

2024 REPORT

IMPACT

*effecting social
change through
the power of
performance*



Image: Hello, Are You Still There?
Photo by Lucy Parakhina

In all that we do, we acknowledge that the foundations of Milk Crate Theatre are on Gadigal land of the Eora Nation and that wherever we create, we walk in the footprints of the ancestors that were here before us.

We pay homage to the tradition of storytelling practiced by the earth's longest living culture and embrace those stories of the past and continue to share stories of the now.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and to walk side by side, hand in hand for a healing future.

Sovereignty was never ceded, and we acknowledge those who have nurtured and respected the land for generations before us.

Our Acknowledgment of Country was co-written with Peta-Joy Williams, a Wiradjuri woman and artist, and Jessica Pantano

Image: Natural Order
Photo by Patrick Boland



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Image: Hello, Are You Still There?
Photo by Lucy Parakhina



COMMUNITY

133

unique Collaborative Artists (participants) across the 2024 program.

18

artists and creatives were employed to deliver the program

77

of these were new to Milk Crate Theatre.

277

stakeholders from government, social service organisations, training programs and more.

51,142

Through a multifaceted approach—spanning social media engagement, live audiences at events, report launches, and major productions—we reached an extraordinary total audience of 51,142.



CREATIVE OUTPUT

125

individual workshop sessions

3333

hours of service delivered across the program.

MAJOR SHOW

We devised, produced and presented an inaugural season of 5 shows of *Hello, Are You Still There?*

PODCAST

We devised, produced and presented six episodes of our podcast, *The New Stigma*.

DEVELOPING ARTISTS

We held two round of our developing artist program in 2024 with 8 Collaborative Artists devising their own original performance works.



SOCIAL IMPACT

DEEP DIVE REPORT

We undertook research and provided a deep dive report - *The Arts and Collective Crisis*

We have also embedded our impact framework across the entire program and the results are shared in this report.



DIGITAL

WEBSITE

5.4K Unique Vistors
up 11% from 2023

FACEBOOK

4K + Followers
7.4 K Reach

INSTAGRAM

2.1K + Followers
5.7 K Reach

LINKEDIN

703 Followers
4,663 Impressions

YOUTUBE

2.0K + views
up 18% from 2023

We are delighted to welcome you to our 2024 Annual Impact Report – a celebration of the incredible creative and social impacts delivered by the Milk Crate Theatre artists throughout the year.

As we reflect on the past 12 months, we are filled with immense pride and gratitude for the resilience, creativity, and courage that have defined our work in 2024.

At the heart of everything we do is a simple yet powerful belief: storytelling can create change. In a time when our communities continue to face complex challenges – from housing insecurity to the ongoing effects of mental health and disability – we are privileged to witness the transformative power of the arts every day.

Yet, 2024 has not been without its hurdles. The Australian arts sector has faced continued uncertainty – from tightening funding environments to the residual impacts of the pandemic and the rising cost of delivering high-quality, accessible work. At Milk Crate Theatre, we have experienced these pressures first-hand. Operating with a reduced budget has inevitably had flow-on effects across staffing and programming.

In response, we've leaned into innovation. We invested in impact measurement and explored new social enterprise streams to diversify income and further reduce our reliance on traditional arts funding. True to form, Milk Crate Theatre has not only endured, but evolved – continuing to lead with authenticity, vision, and deep community connection.

This year, our programs have remained fiercely focused on lived experience, amplifying marginalised voices and pushing artistic boundaries. Projects like ***Hello, Are You Still There?*** and our first podcast ***The New Stigma*** have deepened our community engagement and redefined what inclusive, contemporary storytelling can look like in Australia. These works challenged perceptions, shifted narratives, and invited audiences to see the world through a more compassionate, expansive lens.

We want to acknowledge and thank the brilliant core team at Milk Crate Theatre who have made these achievements possible. Their passion, commitment, and adaptability have been nothing short of extraordinary. Special thanks to Margot Politis, Jessica Saras, Jessica Pantano, Lucy Watson and Alex Travers – whose contributions have been integral to our success.

To our Board – thank you for your unwavering support and courageous leadership. Your guidance continues to shape our strategic direction and our capacity to grow.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to the funders and partners who make our work possible. We are especially grateful to Create NSW, Creative Australia, the City of Sydney, the Department of Social Services (ILC Funding), Matana Foundation for Youth, the James N Kirby Foundation and the Macquarie Group Foundation – your belief in the power of the arts to drive social impact fuels everything we do. To our generous donors, philanthropic partners, and sponsors – thank you for standing with us.

We also acknowledge the broader social and political environment in which we operate. As public services are stretched and social discourse grows increasingly polarised, the role of community-led, socially-engaged art is more vital than ever. Milk Crate Theatre will continue to advocate for systems grounded in equity, dignity, and justice.

Looking ahead, we are energised by the possibilities. With a bold new strategic vision, we remain committed to deepening our impact, broadening access, and creating more space for new voices to lead. In 2025, we will continue to innovate, collaborate, and dream big – always guided by those with lived experience.

Thank you for being part of the Milk Crate Theatre journey. Together, we are building a more connected, inclusive, and imaginative world.

Warmly,

Jodie Wainwright
CEO



Susan Bannigan
Chair



A photograph of a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a patterned shirt, smiling. He is standing next to a structure made of red and white striped poles. The background is dark and textured.

We believe every person has the right to be heard and seen.

Our Purpose

Milk Crate Theatre effects social change through the power of performance.

Our Vision

People with diverse lived experiences have equal access to the transformational power of the arts, are genuine producers of their own narratives and actively take part in shaping Australian culture.

Our Mission

Milk Crate Theatre provides vibrant and inclusive spaces where artists of all backgrounds can come together to create provocative and transformational performance works.

Through deep and meaningful creative engagement, individuals build confidence, skills and connections; facilitating increases in self-reliance, empowering aspirations and providing a gateway for future social and economic engagement.

Our work offers audiences a new lens through which to view some of society's most pressing issues, both challenging and expanding perspectives to inspire positive change in the world.

Image: Manifesto
Photo by Colm Dowling

VALUES

BELONGING – We put Artists at the heart of everything we do, providing a safe and accessible environment for the community to connect and personally develop through creative practice.

ARTISTRY – We use a range of creative practices to develop skills, foster confidence, and provide platforms for expression. Our public outcomes offer space and open discourse for social justice and change.

RESPECT – We create an environment where the experiences, feelings and rights of everyone are respected and valued.

COLLABORATION – We work collaboratively within our creative processes, and in partnership with arts, social purpose, government, corporate and funding partners to further our reach and impact.

CHALLENGE – We appreciate that growth comes through challenge. We balance strengths based and trauma informed practice in working with our Collaborative Artists. Our works are designed to challenge audiences; push the boundaries of what art can be and disrupt conventional viewership paradigms.

Image: Waterloo Creative Ensemble
Photo by Bethany Simons



CREATIVE MODEL

A powerful, strengths-based approach to making art, means powerful, bold and stunning works on stage –that are true representations of the community who made them.

