based advocacy that resulted in Desart securing \$612,000 from the Central Land Council to mitigate financial and art production impacts on art centres in Central Australia. As a result of this funding Desart established the Desart Art Centre Resilience Project to support art centres in special projects that contributes to mitigating financial loss to artists and art centres, ensuring strong futures, increasing art production, enabling upgrades of art centre IT equipment and art centre infrastructure upgrades. This project is currently in progress with a possibility that ongoing funding may be forthcoming.

We are fortunate to be able to pivot our activities to ensure that we contribute to supporting the livelihoods of artists, Aboriginal art workers and art centre staff. The capacity for growth in the digital space was recognised in the digital presentation of the 2020 Desert Mob event, illuminating the power of engaging in alternate ways, sparking new ideas; elevating the celebration and vitality of Aboriginal art and culture. The digital data provided Desart with deeper insights enabling us to tailor our messaging and programs to new audiences.

In addition, Desart provided practical support to help art centres mitigate risk including moving to digital platforms, transitioning events, and providing business planning support, to help improve the financial viability and sustainability of art centres during the emergency period.

However, it's not all about the digital. While this is a valuable platform to reach new audiences, we have appreciated more than ever over the last year that there is great value in face-to-face connections to exchange stories, ideas and skills. It is what makes our arts centres important cultural places.

The Desart Conference is one such event that provided an invaluable opportunity for our members to come together with colleagues and industry specialists, providing valuable information exchanges and sharing of strong cultural work.

The Art Worker Program was also able to conduct its Industry Engagement Program for art workers in partnership with the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, providing art workers in our region the opportunity to engage and have insight into the process of presenting the 2021 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award.

Another huge achievement for Desart was the establishment of Utopia Art Centre in Alparra in partnership with the Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation (UAC) to represent artists across the Utopia Homelands. Following the finalisation of a Feasibility Report and Business Plan in 2019, Desart successfully secured one-year operational funding from the Commonwealth IVAIS Program to employ an art centre manager. Utopia Art Centre has engaged over 60 artists in its inaugural year, both in the art centre and through bush studio programs, with two works acquired by ArtBank in their first exhibition, a testament to community support and the strong art history of the region.

Desart could not do the work we do without the support of the Australian Government – IVAIS Program, the Australia Council for the Arts, The Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and the Northern Territory Government who all provide operational funding that support our activities.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the Desart Chairperson and Board Members along with the Desart staff who work hard to make sure that Desart remains relevant and responsive to the needs and interests of our art centre members.

Philip Watkins Chief Executive Officer

Our Mission, Values and Goals

Our Mission

We are committed to supporting Aboriginal art centres, which provide autonomy, sustained growth and stability for Central Australian Aboriginal communities.

Our Values

Culture first

We see culture as the priority and foundation for all our work.

Diversitu

We respect the cultural diversity inherent to Central Australian Aboriginal peoples and their communities.

Autonomy We support the independence and autonomy of our art centre members.

Ethical We work in a manner that is ethical and transparent.

Consultation

We ensure our work is based on consultation with Aboriginal artists and art centre staff.

Our Goals

One Mob, One Voice

Goal 1: Represent and be a strong voice for art centres.

Strong Business

Goal 2: Promote best practice management of art centres. Goal 5: Support art centres to acquire and maintain infrastructure and resources.

My Job, My Learning Goal 3: Increase employment and career pathways for Aboriginal people in the arts.

Our Art, Our Culture Goal 4: Promote Central Australian Aboriginal arts and culture.

About Desart



\$1,175,000

generated in sales for artists, art centres, their

families and communities.



\$612,000 secured

for art centres as part of Desart Resilience Project funding to support art projects, equipment, infrastructure and IT.

Arts and Craft Centres. Established in 1992, incorporated in 1993, we now count as our members 35 independently governed Aboriginal Art and Craft Centres representing 8000 artists. We are governed by a 10-member Aboriginal executive committee elected from the membership regions and currently employ 11 staff, servicing a membership area of 1.221 million square kilometres.

We are a collective voice for art centres on matters of shared interest and deliver programs to members that support the development and maintenance of strong governance, administration and infrastructure. Each art centre has its own set of governance, business and individual staff needs. Building and supporting capacities in relevant and useful ways is our strongest challenge. We prioritise opportunities for our membership to market and promote their art and crafts locally, nationally and internationally and to further their ability to remain autonomous, sustainable Aboriginal businesses.

Our programs are developed and delivered on the principle of culture first and industry best practice through rigorous and ongoing consultation. We place emphasis on working together with our membership and key industry stakeholders including arts and Aboriginal community organisations, business, government and industry professionals. We maintain strong relationships with the Indigenous Art Code, Copyright Agency, Arts Law and Art Centre Peak Bodies, national and state arts agencies. We have continued to build on established partnerships and nurture new relationships with relevant industry organisations to ensure our objectives

are met.

We are a conduit through which art centre business operations (financial, human and infrastructure) are supported and strengthened. It is our aspiration to achieve a balance between Aboriginal cultural expressions (positioned within a broader Western arts market) and Western systems of administration and governance.

Desart is the Association of Central Australian Aboriginal

About Desart

About Desart

Our Board

Desart was incorporated in 1993 as a non-profit Aboriginal Association under the *Northern Territory Associations Act.* Members of Desart are Aboriginal-owned art centres, established as independent corporations, or as art centres which are activities of larger Aboriginal governed organisations.

