

From the office of the Chief Executive Officer

28 April 2020

Ms Elizabeth Espinosa, GAICD

Chair

Ms Lisa Cahill

CEO and Artistic Director

Australian Design Centre

Email: lisa@australiadesigncentre.com

Dear Elizabeth and Lisa

Thank you for your letter regarding Australian Design Centre (ADC) and copy of letter sent to Minister Paul Fletcher requesting additional funding for the Australia Council.

I acknowledge your concern for the future of this established craft and design organisation which supports numerous artists and delivers an outstanding exhibition touring program to audiences around Australia. ADC's leadership role in promoting contemporary craft and design as well as support for emerging and established makers is significant.

As you have acknowledged, the recent four-year funding decisions were made in a constrained funding environment and unfortunately the budget could not support all worthy organisations in contention for funding, such as ADC.

During the four-year assessment process, the COVID-19 crisis struck and the immediate impact on our sector had to be addressed. In light of these impacts, we had to rethink how to best assist the sector to navigate through the challenges posed by the current crisis.

While we realise there are no perfect solutions, we took a number of steps to mitigate the damage and contribute to the short to medium-term viability of the sector. In this context, we offered reduced funding in 2021 to organisations approved for four-year funding which allowed us to provide transition funding to support currently funded four-year organisations that were unsuccessful with their applications.

I understand that as ADC is not a current four-year funded organisation this transitional funding approach does not assist you, and that you are not eligible to apply to the Resilience Fund as you receive VACS funding.

Australia Council for the Arts

Level 5, 60 Union St Pyrmont NSW 2009

PO Box 576 Pyrmont NSW 2009 Australia

Toll Free 1800 226 912 NRS 1800 555 677

australiacouncil.gov.au

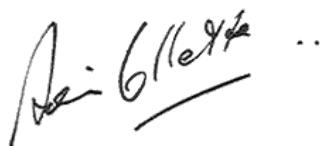
However, we are reviewing our grants program and how best to support the sector during this crisis so Laura McLeod, our Head of Practice, Visual Arts will be in contact to let you know what the next steps will be and when you can apply again for project support. Notifications for the Contemporary Touring Initiative program which you applied to will be sent out this week.

Our response package for the Australian arts sector includes several other initiatives which you may find useful, such as digital support, webinars, roundtables, research and analysis as well as regular updates on COVID-19 on our website.

We also continue to work closely with the Office for the Arts and our Minister to provide advice and information to assist the Government's response to this urgent crisis and will continue to seek support that is specific to our sector needs.

The Australia Council is committed to supporting a diverse range of visual arts organisations across the country, now and in the future.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Collette AM
Chief Executive Officer