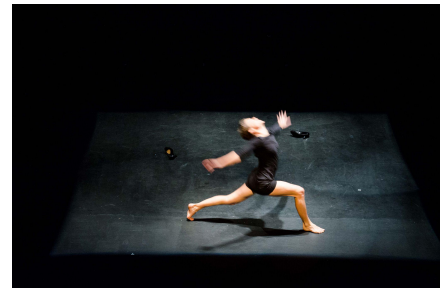


# chronology arts

## 2023 Report



Founded in 2007, chronology arts facilitates access to professional practice for diverse artists by providing **freedom** and **safety** for artistic practice.

Images front page left to right in rows;

1. The founding directors of chronology arts presenting at an event in 2008
2. [Aurora Festival](#) logo 2012
3. Weird Nest Youth Ensemble's [True to Nature](#) showing 2022 (photo by George Bechara)
4. Collaborating artist and philanthropist 2010
5. Chronology Arts ensemble rehearsal of [Bodhasara](#) 2013
6. Composer/choreographer collaboration partnership for "[Little Black Dress](#)" 2012 (photo by Matt McGuigan)
7. [Weirding Ways III](#), 2023
8. Co-artistic director of Weird Nest performing their "[Context is Everything](#)" 2021
9. A participant of Weird Nest's "Creative Agency Program" 2022 (photo by George Bechara)

*chronology arts supports artistic voices of wild intelligence that embrace our times in life-affirming ways by providing a centralised administration that supports mature, non-conforming artistic practice.*

*We work with artists to evolve creative methodology by tuning into nature and embracing diversity.*

*We hope to influence our times towards attaining sustainable balance.*

## Project: Weird Nest

### Timeline:

- > 2016; co-directors met due to shared values
- > 2018; regional (Orange) Jam and Bread ensemble + 1st Waverley student
- > 2019; establishment of weekly classes at Waverley
- > 2020; Covid, resulting in Jam and Bread ensemble disband. Registered Weird Nest as trading name, appointed the board as Weird Nest's committee
- > 2021; Waverley Council begins venue sponsorship
- > 2022; Youth Ensemble established with a showing of True to Nature

### Entity Type:

unincorporated artist group

### Activity:

development and presentation for neurodiverse artists with and without disability

### Project Impact 2023:

#### Stream 1; Creative Agency Program

- 7 young people with neurodiverse disability have attended Weird Nest's weekly workshops for 3 years
- it brings them joy, validity and supports their flourishing creative capacity
- the Creative Agency Program was designed by a respected senior neurodiverse artist living with disability
- neurodiverse access is central to the program
- unique methods informed by experience
- peer-supportive, abstract and creative development environment

#### Stream 2; Weirding Ways

- Connection between neurodivergent professional artists of multiple disciplines
- Encourages connection and community, including of audience and patrons
- Creates a space for networking, friendships and project incubation
- Available to be used by artists for research purposes
- Inherently completely diversity embracing
- Led by 4 senior practitioners from diverse backgrounds

### chronology arts Provides:

incubation, management, governance development, safety

### Description:

Weird Nest was established in 2020 to provide creative agency to neurodiverse artists, including those living with disability. Led by an experienced multi-disciplinary team, over the last 3 years Weird Nest has grown into a disability services provider for neurodiverse artists including through workshops, solo and ensemble work, presentations, publications and advocacy. Prior to

this period, the concepts informing the practices of Weird Nest were explored in various projects by its leaders.

2023 Artists involved;

Stream 1: Dean Walsh, Andrew Batt-Rawden, James Penny, Patricia Wood, Kate Shanahan and the Weird Nest Youth Ensemble

Stream 2: Nikki Heywood, Victoria Hunt, Dean Walsh, Andrew Batt-Rawden, Tim Moriarty, Melanie Eden, Ryuichi Fujimura, Paul Walker, Jack Colwell, Bianca Willoughby, Saskia Ellis

2023 Project Partners;

Waverley Council, City of Sydney Council, Low302, BrandX, Bondi Pavilion

2023 Achievements;

- Establishment of the Weird Nest artistic subcommittee majoritively neurodiverse artists with disability.
- Establishment of new program, "Weirding Ways" supported by City of Sydney, a monthly paid improv exchange day for 4 artists followed by an improv performance evening.
- Secured venue partnership with Waverley Council for production "True To Nature" featuring the Youth Ensemble comprised of 7 young people with disability.

2023 Status:

- Still exploring models for functional governance of neurodiversity led small to medium arts organisations.
- Some operational challenges
- Predictable revenue stream, with surplus
- Deep learning experience for everyone involved
- Multiple growth and change opportunities
- Must be slow-adapting for mental health reasons

Project Current Objective:

- support the development of a functionally independent arm of chronology arts, including with its own governance and management structure
- specialisation in facilitating neurodiverse artists with disability as an NDIS specialist organisation.
- consider incorporating a new association as Weird Nest

Why?:

Safety is achieved through the opportunity to have choice. Weird Nest is a unique business endeavour in that it was originally designed to enable an award-winning, highly acclaimed artist who is a neurodiverse person living with disability. This artist comes from an impoverished background that involves prolonged exposure to serious crime as a child. They have developed highly innovative, forward thinking, creativity techniques and has ambitions to publish them. It must be able to remain receptive to change, whilst being resilient to risk, and have long term

commitment to this artist. There are many opportunities to specialise in supporting neurodiverse artists through Weird Nest's activities and and research, and publishing will extend its reach.