The Desart Executive Committee comprises of ten Aboriginal members; two from each of the five designated regions; whom are elected for two years. Positions are declared vacant at the AGM and commence from the next meeting of the Board following the AGM.



(L-R) Walter Jugadai, Marisa Maher, Hayley Coulthard, Kathleen Rambler, Isobel Gorey and Joseph Williams, Desart Board Meeting, May 2021. Photo by Eliza Walters, Desart.

Desart Board 2020-2021

REGION	NAME	ART CENTRE
APY South	VACANT	*
	Vicki Cullinan	Iwantja Arts and Crafts
Barkly	Kathleen Rambler	Artists of Ampilatwatja
	VACANT	*
Central Desert	Hayley Coulthard	Hermannsburg Potters
	Jane Young	Tangentyere Artists
North West	Isobel Gorey	Papunya Tjupi Art Centre
	Roseranna Larry	Ikuntji Artists
Ngaanyatjarra West	Kristabell Porter	Warakurna Artists
	VACANT	*

*The two vacant positions will be co-opted by the Executive committee at their first meeting of 2020.

Desart Staff 2020-2021

NAME	POSITION	TENURE
Philip Watkins	Chief Executive Officer	August 2011 – present
Marlene Chisholm	Art Worker Program Manager	April 2013 – present
Carmel Young	Strong Business Program Manager	August 2018 – present
Bronwyn Taylor	SAM Project Manager	August 2015 – present
Eliza Walters	Strong Business Program Officer	June 2020 – present
Penny Watson	Art Worker Program Educator	May 2018 – present
Melena Cole-Manolis	Administration Officer	March 2020 – present
Peta Braedon	Project Officer	September – December 2020

2020 Desart Members

Arlpwe Art & Culture Centre Artists of Ampilatwatja Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists Ernabella Arts Greenbush Art Group Hermannsburg Potters Ikuntji Artists Iltja Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation Iwantja Arts Kaltjiti Arts Keringke Arts Maruku Arts Martumili Artists Mimili Maku Arts Minyma Kutjara Arts Ninuku Arts Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre Papulankutja Artists

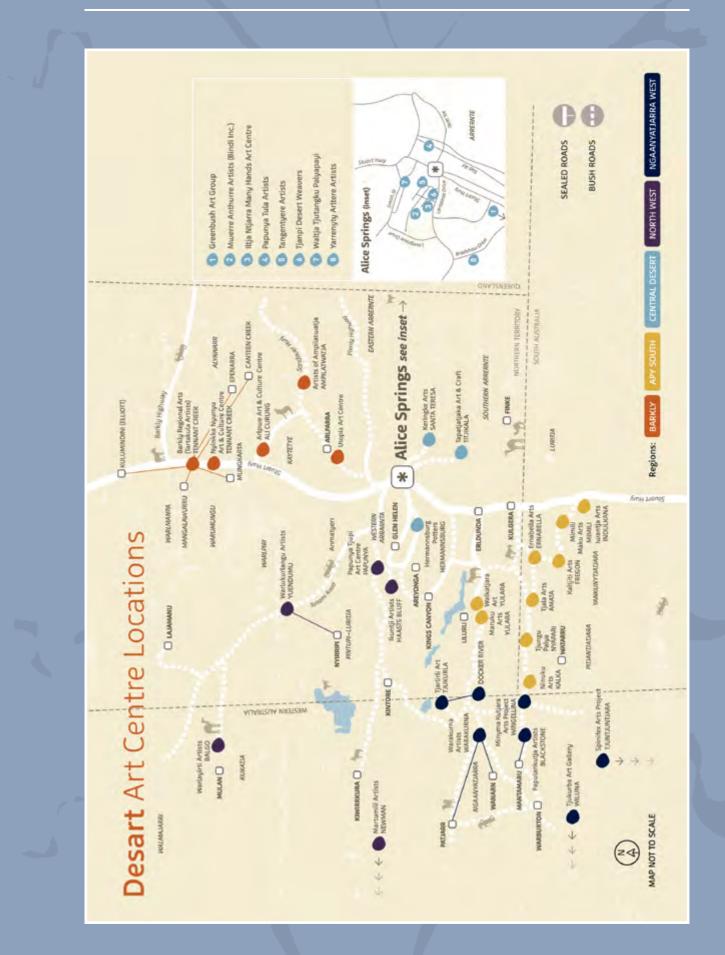
Associate Members

Barkly Regional Arts Inc. representing:

- Artists of Canteen Creek
- Epenarra Artists
- Mungkarta Artists
- Tartakula Artists (Tennant Creek)
- Manglawarru Artists
- Kulumindini Arts (Elliott)

Papunya Tjupi Arts Papunya Tula Artists Spinifex Arts Project Tangentyere Artists Tapatjatjaka Art & Craft Tjala Arts Tjanpi Desert Weavers Tjarlirli Art Tjukurba Art Gallery (Shire of Wiluna) Tjungu Palya Arts Utopia Art Centre Walkatjarra Art Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi Warakurna Artists Warlayirti Artists Warlukurlangu Artists Yarrenyty Arltere

Map of the Membership



Our Funding

As a non-profit organisation we rely on a variety of funding sources for our programs and core operations. In 2020 Desart continued to be supported by the **Commonwealth** and **Northern Territory** governments, the **Australia Council for the Arts**, philanthropic and commercial sponsors. We are extremely grateful to all our financial supporters noted below.