THE ART COMES FIRST!

- We believe everyone has a right to be seen and heard.
- We do not ask people to rehash personal stories of trauma.
- We ask about art forms, ideas, visions and inspiration.
- We are transparent about process – involving everyone in creative decision making, and offering continued skills development.
- Whilst we embrace the wellbeing of our artists, we are not therapy – we take a professional arts organisation approach to all we do, and our impact is real.

CACD BEST PRACTICE

- Our work is made by, with and for our community.
- Our creative expertise is as important as our lived experience expertise.
- We mandate specific working methodologies for facilitating, that put Collaborative Artists first.
- Brilliant practising professional artists leading our programs.
- Skills development underpins everything.

SCAFFOLD OF SUPPORT

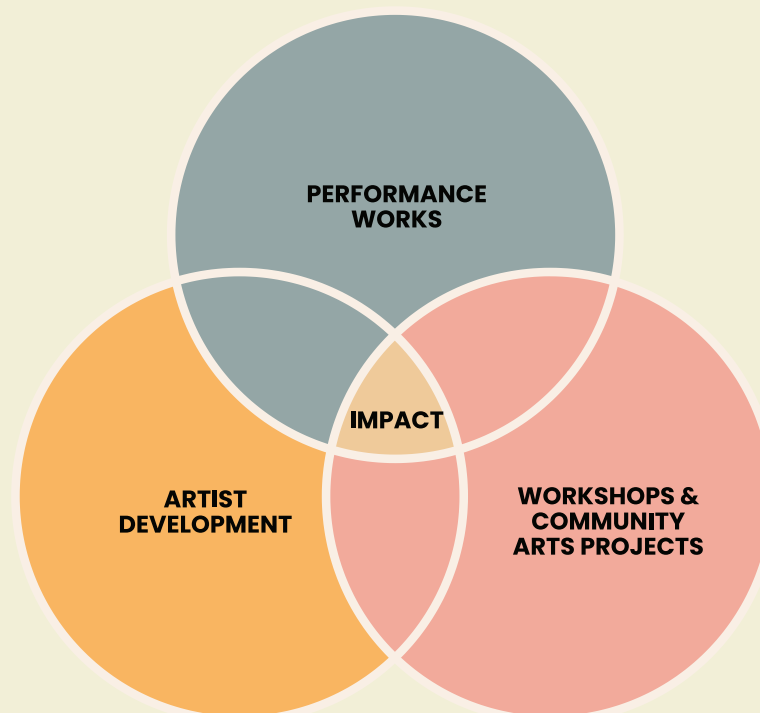
- We have a social worker on staff, so that artists can be artists, and Collaborative Artists are clear about who to contact for best support.
- Creative Space Guidelines that keep everyone safe.
- Within this scaffold, we can be free to create.
- We can choose our points of challenge.

STRENGTHS-BASED APPROACH

- With every show there is a new challenge – new art form, theme or staging.
- Individuals are encouraged to challenge themselves personally by undertaking new things.
- We do not lower our expectations of ourselves and others.
- We are more than our stories.
- We believe in everyone's greatness.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Long creative development periods, to allow for cognitive processing, and space to reflect and respond.
- Multiple art forms used across our workshops and shows – to allow people to engage and create in ways that best suit them.
- Respect for everyone's creative contributions, ideas and visions



- **PERFORMANCE WORKS**
Creation of new Australian performance works with our community of Collaborative Artists, including an annual mainstage theatre production.
- **WORKSHOPS & COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECTS**
A variety of creative workshops and projects offered in the community to enhance access to professional creative practices and skill development.
- **ARTIST DEVELOPMENT**
A customized program assisting artists without access to traditional development pathways to create and present original works from conception to presentation.

#1 Provocative New Works

Champion the creation of original, high-quality performance works that are developed by, with and for people from diverse backgrounds and those with complex lived experiences—works that challenge, inspire, and shift perceptions.

#2 Transformational Creative Practice

Expand opportunities for meaningful creative engagement across a wide range of art forms. Deepen participation and amplify impact through sustained practice, skills development, and pathways for artistic leadership.

#3 Inspired and Connected Audiences

Engage diverse audiences through bold and accessible presentation formats. Foster connection, spark dialogue, and inspire action through shared artistic experiences that reflect the richness of our community.

#4 Diversity and Equity

Embed equity and inclusion at the heart of everything we do. Champion diverse leadership and lived experience across all levels of the organisation, ensuring our work remains community-centred and accountable.

#5 Resilient and Sustainable Company

Strengthen and diversify our income streams to support a sustainable, values-driven organisation. Nurture a dynamic culture and agile operations that enable long-term artistic excellence and community impact.

Image: Support Artist
Photo by Liam O'Keefe

THEORY OF CHANGE

THE ISSUE

Persistent inequality in our society

Whilst Australia is a prosperous country, we do not have equality of opportunities and many people in our society live with disadvantage and face significant barriers to accessing the support, services and experiences they deserve to realise their life potential.

Systemic exclusion

Lack of representation of people in society contributing to systemic exclusion, and limiting opportunity for people experiencing disadvantage.

Arts as a vehicle for equality and inclusion

The arts is known to be a strong vehicle for boosting social capital of participants. It can also challenge mindsets and break down social barriers to give a voice to people with complex lived experiences.

The benefits of art not shared by all

Under-representation of people with lived experience of disadvantage in our mainstream arts discourse and a lack of access to opportunities mean many people can't access the benefits of creative practice.

STRATEGIC RESPONSE

Harnessing the power of the arts to:

- Build social capital and empower Collaborative Artists to pursue their aspirations.
- Challenge societies mental models, Influence decision makers by giving marginalised communities a voice, to create a more inclusive system, with more opportunities for Collaborative Artists.

High quality and innovative artistic practice

We know the arts are our vehicle for change – maximising production means maximising our impact through the arts – so, we push the boundaries to deliver innovative and high-quality artistic practice.

ACTIVITIES

Collaborative Arts program

- Creative workshops /programs/training.
- Performances/ Development.
- Artistic Pathways.

Practice, performance & production

- Digital content/ film/socials performances.

PARTICIPANTS

People experiencing exclusion from the Arts & Society

(e.g., Housing, Disability, Mental Health, Domestic Violence, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, First Nations)

Audiences

(Communities/ decision makers/ public society/non-tradition/traditional/ non-supporters/ other)

Facilitating Artists

Professional practicing artists with CACD training

Community Workers/ Organisations

OUTCOMES

SHORT TERM

LONG TERM

SECTOR IMPACT

Innovative practices of incorporating artists voices into works

More diverse stories shared with audiences

Arts and Culture sector champion / embodies the social perspective

Greater diversity and representation of people with lived experience in the arts

High-quality production – aesthetic, design, tech

Push the boundaries of Art's

IMPACT ON PARTICIPANTS

Increased confidence

Collaborative Artists improve agency, and are better able to voice their needs and access support

Ownership and power to change

Gain creative & life skills

Reduced barriers, improved wellbeing

Collaborative Artists pursue their aspirations for future social and economic engagement.

