

MARGOT POLITIS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

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ABOUT ME

I am an experienced arts professional with a strong background in delivering Community Arts and Cultural Development programs that connect people across a variety of lived experience, in bold and innovative ways. I have designed, curated and facilitated programs and initiatives to build cultural capacity, enhance participation, and activate arts programming that is progressive, resonant, and powerful.

I am passionate about delivering projects that derive both arts and social impact, through the collaborative design of projects that elicit meaningful civic engagement, and genuine cultural participation.

KEY POSITIONS

MILESTONES

Milk Crate Theatre	Artistic Director 2015 – 2025 NSW, Sydney
Shopfront Arts Co-op	Accessibility Director 2009 – 2016 NSW, Sydney
Creative Australia	Peer Assessment Panel; Community Arts 2025 – present NSW, Sydney
Shopfront Arts Co-op	Set & Costume Design, Staff Training, Mentor 2016 – present NSW, Sydney

360°

growth of organisational profile in the community and mainstream arts space - Milk Crate Theatre

200+

collective programs evaluated & delivered - Milk Crate Theatre

\$800K

in grant applications submitted and administered - Milk Crate Theatre

KEY STRENGTHS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community and capacity development is at the heart of all my roles and is the key reason I was able to elevate the profile of programs and organisations that promote social equity and inclusivity.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

I have extensive experience in developing, implementing and evaluating community-based projects and initiatives including services for homelessness and mental health and communities to drive participation growth.

COMMUNICATION

Working in partnership with community and interagency stakeholders allowed me to build capacity and social cohesion. This also secured recurring annual funding to enable the continued improvement of programs.

Milk Crate Theatre

Artistic Director

2015 – 2025 | NSW, Sydney

Milk Crate Theatre is a Sydney based organisation that uses the power of performance to drive social change by providing a voice to underrepresented communities. I was engaged for my experience in working with these communities in the arts sector. I developed innovative programs, transformed the team culture, rebuilt the operating framework and elevated the organisation's profile into mainstream performance spaces, thus increasing exposure and funding.

MILESTONES

200+

collective programs
evaluated & delivered

\$800K

in grant applications
submitted and
administered

>60%

uplift in team
engagement by
redeveloping the new
operating framework

360°

growth of
organisational profile in
the community and
mainstream arts space

- Overseeing over 200 programs and theatre workshops, i.e. theatre, screen writing, improvisation, comedy and artist development programs
- Redeveloping a team of 8 people and transforming a disengaged culture
- Managing project and program budgets of up to \$200K
- Driving the strategic audit of our existing programs, reviewing and redeveloping the framework and improving grants application processes
- Establishing new working methods and social models of engagement with the community which involved developing strategies based on a person led approach, empowerment and self-efficacy
- Implementing the new framework and improving work practices which were adopted by the Board, CEO, General Manager, Workshop Manager, marketing, fundraising coordinator and administrator
- Redefining the purpose of the organisation which was congruent with the new operating framework which improved team engagement by >60%
- Introducing group guidelines, emphasising a culture of care and safety
- Managing grants applications for funding and cultivating relationships with organisations & interagency groups in the arts and community space
- Producing and directing major performances with a focus on taking community performance into mainstream spaces, e.g. producing shows at Sydney Theatre company and Sydney Opera House to engage new audiences and communities
- Supporting the CEO and Impact Manager to roll out a new social impact measurement framework, which will contribute to securing and maintaining >\$800K in recurring funding at local, state and federal levels
- Developing artistic program reports and presenting them to board
- Completing funding reports, submitting to council and funding bodies

Shopfront Arts Co-op MILESTONE 100+ growth in program participants from 0	Accessibility Director 2009 – 2016 NSW, Sydney Shopfront Arts Co-op is a youth led arts organisation dedicated to empowering young people through arts. I was responsible for establishing the first program for young people with disability. This program grew and I became the Accessibility Director. This role formed the foundation for an understanding of working with the community in this space and building my knowledge of funding generation. - Delivering workshops that evolved to become an accessibility program - Leading a team of support workers, facilitators and volunteers - Connecting with schools and families to develop a sense of community - Growing program participation from 0 to 100+ since inception - Applying for arts and social program funding, securing \$200K - responsible for training >50 facilitators on ways of working, practicing safety, ethics and respect.
Creative Australia	Peer Assessment Panel 2025 – present NSW, Sydney Creative Australia is the Australian government’s key investment and advisory board. As a member of the peer assessment panel, I review, assess and support the approval of grant as well as funding applications based on criteria to ensure fairness and transparency within the Community Arts and Cultural Development space.
Shopfront Arts Co-op	Set & Costume Design, Staff Training, Mentor 2016 – present NSW, Sydney I still work on contract with Shopfront in facilitation, mentorship, set and costume design and in training facilitators on ways of working, practicing safety, ethics and respect.
Dirty Feet	Consultant and Facilitator Disability Programs 2015 – 2022 NSW, Sydney Dirty Feet is an artist led, not for profit contemporary dance organisation dedicated to supporting independent dance artists and emerging talents. I consulted on the design and development of arts programs for young adults with disability, including evaluation. I was involved in designing the emerging artist program and then managing the delivery.
Ausdance NSW	Artist, Penrith Public School & Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre 2016 NSW, Sydney Ausdance is Australia’s peak body for dance and is dedicated to supporting and advocating for the dance community. During this timeframe, I facilitated a youth program for a Western Sydney dance project at Penrith Public School.

Autism Spectrum Australia	Teacher's Aide, Artist 2015 – 2016 NSW, Sydney Autism Spectrum Australia is the country's largest service provider for people on the autism spectrum. I connected with students as a teacher's aide, and continued learning best practice in working with people with Autism.
Accessible Arts NSW	Catalyst Dance Program Core Artist Team 2015 – 2016 NSW, Sydney Accessible Arts is the peak arts and disability organisation in NSW. I was one of the core artists teaching and facilitating programs for adults with a disability.
Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre NSW	Disability Arts Program Facilitator, Support 2014 – 2015 NSW, Sydney Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre (now Together2) is a long-standing community hub located in the heart of Rozelle. I led workshops as one of the facilitators in their adult theatre programs including arts and dance classes.

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT	
2015	Artist In Residence, Inclusive Practice Tasdance, Launceston
2014 – 2015	Facilitator, Tours & Programs Powerhouse Museum Ultimo
2006 – 2015	Presenter Study English, and Promotional / Educational Tours, Southeast Asia ABC Australia Network
2014	Lead Artist, Facilitator The Song Room, Warrawong Public School
2014	Lead Facilitator Disability Programs Beyond the Square Arts, Granville

EDUCATION HISTORY	
Current	Diploma of Library and Information Services TAFE NSW
2025	IAP2A Certificate of Engagement The Engagement Institute (formerly IAP2 International Association for Public Participation)
2003	Bachelor of Arts, Honours, Creative Arts Flinders University Drama Centre, South Australia

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
2025, 2015	Disability Awareness Accessible Arts
2024	Trauma Informed Community Development LCSA
2022	LEAD Mentoring Program Beaumont
2018	NFP Management Course Pathways Australia
2016	Australian Delegate, Uma So Vos, Brasil Arts and Homelessness Conference
2009, 2013	International Arts and Disability Research Tours, UK, USA Funded by Creative Australia, Ian Potter Foundation
2015	Autism in Education Autism Spectrum Australia
2025	Mental Health First Aid
2025	Physical First Aid
Current	Working with Children Check WWC0251749E

REFeree DETAILS	
Available upon request	