Commonwealth Government



Australian Government Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support

The **Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS)** program is vital funding for Desart's core activities. In 2019, Desart secured funding through IVAIS for the five year period to 2025. This ensures stability in staffing levels allowing Desart to focus on delivering programs and services to our members.

Together with the Copyright Agency and the Department of Communications and the Arts, Desart has continued the pilot to test the feasibility of using digital labels on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander products in order to assist consumers to make informed choices, increase economic and cultural opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and designers, and assist producers to market and track their products.

Desart was able to secure additional funding for digital labelling product training, continuing the work begun by the Digital Labelling project and extends art centres' ability to manage products and link to artist information.

We received funding to complete necessary upgrades to the SAM Database and to provide additional functions requested by Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander art centres.



In April 2019 Desart secured funding from the **Australia Council for the Arts** for operational costs and programs for the period 2020-2023. This funding allows implementation of our 2019-2024 Business and Strategic Plan and recommendations from the Administration and Capability Review.

This indispensable operational and program funding supports our Strong Business Program including Desert Mob, delivered online in 2020.

Our Funding

Territory / State Government



The **Northern Territory Arts and Programs Strategy (NTAPS)** continues to be fundamental to the delivery of Desart's annual program.

Philanthropic



Desart's multi-year support from the **Tim Fairfax Family Foundation** concluded in June 2021. This funding supported the expansion of the Art Worker Program to build the capacity of Indigenous art workers in Central Australia, including professional development workshops and industry engagement.

Desart recognises the support the Tim Fairfax Foundation has provided the Desart Art Worker Program between 2017 and 2021.



Australian Executor Trustees

AET Discretionary Grants Program

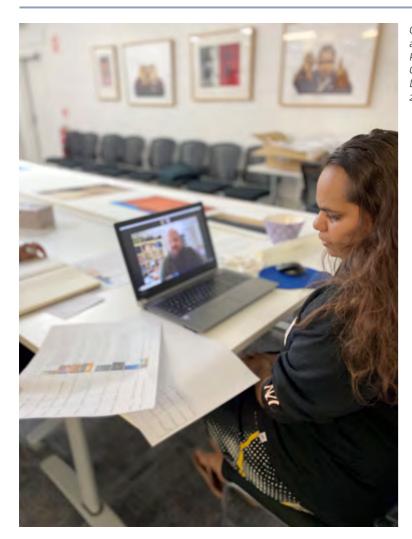
The **Australian Executor Trustees Limited** has provided philanthropic funds for two Desart programs: The Desart Leadership and governance program & the Desart Aboriginal Art Worker Program.

Our Funding

Other funding



In 2020, Desart received \$612,000 in funding from the Central Land Council to deliver the Art Centre Resilience Project; developed to support member art centres, promoting innovation while stimulating growth and recovery following the impact of COVID-19.



Community judge Gloria Moketarinja assessing entries for the Desart Photography Prize with industry judge Glenn Iseger-Pilkington on Zoom at the Desart office Alice Springs, September 2020. Photo Marlene Chisholm, Desart.

Our Main Activities

The Desart program of activities is based on the principles of capacity-building, best practice business models, leadership and good governance across the three tiers of art centre operations – directors, art centre staff and artists. These principles are put into practice through the provision of professional development opportunities, coordinated workshops with professional facilitators, building networks, support and mentoring. In consultation with Desart members, the content of the Desart program is based on research, review, inquiry and industry best practice. Desart's annual program of activities is guided by the desired outcomes of the continuing Desart Business & Strategic Plans 2016-2021.





52% growth in Youtube subscribers.



website pageviews.



59% increase in email subscribers.



GOAL 1 **Represent and be a strong voice for art centres**

Advocacy

Desart works closely with all tiers of government and industry stakeholders advocating on behalf of our member art centres, championing their importance and successes and addressing their challenges. We work consultatively with other industry service organisations, including the Indigenous Art Code, Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, Arts Law, the Copyright Agency and Creative Partnerships Australia, to ensure our members have access to information and resources that meet their aspirations and needs.



industry specialist consults

presented in person and online.

Research

- Central Australian Aboriginal Arts Workforce Development Project - Explore career pathways for Aboriginal people in the arts.
- Digital Labelling Project Feasibility of digital labels on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander products.
- Financial Snapshot of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Centres FYE 2020.
- Art Centres and COVID-19: An update on the pandemic's ongoing impact. 1 July - 31 December 2020.

"Really great - films definitely of high quality... the films worked really well as a well edited insight into projects. Great to see inside studios and **Country of different art** centres and artists." Desert Mob Symposium 2020 participant.



recruiting for 8 roles.

Desart assisted art centres in

8 roles

Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation Desart in partnership with Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation continues to work closely in the establishment of an art centre in the Utopia region of the Northern Territory. In September 2020 an art centre manager was recruited. Desart continued to support the art centre and the new manager. It is expected the art centre will be transitioned to Urapauntja Aboriginal Corporation in September 2021.

MarketPlace

Desart continues to work closely with Barkly Regional Arts in the delivery of arts activities to five associate member art centres in their region. Operationally supported through BRA, art centres situated in Canteen Creek, Epenarra, Mungkarta, Mangalawurru and Kulumindini participate in most Desart events including art worker professional development, Desert Mob and artist camps. This partnership with BRA is crucial for strengthening relationships with artists in these communities.

