

Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Appointments 2021-2023

Biographies

Local appointees:

Su Goldfish

Su is a freelance arts worker, working in live performance and exhibitions, and as an independent filmmaker. She is Adjunct Associate Lecturer in the School of the Arts and Media at UNSW. Most recently she was manager and producer of the UNSW Esme Timbery Creative Practice Lab (CPL), a specialised arts unit supporting practice-led creative research in the School of the Arts and Media, UNSW. Su led the CPL for over 20 years, taking it from a basic theatre production support unit to a thriving multi-arts cultural hub on campus, presenting an annual program of performances, screenings, writers' talks and other events. The CPL also works closely with students, researchers and artists in an integrated and supportive environment.

As an independent filmmaker Su has worked on a number of cinema projects. Her most recent is the multi-award-winning feature documentary THE LAST GOLDFISH which she wrote and directed. Premiering at Sydney Film Festival in 2017, the film documented her search for her father's lost family, taking the audience on a journey from the Holocaust to calypso. The film screened around the world including premiering in Trinidad in the West Indies in 2018 where Su was born.

Su co-produced three documentaries based on the photographs and performances of artist William Yang. MY GENERATION, BLOOD LINKS and FRIENDS OF DOROTHY all screened on the ABC and in film festivals. She is currently on the board of the artist-run space ReadyMade Works.

Mark Gould

Theatre Director and Film maker. Mark Gould is a Bondi based director producer and writer with a lifetime's experience in Australian theatre, film and television. Mark has run his own production company for the past 25 years, as well as contract stints within the ABC producing and directing for Australian Story, 4 Corners, Foreign Correspondent and Compass. In the last 2 years Mark made over 140 short videos for the web to help save the Bondi Pavilion and various others for Greater Sydney, The Powerhouse Museum etc. In doing so Mark has developed social media expertise and strategies for delivering effective to-camera messages straight to the computer and phones of the social media constituency. Mark directed hugely successful stage shows Looking Through a Glass Onion (John Waters) and Boy's Own McBeth and over 40 documentaries for BBC, ABC, SBS, Nat Geo, Arte, YLE, RBTF, RTE and others.

Jonathan Nolan

Jonathan brings expertise in branding, design, digital media, events management, sponsorship, marketing and the arts. He studied architecture, and worked in visual merchandising, and theatre set and costume design.

Former leadership roles include: President, Committee Member, Design Director St Albans Writers' Festival (St Albans, NSW); 2015-2017 Lecturer in Design Management (part-time) UNSW – College of Fine Arts; 2003-2004 Founding Partner, Design Director Coast Design (Sydney, Australia); 2000-2018 Image Program Manager Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic (and Paralympic) Games (SOCOG) (Sydney, Australia); 1996-2000 Speaking engagements included Sydney councils, AGIdeas Conference, Melbourne, Sydney Design '99, etc; trustee of the Old Vic Theatre charity allocating funds to theatre projects and students; The Royal Victoria Hall Foundation, London Design, Print and Publishing Manager Selfridges (London); 1991-1996 Set & Costume Designer Commonweal Theatre Company (London) 1990-1991.

Recently (pre-Covid) Jonathan was planning a new festival with the Irish Government and Irish Consul in Sydney (on hold for now).

Jonathan exhibited a work called "LOST" as part of the Sculpture by the Sea exhibition in 1999. He received a personal award from Juan Antonio Samaranch for my work on the Olympic Games: "The entire Olympic Movement thanks Jonathan Nolan for his personal contribution to the Look of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad. His vision, creativity and dedication have helped provide a modern visual embodiment of a set of ancient ideals." He has produced a set of books, mapped, with personal design memories of the Games. He also plays classical piano (and taught students while he was studying architecture in Dublin) and with his husband (the 'Bondi Bee Farmer') keeps bees in Bondi, and in the Hawkesbury.

Sophia Thalís

Sophia is a graduate and emerging artist, actively engaged in Sydney's cultural sector, who is interested in pursuing a career in public engagement with contemporary art and culture. In 2019 she completed a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Fine Arts. The development of her creative practise is demonstrated by the selection and exhibiting of her final project for the Jenny Birt Painting Award. Her undergraduate studies imparted upon her an appreciation for contemporary art and culture and a curiosity to better understand the cultural landscape of Sydney.