More connected socially and to community

Higher expectations and outlook on life

Collaborative Artists ready to take advantage of opportunities in the community

AUDIENCE/COMMUNITY IMPACT

Audience perceptions are challenged

Changing attitudes and personal biases

Audiences, leaders and decision makers champion inclusion and equality

Greater inclusion and opportunity for people experiencing disadvantage

Work that is seen by communities and people of influence

Greater empathy and belonging

VISION

Equality and inclusion for people, the arts, and society

For us, this means:

All people can pursue lives of their choosing with equal opportunities to learn, work and engage with community.

We have a diverse and vibrant arts and cultural sector with work that is sharing it's benefits to all.

We live in an inclusive society where everyone's has the opportunity to be seen and heard.

Our community of Collaborative Artists (participants) are generally living with, have experienced or are at risk of homelessness and/or housing instability; living with mental health or disability support needs; have experienced domestic violence, or come from First Nations and/or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities including those who are newly arrived, refugees or seeking asylum.

We use the term 'Collaborative Artist' in place of 'participant' to recognise the vital creative energy and experience individuals in our community bring to workshops, developments, productions and performances.

DIVERSITY & LIVED EXPERIENCE

2024 was a tough year, with the cost-of-living crisis hitting our community hard. Yet, engagement in Milk Crate Theatre's programs soared, highlighting the essential need for spaces of connection, growth, and support during challenging times.



39% have lived experience of homelessness or are survivors of trauma—up 12% from 2023.

25% experience housing stress.



49% are recovering from or have lived experience of mental ill health or addiction to alcohol or other drugs—up 20% from 2023.



28% live with physical, neurological, and/or learning disabilities.



41% identified Centrelink as their main source of income—up 10% from 2023.



17% identify as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD).



12% identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.



Image: OLC Creative Workshops
Photo by Bethany Simons

Milk Crate Theatre has such a rich and beautiful history of making stunning performance works and fostering skills development with community. 2024 marked our 25th Anniversary of being an incredibly unique space for people who have varied and complex lived experience, to access artistic expression not readily available in many other places.

It was also a year comprising some painful and difficult global events and social issues, which always filter through to us individually as people. In the context of Milk Crate Theatre, it demonstrated the importance of community – that people who work with us know that at Milk Crate Theatre, you are safe. You are acknowledged. You are seen and heard. You are celebrated for your inherent artistry, your unique expression, your brilliant ideas, and all forms of your knowledge. You are welcome here and you belong – AND, the meaning you create through your art can make a difference, even if seemingly small.

2025 will mark my tenth year with Milk Crate Theatre, and eighth as Artistic Director. In this time, I have seen the company experience so many ebbs and flows; so many lessons and adaptations in the pursuit of constant evolution and growth. This is integral for a company like ours, because we are responsive in nature, and must always be ready to meet the needs of whoever needs us. We currently sit in a beautiful balance of Arts Practice and Social Impact – because

over these years we have actively built a shared culture of inclusivity and safety. And this is the support structure from which we can challenge ourselves artistically.

We can recognise our own powerful artistry, and celebrate our creative vitality!

Thank you to our Collaborative Artist community, without whom this company would not exist. May you continue to feed the creative impulse within you and find all forms for its expression!

Thank you to our team of Artist Facilitators, Support Artists, Support Performers, designers, and technicians who are conduits for our work – your presence and passion enlivens us!

Thank you to our Board of Directors, funding bodies and supporters, who offer us the literal pathways to show our work to the world. Thank you to our audiences, who experience our work with us. And thank you to our Milk Crate Theatre staff – we are a small but mighty team! And I am grateful for the journey we have taken together this year in pursuit of our work.

Margot Politis
Artistic Director



Image: Margot Politis
Photo by Claire Hawley

HELLO, ARE YOU STILL THERE?



Image: Hello, Are You Still There?
Photo by Lucy Parakhina



Image: Hello, Are You Still There?
Photo by Lucy Parakhina

HELLO, ARE YOU STILL THERE?

Milk Crate Theatre's major show for 2024 was a beautiful co-production with our friends at Shopfront Arts Co-op.

Hello, Are You Still There? brought together the Shopfront Harness Ensemble of young adults and Milk Crate Theatre older adults with lived experiences of homelessness, disability and mental health diagnoses, in an intergenerational exploration of technology. Co-directed by the award-winning team of Natalie Rose (Shopfront) and Margot Politis (Milk Crate Theatre), *Hello, Are You Still There?* interrogated the impact of technology as experienced by people of a wide age-scape, including the funny things, but also the very real and intrusive, detrimental things that affect us as human beings and the way we connect. The world has changed so much and so rapidly in our lifetimes – how does this disrupt our understanding of ourselves? Of our value as people? What is our sense of purpose within this paradigm? And how do we even explore that if we feel stuck in channels of repeated action, bound to an invisible entity?

The team on this work created a sensational, visceral, abstract and profound piece exploring all of the above. It was a sensorial and experiential journey of text and movement, sound, light and space, set inside a motherboard. Ultimately, it proved to all of us that no matter our age, we must all remain connected to people, beyond anything else.

CREATIVE TEAM

CREATED BY:

Milk Crate Theatre Collaborative Artists and Shopfront Arts Co-op Harness Ensemble

CO-DIRECTORS:

Margot Politis (MCT) and Natalie Rose (SF)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:

Jessica Saras

MCT SOCIAL WORKER:

Laura Hurstfield

DEVISERS AND PERFORMERS:

Irelish Barker, Kerry Bashford, Amelia Gilday, Amelia Harding, Megan Joy Harrison, Hannah Ivery, Steve Konstantopoulos, Tejas Nazarenko, Matthias Nudl, Aleida Toprak, Nick Vagne

SET AND COSTUME DESIGN:

Margot Politis

CO-COMPOSERS:

Jack Prest and Frank Dwyer

LIGHTING DESIGNER:

Tyler Fitzpatrick

PRODUCTION MANAGER:

Thomas Doyle

STAGE MANAGER/OPERATOR:

Georgia Tyrril

SET/COSTUME ASSISTANT:

Amelia Harding

PRODUCERS:

Jessica Saras (MCT), Lily Hayman (SF), Valentina Corona (SF)

When Tejas joined Milk Crate Theatre in 2022, he already had some experience as an actor, but he sought a space to push his creative boundaries. Through the Ozanam Learning Centre programs, he found exactly that—a place to sharpen his craft, take risks, and grow. By 2023, he had performed in Milk Crate Theatre's short film ***A Man Named Lucky*** and took to the stage in ***Hello, Are You Still There?***, a powerful co-production with Shopfront Arts Co-Op in 2024.