Partnerships

Araluen Arts Centre Desart continued its partnership with Araluen Arts Centre to deliver the annual Desert Mob Exhibition, Symposium and

Urapuntja **Aboriginal Corporation** Utopia Homelands

Barkly Regional

Barkly Regional Arts (BRA)

Arts Law

The Strong Business Legal Support Program continued throughout 2020-2021 providing legal support and resources to Desart members delivered in partnership with Arts Law and Artists in the Black service.

The Desart Art Centre Resilience Project

The Desart Resilience Project was developed to support member art centres, promoting innovation while stimulating growth and recovery following the impact of COVID-19. Developed in partnership with the Central Land Council (CLC), the program aims to provide practical and sustained support for Northern Territory based members with the primary objective of ensuring Aboriginal artists and art workers and their enterprises have a strong future.

Activities supported:

- 12 Northern Territory based art centres applied and received funding
- 13 arts projects
- 15 infrastructure projects
- 15 IT projects improving connectivity and digital infrastructure projects
- Also 12 independent artists were supported with new materials

Desart Strong Business Program

The Strong Business Program is the Desart art centre capacity building program primarily designed for art centre managers and governing boards. The activities support art centres to be sustainable and have viable best-practice administrative and operational processes.

In 2020-2021 the program had three focus areas:

1. Record art centre projects and artist stories through film.

The Strong Business Program worked with art centres to elevate the promotion of the dynamic and culturally important work they are doing. Desart travelled across the regions to member art centres with a film and sound crew to record and capture art centres' achievements, developments and contemporary practices. The team worked with emerging and established artists on Country to record stories to inform and educate the wider public on Indigenous art and culture.

GOAL 2 **Promote best practice management of art** centres

"They're [films] absolutely beautifully done and are a wonderful resource. Thanks again for organising a fantastic program celebrating **Indigenous artists!** Thank you!" Desert Mob Symposium 2020

"What a week...we are very busy packing artwork! Thanks for the great graphics, they have had a enormous impact!" Martumili Artists.

participant.

"Thanks for organising the meeting just now, it makes me feel a little less isolated knowing we're all still out there doing our best." Artists of Ampilatwatja.

support.

The Strong Business Program focused on delivering new channels for sales opportunities as well as digital infrastructure investment and networking opportunities.

Desart also undertook extensive marketing and promotional support for art centres to continue to promote the art of Central Australia and the important role art centres play in communities and in maintaining and strengthening culture.

3. COVID-19 resource development and support

Distributed and developed resources and information to members around funding support, opportunities and strategies to stimulate growth and recovery throughout the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

included:

- membership
- support

2. Event and marketing support including development of new online event opportunities and art centre technical

Other activities developed, offered and delivered under the Strong Business Program in 2020-2021

 Grant and art prize opportunities, and artist career development resources via a monthly newsletter

• Educational, health and wellbeing resources

• Annual surveys to members to inform priorities and programs ensuring we meet the needs of the

 Human resources support including art centre management recruitment, performance reviews, review of position descriptions

• Provide EASA Counselling services for art centre staff available 24/7 as well as general HR advice and

• Business development support, including Governance, strategic planning, project development and industry best practice

• Professional development opportunities and professional coaching.

GOAL 2 Promote best practice management of art centres

GOAL 2 **Promote best practice management of art** centres

"Really great - films definitely of high quality... the films worked really well as a well edited insight into projects. Great to see inside studios and **Country of different art** centres and artists." Desert Mob Symposium 2020 participant.

3 New legal podcasts

produced in partnership with Arts Law, taking total to 9.



1 Wills Video and information

produced in partnership with Arts Law.



Arlpwe Art and Culture Centre

Desart continued to oversee the management of the art centre and provide governance support to the Directors of Arlpwe Art and Culture Centre. It is envisioned that managerial control will transition to the new Art Centre Manager by the end of 2021.

Arts Law

Due to ongoing travel restrictions, Desart and Arts Law's outreach program for June 2021 was redirected to the creation of digital resources. These are now available through the SAM database, the Arts Law and Desart websites, and audio platforms including Spotify, Apple podcasts, Google Play and Podbean.

Topics covered:

- Online Galleries and stores
- Licensing for Fashion and Textiles
- Employment and the Arts
- Lock the Doors and Check the Windows
- Copyright and moral rights
- Online works
- Consignments
- Consignments and the PPSR

Desart and Arts Law partnered to present an animated video on the importance of artists' wills, which was launched at the 2021 Desart Art Centre Conference.

"As we move through 2021, moments like the **Desart Conference** remind me of the scale of what has been achieved in the sector through **COVID-19. It reminds me** how critical it will be to deepen collaborations and support networks in the sector to ensure that appropriate resourcing and partnerships are in place to maintain resilience. And it reminds me how joyful it is - being in the same space together again, sharing

stories."

Megan Coupland, State Manager for SA & NT, Creative Partnerships Australia.

"We had such a great time doing the fashion parade and totally agree that it is uplifting to see those young women empowered.

They don't get many opportunities to showcase their strengths. So thank you."

Yarrenyty Arltere Artists.

The Desart Annual Art Centre Conference

This year's program, delivered online and in person responded to the impacts of COVID-19 on sales and production and art centres' subsequent exponential engagement with the digital domain. A complementary artistic program was also introduced including various creative workshops for artists and a fashion parade showcasing the fashion and textiles of members.