Sophia began to volunteer in Sydney's cultural sector during university and was exposed to a range of different cultural institutions and activities that deepened her interest in the field. Joining FBi Radio expanded her knowledge of culture, art and music in Sydney, especially in experimental and emerging spaces, and Sophia has shared her ever growing enthusiasm with others presenting FBi's 'Monday Arvos' Culture Guide. Her education and considerable experience in the cultural sector has given her a firm understanding and interest in public engagement with contemporary art and culture in Sydney, and she is interested in the ways in which policy informs and can enhance public engagement.

Funding/peak body appointees:

Tessa Leong (also Waverley local)

Tessa is currently Manager, Artist and Sector Development at TNA, the leading industry development agency for the performing arts and the Associate Artistic Director at Griffin Theatre Company. She is an Australian theatre director and founding member of Adelaide-based theatre company isthisyour? with extensive experience as a producer across her own independent work and with other companies. She was the Associate Artist at Belvoir in 2017, and a studio artist at Griffin Theatre in 2014. Her love of new plays, participatory performance and live art means she's collaborated with artists and companies across Australia, Europe and North America to make theatre, dance, interactive performance and dinners! Last European Summer she was at the Prague Quadrennial 2019 and Berlin Performing Arts Festival for her work with other collaborating artists on a participatory installation work The Hole. During last Australian Summer she was poolside in Kandos, NSW with her work Swimming Pool with PYT | Fairfield for Cementa Festival.

Tessa is deeply passionate about arts on an international, national and local level, seeing participation, access and inclusion and a First Nations First approach as the keys to a healthy arts sector. She brings 15 years experience in the arts sector, with a broad knowledge and deep understanding of the performing arts landscape across Australia and in particular Sydney.

Non local appointees:

Morwenna Collett

Morwenna is an arts, diversity, access and inclusion consultant. An accomplished leader, consultant and facilitator with 15 years' experience in government, the arts, not-for-profit and university sectors, Morwenna has worn the hats of CEO, Board Director, senior leadership team member, project manager, lecturer, researcher, trainer and advisor. She is currently working as a consultant specialising in strategy, diversity, access and inclusion in relation to the arts and is a member of advisory committees with the City of Sydney, Sydney Festival, Perth Festival, Sydney Fringe Festival and Undercover Artist Festival. She was previously the CEO of Accessible Arts, the Chair of the Sydney Arts Managers Advisory Group and has held senior management roles at the Australia Council for the Arts. Having recently completed a Churchill Fellowship, exploring inclusive music programs, venues and festivals which actively engage disabled people across the USA, UK and Ireland, Morwenna's work is influenced by her own lived experience as a musician with disability.

Dean Kelly

Dean Kelly identifies as a South Coast NSW Saltwater Yuin, Walbunja, Dhoorga Gurandji cultural man through his father, and a Western NSW Freshwater stone country cultural Wailwan, Nypampai Man through his mother. He was born in Sydney NSW on Gadigal land.

Dean is a member of the Botany Bay Aboriginal Community and is also accepted as belonging to the La Perouse Aboriginal Community. He is a cultural practitioner who enjoys sharing his knowledge of Aboriginal culture and heritage, which has been passed down through his family for countless generations.

Dean is an Aboriginal Liaison Officer for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. His role provides community with education programs, cultural awareness, access to country visits and cultural experiences such as Cultural Leadership Camps.

"Culture is life, without it we have nothing and become lost."

Sue Saxon

Sue has over 25 years' experience in the arts sector as a creative leader and consummate specialist in innovative programming and audience engagement. Her high-level skills in arts leadership, project and stakeholder management across government, arts, cultural, science and media sectors, were developed within leading cultural organisations while they were undergoing dramatic transition or significant renovation.

At Australian Museum she increased visitation and deepened adult audience engagement through strategic development and delivery of a broad range of programs. Including a suite of initiatives across Community and Public Launches, interactive workshops and public forums. At Kaldor Public Art Projects, Sue developed and consolidated KPAP's innovative, inclusive Education and Public Program department, realising the ground breaking organisation's education, engagement and outreach mission. At Sydney Festival Sue researched, sourced, negotiated, managed and strategically raised the profile of the Festival's Visual Arts Program through commissioning local and international artists, working with major galleries and museums and managing all aspects of the development and delivery of major public art works, artist presentations, talks and forums. At the MCA Sue designed and implemented innovative exhibition and non-exhibition related programs for students and adults, including workshops, major lectures and performances as well as talks and presentations by artists, writers, architects and cultural commentators.

Sue is also an award-winning visual artist and has received prestigious scholarships and residencies including studios in Budapest, Paris, New York and Waverley. Qualifications: Bachelor of Art Education (COFA, UNSW) and Master of Fine Arts by Research (SCA, USyd).