Reflecting on his time in the rehearsal room for the major production, Tejas shared:

"This was the first time where I felt, wow, this is like a family—a community of beautiful, lovely people coming together. It was heartwarming."

His words embody what we strive for at Milk Crate Theatre: fostering genuine connection. This sense of belonging is at the heart of our work, and Tejas' experience aligns with our social outcome measurements—he rated his sense of connection to the community at 100%.

Just as essential as connection is the opportunity for artists to refine their creative skills and rise to the challenges of performance. These experiences build resilience, self-worth, and confidence—qualities that ripple into every part of life.

"The workshops are a great space to flex, strengthen, and train creative muscles. And when it's rehearsal for a major show, it's actually putting those muscles to work and seeing real results, which is so satisfying."

Beyond the stage, Tejas' journey reflects a deeper transformation. He recalled how, for the first time, he learned to accept praise—a shift in mindset that proved crucial during a difficult year:

"I've learned to accept compliments now. Before, I used to shut them out, as if I didn't deserve them. I realised I was putting myself down. That's something I've had to adjust to."

During a period of housing instability, the support of Milk Crate Theatre's social worker became invaluable, helping him manage stress and navigate challenges. Having someone to listen, offer guidance, and simply be there made all the difference.

Since then, Tejas has performed in two productions with Shopfront, secured a job with an arts company, and continues to work toward his lifelong dream—performing with Bell Shakespeare on Australia's main stages. His journey is one of resilience, artistic evolution, and the power of community.



Image: Tejas
Photo by Lucy Parakhina

DEVELOPING ARTIST PROGRAM

The Milk Crate Theatre Developing Artist Program (DAP) is an incredibly unique opportunity for people with lived experience of homelessness, mental health challenges and disability, to gain rightful access to skills development as makers. The DAP offers time and space for Collaborative Artists who wish to delve deeper into their artistry and develop their own projects, guided by professional practising artists and supported by the MCT team. Delivered in multiple stages, the DAP offers skills development across the whole journey of creating one's own work, including planning, ideating, making, editing, viewing, reflecting, and producing.

Delivered in multiple stages, the DAP covers the full creative journey:

ORIGINATE (formerly Headway)

Stage 1: an introductory program where Collaborative Artists identify what they want to make, but most importantly why. Through a range of explorations in material creation such as writing, improvisation and object play, Collaborative Artists not only develop their ideas, but explore the impact their ideas could have on others within an artistic and social context. The ultimate outcome of ORIGINATE is individuals defining and claiming who they are as artists, through the creation of an Artist Statement, supported by their fellow Collaborative Artists.

GENERATE

Stage 2: is an open space for the making of material and the fleshing out of ideas. It is hours of creative space to write / choreograph / play and reflect, guided by skills development exercises atop each session with the Artistic Director and supports. The power of this program is that individuals are creating within a group environment – they have time to work on their own, but then also come back together to share their ideas and receive support and encouragement from their peers.

2024 Developing Artists: Christian Backhouse, Owen Gill, Felix Morgan, Tejas Nazarenko, Garry Richards, Wayne Schmidt, Flora Zaydenberg

FACILITATORS:

Margot Politis, Alex Travers, Lily Hayman

Image: Garry
Photo by Margot Politis

INCREASED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT

Milk Crate Theatre's programs empower Collaborative Artists by providing opportunities to develop diverse creative skills in acting, filmmaking, voice, writing, and more. These technical abilities foster essential soft skills such as improved communication, enhanced self-expression, and adaptability through performance outcomes and group activities:

- **95%** of participants reported gaining new creative skills (consistent with 2023).
- **97%** feel able to express themselves freely (up from 82% in 2023).
- **91%** can adapt to changes in their lives (up from 82% in 2023).

The Developing Artist Program stands out as a transformative space where Collaborative Artists ready for advanced challenges to refine their skill sets by developing and producing their own creative works with guidance from facilitating artists.

One participant particularly exemplified growth in his ability to work with feedback and consistency in attendance. From our observational surveys, a facilitator stated:

"I have witnessed tremendous growth in him this year. He has been consistent in attending sessions and working on his piece each week, whether during or between sessions. While he has an abundance of ideas and is still learning to streamline them, he embraces feedback with enthusiasm and finds inspiration in suggestions."

His engagement commitment and engagement with the Developing Artist Program demonstrated his readiness to seek out other opportunities in the community and after a long period of being unemployed, he went onto find employment at the end of 2024.

Beyond artistic growth, there is significant cohort who are aiming to secure their futures and engage more in other opportunities:

- **90%** reported making positive changes in their lives (slightly down from 92% in 2023).
- **84%** sought additional community opportunities, such as employment or further education (up from 83% in 2023).

This impact data extends to tangible milestones, with some Collaborative Artists who have been with Milk Crate for a number of years pursuing TAFE courses or even achieving significant personal goals, like purchasing their own home in 2024.



Image: Manifesto
Photo by Jessica Saras



RECORDING A PODCAST

For the very first time, Milk Crate Theatre embarked on an exciting new journey into the digital realm of podcasting with the six-part series—*The New Stigma?*

Born from a spark of inspiration during one of our annual Vision Days with our Collaborative Artists, this series invited us all—artists, audiences, and society at large—to challenge deeply ingrained perceptions. We asked a bold and thought-provoking question: What should be the new stigma? Each episode became a powerful tapestry of voices, weaving together raw authenticity, compelling storytelling, and the extraordinary spirit of our community.

Our guests were given a single word—stigma—as their catalyst for a creative work in any form of their choosing, which was shared in their episode. Our podcast audience had the pleasure of listening to: an original song (crafted with a touch of AI magic!); a poignant narrative delving into the experiences of a man with schizophrenia; a deeply researched exploration of the word stigma itself; a moving poem viewed through the lens of the LGBTQIA+ experience; and a touching creative writing piece that laid bare the complexities of addiction and journey of recovery.

Through this series, *The New Stigma?* became more than a podcast— it was a platform for voices too often unheard, and a testament to the power of storytelling in shaping a more compassionate world.

CREATIVE TEAM

HOST, CREATOR & PRODUCER
Jessica Saras

PODCAST GUESTS
Kerry Bashford, Margot Politis, Garry Richards, Kamini Singh, Wayne Schmidt

SOUND MIXER, ENGINEER AND DESIGNER
Matthew Forbes

EDITING
Jessica Saras & Matthew Forbes

VIDEOGRAPHER
Jessica Saras

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Jessica Saras

FILMED AND RECORDED at BrandX
City of Sydney Creative Studios,
Gadigal Land

Special Thanks to our supporters for this project - BrandX City of Sydney Creative Studios, Creative Australia, Create NSW, City of Sydney

Image: Podcast Recording

WORKSHOPS

Image: OLC Workshops
Photo by Jessica Saras

WORKSHOPS

2024 saw a slimmer program across the board, but it still packed a punch!

Our flagship program at The Ozanam Learning Centre was a big one, exploring exciting art forms for the first time – beginning with smartphone filmmaking with our collaborators at SF3. Collaborative Artists were guided in the art of filmmaking on your smartphone or tablet, and created an array of pieces including stop motion, short films and a documentary.

In the second half of the year, the group began exploring stories through song. They looked at soundscapes from the every day, to inspire and shape original songs – culminating in a showcase of their works at our annual end of year party.

We broke away from the traditional face to face workshop with an online writers group – where collaborative artists were given a space to share their writings and build on their material, or perhaps try out a new idea they had been thinking about!

In the youth space, we were so happy to reunite with our friends at HopeStreet and Weave to bring more creative play and expression through our drama workshops.

Whilst our workshops were smaller, the work created out of these spaces were big, bold and rich and we look forward to what our community will build on with these new skills in 2025.

Jessica Saras
Creative Producer



SMARTPHONE FILMMAKING

Ozanam Learning Centre, Woolloomooloo

This series, led by our collaborators at SF3 explored the incredible film-making tools we have access to in our phones and tablets, beginning with screen writing – brainstorming and workshopping script ideas through to filming and editing.

Lead SF3 Artists: Angela Blake, Katharine Rogers

Lead MCT Artist: Graeme Rhodes

Support Artist: Tahlia Merlino

Social Worker: Laura Hurstfield

STORIES THROUGH SONG

Ozanam Learning Centre, Woolloomooloo

Stepping into the world of devising and storytelling through song, artists explored performance using song, dialogue and movement. We looked at soundscapes and how every day sounds inspire and shape songs and story.

Lead Artists: Graeme Rhodes, Bethany Simons

Social Worker: Laura Hurstfield

ARTS AND DISABILITY – HOLDSWORTH COMMUNITY

Bowen Library, Maroubra

Weekly workshop series focusing on theatre-making, storytelling and improvisation to build performance skills such as characterisation, confidence and creativity.

Lead Artists: Zoe Hogan, Jessica Saras

Support Artists: Lana Filies, Olivia Aleksoski

YOUTH – CREATIVE PLAY WORKSHOPS

- *HopeStreet Baptist Care, Juanita Neilsen Centre Woolloomooloo*
- *Weave Youth Services, The Coast Centre Little Bay*

Workshops for kids to think on their feet, shoot for the stars and discover the funny world of improvisation. Guided by MCT Facilitators, groups were learning how to accept offers, harness their creative energy and use their bodies to tell stories.

HopeStreet Artist Team

Lead Artist: Felicity Nicol

Support Artist: Emily Cascarino

Weave Artist Team

Lead Artists: Olivia Aleksoski, Bethany Simons

ONLINE WRITERS GROUP

Weekly 2-hour workshop sessions for artists to kick-start their creative work before the new year. Artists had dedicated time to present work and receive constructive feedback, with time to continue writing with creative prompts from Facilitators.

Lead Artist: Zoe Hogan

Support Artist: Lana Filies



Image: OLC Workshops
Photo by Jessica Saras

The year 2024 was particularly challenging for many members of our Collaborative Artists community. The cost-of-living crisis significantly impacted mental health and caused widespread financial insecurity. According to a bespoke 2024 survey:

- **85%** of respondents reported a negative impact on their mental health
- **35%** sought financial services more frequently than in 2023.

Despite these challenges, we achieved remarkable progress in our Wellbeing outcome area, with improved scores compared to previous years:

- **100%** of participants reported making new friends (up from 90% in 2023).
- **97%** felt a sense of belonging in the community (up from 95% in 2023).
- **84%** have a sense of hope about the future (down from 90% in 2023).
- **89%** are more confident (up from 83% in 2023).

This data correlates with the data from our weekly session reports from programs at the Ozanam Learning Centre as attendance was high and consistent throughout 2024, likely driven by the need for connection and escapism during a time of collective crisis.

One Collaborative Artist humorously described their experience:

"It's a very positive, lively, funny, sad, fearful, fearless, awkward, safe place to dig in or dig out of a hole—or fall into one, you know what I mean?"

One particularly impactful workshop, **Stories Through Song**, guided Collaborative Artists on a deeper creative journey. Participants explored song writing and music creation using everyday sounds. In the writing exercises, many revealed new facets of their identities, addressing deeply personal themes such as low self-worth and internal struggles.

A stand out moment came during the performance of a powerful song where one artist sang, "but I can't," only to be met with a chorus affirming, "but you will." This exercise exemplified how creativity can transform self-doubt into resilience and empowerment.

The profound impact of these programs highlights the role of creative expression in fostering engagement and improving overall well-being. By providing a space for deep reflection and self-expression, we continue to support our community's wellbeing in navigating difficult times.

CREATING IMPACT

We are spearheading a ground breaking national initiative, uniting arts organisations, funders, and thought leaders to collaboratively design and implement a shared impact framework. This ambitious project, dedicated to the community-engaged arts sector, will unfold over four carefully crafted phases and span more than two years.

In February 2024, we convened a Social Impact Roundtable—a dynamic gathering that welcomed voices from across the Australian arts sector, government, and academia. Together, we explored the challenges and opportunities in measuring impact within our field. It was here that we introduced **Creating Impact**—a visionary approach to forging a collective path forward, ensuring the arts are recognized and valued for their profound contributions to society.

The phases:

Phase 1 – State of the Sector

In this phase we engaged arts funders and a diverse range of community-engaged arts organisations to understand existing funder priorities, learn more about current impact measurement practices, and identify opportunities and aspirations for future phases of the project.

Phase 2 – Co-Designing the Framework

The project group co-design a shared Impact Thesis (Theory of Change) and Impact Framework that can be used to deliver a shared measurement system that will both evidence the collective impact of the sector, and support organisations to maximise their own impact.

Phase 3 – Pilot Implementation (July 2025 – 2026)

Each project partner organisation will implement the framework and collect data from their participants and communities. The data will then be consolidated by a third-party for analysis.

Phase 4 – Data Analysis and Reporting (2026)

The data will be analysed and aggregated to define key metrics, and we will collaborate to produce a comprehensive report that presents pilot results, along with actionable recommendations, insights into the process, and the tools developed.

We would like to thank Social Ventures Australia and Huber Social for their expertise and leadership throughout the project. We would like to thank our supporters and funders City of Sydney, Create NSW and Creative Australia.

Finally, we would like to thank the incredible project group for their contributions:

- Arts and Cultural Exchange (Western Sydney)
- Act NOW (South Australia)
- Brand X (Sydney)
- Community Arts Network (Western Australia)
- CuriousWorks (Western Sydney)
- Empire Youth Arts (Queensland)
- Improv Theatre Sydney (Sydney)
- OpnSrc (Western Sydney)
- Outloud (Western Sydney)
- The Push (Victoria)
- Shopfront Arts Co-op (South Sydney)
- Studio Artes (Inner West, Sydney)
- Sydney Youth Orchestra (Sydney)
- Think+DO Tank (Western Sydney)



Image: Solace
Photo by Robert Catto

2024: A YEAR OF GROWTH

In 2024, we took significant strides in our impact journey. While our program was smaller in scale, it did not hinder our ability to grow or to showcase our work within the arts and impact sectors to the broader community.

This year, we released a comprehensive report titled *The Arts and Collective Crises*, which examined the critical role of spaces like Milk Crate Theatre in supporting individuals impacted by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. These creative spaces offer connection, challenge, and joy during challenging times. By learning from local social service organisations and listening to the voices of our community, we uncovered a sobering reality. Organisations are overstretched, and the communities they serve suffer the most during crises. This report sought to highlight actionable recommendations, advocating for systemic change to protect Australia's most vulnerable populations and the arts and services organisations that serve them. This effort underscores the transformative power of impact evaluation.

Additionally, the *Creating Impact* project has been an exciting foray into collaboration with organisations undertaking similarly impactful work. This initiative is bridging knowledge gaps and fostering new partnerships across the community-engaged arts sector. As we reach the halfway mark of this project, I am eagerly anticipating the pilot implementation phase, which will provide valuable insights and strengthen connections across the sector.

Looking ahead to 2025, I am excited for the opportunities that lie ahead—a year of expanded programs, new challenges, and deeper learning. I remain committed to refining our processes and contributing to the improvement of practices across the sector.

Jessica Pantano
Impact Manager



Image: Social Impact Roundtable
Photo by Jessica Saras

Milk Crate Theatre operates in the intersectionality of the arts and social impact – offering best practice CACD programming that delivers both high quality creative outcomes whilst supporting strategic social outcomes for those who participate in our programs.

Milk Crate Theatre uses the arts as a vehicle for change. We look to strategically improve the breadth and depth of impact that the arts can have on participants and society and builds equity in our sector by enabling more people to share in the benefits of the arts. Our Strategic Plan is underpinned by a Theory of Change.

Milk Crate Theatre utilises a Social Impact Measurement Framework to track program success against our identified outcomes (listed in the table opposite).

We employ an Impact Manager who works with the team to ensure we are taking appropriate measures and surveys as projects roll-out.

We gather data through intake forms for demographic data, surveys (observational and reflective), and interviews with Collaborative Artists, facilitating artists, community partners, staff, and more. Regular session reporting provides consistent outputs and qualitative insights, allowing us to demonstrate our impact across all areas of the organisation.

Milk Crate Theatre Impact Framework

To effect social change through the power of performance.

Readiness

- Confidence
- Self-expression
- Seen and heard
- Achievement

Creative and Life Skills

- Creative skills
- Life skills
- Artistry
- Social skills

Agency

- Help-seeking
- Adaptability
- Resilience
- Decision making
- Intention to seek out other opportunities

Engagement

- Friendships
- Connection
- Aspirations
- Sought out other opportunities

Mental Health

- Mental Wellness
- Self-Worth
- Coping
- Positive Change

CREATIVE AND LIFE SKILLS

This outcome domain encompasses the development of new creative skills, such as devising, filmmaking, and acting, as well as the acquisition of essential life skills, including enhanced communication (both verbal and non-verbal), improved eye contact, and other interpersonal competencies.

- 95% have gained new creative skills
- 94% have gained life skills that help them in their lives
- 92% feel confident in their creativity

AGENCY

Here, we're capturing the individual's feeling of control over their lives. This is a tricky outcome to measure and usually it is something that develops over a longer period. Having strong agency means that individuals can act, seek out help when it is needed, and adapt when life throws them challenges.

- 91% ask for help when they need it
- 88% are adaptable when changes occur
- 91% know how to consider different options in making a decision
- 90% are resilient
- 86% intend to seek out other opportunities in the community



Image: OLC Workshops
Photo by Jessica Saras

READINESS

This domain focuses on empowering Collaborative Artists to rediscover or recognise their potential, develop a deeper understanding of their personal strengths, and enhancing their self-awareness.

- 89% are more confident
- 97% feel better able to express themselves freely
- 86% are proud of their achievements
- 93% feel seen and heard
- 88% are good at interacting with others

INCREASED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT

We want to understand how connected the individual is to the community and others. We are also capturing whether the Collaborative Artist is taking on other opportunities in the community, including employment and further study.

- 100% have made new friends
- 97% have a sense of being a part of a community
- 84% have sought out other opportunities in the community
- 86% are pursuing their aspirations

Image: Hello, Are You Still There?
Photo by Lucy Parakhina

IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH

Closely linked with the previous outcome area, these outcomes are linked to improved mental wellness; increased self-worth, improved mental health, and learning better coping mechanisms. It also explores if they are actively making changes and understanding how they feel about the future. These are our longer-term outcomes and could take many years to gain consistently high scores in this outcome area. As for any person, it fluctuates.

- 66% have good mental health – it almost never stops them from doing what they want to
- 78% have good self-worth
- 78% have good ways of coping when they're down
- 90% are making positive changes
- 84% have a sense of hope about the future



Image: Solace
Photo by Robert Catto

AUDIENCE IMPACT



Image: Emergence Audience
Photo by Lucy watons

Milk Crate Theatre's audience is as diverse as the stories we tell, spanning the arts sector, academia, the social services community, and individuals with lived experiences as rich and varied as the human condition itself. At the heart of our mission lies a deep commitment to accessibility, ensuring that financial barriers never stand in the way of experiencing transformative theatre. Through our free ticketing initiative, we open the doors wide, welcoming those who might otherwise be excluded.

Our co-production with Shopfront Arts Co-op, ***Hello, Are You Still There?***, was a bold and dynamic step into new territory, introducing Milk Crate Theatre's work to a vibrant new generation of emerging artists and creatives. This production not only engaged young minds but also played a vital role in safeguarding the legacy of Milk Crate Theatre, ensuring that our ethos of inclusion, innovation, and impact continues to thrive in the years to come.

Through a multifaceted approach—spanning social media engagement, live audiences at events, report launches, and major productions—we reached an extraordinary total audience of 51,142.

But numbers alone cannot capture the true essence of our impact. At the core of our work is the desire to challenge and transform perspectives. Our audience surveys delve into this transformation, exploring shifts in attitudes toward social groups, artistic value, and the pressing social issues that shape our world.

These insights are drawn from audience responses to our mainstage production *Hello, Are You Still There?*, where participants were asked to reflect on their experiences. The results reveal the depth of our impact, with respondents selecting "agree" or "strongly agree" to key questions—affirming that our work is not just seen or heard but deeply felt.

- 94% said the skills and artistry of the actors impressed them
- 88% stated that they understood Milk Crate Theatre's work and purpose
- 81% will talk about this experience for some time
- 75% said the understanding of what theatre can be has been challenged

"This show doesn't take its audience for granted – we get to explore and discover a new world along with the characters on stage. Heartfelt congratulations to everyone involved in this fabulous production. I want to see more theatre like this!"

Audience member from Hello, Are you Still There?

"I loved this performance – its ensemble nature and vibrant 'choreography' which really communicated the ideas. It blended perfectly the funny, the serious, and the meaningful. Very powerful."

Audience member from Hello, Are you Still There?

Image: Hello, Are You Still There?
Photo by Lucy Parakhina

EXPANDING IMPACT THROUGH INNOVATION

In 2024, Milk Crate Theatre advanced its mission and sustainability by launching two innovative social enterprise streams: **MCT Learn** and **CoLAB**. These initiatives leverage the creativity and expertise of artists with lived experience of homelessness, mental health challenges, and disability, while generating new income to support the company's long-term future.

MCT Learn offers professional development workshops, training and keynote presentations for sectors including health, education, and corporate leadership. Grounded in co-design and lived experience, its programs delivered powerful insights into inclusive practice and trauma-aware engagement. Pilots with universities and community organisations in 2024 received outstanding feedback for their authenticity and impact.

CoLAB operates as a creative consultancy and co-design studio, supporting partners to embed lived experience into service and program design through arts-based methods. From storytelling projects to collaborative strategy development, CoLAB positioned Milk Crate Theatre as a leader in inclusive innovation.

Both enterprises were strengthened through the company's participation in the REMIX Incubator—a global program supporting creative entrepreneurs to develop scalable, impact-driven ventures. This opportunity enabled Milk Crate Theatre to refine its business models and build new networks across the creative, philanthropic and corporate sectors.

The development of **MCT Learn** and **CoLAB** marks a bold step forward—harnessing social enterprise not just as a revenue stream, but as a vehicle for systems change led by lived experience.



Image: Corporate Workshops

BOARD



SUSAN BANNIGAN
CHAIR | JOINED 2022

Susan is a well respected leader with an executive career that has spanned over 30 years in the financial service and philanthropic industries in Europe, Pacific and Australia. She is a Chartered Accountant, member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics.



RICHARD LEVINE
TREASURER | JOINED 2016

Richard brings extensive business experience having worked in a wide variety of financial, operation and general management roles, from start-ups to large corporates. He spent many years with Metcash (IGA, Mitre 10, Campbell's Cash and Carry) before owning and operating independent supermarkets.



LAUREN O'SHAUGHNESSY
BOARD MEMBER | JOINED 2017

Lauren is passionate about philanthropy and has spent over 15 years working in the philanthropic sector for corporate foundations at Macquarie Group, Clayton Utz and AMP; and in the non-profit sector at MS Research Australia. Lauren holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Social Inquiry at UTS.



DIGBY HUGHES
BOARD MEMBER | JOINED 2018

Digby is a Senior Policy and Advocacy Advisor in the Homelessness and Community Sector. He has worked in the community sector for over 20 years in a range of roles including service delivery, advocacy, and management and holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) double majors in Political Science & Communication.



KATINA VELKOU
BOARD MEMBER | JOINED 2021

Katina is passionate about social justice and has spent the past 20 years working alongside Sydneysiders, empowering and supporting them to achieve their personal goals. Katina brings in-depth experience across a range of sectors including disability, refugees, people seeking asylum, humanitarian entrants and more recently the child protection sector.



LEILA ENRIGHT
BOARD MEMBER | JOINED 2024

Leila is a creative producer dedicated to new writing. She is the Creative Producer at Green Door Theatre Company, and has previously worked with Darlinghurst Theatre Company, Griffin, Playwriting Australia, the National Play Festival, and Festival Fatale. Holding a Churchill Fellowship (2020), she has a BA in Literature and History, alongside training in arts and cultural development.



KATHERINE SIVIENG
BOARD MEMBER | JOINED 2023

Katherine is an experienced chartered accountant and finance professional who is passionate about the Arts and not-for-profit sectors. Katherine has strong capabilities in financial accounting, reporting, risk management and compliance and has a proven ability in driving business improvement and service delivery working with a broad cross section of stakeholders.



GRACE LOGVYN
SECRETARY | JOINED 2020

Grace currently works in Structured Finance with Bank of America. Grace is also engaged as a pro bono business consultant, providing consultancy services to domestic arts organisations, and is a passionate advocate for the local arts sector. Grace holds a Bachelor of Economics (Economics and Politics) from UNSW Sydney.

Milk Crate Theatre is a public company registered as a not-for-profit through the ACNC (DGR1 status).

We are governed by a board of volunteer members who bring a wealth of professional experience including legal, financial, artistic, management, community and philanthropy.

We operate the following committee's which are designed to support the organisation and the board to fulfill it's duties:

- Audit and Risk Committee
- Strategy & Impact Committee
- Nominations Committee



JODIE WAINWRIGHT
CEO

Jodie is a seasoned arts management professional with a proven track record in cultivating purpose-driven organisations. She is a passionate believer in the transformative power of stories and their ability to bring communities together, bridge divides, and most importantly, resonate with audiences to drive positive change.

In addition to her position at Milk Crate Theatre, she is also a member of the board at Brand X. Before joining Milk Crate Theatre, Jodie's career encompassed diverse roles in marketing, development and leadership for organisations including The Cancer Council, Sydney Opera House and The Red Cross.

Jodie holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Sydney, and she has continued to advance her career in the Social Impact arena. She was recognised as a Fellow in the prestigious Social Impact Hub 2023 Fellowship. Furthermore, she was recently honoured with the Business NSW regional prize for Outstanding Community Leadership in the Sydney Metropolitan area.



MARGOT POLITIS
Artistic Director

Margot Politis is an impassioned artist and leader in Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) best practice. For over 20 years, Margot has worked as a performer, director, choreographer, film director, and deviser of interdisciplinary and immersive performance works comprising theatre, movement, light, sound and set design. She proudly identifies as living in mental health and addiction recovery.

Margot was appointed Artistic Director of Milk Crate Theatre in 2018, designing and directing the company's major productions Natural Order (2019), Tiny Universe (2021) with Natalie Rose / Shopfront Arts Co-op, MCT: A Retrospective (2022), DUST (2022), SOLACE (2023) with David Clarkson / Box of Birds, and Hello, Are You Still There? (2024) with Natalie Rose / Shopfront Arts Harness Ensemble.

Margot is currently deeply engaging with set design, aesthetics, space, DIY and ASMR for experiential accessibility of performers and audiences.



JESSICA SARAS
Creative Producer

Jess is a professionally trained and working Actress with over 15 years experience in this field. Jess has been part of the Milk Crate Community in various roles since 2016, currently serving as Creative Producer. Jess is pivotal to mounting our major productions and projects, whilst also implementing and managing MCT's entire workshop program.



JESSICA PANTANO
Impact Manager

With 15 years of arts experience, Jess is a producer and impact-focused arts worker. She co-founded Akimbo and Co. in 2020 and has worked with Griffin Theatre, Belvoir, and international festivals. A pivotal 2016 role with Bond St Theatre shaped her focus on arts and social impact. With a postgraduate degree in Human Services, she's recognised for her impact, blending passion, curiosity, and playfulness in her work.



DALE HOLLINGSWORTH
Finance Officer

For over 20 years, Dale has worked with some of the most ambitious arts companies in Australia. He founded ARTSANDBUSINESS to share his unique understanding of arts and not-for-profit organisations' financial and organisational requirements. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce, a Bachelor of Psychology and has studied Social Impact at UNSW.



LAURA HURSTFIELD
Social Worker

Laura is a Social Worker with over 20 years of experience. She has been working as a Consultant in Social Work and Welfare projects since January 2017. In 2013 Laura was voted International Triple P Practitioner of the Year. She is trained in Teen Triple P, Triple P standard, Incredible Years, Circle of Security, 1-2-3 Magic and Engaging Adolescents programs.

Milk Crate Theatre employs some of Sydney's most exciting professional practicing artists to facilitate our programs. These are some of the artists currently connected to our 2024/25 program.



OLIVIA ALEKSOSKI
Facilitating Artist



RENATA COMMISSO
Facilitating Artist



ADAM MCPHILBAN
Videographer & Editor



CALE BAIN
Facilitating Artist



LANA FILIES
Facilitating Artist



FELICITY NICOL
Facilitating Artist



ANGELA BLAKE
Facilitating Artist



LILY HAYMAN
Facilitating Artist



GRAEME RHODES
Facilitating Artist



LU BRADSHAW
Facilitating Artist



ZOE HOGAN
Facilitating Artist



BETHANY SIMONS
Facilitating Artist



EMILY CASCARINO
Facilitating Artist



LAURA HUGHES
Facilitating Artist



PREMA YEN
Sound Design

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2024 was a challenging year financially for the arts sector across Australia, and Milk Crate Theatre was not immune to these pressures. While we experienced a reduction in overall turnover and reported a financial loss, it's far from all bad news.

We intentionally delivered a lighter programming calendar to focus resources on two strategic initiatives:

- **CREATING IMPACT** – A sector-wide collaboration to co-design a shared impact framework, strengthening our ability to measure outcomes, advocate for funding, and unlock new income streams.
- **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE** – This project focused on designing a self-sustaining enterprise that will generate revenue and provide meaningful employment pathways for our community.

Both initiatives are vital to future revenue growth, but as long-term investments, they have not yet delivered financial returns. Unfortunately, their timing coincided with reduced support from government arts funders and corporate partners undergoing review periods, compounding the income challenge.

In recognition these ongoing pressures, we took a prudent and proactive approach—closely managing expenditure in line with income. Our strong reserves allowed us to absorb this short-term deficit. Looking ahead, 2025 shows strong promise, with funding already secured and revenue expected to return to 2023 levels.

BALANCE SHEET

Our 2024 year-end balance sheet reflects a slight anomaly, with lower assets and liabilities due to delayed December funding received in January 2025. This phasing issue has since been resolved.

Milk Crate Theatre remains in a strong financial position and is well placed to continue delivering powerful, socially impactful programming.

REVENUE (\$000s)	2021	2022	2023	2024
Govt (Comm/State/Local)	285	491.8	580.9	491.4
Corporate	42	40.4	61.5	4.0
Donations & Fundraising	209.8	221.5	75.5	113.4
Performance & Workshop Fees	0.8	22.7	8	17.2
Other Income	71.3	2.8	11.2	12.4
Total Income	606.9	779.2	737.1	638.4
EXPENSES (\$000s)	2021	2022	2023	2024
People	512.6	626.5	643.2	546.0
Production	17.5	51.5	49.2	52.9
Marketing	25.1	14.5	10.5	17.6
Other	52.5	40.5	77.7	63.9
Total Expenses	607.7	760.5	780.6	680.4
Profit/(loss)	(0.7)	18.7	(43.4)	(42.0)
ASSETS	2021	2022	2023	2024
Current Assets	772.2	760.3	641.7	371.5
Non-Current Assets	2.3	3.2	24.9	20.6
Total Assets	623.1	763.5	666.6	392.1
LIABILITIES	2021	2022	2023	2024
Current Liabilities	463.6	432.4	355.6	129.6
Non-current Liabilities	9.4	12	35.3	28.8
Total Liabilities	473	444.4	390.9	158.4
NET ASSETS	301.5	319.0	275.7	233.7
EQUITY	301.5	319.5	275.7	233.7

THANK YOU

Milk Crate Theatre warmly acknowledges the generous support of the following funders who enabled our 2024 program and projects to flourish.

As a not-for-profit organisation, we recognise that ongoing and significant support received from these organisations, many of whom have provided support to Milk Crate Theatre for many years, is essential for the company to ensure our programs can thrive and make a positive impact on the communities in which we work.



Milk Crate Theatre acknowledges those who donated in 2024 and supported us in making a real difference in the lives of the communities in which we work. We would not have been able to deliver many of our programs without the help of the following community members. We also thank the many other individuals who have contributed smaller amounts, donated anonymously, or supported our fundraising throughout the year.

Adam Douglas
Adrian Totolos
Adrian Phoon
Alan Patriarca
Alicia Johnson
Alison Battisnon
Alistair Pratten
Alyce Cowan
Amanda Haack
Amanda Martin
Amy Lyden
Anja Divljan
Anna Le Masurier
Adrian Lim
Ashley Gray
Aviva Levine
Claudette Palomares
Cynthia Nadai
Dale Hollingsworth
Danielle Cormack
Deborah Graham
Elizabeth Clements
Elyce McClelland
Emily Cullen
Ehtan Hsu
Glen Beletich
Hannah Strout
Helen Bauer
Helen Burton
Helen Lynch AM
Imogen Cassidy
Jacqui Lazarus
James Kirby
Janet Gibson
Jodie Wainwright
Karen Fisher
Kate Gregson

Katherine Sivieng
Kathryn Riley
Katina Velkou
Katrina Douglas
Kirstie Leopardi
Keith Rovers
Laura McMillan
Lauren Hill
Lauren Tuck
Lauren & Stephen
O'Shaughnessy
Leila Enright
Lenore Robertson
Lisa George
Margaret Velkou
Maria Dwyer
Max Bonnell
Meg Mumford
Melinda Graham
Michael Sirmai
Michelle Brown
Milton & Tamara Levine
Miranda Purnell
Murray Keir
Narelda Jacobs
Natalie Slessor
Nicole Patterson
Oli Critchley
Patrick Tuttle
Paul Amaral
Peter Apostolakos
Peter Sintras
Rhonda Wainwright
Robert Char-Kee-Chung
Robert Frew
Sandra Eldridge
Sefi Diab

Shaun Kenney
Simon Robinson
Soosan Kim
Sophia Katsinas
Stevn Jenkins
Sue Chryanthou
Susan Bannigan
Sylvia Hrovatin
Tanya Plibersek
Victoria Turner
Vivianne Beck
Vivienne Skinner
Wanyika Mshila
Warren Fahey
Zindzi Okenyo
Zoe Hllman.
Wailyn Mar



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