There was a total of 102 registrations to attend the conference in person, from 18 member art centres who were able to travel in to Alice Springs while 14 registered to view online.

The Desart Conference program included presentations from industry bodies and colleagues, government, recent research and projects, providing valuable information exchanges and sharing of strong cultural work.

- Tracker Consulting.

The conference program included workshops and breakaway sessions with:

- assets.
- NT members.
- workers and artists.
- media.

• Art Centres and COVID-19: An update on the pandemic's ongoing impact on art centres presented by Tim Acker from

• New Directions Panel: Industry specialists, DAAF, Agency, Australia Council, IVAIS, Desart's SAM and Art Worker Program respond to the 'new normal' of arts business.

Donna Robinson, Arts Law: Cyber Security and digital

• Deputy Commissioner Ursula Raymond, NT Treaty

Commission: Discussion about proposal for NT Treaty with

• John Waight, Artists in the Black (Arts Law), and Marlene Chisholm and Penny Watson, Art Worker Program: Artists understanding copyright closed session for Aboriginal art

• Arlette Martin and Stephanie Parkin, Copyright Agency:

Key issues relating to entering a licensing agreement and an update on the Resale Royalty Scheme.

Leisa Howlett. Bellette Media: The latest trends on social

GOAL 2 Promote best practice management of art centres



150 attendees at Desart Art Centre Conference.

Specialist sessions provided the opportunity for oneon-one or small group meetings including online, with representatives from Arts Law, Office for the Arts (IVAIS), Australia Council, Arts NT, Indigenous Art Code, Copyright Agency, Creative Partnerships Australia, NT Treaty Commission, and Desart's SAM and Art Worker Program staff.

Desart engaged a number of member art centres to present an artistic program for the 2021 Desart Conference. This accompanying program was delivered by Joseph Williams, Community Art & Cultural Worker from Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre, who presented a men's carving workshop.

Selma Coulthard, Kathy Inkamala and Vanessa Inkamala of Iltja Ntjarra, Many Hands Art Centre hosted a Watercolour Masterclass while Margaret Heffernan and Julie Anderson of Tjanpi Desert Weavers ran a weaving workshop.

Adding some colour and energy to the program were the young women of Yarrenyty Arltere as they modelled textiles from their art centre as well as Ikuntji Artists, Warlukurlangu Artists, Tangentyere Artists and jewellery from Keringke Arts.



Penata Stockmen and Isobel Major of Papunya Tjupi Arts weaving as part of the workshop led by Tjanpi Desert Weavers artists. Photo: Oliver Eclipse Photography, Desart.



Leemyn Corby of Papunya Tjupi Arts participating in the men's carving workshop. Photo: Oliver Eclipse Photography, Desart.

GOAL 2 Promote best practice management of art centres

GOAL 2 Promote best practice management of art centres



Nina Charles, Shamiah Petrick, Elizabeth Bundy, Helen Ebatarinja, Shenita Petrick. Photo: Oliver Eclipse Photography, Desart.



Artists working in the watercolour workshop, at the Desart Art Centre Conference. Photo: Oliver Eclipse Photography, Desart.

Stories Art Money (SAM) Database

Adapt and respond are two words that were prominent in the SAM Database program for financial year ending in 2021. With COVID-19 we moved to the delivery of online training which provided a greater reach across the 99 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art centres. Through this mode there was a total of 252 participants in training with the majority being non-Desart members and 46% identifying as Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander.

The continued delivery of the SAM Learning Portal ensured that those who wanted to scaffold their learning could engage in the four courses online. There was a total of 60 learners completing courses in this mode with 56% identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

Development

24

Based on SAM Client feedback a review was undertaken of the SAM API. As a result of the independent review the development of a new SAM API version 2 began. A key feature of the new SAM APIv2 is two-way communication between SAM and art centre's online stores.

SAM also undertook a Literacy and Numeracy review of the database that will feed into future development.



99 art centres

using Desart-developed SAM database.



252 people

8 new

20 total

provided to date.

SAM certified trainers.

SAM certified trainers.

109 SAM licenses

who participated in SAM training.

May 2021.

The Digital Labelling pilot project wrapped up in October 2020 with five art centres participating in the pilot. Office for the Arts (Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications), provided further interim funding through to June 2021 with the following outcomes:

- Office for the Arts.
- Training.

Industry Reports

With the rise of COVID-19, it was important to capture the impact that this has had on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) art centres and their business. This was done through a series of data analysis reports, that were published on the Desart website; provided to the Desart membership; SAM Clients and the ATSI arts industry. The reports are:

• Art Centres and COVID-19 Impact Statement, July 2020.

• Art Centres and COVID-19. An update on the pandemic's ongoing impact, February 2021.

Financial Snapshot of Art Centres – 2004/5 > 2019/20,

Digital Labelling Project

• The engagement of the University of Technology Sydney, Institute for Public Policy and Governance, to complete an independent evaluation of the Digital Labelling Project. The outcomes were provided back to stakeholders and

• SAM Train the Trainer was delivered with eight new trainers receiving SAM Training Certification. This is ensuring there is enough trainers across Australia who can be independently engaged by art centres and peak bodies to deliver SAM

• Continued training in Digital Labelling to art centres and support of the technology.

