



**OUR MISSION:
TO INSPIRE
POSITIVE VIBES
THROUGH ONE
LANGUAGE, DANCE!**

**L2R.
ORG.
AU**

2022-2023

L2R Next Gen Inc. (L2R Dance)
ABN 60 571 086 140

Incorporated Entity, DGR Endorsed,
ATO Charity Type - ACNC Registration
Tax Concessions, Registered FBT Rebate,
GST Concession, Income Tax Exemption.

45 Moreland Street, Footscray, 3011 VIC

Primary Contact -

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Founder & CEO
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BOARD

Chair - Harriet McCallum

Deputy Chair - Craig Rogers

Treasurer - Angela Ilton

Secretary - Jackie Anders

Members - Carol Ross,
Christian Vasquez, Sarah Luttrell

STAFF

Chief Executive Officer - Jacinda Richards

Executive Producer - Kerstin Paulsen

Youth Arts Coordinator - David Prakash

Community Engagement - Lowell Demetita

Artistic Associate - Hëna Memishi

Digital Coordinator - Alec Pernes

Relationships and Development Manager - Bec Reid

Chief Financial Officer & Bookkeeper - Tonic Partners



Teaching Artists - Daisuke Benson, Lanie De Castro, Emily Zdraveski, Maya Hajizadeh, Alec Pernes, L'wel Gay 'Ligi' Moo, Tracey Trinh

Emerging Artists - Monday Kunoo, Nastaran 'Nasta' Ghalhghovand, Rito Huynh, Phil Pham, Nolly Za Thang

Igniting legends 2023 - Aleena Panagopoulos, Amelia Vu & Kihmo Quintela

L2R moves on what always was and always will be Aboriginal land. L2R acknowledges the Custodians of the lands, skies and waterways on which we unite and dance, the Boonwurrung, Wurundjeri and the Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation. L2R pays respect to their Elders both past, present and emerging and all First Nations people.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRACTICE L2R acknowledges the genesis of Hip Hop dance culture and its origins of expression and voice for young people who find themselves on the margins. L2R is inspired by Hip Hop's cultural history and empowers, critiques and challenges social issues affecting young people throughout Melbourne's West and beyond. L2R pays respect to the pioneers of street and social dance and their lived experiences informing us today as we gather, perform, and connect. Alongside L2R's organisational values L2R embodies Hip Hop's four principles: Peace, Love, Unity, and Having Fun!

COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY At L2R Every Child has the right to feel safe. We commit to providing the most welcoming and supportive environment for young people to celebrate artistic expression - while always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds and have a zero-tolerance for discriminatory practices toward any child or adult based on their gender, race, religious beliefs, age, disability, sexual orientation, or family or social background. Through this responsibility, we commit to seeking your views about your experience of L2R - ensuring you always feel safe and welcome in our community.

HUSTLE

L2R Dance is a not-for-profit organisation based in Melbourne's West dedicated to providing free dance programs, arts leadership opportunities and employment pathways for children and young people traditionally underrepresented or absent from mainstream arts and culture. L2R moves physically, socially and culturally. Fostering belonging, wellbeing and cultural leadership, L2R nurtures creativity and transforms young people through the power of dance.

L2R makes dance accessible to children and young people who can't access commercial dance and or tertiary education due to social and or financial barriers (perceived or real). We break down barriers to participation including age, cost and elitism and ensure that community has easy access to our programs irrespective of gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, and dance ability. L2R draws from this history of hip hop culture with its aims to empower and critique social issues that affect young people in Melbourne's West and beyond.

More than just a series of dance classes, L2R is led by the voices of the people it exists for!



This is how we do it:

1. Champion dance to create healthier and more connected communities
2. Mobilise fresh, real and authentic art-making with, by and for young people traditionally under-represented and or absent from mainstream culture.
3. Nurture the next generation of artistic and Cultural Leaders and providing sustainable employment opportunities and pathways.
4. Exemplify a thriving, adaptable, culturally relevant business.



CEO REPORT – JACINDA RICHARDS



I love this time of year when I can pour a cuppa and reflect on the past twelve months. So many wonderful achievements, highlights, and always a few challenges that the extraordinary L2R fam and I can kick back and celebrate.

Because of L2R's innovative, flexible and values-driven approach throughout 2022/23, we managed to increase organisational capacity and impact throughout uncertain times while having an absolute blast!

To kick off the financial year, L2R's executive team (myself, Kerstin and Bec) felt it was necessary to complete a Strategic Plan 'refresh', to demonstrate organisational growth and maturity to stakeholders, while creating an Action Plan to capture our activities and measures. We also worked with Culture Counts on our new monitoring and evaluation framework, to strengthen our impact narrative.

To support us in achieving our ambitious and exciting Strategic Plan 2025, we undertook workforce planning in collaboration with the L2R Board. This led to the implementation of new staffing structures and systems which included the implementation of a new CRM system with Monday, engaging a Virtual CFO and the powerful team at Tonic Partners while welcoming one new staff member Lowell Demetita in the role of Community Development Coordinator.

This is an exciting time for L2R as we do what it takes to build financial and organisational rigor, and collectively take a leap to the next level!

Proudly, L2R's programs now generate significant social, cultural, and economic impact for the community, which is of particular benefit as we emerge from a global pandemic and given the many practical and complex challenges our young people face.

