



## 2023 Activity Report

*Weird Nest embraces diversity by supporting diverse people to develop their creative skills.*

### Weird Nest has 4 streams of activity



#### *Creative Agency Program (CAP)*

Disability inclusive workshops for young people. Participants develop teamwork, creativity, self-confidence and specific creative interests. Workshops are held in Waverley LGA venues with support from Waverley Council.

#### *Youth Ensemble*

An ensemble of young people who have come through our Creative Agency Program. Together, they further develop performance skills and focus on a major project. True To Nature is their current production. Choreography, music, costuming, stage/set elements and script are co-designed with the ensemble.





## *Weirding Ways*

An inclusive performance program for professional artists with an improvisation practice. The program involves research, creativity and public presentation in a playful no-expectations, no-pressure environment. This project embraces diversity by engaging a different artist team for each month. Artists so far have included a broad spectrum of backgrounds, interests and skills.

## *Artform and Artist Development Support*

We continuously investigate ways of nurturing leadership by neurodiverse artists living with and without disability. Our community and public programs all involve leadership with lived experience as facilitators, project leads, board members and company directors.

In 2023 we;

- contributed to a sector planning discussion hosted by Creative Australia
- researched and implemented an inclusive governance model with support from BrandX
- provided access strategy feedback to two arts companies
- provided access and producing support to 3 associated artists for their projects.

## 2023 Summary

Creative Agency Program	32 workshop days 4 camps 110 individual mentoring sessions 7 participants in workshops and in our Youth Ensemble
Youth Ensemble - True to Nature	Venue sponsorship by Bondi Pavilion 70% production components completed Ready for final stage development and presentation
Weirding Ways	City of Sydney grant funding Venue partnership with Low302 12 artists supported so far; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 senior,</li> <li>- 3 living with disability,</li> <li>- 2 emerging,</li> <li>- 4 mid-career</li> <li>- All neurodiverse</li> </ul> 3 development days 3 performances 38 audience members
Artform and Artist Development Support	Significant developments and implementation for inclusive leadership strategies including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Individual support structures</li> <li>- Inclusive leadership structure</li> <li>- Accessible policy/procedures</li> </ul> 1 sector consultation attended 3 artist-led performance projects with partnering organisations and festivals and venues

## Our Team

### *Artistic Team*

Dean Walsh - Co-director, CAP facilitator, Weirding Ways facilitator, artist  
Andrew Batt-Rawden - Co-director, CAP facilitator, Weirding Ways facilitator, artist  
Patricia Wood - CAP facilitator, artist  
James Penny - CAP facilitator, artist  
Nikki Heywood - Weirding Ways facilitator, artist  
Victoria Hunt - Weirding Ways facilitator, artist  
Kate Shanahan - True to Nature costume design

### *Leadership Team*

Andrew Batt-Rawden - Board leader, Committee member  
Mary-Anne Bechara - Board member, Committee member  
Josh Shipton - Board member, Committee member  
Dean Walsh - Committee leader  
Dan Daw - Committee member

## Finances

Please see our annual reports that are publicly available on the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission website;

<https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities/0310efe3-39af-e811-a963-000d3ad244fd/profile>