Increase employment and career pathways for Aboriginal people in the arts

GOAL 3

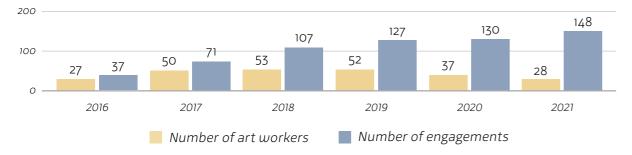
Increase employment and career pathways for Aboriginal people in the arts

Aboriginal Art Worker Program

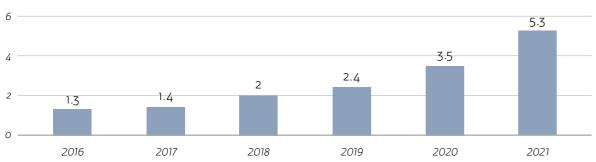
COVID-19 impacted on the delivery of the Art Worker Program (AWP) in 2020-2021. Staff postponed the planned March – November 2020 program and interstate travel with art workers was cancelled. As restrictions lifted, we recommenced face-to-face delivery of professional development for art workers across Northern Territory art centres.

Graphs 1 and 2 demonstrate a regular cohort of art workers increasingly committing to accessing learning opportunities that support their careers and professionalism in art centres.

Art worker participation in Desart Professional Development by year 2016 – 2021



GRAPH 1: These figures show us that the cohort of art workers are engaging on a more regular basis. The steady increase in repeat engagements over the 6-year period shows us that art workers are taking up more professional development opportunities more often.



Average number of engagements per person by year 2016 - 2021

GRAPH 2: In 2016 each art worker was on average engaging in professional development activities approximately 1.3 times in a 12-month period. In 2021 they are engaging on average 5.3 times in a 12-month period.







Desart Art Worker Program delivering Cultures of Collaboration for a Good Workplace Culture to Walkatjara Arts with Leroy Lester translating at Mutitjulu Community, April 2021. Photo: Penny Watson, Desart.

L-R Elaine Sandy, Luke Scholes, Kathleen Rambler, Gloria Moketarinja, Nerida Giles and Marisa Maher learning exhibition design with Luke Scholes (Curator of Aboriginal Art & Material Culture, MAGNT) at the Museum of Central Australia Alice Springs, November 2020. Photo: Penny Watson, Desart.



Kristopher James learning conservation techniques during a Desart Photography Prize Curatorial workshop Alice Springs, September 2020. Photo: Marlene Chisholm, Desart.

Increase employment and career pathways for Aboriginal people in the arts

GOAL 3

Increase employment and career pathways for Aboriginal people in the arts



8 partnerships with major cultural and education institutions and other organisations.

"I believe that the several art workers who I have been working with for multiple years are a very clear example of how delivering appropriate achievable technical tasks year after year has a wide range of positive impacts. These gains cannot be understated as both a professional development and a pathway for each art worker to gain personal confidence."

Digital Facilitator Steven Pearce, onsite digital workshops, February and March, 2021. The Desart Art Worker Program covers a range of activities to introduce new industry skills while building on existing skills of art workers:

Industry Engagement Activities

- Six art workers engaged in Exhibition design, recording stories workshops.
- Five art workers visited five Darwin cultural institutions.
- Two art workers interned at MAGNT for Telstra NATSIAA working in Installation and conservation.
- Two art workers attended curatorial workshops delivered by MAGNT curators.

Digital Workshops

Five art centres received photography/digital workshops:

- Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands
- Yarrenyty Arltere Artists
- Papunya Tjupi Arts
- Walkatjarra Arts
- Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre.

Art workers were engaged in developing content for the *Recording stories workshop* about the role of the art worker. This informed a revised master list of art worker roles, and updated job descriptions were distributed across the membership in early 2021.

Art Worker Program staff participation in on-site visits

- 14% increase in art centre visits
- Desart's Cultures of Collaboration workshop presented to three art centres.







Conservator Sandra Yee shows Elaine Sandy how to label a bark painting during Elaine's conservation internship at MAGNT Darwin, May 2021. Photo: Penny Watson, Desart.

Art Worker Nyinku Jingo cataloguing on SAM at Walkatjara Art Uluru, April 2020. Photo: Penny Watson, Desart.

L-R Hayley Coulthard, Rebecca Capp, Rona Rubuntja, Rebekah Raymond, Bryony Nainby and Alizah Coulthard proudly showing the newly installed exhibition following a curatorial workshop delivered at Hermannsburg Potters by MAGNT Curators Bryony and Rebekah, June 2021. Photo: Penny Watson, Desart.

GOAL 4 Promote Central Australian Aboriginal arts and culture

GOAL 4 **Promote Central Australian Aboriginal arts** and culture



Exhibition 169 works available with **121 sold** generating \$338,810.09

"We feel really privileged to have been invited to film artists stories, in their art centres, from senior artists to emerging; strong stories about the need for cultural objects to be returned to country and how Aboriginal art can be a political platform to express contemporary social and cultural issues from the bush." Philip Watkins, Desart CEO.

Desert Mob 2020

In 2020 Desert Mob went digital in response to COVID-19. The digital pivot saw the successful delivery of an exciting and enriching online program sending this important celebration of contemporary Aboriginal art across Australia and the globe.