We have grown from a single community dance class in 2009 to a registered charity in 2015, to a thriving organisation now with an annual turnover of 600k+ and our fee for service doubling in two years from \$60k in 2022 to \$120k+ in 2023. This success is a huge testament to L2R's Artistic Associate Hēna Memishi for her passion and commitment to this integral part of the business and the 20+ legendary artists who step onto stage and bring it to life.

To ensure sustainability, we are committed to diversifying income, focusing on Local, State, Federal, and philanthropic investments as well developing our recent Social Traders Certified fee for service into a sustainable income stream, creating meaningful employment opportunities for community and dedicated artists. L2R's trading revenue in 2022/2023 is 20% of total income with lots of possibilities and vision for scale and growth in 2023/24 now that we are a certified Social Enterprise. It's here I do a big shout out to the incredible Kerstin Paulsen who really drove the Social Traders Certification and implementation of the Monday Platform which has been such a game changer for the organisation.

I am so extremely proud to live and breathe a life of purpose surrounded by extraordinary humans that make up the L2R fam. A big squeeze of gratitude to my team Kerstin Paulsen, Bec Reid, Hēna Memishi, Lowell Demetita, David Prakash, and Alec Pernes for making Mondays bright. I also want to acknowledge the L2R Board for their expertise and passion for L2R's values and purpose, and Harriet McCallum for her incredible and long-term leadership in her second term as L2R's Chair. L2R exemplifies a thriving, adaptable, culturally relevant business with our impact demonstrated in long term participants from 2009 that are now professional artists and my brothers/sisters.

So, what will you see in 2023/24?

The right people telling the right stories with L2R sitting at the table!

– Jacinda Richards, CEO

CHAIR REPORT – HARRIET M'CALLUM

What an honour it is to be Chair of this incredible, values-driven, big hearted organisation and community that is L2R Dance. This team permeates positive vibes in everything it does. With L2R Dance achieving so much more every year – this just means more positive vibes for everyone who connects with what L2R creates and generates.

In 2022–23, the team's hard work during the pandemic years really paid off. Our weekly programs filled up fast with returning and new participants (in some cases programs needed to double due to demand). The dance crew delivered 45 gigs and doubled our fee for service income. There were some exciting new partnerships with well known corporate brands, which not only brought in revenue, but showcased the talent of L2R's artists to huge audiences. The artistic outputs continue to evolve and strengthen. I am so looking forward to the next version of the original production Insert Self and, of course, our next Block Party!

Behind the scenes, the team worked hard to take L2R's operations to the next level with further investment in monitoring and evaluation with Culture Counts and financial management and planning with Tonic Partners. The strategic plan refresh showed how successful L2R has been, and the need to adapt in light of what had been achieved.

L2R Dance has truly diversified its income streams with a mix of philanthropic grants, government funding and fee for service income through gigs and

corporate partnerships. I want to extend a huge thank you to all of our funding partners for backing this great organisation, our people and our mission. L2R could not achieve all that it does without your support.

On behalf of the awesome L2R Board, I wish to congratulate our committed, passionate and hardworking CEO Jacinda Richards on another cracking year and thank the amazing L2R team Kerstin Paulsen, Bec Reid, Hēna Memishi, Lowell Demetita, David Prakash, and Alec Pernes for your incredible work and camaraderie. To all our teaching and emerging artists, you're amazing and thank you for what you do.

To my fellow Board members Craig Rogers, Angela Ilton, Jackie Anders, Sarah Luttrell, Carol Ross and Christian Vasquez – thank you for another wonderful year of supporting and guiding L2R Dance forward. We share the work so well, and are committed to seeing L2R keep reaching the heights we know it can achieve.

And lastly, but most importantly, thank you to every child and young person who showed up to L2R programs, events and any opportunity there was to share your hip hop moves. You are why we are here, why the team works so hard to do what they do, why L2R exists. You are all welcome, you are respected, and at L2R you can always be creative and have fun. L2R can take you places, and those places will be better off for having you there.

– Harriet McCallum, Chair



OUR IMPACT

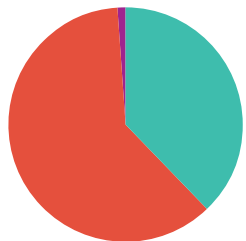
Participant Overview

Panda Squad - 30 participants
 Next Gen - 15 participants
 Lil' Legends - 14 participants
 L2R Wyndham - 5 participants
 The Venny - 28 participants
 WELS - 26 participants
 Breaking @ The Tin Shed - 7 participants

Total – 125 participants

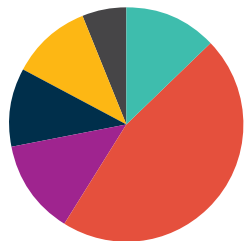
Social Impact

- 8 free weekly dance programs
- Across the Panda, Lil' Legends, Next Gen, Breaking, Wyndham, WELS & The Venny programs we delivered 198 classes
- 7 part time staff
- 10 professional dance artists from culturally diverse backgrounds
- 12 emerging artists employed on a regular basis
- 19 emerging artists employed on paid internships
- 7 highly skilled, professional board members
- Participants that represent over 20+ different cultural groups
- Participants that reside in Melbourne's west including Maribyrnong, Brimbank, Melton, Moonee Valley, City of Melbourne and Wyndham local government areas.
- 45 performances at community festivals, events and corporate engagements
- Over 30+ funding and delivery partners
- Since 2015 over 3,939 free dance classes delivered