For good cartaking, it requires its own oversight structure because it is connected to federal disability finances, which are treated differently to regular arts business finances (reporting, requesting, tempo and rhythm etc). This has operational and therefore budget implications that require resolution.

Project: Nurosynk

Timeline:

2021-current

Type:

unincorporated artist group - band

Activity:

creative development, rehearsals, composition, presentation, recording, distribution

2023 Project Impact:

- reduces social isolation for the artists involved, including core band members and any guest collaborators.
- performances and releases that supportively validate diverse people (queer, neurodiverse) due to content and aesthetic.
- creates opportunities for community gatherings, particularly for people of similar wavelength (neurotype and/or age and/or gender expression and/or sexuality) at concerts.
- creates work for artists.

chronology arts Provides:

auspicing, financial management, publishing, marketing, grant administration

Description:

A band comprising 2 queer neurodiverse conservatorium graduate composers mostly known for playing duo cellos whilst singing. The band has had sold out audiences since its inception, and has enjoyed a number of residencies and festival appearances, which have also resulted in a number of album releases. The band has also been able to find collaborators and gigs as a result of being connected through chronology arts and its other projects.

2023 Artists involved;

Miles Horler, Andrew Batt-Rawden

2023 Project partners;

World Pride, CreateNSW

Achievements;

World Pride performance in March sold out and featured multiple genres of electroacoustic music.

Collaborative development with Alex Pozniak towards an acoustic recital in 2024

Development of new composition methods

2023 Status:

After a successful World Pride performance in March 2023, the band is on pause due to personal reasons. They continue to communicate regularly, have a grant application currently being assessed for a significant composition development in 2024, and are ready to present collaborations with guest artists from development labs that took place in 2023.

Objective:

give the band support in their development and growth

Why?:

All artists need support. The artists involved in this band are vulnerable for various personal reasons and require career support outside of their friends/family network. Not all families are able to support their artistic children, not all artists are able to navigate business ownership as well as all the responsibilities and risks that comes with a public facing workplace. The situation of the band/artists involved may change over time, but commitment is required from chronology arts as the band's only support team to provide business infrastructure support (umbrella insurance, auspicing and financial management). Part of this support would be to ensure independent advice on various related topics over time.

Project: PrimeOrderly

Timeline:

-> 2020: State Library of NSW approaches Dean Walsh for his archive

-> 2023: Kade Francis has joined Dean's professional support team in view of coaching Dean towards publishing materials

Type:

intellectual property

Activity:

documentation and distribution of creative methodology developed by Dean Walsh

2023 Project Impact:

PrimeOrderly method opens capacities for artists in their minds, bodies and imaginations through strengthening embodied awareness, extended cognition, proprioception and inter-artist connection.

chronology arts Provides:

protection/encouragement, legal framework, development opportunities

Description:

Stemming from research conducted during a prestigious Australia Council Dance Fellowship, PrimeOrderly is an innovative interdisciplinary practice combining concepts of marine science with choreographic techniques through deep psychology and natural humanimal impetus. This Intellectual property is managed by chronology arts ltd on behalf of Dean Walsh with the view of publishing associated materials including a book, an online course, and updates to the artistic community's benefit.

2023 Status:

PrimeOrderly exists in Dean's memory and in various disorganised documentations, including ones created by hand, some on hard drives, others on pages. There is a moderate risk of existing documentation being damaged or lost. It is a living method, and the practice will be shared in 2024. Dean now has a support worker versed in authorship/writing.

Current Objective:

gather all materials into a safe external hard drive, and a cloud backup, including taking images of any physical materials. Assess further objectives in consultation with Dean and Kade.

Why?:

Prime Orderly is an embodied learning, expression, listening and mindful practice that has capacity to support the transformation of artistic practice and artistic minds towards mindful embodiment and environmental mindfulness. This practice extends the artforms by harnessing



the human capacities to reflect, focus, de-focus, cognate, sense, make sense, imagine, seek, be calm, realise inner nature and what it means to be a natural self.

A wider uptake of the PrimeOrderly method would increase marine environmental awareness, the wider artistic community's artistic capacity and an increasing respect of Australian artistic practice as a whole.

## Mentoring and Support

### Mentoring

We provided advice and grant authoring for 1 artist who lives with disability, who is also the leader of a visual arts organisation in the northern rivers. The result was \$250,000 Create Infrastructure investment in their gallery.

We provided mental health, respite and creative agency development for an at risk teen living with disability who is also trans. As a result, the young artist is now pursuing their final year of high school with the view of moving to Sydney to enter into art school, with the support of Weird Nest.

We provided career and artistic mentoring to 2 neurodiverse emerging artists seeking to establish themselves in contemporary music, contemporary dance and queer performance art.

### Peer Support for associated artists

We provided practical, access and mental health support for associated artists in their own productions. In 2023, this included;

- a mid-career artist performing their first solo full length concerts at 107 Projects
- a senior artist at a major event at Carriageworks.
- an emerging artist at an event at BrandX.

### Other Information

Financials for Chronology Arts can be reviewed on the [ACNC website](#).

Thank you for reading this report.

I hope you can consider supporting the ambitions of our artists in 2024 by providing a donation.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions, or are excited by any particular part of this document.

### Contact Information

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