This year the exhibition presented 169 artworks by 177 artists across 29 art centres. The show was full of expressive, energetic and bold works, the result of a challenging and interrupted year. The exhibition was available to view in person as well as presented online, with 3059 people through the door and 111,268 total pageviews for the duration of the exhibition.





Symposium

The film program generated 18,216 views over the week through the Desart website and a further **3,500 views** on social channels.

"I really enjoyed being able to visit and then revisit so I could hear people's stories. This helped me to appreciate the art and to better understand what people were trying to communicate." Desert Mob Symposium 2020 participant.



9 stories recorded on Country by Desart across the regions.

The **Symposium** program was a series of short films delivered over a week and provided context to the artwork, and developing an understanding of the artist, their culture, community and country.

- Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands

 - Papunya Tjupi Arts

 - Men's Painting Stories
 - - Carbiene McDonald (supplied courtesy of the art centre)
 - Ikuntji Artists
 - Museum Stories
 - Men's Museum Stories
 - Desart The Desart Photography Prize



Mr Dixon and Lyndey Rowe, during the Papunya Men's story filming. Photo: Herman Corby, courtesy of Papunya Tjupi Artists.

Top: Jimmy Frank and Joseph Williams behind the scenes of the Tennant Creek Brio film production. Photo: Eliza Walters, Desart

Billy Kenda, Jane Mervin and Conway Ginger of Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists, Desert Mob 2020. Photo: Gloria Moketarinja, Desart.

• Hermannsburg Potters - A Day in the Life

- Marisa Maher on curating
- Homeless on Our Homeland

- Women's Painting Stories
- Tjupi Old Car Tjukurrpa (supplied courtesy of the art centre)

- Women's Museum Stories

• Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre – Tennant Creek Brio

GOAL 4 Promote Central Australian Aboriginal arts and culture

MarketPlace

\$761,000 was generated from a total of 1,873 works sold with 56,000 virtual visits over the week.



Artwork by Dawn Ngala Wheeler of Hermannsburg Potters. Photo: Devris Hasan, Desart.



5 art centres provided with IT support creating online shops.

32 art centres involved in marketplace. The online **MarketPlace** presented the works of participating art centres over seven days,. Hundreds of works by emerging and established artists were available and new works were uploaded daily, with total sales experiencing a 30% growth compared to 2019.

To ensure equity across the membership, Desart provided IT assistance to establish online shops for those art centres that didn't already have one.

GOAL 4 Promote Central Australian Aboriginal arts and culture



66.8%

new visitors

33.2%

website visitors

season.

The MarketPlace attracted 10,000 pageviews over the two days, generating over an estimated total of nearly \$400,000 over the two days. The works of 26 Desart member art centres were showcased, presenting original new works from emerging and established artists, in a wide range of styles from across the regions.

8 min 37 sec Average session duration.

\$413,838 total sales generated from 615 transactions.

Desart Christmas MarketPlace

Desart's inaugural online Christmas MarketPlace was a huge success, running over two days leading into the festive

GOAL 4 Promote Central Australian Aboriginal arts and culture



Local Warming by Manjal Jampijinpa / Liam Alberts of Warlukurlangu Arts



6 supported exhibitions and events.



49 workshops delivered across Desart's programs across the regions.

Desart Photography Prize: sharing stories, building digital skills

The 2020 Desart Photography Prize curatorial and installation workshop was delivered to two art workers by the Art Worker Program's Educator, due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions of our partner institution curators. Eleven works were selected from 14 entries representing five art centres (4 from NT, 1 from SA). The winning work was *Local Warming*, by Manjal Jampijinpa Liam Alberts. Glenn Iseger-Pilkington (curator, photographer and industry consultant) was the industry judge who mentored community judge Gloria Moketarinja (digital art worker at Iltja Ntjarra) via Zoom. Desart's Strong Business Program created a short film to celebrate the Photography Prize (with no physical opening) and to announce the winner. The film was shown online at the 2020 Desert Mob Symposium.

Special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

Special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

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Special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

Desart Inc

Committee's Report

30 June 2021

The committee members submit the financial report of the Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

1. General information

Committee members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:Marissa MaherIsobel GoreyJoseph WilliamsHayley CoultardWalter JugadaiJennifer MitchellKathleen RamblerNorma Bryant

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year was the operation of the peak arts body for over 30 Central Australian Aboriginal Art centres.

Significant changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

2. Operating results and review of operations for the year

Operating result

The surplus/(deficit) of the Association for the financial year amounted to \$ 57,068 (2020: \$ 67,812).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee:

Committee member: Sobel TOREY

Committee member: Hayley Coulthard

8th Dated this day of November 2021

Special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

DESART INC.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Income

Grant income Unexpended grants brought forward Unexpended grants carried forward Other revenue Employee benefits expense Depreciation and amortisation Other expenses

Surplus for the year Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year

Retained surplus at the end of the financial year

	2021 \$	2020 \$
	1,836,275	2,093,470
	806,667	396,543
	(393,664)	(806,667)
	474,352	468,064
	(729,807)	(731,715)
	(113,354)	(106,148)
	(1,823,401)	(1,245,735)
	57,068	67,812
Jear	843,056	775,244
	900,124	843,056