Gender

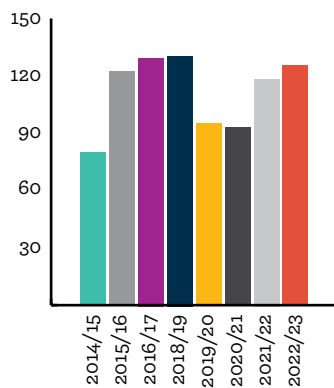
Male - 42%
 Female - 68%
 Non-binary - 1%



Where participants live, work and or study

Maribyrnong - 13%
 Brimbank - 46%
 Melton - 13%
 City of Melbourne - 11%
 Moonee Valley - 11%
 Other - 6%

Total Number of beneficiaries 2015 - 2023



2014/2015 - 80
 2015/2016 - 122
 2016/2017 - 129
 2018/2019 - 130
 2019/2020 - 95
 2020/2021 - 93
 2021/2022 - 118
 2022/2023 - 125

Total number of beneficiaries since 2015 - 892

- 79% of participants speak a language other than English at home
- 71% of participants were born overseas
- 2% identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders
- Over 20 + different cultural groups are currently represented across L2R including: Afghan, Vietnamese, Ugandan, Burmese, Thai, Persian, Iranian, Pakistani, Chinese/Cantonese, Chinese/Mandarin, Hakha Chin, Zomi Chin, Karen, Urdu, Tibetan, Arabic, Spanish, Japanese, Filipino, Sudanese, Liberian, Congolese, Scottish and Australian
- 6% increase on participant numbers across annual programs
- 70% retention of program participants
- 90% of all program participants enjoy and have a good time
- 82% of program participants have made new friends through programs
- 90% of participants feel included and connected to L2R's value of "Welcome Everybody"
- 90% of program participants have learnt and gained new artistic skills
- 80% of program participants have increased their confidence to try new things
- 85% of program participants feel it has inspired their creativity & opened their mind to new possibilities.
- Two families have children graduating through L2R's workshop programs per annum.
- Program participants have average involvement with L2R for 3-5+ years.
- 6 out of 15 Emerging Artist Alumni are engaged across free dance workshop programs as behavioural role models.



"grateful to be part of the fam"

Emerging artist

"We have worked with L2R for multiple campaigns and events and each time they have always brought such incredible energy, passion and professionalism. From the choreography through to the dancers themselves it always hits the next level & we couldn't be prouder to work so closely with such an incredible team"

Briony Kent
 Head of Marketing
 Platypus Shoes

"From the moment L2R took the stage, they effortlessly commanded the audience's attention with their electrifying choreography and confident approach. Their performance was a true highlight of the Firelight Festival, leaving both attendees and myself in awe of their sheer skill and creativity. The ability to involve the audience, of all ages and backgrounds, is a testament to their stage craft."

Anna Paterson
 Firelight Festival Programmer
 City of Melbourne

"The benefits of the L2R programs are first of all it's a place to socialise and create these friendships with everybody so respectful. Everybody is so caring for one another. L2R is all about encouraging one another and it's a very loving space where you can freely express yourself and there's a lot of encouraging going on within the L2R community. So you kinda feel like you have to be the best version of yourself because everybody believes in you, so eventually you get to believe in yourself"

Urlik Mageza
 Former participant & Igniting Legend
 Current emerging artist

TREASURER'S REPORT

– ANGELA PISA ILTON, CA

L2R Dance is a not for profit organisation, listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations (RoCO), with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. The financial data presented in this Annual Report has been extracted from the Special Purpose Financial Report for the year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, as audited by Collins & Co. Please refer to statements enclosed (or request a copy of the Special Purpose Financial Report).

I always feel honoured to share and present the financial reports on behalf of L2R. What a joy it is to live and breathe this awesome organization. Big financial growth again this year, directly translating to smashing goals for big community impact. While it's not been an easy year, the entire team doubled down to commit and deliver on key objectives of the strategic plan with a focus on expanding opportunities through growth and new income streams, supported and underpinned by an investment in people.

Investing in brilliant people

People drive the L2R success story – workforce planning has been vital to the continuous evolution of L2R and through this process it became obvious that investment (after a two year pause) was needed in bolstering the entire team. This included the creation of new roles, and a decision that a stronger finance function was needed. The considered appointment of a virtual CFO in Tonic Partners has helped take our reporting and processes to the next level where information and data is easily tracked and reported. You will see a slight adjustment in the reporting, to better service the various streams of revenue and expenditure. This has been a game changer for decision making.

Eye on the prize – careful targeted funding for biggest impact spending

Building sustainable growth has meant diversifying our revenue streams in turn helping to achieve a 30% increase in earnings this year (and in fact quadrupled earnings in just 6 years).

- Fee for service – what a success story! The focus of the team was on supporting Hēna in doing what we are becoming well known for – high quality, super entertaining, super energised performances. Gig revenue was up by 50%, making our fee for service offering a top contributor to L2R's earnings. That's 20% of L2R income being self-generated!!

- Our philanthropic donors continue to believe in our cause and we are ever grateful for recurring grants from Shine On Foundation, Sidney Myer Family Fund, Igniting Change, Besen Family Foundation, Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust, Mietta Foundation, Vic Health, Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust and MF Foundation. We also welcomed new partner grants through Westgate Tunnel Projects and government investments from Australia Council for the Arts, Victorian Government Department of Families, Fairness & Housing, Department of Jobs, Precincts & Regions and City of Melbourne. Thank you.

The numbers tell the story

Please refer to the financial statements and graphs below. Lots of interesting data points and helpful statistics showcasing all the benefits that L2R Dance brings each day – to the students who rock out each week in class, through to young dancers having their moment in the spotlight on the big stage. The impact is real – none of which would happen without the financial backing of our partners, the fundraising efforts and the entire team, who show up to vibe each and every day.



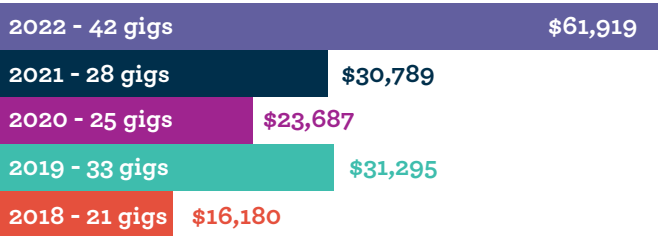
L2R PERFORMANCE

REVENUE IMPACT

Fee for Service

2023 - 45 gigs \$129,029

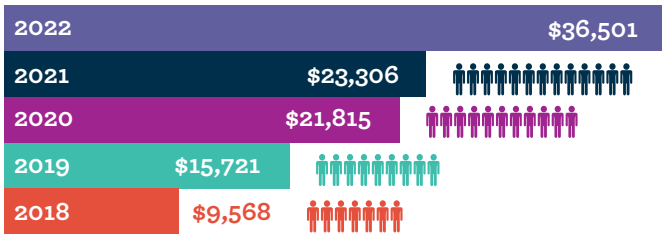
Fee for service doubling in two years from \$60k in 2022 to \$129,029 in 2023.



Total Artist Earnings

2023 - \$90,349
(\$16,986 Emerging & \$73,363 Professional)

Emerging Artists Earnings



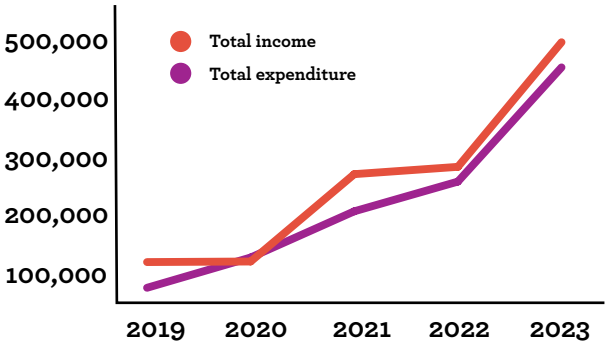
Audience

L2R reached an audience of over 500,000 for fee for service work in 2022–23.

Our casting work with Platypus Shoes, Bonds and the La Brea TV series has helped reach larger audiences.

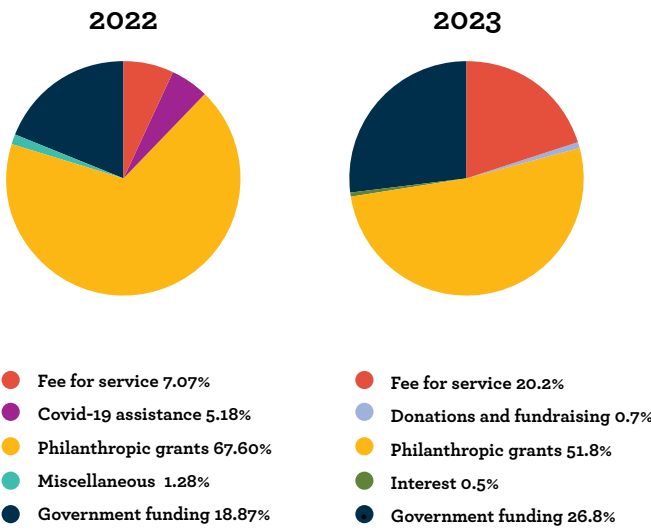
- 100% of L2R Artists feel fee for service inspired their own creativity
- 75% of L2R Artists feel fee for service inspired them to play a leadership role in the community
- 100% of L2R Artists feel fee for service helped them feel part of the community
- 80% of L2R Artists feel fee for service improved their financial situation.

L2R Growth Story



- Total income 2023 - \$672,808
- Total income 2022- \$514,075
- Total Income 2021: \$319,281
- Total Income 2020 - \$307,816
- Total Income 2019 - 133,124

Income Sources



FINANCIALS

L2R Next Gen Inc. **Registration number: Aoo6o71oN**

INCOME STATEMENT (as at 30 June 2023)

Fee for Service - Dance Performance & Workshops	100,957
Donations:	
Besen Family Foundation Multi Year Funding	10,000
General	14,386
Igniting Change	6,500
MF Foundation	6,000
Perpetual Foundation	555
Shine On Foundation	87,500
Grants:	
Australia Council for the Arts	70,000
City of Melbourne	10,000
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	6,500
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	11,587
Equity Trustees	25,000
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation	5,000
Maribyrnong City Council Multi Year Funding	41,096
Maribyrnong City Council Project Funding	10,000
Matana Foundation for Young People	10,000
Mietta Foundation	5,000
The Dyson Bequest	40,000
Victorian Health Promotion Foundation	10,500
The Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust	4,737
West Gate Tunnel Projects	45,000
Wyndham City Council	2,400
Interest Received	3,053
add: Grant Income Received in Advance brought forward	585,718
less: Grant Income Received in Advance carried forward	(438,681)
TOTAL INCOME	672,808

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (as at 30 June 2023)

Current Assets:	
Cash at Bank	534,243
Accounts Receivable	8,514
Provision for Doubtful Debts	(500)
Total Current Assets	542,257
Non-Current Assets:	
Office Equipment & Computers	6,121
Accumulated Depreciation	(4,262)
TOTAL	1,859
Furniture & Fittings	1,107
Accumulated Depreciation	(79)
TOTAL	1,028
Leasehold Improvements	12,313
Accumulated Depreciation	(810)
TOTAL	11,503
Total Non-Current Assets	14,390
TOTAL ASSETS	556,647
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	8,353
Others Payable	696
Grants Received in Advance	438,681
GST & PAYGW	28,726
Superannuation Payable	12,822
Provision for Annual Leave	16,782
Total Current Liabilities	506,060
TOTAL LIABILITIES	506,060
NET ASSETS	50,587
EQUITY (Accumulated Funds)	50,587

EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (as at 30 June 2023)

Management & Accountability Expenses:	
Accounting & Bookkeeping fees	43,641
Administrations Cost	615
Annual Leave Expenses	2,085
Bad Debts	500
Bank Charges	324
Computer Expenses	12,106
Depreciation	1,591
Donations & Gifts	1,069
Insurance	3,048
L2R Meeting Expenses	1,422
Licences & Registrations	7,116
Office Fitting	5,054
Postage	483
Printing & Stationery	277
Rent	11,636
Staff Amenities	2,883
Telephone & Internet	2,025
Training & Seminar Costs	4,542
Management Wages & Oncosts incl. JobKeeper	324,188
TOTAL	424,605
Service Delivery Expenses:	
Camps and Excursions	2,161
Consultant Fees	3,500
Costumes - Programs & Gigs	5,531
Emerging Artists	45,092
Equipment under \$1000	12,378
Food For Programs & Gigs	3,804
Job Materials - Programs & Gigs	700
Marketing / Promotions	11,578
New Show Developments	6,620
Performances & Workshops	68
Space Hire - Programs & Gigs	10,088
Subcontractors - Artist Fees	166,990
Training and Development	5,310
Travel - Bus Hire	120
Travel - National	3,242
Video/ Photography	18,619
TOTAL	295,801
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	720,406
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(47,598)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (for the year ended 30 June 2023)

Cash Flows from Operating Activities:	
Receipts from Donations & Grants	432,300
Receipts from Other Sources	100,958
Payments to Suppliers & Employees	(680,019)
Interest Received	3,053
Net Cash Generated From/ (Used in) Operating Activities	143,708
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:	
Payments for Property, Plant & Equipment	15,981
Net Cash (Used in) Provided by/ Investing Activities	15,981
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held	(159,689)
Cash & Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Financial Year	693,932
Cash & Cash Equivalents at End of Financial Year	534,243

L2R's loss above relates to in year earnings and at no time was the organisation in a cash deficit. Prior year accruals and balances brought forward have been allocated as appropriate to current year expenses.



Digital activity

Over the course of the year, our social media performance showed an overall positive/upward trend, experiencing 15.5% growth on Facebook to over 1350 followers and Instagram followers growing to 2,891, resulting in a 23.8% growth.

Electronic Direct Mail (EDM) subscribers also grew by 16% from 718 to 835 and website traffic grew to 3915 unique visits, topping last year's 1,800.



835

Community mail subscribers



2,891

Instagram followers



1,353

Facebook followers



261

TikTok followers

Office upgrade, systems and process reforms

L2R was fortunate to receive two capital expenditure grants from Westgate Tunnel Projects & Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions – Living Local Fund to update the L2R headquarters. This capital expenditure investment has re-energised L2R Dance's headquarters. It's now a colourful, fun and youthful office that community enjoy hanging out in. The investment included new office furniture, laptop computers for all staff, iPads for teaching artists and much needed air-conditioning.

As L2R continues to streamline our operations, the organisation migrated from Dropbox to Microsoft 365 and implemented a new CRM database to consolidate all our organisational data, nurturing our relationships with funding partners, clients, participants and artists.

Demonstrating our impact

This year L2R started working with consultancy Culture Counts on how to further develop and demonstrate the impact of our work on the young people we work with. This has involved creating a outcomes based evaluation framework; collecting consistent data, monitoring progress, quantifying outcomes and reporting our powerful impact.



Uncle Larry Wash Yarn

L2R is fortunate to be based at Footscray Community Arts, where we have Uncle Larry Wash as an elder in residence. Uncle Larry and Dan Mitchell spent a morning generously connecting with our staff and artists, sharing stories to ensure the cultural continuity of his ancient oral traditions.

Artist Camp

L2R's Leaders & Legends embrace peer-to-peer mentoring, embedding each one teach one principle which welcomes and supports new children and young people and deepens our connection with community.

On the 17th and 18th of February, we held our very first Artist Dance Camp bringing together 26 incredible professional and emerging artists! Over the two-day intensive we learnt five new choreographies which were then developed into our new Hip Hop floor show for 2023. We also went back to basics and discussed the foundations of delivering a successful L2R community dance workshop. This will support L2R to build brand consistency and help with the practical delivery of our famous Hip Hop dance workshops. We also welcomed two of our incredible board members Angela Ilton and Sarah Luttrell to host a session discussing Finance for Artists.

This year all staff and teaching artists also refreshed their First Aid certificates helping them feel confident to tackle any emergency situations.



Chunky Move

In early February our professional and emerging artists headed over to the Chunky Move Studios for a dance workshop to explore the foundations of Artistic Director, Antony Hamilton's choreographic work processes.

It was unreal for the crew, many for the first time to enter the bright orange walls of the fabulous studios. Antony was extremely generous, leading us through a warm-up that opened up the senses, floor work to challenge our upper body strength then some mind-boggling choreographic tools that had us all counting, clapping and exploring new and exciting randomised pathways.

L2R and Chunky Move are working together to create pathways to draw closer connectivity between artists from street/urban dance backgrounds and those with

institutional dance training. It is a shared vision to ensure there are abundant opportunities for artists from diverse backgrounds to be employed, practice and train in safe, professional environments. We are thrilled to develop this meaningful and impactful long-term relationship.

Social Enterprise World Economic Forum & Youth Forum

This two-day Brisbane conference included over 2,700 participants, 100+ speakers and 70 sessions, making this the largest gathering of purpose-driven local and international change-makers in 2022.

The conference also featured a Youth Forum that provided an opportunity for 16-30-year-olds to discover the principles of entrepreneurship, civic leadership and social impact at an in-person event.



HANNAH MAHONEY CASE STUDY

Program participant

I've been a part of L2R for just over a year now. I joined the Next Gen program initially because I'd just moved to the West and was looking to keep up with my dancing while making connections in the community. I'd followed L2R for a couple of years and was keen to get involved because it was a way of combining two of my biggest interests: street dance and diverse communities. My time with L2R so far has been amazing, and I've had the opportunity both to get to know some incredible local dance artists and to connect and work with some brilliant young people. I still attend Next Gen regularly, both to volunteer and to have a boogie with the other participants, and it's such a highlight of my week.

I joined the street dance company The Legacy & Co this year – an opportunity I still can't quite wrap my head around – and L2R's support has been instrumental in allowing me to fully experience this. In April, we had the chance to perform at the Victorian Dance Festival (VDF). There was a hefty financial commitment required to do this, though,

meaning that I wasn't going to be able to participate. After chatting with Jacinda, she offered L2R's support and they were able to fund the opportunity for me, meaning that I was able to attend the two-day festival and perform at 'Ignite'. I cannot express in words how much this meant to me; not only was the experience itself incredible, I felt so 'backed' by L2R and by the dance community as a whole.

In my time with L2R, I have grown not only as a dancer but as a person. L2R has been incredibly supportive of me, providing opportunities to learn and gain experience that will continue to provide value throughout my journey. I have such gratitude and love for the team and the whole L2R family.



CORE DANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Panda Squad

Mondays 4-4.45pm, Rec West, Braybrook.
For children aged 6-8
Mondays 4.45-5.30pm, Rec West, Braybrook.
For children aged 9-12

Next Gen

Tuesdays 4.30-6.30pm, Rec West, Braybrook.
For young people aged 12-25

Lil' Legends

Wednesdays 4-5pm, St Albans Community Centre.
For young people aged 9-12

The Venny

Wednesdays 5.30-6.30pm, 85 Kensington Road, Kensington. For young people aged 6-18

Breaking @ The Tin Shed

Wednesdays 3.30-5.30pm, The Tin Shed, St Albans.
For young people aged 12-25

Wyndham 3029

Mondays 4-5pm, Youth Resource Centre, Hoppers Crossing. For young people aged 12-25 *Finished 2022*

WELS

Mondays lunchtime, WELS, Braybrook.
For young people aged 6-18

To help meet demand and ensure more children and their families have access to a creative life, we were thrilled to add a new program in 2023 to the L2R Dance calendar. Please welcome.... Lil' Legends for children aged 9-12 years.

Lil' Legends is taught by Maya and Nolly who are both long term members of L2R. A special thanks to Igniting Change for supporting the pilot of this important program for children.



NOLLY ZAA THANG CASE STUDY

Program participant & emerging artist

L2R is a space where you don't have to try so hard to fit in because it's a space open for anyone. I think this is the reason why I've kept my relationship with the L2R community till now. Everyone within the L2R community wishes you nothing but success and happiness, they are always there to provide support and encouragement when needed.

I started dancing in my early teenage years as a hobby, and regularly went to classes provided by L2R (Next Gen). As I enter my adulthood, dancing on a regular basis and attending class was not easy and I became distanced with the dance scenes, due to school/work. However, L2R has kindly provided me with the opportunity to be one of their artists, which allows me to still dance and earn income from doing what I love most. Having an income is one of the important factors in adult's lifestyle, however with the help of L2R I was able to both have a source of income but continue dancing which is my hobby. I believe having a hobby is important for all individuals, as it could act as a getaway from stress/ issues.

The title teacher itself is a big responsibility and I'm honoured to be a part of the Lil' Legends program. I'm grateful for having been given the opportunity to be a part of introducing the art of dance to our next generation. The program also gives me the chance to be creative, as well as being able to present my work to the community.

Dancing makes me feel comfortable, dancing is like a comfort food for me. The art of dance always pushes me to be a better version of myself and helps me to be more creative. By meeting other dancers, it gives me the urge to improve and work on the skills that I lack. I'm always inspired by other dancers, as many of them work hard to be where they are right now, and this encourages me to work harder.



L2R x The Venny

- This year we delivered 12 free workshops
- 28 children and young people joined in the workshops
- Ages ranged from 6-18 years
- Participant cultural backgrounds include: Australian Aboriginal, Somali, Filipino, Vietnamese, Eritrean, Sudanese, Ethiopian, Thai, and Anglo-Saxon.
- 90% of attendees came from public housing in Kensington, North Melbourne, Flemington & Ascot Vale, as well as Sunshine & Footscray.

WELS

L2R and Western English Language School (WELS) have been working together for well over a decade in what has been a most valuable partnership that has provided our students with an outlet and opportunities that they otherwise would not have access to.

WELS is a school that offers a new arrivals program to students who speak English as an additional language. Over half our students are from a refugee or refugee-like background and all are recent arrivals to Australia. Students stay at WELS for only 6-12 months. It's therefore extremely important that we offer them ways to connect with their community that are ongoing and enduring. It goes without saying that the relationship we have with L2R provides these students with such invaluable community connections.

L2R provides our students with programs that are engaging, fun and healthy. Instructors facilitate dance classes that enable students to learn new skills, make and cement new friendships, take risks in a safe and supportive environment, and exercise.

One of the most important things that WELS does for its students is providing them with a safe and welcoming community when they arrive in Australia. Our enduring partnership with L2R ensures we can do this in a more holistic way. Crucially, it gives many of our students a community they can remain a part of long after they leave WELS.

– Laurence Guttman, Acting Principal,
Western English Language School

FUTURE MAKERS: LEADERS & LEGENDS



Our Igniting Legends Program is an opportunity to dive deeper into what it means to be a working artist in the industry, particularly in dance/movement. This year's Igniting Legends features Aleena Panagopoulos, Amelia Vu & Kihmo Quintela, with practices that are rooted in street dance genres such as Krump, Hip Hop, Popping & Litefeet.

Led by Youth Arts Coordinator David Prakash, L2R's Igniting Legends program aims to:

- seek openness, collaboration and good times, always!
- take the next step to forging diverse and multi-skilled independent artists.
- create a safe space for street-dance artists to dream!

We are super excited to play a guiding role in the Igniting Legends of 2023!



Aleena Panagopoulos

Aleena Panagopoulos started her dance journey in 2010 at 7 years old at KSTAR studios. She was selected for the competition team that varied in many dance genres like Hip Hop, Krump, Locking and Breaking. She has been invested in the genre of Krump for the past 5 years, competing nationally and internationally.

In 2018–2019, Aleena co-facilitated a beginner friendly, female only Krump session in Melbourne's CBD named 'Zero Sessions'. This was to ensure a safe environment for women who wanted to discover Krump for the first time, in a supported environment with like-minded individuals.

In 2018, Aleena ventured into the performance art scene, working with the likes of photographer/videographer Rachel Main. This was part of the 'Women Who Buck' exhibition, presented in the Gertrude St Projection Festival, where Aleena had the opportunity to choreograph part of the presentation. Aleena has also worked with Rachel Main and artist Jennifer Ma for a video production titled 'SURFACE'. This was presented in 2021 as part of the Brimbank council and was also selected for the Gertrude St Projection Festival in 2022.

Aleena's street dance journey has brought her many opportunities to compete within street dance events. Each competition allows her to represent the Krump community and the women within Krump. Through this, she has won a number of events, most notably 'KSTAR ROOKIE BATTLES' and 'PASS THE BUCK, womens category' in 2020.



Amelia Vu

Amelia Minh Vu is a Vietnamese-Australian dancer based in Melbourne. She began her exploration in dance in 2021 at Swinburne University's street dance club (AOS), and has since then expanded her connection to the Melbourne street dance community. During this time, she has explored various dance styles including Hip Hop, Popping and Litefeet.

Amelia's time spent immersed in street dance communities has expanded her knowledge and understanding through exchanging and connecting with other dancers. It has enabled a space where dancers can support each other to grow as a community. Amelia also consistently participates in dance battles as she believes it has a valuable offering. 'Battling' is not only about winning a competition, but it provides the opportunity to meet and reconnect with old and new dancers. To Amelia, it is a battle of the psyche and grows her mindset towards dance and life. With her newly profound interest and growth in street dance, her wish is to venture into more dance styles whilst exploring more creative performative aspects of dance. She envisions a space that is engaging, visually and aesthetically, that allows all forms of stories to be told. Amelia endeavours to create performance pieces that draw on relatability, allowing audiences to resonate and reflect on it however they wish.

Amelia now occasionally teaches at university dance clubs and has experience in leading a creative youth group. Her experience has allowed her to understand how to lead a group of new dancers, to stimulate the passion to dance and create a welcoming space for all levels and backgrounds.



Kihmo Quintela

Kihmo Quintela is a Filipino movement artist based in Naarm. Hailing from Brimbank, he has a passion for movement improvisation, choreography, battling and performance. Since delving into his practice in 2018, Kihmo has explored various movement forms including Hip Hop freestyle, Popping, House, Krump, choreography, martial arts, and contemporary.

Kihmo's aim is to discover an authentic "freestyle" form of expression. He currently represents street dance crews, 4 of a Kind (4OK), I.M Yugen and Frqncy and continues to advocate for accessibility of street dance to beginners.

Kihmo is a current participant of L2R's Igniting Legends program. Working closely with Youth Arts Coordinator, David Prakash, his aim is to develop his identity as an emerging artist through exposure to contemporary dance, art administration and curation practices.

IMPACT

- Igniting Legends program has employed 19 participants since program inception
- 70% of Igniting Legends alumni still regularly work with us as Emerging or Professional Artists
- 50% of Igniting Legends participants have grown up through L2R's programs and have been with organisation for 7–12 years
- L2R has been developing a relationship with Victorian College of Arts (VCA) to break down barriers for our young dancers to access tertiary education and expand the forms of dance into Street Dance. Through this relationship Steph was able to obtain a fee scholarship to attend VCA alongside her Igniting Legends paid placement. Steph is graduating from VCA at the end of 2023 and L2R is helping her to develop a new work for Fringe Festival 2024 and explore professional teaching opportunities through our programs.



PHIL PHAM CASE STUDY

Igniting Legends alumni & emerging artist

Being part of L2R has given me so many experiences and opportunities I would have never imagined. The Igniting Legends Program provided me with so much insight and direction into what I wanted out of my dance journey. It placed us in settings like professional practice, contemporary spaces and more, all which really opened my eyes as to what dance could mean for me.

Dance is something that I can always come back to, to feel good, to feel free and to let out any emotions, positive or negative. I believe dance also helps to ground me; it helps to take me out of my mind and just be present and it shows me that as difficult as the challenges I'm facing might be, it's all about perspective and how you handle them.

L2R has also given me employment opportunities through performances and teaching. Working with children is something I am especially passionate about, something I am also studying, so to be able to work directly with children, sharing something I love has been a dream and I hope to continue to do this in future.

Supporting L2R's program at The Venny has been such a rewarding experience. Seeing them every week, we get to build a strong rapport, and I've really been able to see them grow and become more confident in themselves and in their interactions with others.

L2R has really given me the confidence to pursue and push myself further. It's opened my eyes as to what I can offer to others through dance, and what is offered to me throughout Melbourne.

Dancing makes me feel free. It inspires me to continue growing in dance so that I can continue telling and elevating my stories; but also, to explore myself and my own heritage to be able to tell that story as well.

GIGS & GROWTH

L2R's Fee For Service (FFS) is dedicated to maximising employment for young and emerging, culturally diverse performing Artists. We roll profits back to the Artists ensuring they are securing increased employment from the arts and cultural sectors whilst realising their ambitions as full time Professional Artists.

Emerging from a Covid landscape, our FFS program has bounced back to exceed its annual income targets. We have reached significant audiences locally and nationally. Clients included: Bonds, Platypus Shoes, Moomba, Firelight Festival, Arts Centre Melbourne and NFP clients like the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre etc.



Social enterprise/ Sustainable revenue stream

L2R forecasts that our FFS program can develop into a fully-fledged social enterprise business unit, increasing annual turnover and significantly contributing to L2R's sustainable income revenue.

To prepare for this capacity building, L2R has invested in a new CFO, upgrading from a previous bookkeeper to ensure the Agency will sustainably thrive.



Bonds Move Your Way

L2R was stoked to join the MOVEMENT and collaborate with Iconic Australian brand Bonds for their new range of move-approved essentials. The Maribyrnong river turned on winter magic and the L2R crew turned up the vibes in their sweet new Bonds threads.

"Dance is like second nature... It's just like another form of communication. It's a release, it's enjoyment, it's work as well which is a blessing. Dance is everything." – Alec

A huge thanks to Bonds Australia, Two Birds Talking, Mae Taylor Makeup and Flat Pac.



Platypus Shoes

L2R was so excited to partner with the Accent group and Platypus Shoes on multiple campaigns this financial year! Perhaps you saw us gettin' down for their 'Step Out' campaign in stores on digital screens?



Insert Self

'Insert Self' features 11 artists led by co-directors Jayden Wall & David Prakash.

This new dance work explores contemporary and Hip Hop dance styles. Interrogating common freedoms and authentic, urgent identity making. This first development of the work aimed at locating the body as a space, where humans explore experimental histories & lived subcultural identities.

Future proofing & validating divergent creative forces, it's a clarion call for self-determination. Forged through "from here, for here" the work proposes a meeting point between Hip Hop & contemporary dance, as a landscape for better understanding our cultural identities & points of convergence.

On Friday 25th November 2022, we presented this development work at the Blue Stone Church in Footscray to a small and curated guest list of friends and folks.





THANK YOU'S

Board, Staff, Tonic Partners, CRM consultant Josh Kane, all our epic talented artists, photographers Sam Wong, Nam Chops & Rachel Maine, videographer Kimberly Summer, graphic designer Deloy, and Culture Counts.

FUNDING PARTNERS

L2R would also like to acknowledge the many amazing private donors that give throughout the year to ensure we thrive and spread good vibes through the language of dance!

DELIVERY & PRESENTATION PARTNERS

All the Queens Men, Born in a Taxi, SMARTS, Arts Centre Melbourne, Footscray High School, Footscray Community Arts, Frank Wild, Maribyrnong College, Western English Language School, The Venny, Wyndham Youth Resource Centre, St Albans Community Centre, The Tin Shed, Rec West Braybrook, City of Melbourne, City of Maribyrnong, Chunky Move, Phoenix Youth Centre



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