Special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

DESART INC.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

		2021	2020
	Note	\$	\$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,853,427	1,888,968
Trade and other receivables	5	173,458	50,387
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		2,026,885	1,939,355
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	6	421,655	511,961
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		421,655	511,961
TOTAL ASSETS		2,448,540	2,451,316
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	220,030	128,080
Employee benefits	9	65,206	62,542
Other financial liabilties	8	831,528	997,030
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,116,764	1,187,652
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	9	61,813	50,769
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		61,813	50,769
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,178,577	1,238,421
NET ASSETS		1,269,963	1,212,895
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
General reserve		369,839	369,839
Retained profits		900,124	843,056
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		1,269,963	1,212,895

Special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

Desart Inc

Statement by Members of the Committee

In our opinion:

- year ended on that date;
- 2. the accounts of the Association have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Association.
- 3. there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Isobel TOREY Committee member

Dated this 8th day of November 2021

1. the accompanying financial report as set out on pages 2 to 8, being a special purpose financial statement, is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2021 and the results of the Association for the

Committee member Hayley Coulthard

Special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

Desart Inc

Independent Audit Report to the members of Desart Inc

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Desart Inc (the Association), which comprises the statement of assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2021, the statement of profit or loss for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the committee.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial report of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2021 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Associations Act (NT) 2003 (as modified by Part 3, Division 2 of the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Regulations 2013).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The entity derives revenue from a number of sources, including membership fees, sales, service charges, administration and sundry items. The management committee has determined it is impracticable to establish controls over the collection of revenue, other than with respect to grant revenue, prior to entry into the financial records. With the exception of grant revenue, which we are able to verify, the evidence available to us regarding revenue was limited and our audit procedures had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. Therefore, with the exception of grant revenue, we are unable to express an opinion as to whether the revenue presented in the financial report is complete.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the Association in meeting the reporting requirements of the Act.. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Association. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter

Special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

Desart Inc

Independent Audit Report to the members of Desart Inc

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Associations Act (NT) 2003 (as modified by Part 3, Division 2 of the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Regulations 2013), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are ٠ Association's internal control.
- ٠ related disclosures made by the management.
- ٠ significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material cease to continue as a going concern.

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the

appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and

Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial reporter, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to

Special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

Special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

Desart Inc

Independent Audit Report to the members of Desart Inc

 Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the management with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the management, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

Perles Audit

Perks Audit Pty Suite 7, Alice Springs Business Centre 8 Gregory Terrace Alice Springs NT 0871

Peter Hill Director Registered Company Auditor

Dated this 8th of November 2021

Desart Inc For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Disclaimer

The additional financial data presented on pages 14-15 is in accordance with the books and records of the Association which have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our statutory audit of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2021. It will be appreciated that our statutory audit did not cover all details of the additional financial data. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on such financial data and we give no warranty of accuracy or reliability in respect of the data provided. Neither the firm nor any member or employee of the firm undertakes responsibility in any way whatsoever to any person (other than Desart Inc) in respect of such data, including any errors or omissions therein however caused.

Perks Audit

Perks Audit Pty Suite 7, Alice Springs Business Centre 8 Gregory Terrace Alice Springs NT 0871

Peter Hill Director Registered Company Auditor

Dated this 8th of November 2021

Special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

DESART INC.

DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Grant income	1,836,275	2,093,470
Unexpended grants brought forward	806,667	396,543
Unexpended grants carried forward	(393,664)	(806,667)
Other income	474,352	468,064
TOTAL INCOME	2,723,630	2,151,410
EXPENSES		
Salary and wages	670,149	671,565
Administration costs	251,495	212,336
Desart IT support	220,038	30,424
Artist payments	205,618	3,650
Depreciation	113,354	106,148
Non depr assets <\$5000	105,543	4,200
Rent	98,252	90,606
Desert Mob expenses	94,929	62,817
Meeting expenses	70,127	61,967
Project management	68,267	31,228
Database maintenance and upgrades	66,639	46,899
Art worker program	63,666	65,400
Superannuation	59,658	60,150
Art centre support	56,686	100,271
Materials and supplies	54,326	4,541
Travelling expenses	54,315	50,444
Bookkeeping	43,940	21,750
Fringe benefits tax	41,643	35,453
Hire of equipment	41,336	49,905
Consultant	38,276	91,073
Research and development	37,269	37,411
Arts law support	28,480	61,592
Business plan	21,290	-
Motor vehicle expenses	19,072	7,153
Advertising	14,735	13,870
Training	14,190	26,680
Web hosting	12,876	12,696

Special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

DESART INC.

DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021 (Cont'd)

Subscriptions
Audit fees
Desart newsletter
Printing and stationery
Telephone and internet
Repairs and maintenance
Recruitment
Insurance
Electricity
Art centre subsides
Sundry expenses
Cleaning
Postage
Staff amenities
Annual report
Bank fees
Program expenses
Workshop fees
TOTAL EXPENSES
TOTAL SURPLUS

2021	2020
\$	\$
11,811	8,603
10,400	5,200
10,124	10,781
9,822	4,192
9,141	9,174
7,734	2,955
7,717	13,454
7,325	5,060
5,375	6,112
4,734	8,076
3,549	3,272
3,125	3,990
3,092	3,508
2,376	2,363
1,755	11,115
1,573	1,334
740	19,463
-	4,717
2,666,562	2,083,598
57,068	67,812

Desart Inc.

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Australian Government Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support

Australian Government Visual Arts and Craft Strategy

Australian Government Visual Arts and Craft Strategy Northern Territory





Northern Territory

Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs