L2R DANCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025–2026



OUR PURPOSE:
TO OFFER FREE DANCE CLASSES, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT, CREATING A NEW GENERATION OF ARTISTS AND LEADERS.

L2R.ORG.AU

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.

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Jacinda Richards
Founder & CEO
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BOARD

Chair – Craig Rogers
Treasurer – Angela Ilton
Secretary – Jackie Anders
Members – Christian Vasquez, Sarah Luttrell, Joshua Lowe, Harriet McCallum, Carol Ross (outgoing)
Youth Members – Hannah Mahoney, Amelia Vu (outgoing)

STAFF - Current

Chief Executive Officer – Jacinda Richards
General Manager – Lucy Pitt
Programs Manager – Daphrosa Tuyisabe
Programs Manager – Lowell Demetita (outgoing)
Creative Producer – Hëna Memishi
Marketing Manager – Jeevika Rajagopal
Youth Arts Coordinator – Gian De Felipe
Financial Consultant & Bookkeeper – Tonic Partners

Professional Artists – Maya Hajizadeh, L'wel Gay 'Ligi' Moo, Nicole Sanders, Urlik Iradukunda, Abul Deng, Gian De Filipe, Trace Trinh, Monique Nightingale, Carolyn Ooi, William Boquiron, Emily Zdrevevski, Nolly Zaa Thang, Valasia Makrynakis, Harel Feliciano

Emerging Artists – Stephanie Sorn Dixon, Tyrone Palmer, Amelia Vu, Ryan Condello, Ansh Dey

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 past, present and emerging and all First Nations people.



COMMITMENT TO PRACTICE L2R honours the genesis of street dance culture and is committed to centring the voices of the street dance community and ensuring the authentic cultural protocols of street dance are upheld within our artistic practice and operational activities and across our broader community. For us, engaging in street dance is to engage in lineages that are grounded in histories of youth-led movements, community resistance and cultural subversion. L2R gives a shout out (pays respects) to the pioneers of street and social dance and their lived experiences informing us today as we gather, perform, connect and celebrate street dance in Melbourne's West.

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 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

ABOUT L2R

We are L2R Dance, Australia's only youth street dance not-for-profit. We are led by the ambition of our young people and this underpins the moves we make on dance floors, in community and across the arts sector in Australia.

Our work is grounded in the rich history and evolution of hip hop and street dance, fuelled by our young artists' voices and storytelling, reflecting the vibrant culture of Melbourne's West. Since 2009 we have worked with over 24,400 young people aged between 6 – 25 and delivered 5,010 free dance classes across the West. L2R proudly champions dance to create healthier and more connected communities, generating meaningful social, community and financial change across the region.

We work across the large and diverse region of Melbourne's West, partnering with local schools, arts organisations, local council, State and Federal Government, local community service providers and organisations, and community elders to deliver free dance programs, arts leadership opportunities, creative developments and employment pathways for young people.

Our work is grounded in the street dance ethos of "each one teach one". We design our programs as a continuous cycle, ensuring everyone has a place and a pathway at L2R, honouring both the emerging generation while respecting the elders and pioneers who paved the way.

CEO REPORT
– Jacinda Richards

This year has been one of change, challenge and opportunity, and I'm incredibly proud to say that we met it all with grit, determination and creative thinking.

We have continued to operate in an increasingly turbulent and uncertain environment, with growing demands on not-for-profits and social enterprises to do more, reach further and respond to increasingly complex needs, often with limited and unpredictable resources. The funding landscape remains challenging, costs continue to rise, and the expectations placed on organisations like L2R, to deliver meaningful impact while also building sustainable organisations, continue to grow. Against this backdrop, I am incredibly proud of what our team, artists and community have achieved.

As our Strategic Plan 2021–2025 sunsetted, we took the opportunity to pause and reflect: on what we had achieved, the challenges we had navigated, what was missing, what was possible, and, perhaps most importantly, what we could dream about next — with hip hop and street dance paving the way.

A huge moment in 2025 was receiving the news that L2R had been successful in our application to the four-year Creative Enterprises Program through Creative Victoria, securing $400,000 to support the next phase of our work and the delivery of our new Strategic Plan 2026–2030. This outcome marks the achievement of a personal and organisational goal I have been working towards for the past five years. As our previous Strategic Plan came to an end, I felt incredibly proud to see this milestone realised.

Change also came through our people. This year we farewelled Lowell Demetita, whose contribution to L2R has been deeply valued and appreciated, and welcomed new energy and leadership into the team. We were thrilled to welcome Daphrosa Tuyisabe into the role of Programs Manager, supporting the continued growth and delivery of our programs and helping us strengthen connections with community.

Our incredible Board Chair, Harriet McCallum, has stepped down after eight years in the role. Harriet has been a mentor, champion and guiding force for me and L2R for close to a decade. She has seen the tears, the highs and lows, the big wins and the challenging moments, and through it all has remained calm, fiercely committed and deeply invested in L2R and its people.

I am incredibly grateful for everything Harriet has given to L2R. Her guidance, wisdom and support throughout my journey as CEO have left a lasting legacy on both me and L2R, and she leaves behind an incredible foundation for the next chapter.

With this change, we welcomed Craig Rogers as our new Chair. I feel incredibly fortunate to have Craig by my side as we enter this next chapter. His experience, perspective and belief in L2R will be an invaluable part of the journey ahead.

In January 2026, we took another exciting step forward by moving our HQ to the Phoenix Youth Hub in Footscray. This move gives L2R greater visibility, stronger access to young people and new opportunities to collaborate with Maribyrnong Youth Services, helping connect more young people with dance, creativity and community. It feels like the right place for L2R at this point in our journey, embedded in community, close to young people and surrounded by organisations and people who share our commitment to creating opportunities for the next generation.

I'm excited about what lies ahead, the opportunities, the partnerships, the ideas we have yet to bring to life and the young people and artists who will shape this next chapter with us. The demand for this work continues to remind us why consistency and access matter. Young people need spaces where they can belong, express themselves, build skills and connect with others, and we are proud to keep creating those spaces.

I am incredibly grateful to our staff, artists, Board, partners, funders, supporters, young people and communities who continue to believe in L2R and the power of dance.

Thank you for dancing alongside us. With gratitude, pride and big visions for what's next.

– Jacinda Richards
Founder, CEO and Artistic Director - L2R Dance



CHAIR REPORT
– Craig Rogers

Street dance has always been about more than movement. Its legacy is grounded in young people creating culture, building community and claiming space to express who they are. Street dance carries histories that deserve to be understood, respected and passed forward.

While this is my first year as Chair, my connection to L2R began long before I joined the Board in 2019. Through more than 20 years working across the arts, including my current role as Head of Programs at The Push, Australia's music charity for young people, I have seen how access to creativity can transform the lives of young people. But there is something particularly powerful about L2R: the way it brings together artistic excellence, cultural integrity and an unwavering belief in the potential of every young person.

It is a genuine privilege to now serve as Chair and help guide L2R into its next chapter.

As I step into this role, I want to acknowledge and thank Harriet McCallum for her extraordinary contribution as Chair. Harriet led L2R through a period of significant change and growth with generosity, care and a deep belief in the strength of young people and community. Her thoughtful leadership helped L2R become the strong, values-led organisation it is today. Harriet leaves behind an extraordinary legacy.

This year also marks the beginning of L2R's new Strategic Plan for 2026–2030. Importantly, this is not a plan developed behind closed doors. It was shaped with young people, artists, staff, Board members and the broader L2R community, reflecting their experiences, ambitions and ideas for the future. It sets a clear direction: to build confident and connected young people, strengthen pathways for artists, champion street dance as a powerful cultural force, embed diversity and inclusion, amplify L2R's impact and ensure the organisation remains strong and sustainable.

These ambitions are big, but they are firmly grounded in what L2R already does so well. Through free dance programs, professional development, paid employment and community events, L2R removes barriers and creates a pathway from first steps on the dance floor to careers as artists, teachers and cultural leaders. It creates spaces where young people can build confidence, find belonging and develop their own creative voice.

At the centre of all this is an extraordinary team. My deepest thanks go to our CEO and founder, Jacinda Richards, whose vision, energy and fierce commitment continue to drive L2R forward. Thank you also to Lucy Pitt, Hëna Memishi, Jeevika Rajagopal, Daphrosa Tuyisabe and Gian De Felipe. L2R's staff bring creativity, care and considerable skill to their work, and the impact captured throughout this report is a direct result of their dedication.

To L2R's professional and emerging artists, teaching artists and mentors: thank you. You do far more than teach steps or routines. You create safe spaces, share culture, open doors and show young people what might be possible. You are the lifeblood of L2R.

I am also grateful to my fellow Board members: Jackie Anders, Harriet McCallum, Angela Ilton, Christian Vasquez, Hannah Mahoney, Sarah Luttrell and Joshua Lowe. Each brings different knowledge, lived experience and professional expertise, united by a shared commitment to L2R's purpose. Thank you for the generosity, rigour and care you bring to the organisation.

To every government, philanthropic, corporate and community funding partner, donor and collaborator: thank you for standing alongside L2R. Your support makes free participation possible, provides meaningful paid opportunities for artists and gives the organisation the confidence to plan for the future. You are not simply funding activity; you are investing in young people and stronger communities across Melbourne's West.

Most importantly, thank you to L2R's young people and families. Your creativity and courage shape every move this organisation makes. L2R is led by the ambition of its young people, and that must always remain at the heart of who we are.

Street dance teaches us that no movement stands alone. Every step carries something from those who came before, while creating possibilities for those who come next. As L2R enters this new chapter, we do so with respect for that legacy, pride in this remarkable community and enormous excitement for the future.

The next beat has already started. Let's move.

– Craig Rogers
Chair - L2R Dance

OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

L2R has continued to grow and deepen our impact as one of Australia's most dynamic youth arts organisations. Our foundations lie in the deep history and evolution of hip-hop and street dance cultures, driven by the powerful voices and storytelling of our young artists, who capture the vibrant essence of Melbourne's West.

In 2025/26, we proudly delivered 456 free dance classes throughout Melbourne's West; and employed over 18 young and emerging artists. At L2R, we champion dance as a means to foster healthier, more connected communities, generating significant social, community, and economic impacts across the region.

Participant Overview

Panda Squad – 75 participants
Next Gen Footscray – 22 participants
Next Gen Wyndham – 38 participants
Lil' Legends JNR – 16 participants
Lil' Legends SNR – 10 participants
WELS – 40 participants
Breaking @ The Tin Shed – 35 participants
School workshops – 451 participants

Total participants – 687!



Programs Impacts and Theory of Change

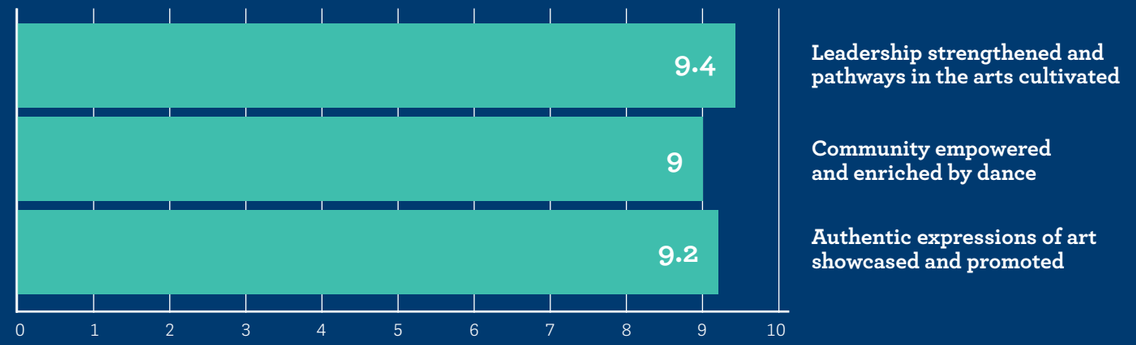
2025 marked the final year of our five-year strategic plan; while 2026 saw us welcome in our new one! We continued to work with Culture Counts to undertake in-depth evaluations of L2R programs through both quantitative and qualitative data collection.

As of 2026 L2R has four strategic goals that guide our work, program design, artistic content, governance and advocacy and recruitment; and our evaluations have been designed to measure these goals. For each goal we have articulated key objectives that we evaluate our programs against.

We undertake twice-yearly evaluations with all participants, parents, audiences, artists and staff – using surveys and feedback sessions to report against L2R's goals.

> " I love music, so having the opportunity to dance along with others is really fun. It's also a nice step to get comfortable with new things and new people. "
>
> ***– Breaking Participant***

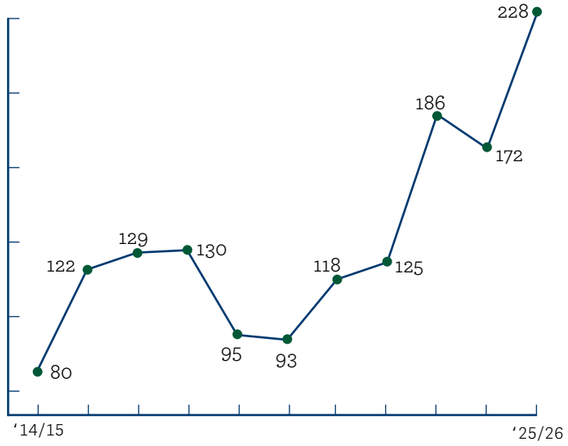
> " I like Next Gen because the(y) really helped me learn and create new dances and work together as a team. "
>
> ***– Next Gen Participant***



Community Impact

- **12** free weekly dance programs
- **456** dance classes delivered
- **4** dance programs delivered in schools
- **18** dance artists employed weekly
- **6** emerging artists employed on paid internships
- Participants from across Melbourne's West including Maribyrnong, Brimbank, Melton, Hobsons Bay, Moonee Valley, City of Melbourne and Wyndham local government areas.
- **26** performances at community festivals, events and corporate engagements
- Partnered with over **46** local delivery partners and funders
- **27** West-based delivery partners and funders
- Delivered over **5,010** free dance classes since 2015

Total Number of beneficiaries since 2015



Total number of community dance program beneficiaries since 2015 – 1,738

Snapshot of Our Community

L2R's community proudly reflects the broad diversity of Melbourne's West.

52%
of participants speak a language other than English at home.

18+
different cultural groups are represented across L2R.

3%
of L2R participants identify as Deaf or Disabled.

3%
of participants identify as First Nations.

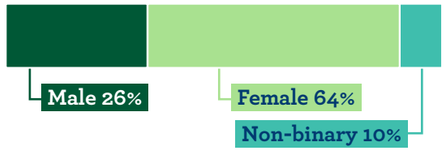
3-5+ years
Average engagement of L2R program participants.

15
of L2R's Emerging Artist Alumni are employed across our workshop programs.

50%
of participants were born overseas.

2 families
have children graduating through L2R's workshop programs per annum.

Gender



TREASURER'S REPORT

– Angela Pisa Ilton, CA

As Treasurer of L2R Next Gen Inc., I am honoured to present the financial overview for the year ended 30 June 2026 and reflect on the impact this incredible organisation continues to have on young people, families and communities.

During the year, the Board and leadership team strengthened monthly financial and cash-flow reviews, tested future scenarios using confirmed funding, carefully managed costs and adopted a conservative budget. At the same time, L2R continued to pursue longer-term funding and grow earned income to protect the mission—without missing a (groovy) beat.

The numbers matter, but their true value lies in what they make possible: a young person supported, a performance delivered, a skill developed or a new opportunity created.

L2R remained focused on building a sustainable future. Total income reached a record $868,100, more than $100,000 above prior year. This growth translated directly into programs, performances, employment opportunities and meaningful connections for the community.

L2R's increasingly diverse income base is central to the organisation's sustainability. Philanthropic grants and government funding remain vital, while fee-for-service activities generated $82,342. This year, 25 paid performances also created visibility, confidence, representation and employment for artists, and increased on prior year by 70%.

We are incredibly grateful to our government partners and private philanthropic supporters for their trust and generosity. Grant funding is secured through rigorous assessment and acceptance processes, and this support makes it possible for L2R to keep creating opportunities, strengthening communities and delivering on its purpose.

People remain at the heart of L2R's success and understandably account for the greatest expense in a services organisation. The investment in management capacity, staff, artists, teachers, facilitators and volunteers creates opportunities to continually enhance the uptake of free community classes and programs and the calibre of performances.

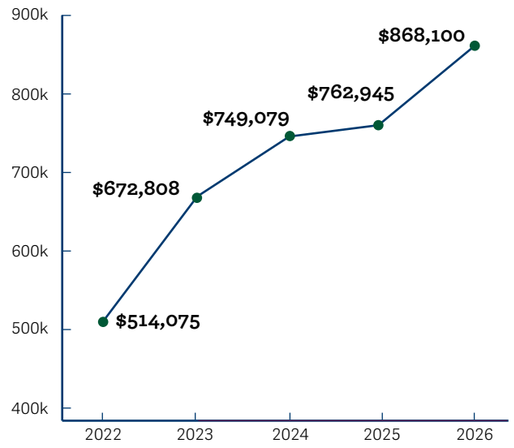
L2R ended the year in a sound financial position, with cash reserves of $407,678, net assets of $56,234 and a modest deficit of $2,475. The cash balance includes funding committed to future activities and provides a strong foundation for continued program delivery. The deficit largely reflects accounting adjustments and accruals. At all times, through the year, L2R was solvent.

Thank you to the powerhouse of people behind L2R. I would particularly like to acknowledge our CEO, Jacinda, for her leadership, commitment and care for L2R. It has been an absolute privilege to serve as Treasurer for the past nine years, and I am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me and the opportunity to be part of this incredible organisation.

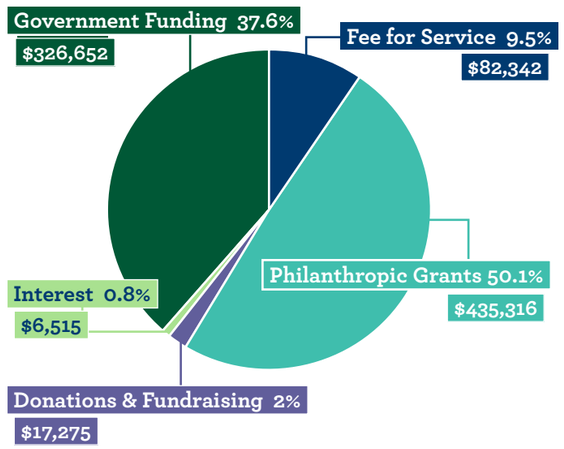
With a strong reputation, diverse revenue base, talented team and clear strategic vision, L2R is well placed to keep creating meaningful impact into the future.

L2R GROWTH STORY

Total Income

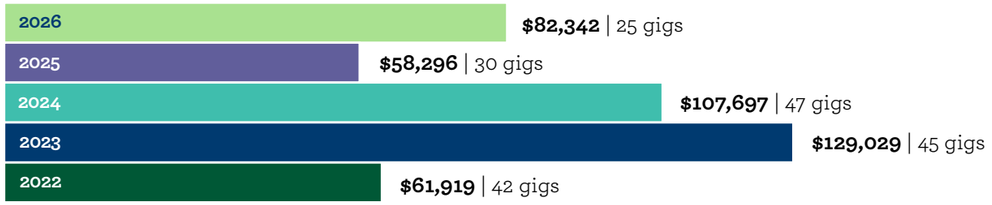


Income Sources



L2R PERFORMANCE REVENUE IMPACT

Fee for Service







FINANCIALS

L2R Next Gen Inc.
Registration number: A0060710N

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

INCOME	
Fee for Services	$82,342
Donations & Fundraising	$17,275
Philanthropic Grants	$435,316
Government Funding	$326,652
Interest Income	$6,515
Total Income	**$868,100**

EXPENDITURE	
Management Wages, Fees and Oncosts	$479,797
Artist Wages, Fees and Oncosts	$203,926
Program and Production Costs	$42,472
Depreciation	$3,696
Marketing and Promotion	$20,315
Administration and Operating expenses	$120,369
Total Expenditure	**$870,575**
NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	**($2,475)**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 30 JUNE 2026

ASSETS	
Cash & Equivalents	$407,678
Accounts Receivable	$4,994
Other Current Assets	$8,696
Total Current Assets	**$421,386**
Fixed Assets	$5,439
Total Non-Current Assets	**$5,439**
Total Assets	**$426,807**

LIABILITIES	
Accounts and Payables	$39,718
Provisions for Annual and Long Service Leave	$37,582
Grants in Advance	$282,340
Other Current Liabilities	$10,933
Total Current Liabilities	**$370,573**
Other Non-Current Liabilities	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities	**-**
Total Liabilities	**$370,573**
Net Assets	**$56,234**

EQUITY	
Retained Earnings	$58,709
Current Earnings	($2,475)
Accumulated Funds	$56,234
Total Equity	**$56,234**

Notes to statements:

L2R Next Gen Inc. is a Registered Cultural Organisation.

The financial information above is an extract from the 2026 Special Purpose Financial Report (SPFR) as audited by Collins & Co. A copy of the full SPFR is available on request.

MARKETING & ENGAGEMENT
– Jeevika Rajagopal

In 2025–2026, our marketing continued to focus on amplifying the people, programs, stories and opportunities at the heart of L2R. Across social media, email, our website and community partnerships, we shared the impact of our free programs, social enterprise and pathways for young people.

Our Instagram community grew by 9%, reaching 3,666 followers, with video content featuring our dancers, artists and programs continuing to perform strongly. Facebook remained steady at 1,361 followers, while TikTok grew slightly to 293 followers. We continued to centre young people and artists in our storytelling, creating content that reflects the energy and diversity of the L2R community.

We continued strategic collaborations with partners and supporters such as Chunky Move, with one highlight being the very successful campaign for the Resonance experimental dance battle led by our Igniting Legends interns.

Our email list now includes 598 engaged subscribers, following a significant clean-up and de-duplication of outdated contacts. While this resulted in a 32% reduction in overall subscribers, it gives us a more accurate picture of our audience to build from. Our website attracted 5,918 unique visitors, continuing to connect audiences with our programs, artists and social enterprise.

Looking ahead, we will continue to strengthen our digital storytelling, grow meaningful audience engagement and create more opportunities for our community to see themselves and their stories reflected in L2R's work.

3666 ***Instagram followers*** (up 9% from 3360 in '24-'25)

1361 ***Facebook followers*** (down 0.5% from 1368 in '24-'25)

293 ***TikTok followers*** (up 0.7% from 291 in '24-'25)

5918 ***Unique website visitors from*** July 1 2025 – 30 June 2026





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
– Daphrosa Tuyisabe

Stepping into the role of Programs Manager at L2R Dance this year has been a journey filled with incredible energy, community connection, and creative growth. Over the past year, our programs have continued to provide safe, inclusive, and empowering spaces for young people to express themselves through dance and hip-hop culture.

This year, our team has successfully delivered 12 amazing programs, reaching communities across the western region. From weekly dance classes to incredible performances, these programs have engaged participants of diverse backgrounds, building confidence, leadership skills, and lifelong friendships. Each program reflects L2R's core mission: using the power of dance to break down barriers and foster positive social change.

Behind every successful class, workshop, and performance is our exceptional team of teaching artists. Working with this talented group of creative professionals has been a true highlight of my year. Our teaching artists bring immense dedication, technical expertise, and lived experience to every session. Together, we focused on strengthening our curriculum, supporting artist development, and aiming to ensure that every participant receives mentorship that is both culturally responsive and artistically meticulous.

Shout out to the participants and parents too, it's been lovely to meet them all and have them as part of the L2R Family! Seeing the growth of skill, confidence and comfortability among the new program participants has been so wholesome to see and be a part of.

As we look to the future, I am looking forward to expanding our reach, deepening our impact, and continuing to move forward together more and more.







CORE DANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW
THE WHEN AND WHERE

Lil Pandas
RecWest Braybrook
Foundations

Junior Pandas
RecWest Braybrook
For young people aged 6–8

Senior Pandas
RecWest Braybrook
For young people aged 9–12

Lunchtime Dance Crew
WELS Braybrook
For students aged 12–25

Next Gen Braybrook
RecWest Braybrook
For young people aged 12–25

Next Gen Wyndham
Manor Lakes Community
Learning Centre
For young people aged 12–25

Lil Legends Junior
St. Albans Community Centre
For young people aged 9–12

Lil Legends Senior
St. Albans Community Centre
For young people aged 13–18

Breaking
Tin Shed St. Albans
For young people aged 12–25

Breaking Junior
Tin Shed St. Albans
For young people aged 8–12

Friday Hip Hop
WELS Wyndham
For students aged 12–25

Friday Hip Hop
WELS Braybrook
For students aged 12–25

CASE STUDY

NAOMI
– Program Participant

How long have you been dancing with L2R, and what first inspired you to join?

I've been dancing since I was 7 years old, starting in 2017. I was first inspired to join because I really enjoyed dancing and wanted to learn different styles and new choreography.

What keeps you coming back to L2R each week?

I love the community at L2R and how positive and supportive everyone is. I also enjoy learning new choreography and challenging myself with different movements.

What have you learned through Next Gen/ Lil Legends that you now use in other parts of your life?

L2R has helped me become more creative and taught me to think outside the box. I've learned to focus on small details and movements while also adding my own style and personality.

In what ways has being part of L2R helped build your confidence or changed how you see yourself?

L2R has helped me become more confident in myself and less afraid to express my personality. Performing and dancing in front of others has taught me to trust myself and be comfortable being myself.

What do you love most about hip hop and street dance?

I love how creative and expressive hip hop and street dance can be. There are so many different styles, movements and ways to make choreography your own.

What's your favourite thing about being part of Next Gen/Lil Legends?

My favourite thing is being surrounded by people who enjoy dance as much as I do. I love learning together, improving our skills and having fun as a group.

What makes the L2R community different from other places you've been?

The L2R community is very welcoming, positive and supportive. Everyone encourages each other, and it feels like a place where you can be yourself and grow as a dancer.











GIGS & GROWTH

Creative Producer– Hëna Memishi



Social Enterprise

L2R's Social Enterprise exists to create meaningful employment pathways for young people and emerging artists. 100% of the proceeds from our Social Enterprise are reinvested directly back into L2R making dance accessible to young people.

In FY26 we delivered 26 commercial, corporate and community outputs through our Social Enterprise; generating $82,342 in income for the organisation and 74 employment opportunities for emerging artists.

Artist Camp

At the beginning of every year, our L2R Artists come together for our 'Artist Camp', a 2-day intensive where we workshop and build the new performance show we'll carry throughout the year.

This year, we took a more resourceful approach, rather than building the show entirely from scratch, the camp centred on revisiting and reworking standout pieces from past L2R floor shows, breathing new life into fan-favourite moments while making space for fresh creative additions.

Artist development remained at the heart of the camp, supporting new and old crew to feel stage-ready and equipped with the tools for the full gig process, from initial booking consultation and rehearsal etiquette, to performance protocols, group dynamics and teamwork.

The 2026 Artist Camp proved that revisiting our best work can be just as powerful as building something new - strengthening our foundation for growth, leadership and unity.

Seed Heritage

We were engaged by SEED Heritage to deliver a dance campaign with young dancers aged 9–13, all local talent from Melbourne's West.

We built the campaign from the ground up, starting with a casting brief, followed by an in-person casting. Local musician SWELL came on board to produce an original upbeat funk track for the piece.

I brought in Trace as the assistant choreographer, and we spent a few hours in the studio workshopping choreography and camera blocking.

Once we had client approval, we moved into rehearsals with our 5 talented movers.

The final edit was shot on a white cyclorama, punchy, fun, and full of energy.

This project is a true reflection of who we are – supporting dancers from Melbourne's West, championing local talent, and reinvesting opportunities back into our community.





" L2R's performance was a wonderful addition to the day and helped create a lively, welcoming atmosphere. We truly appreciate the time, energy, and talent you shared with our audience, and the positive feedback from attendees reflected that. "

– City of Greater Dandenong

Feedback from the Keysborough Big Picnic, 2026.

THE L2R EXPERIENCE - LIVE IN CONCERT

L2R Experience is a celebration of the young people who make up our free dance programs. It's a time to come together as a family and share the big stage.

This event is made possible through the generous in-kind support of Creative Brimbank, who supply the Bowery Theatre and front-of-house services.

For 2025, the theme was "Live in Concert," transforming the Bowery into an arena-style concert experience. Our young performers brought the stage to life channelling artists such as Kendrick Lamar, Usher and Bruno Mars, with an iconic cameo from Jacinda as Britney Spears, snake and all!

The L2R Experience is a true highlight of our year, a moment for families to watch their young people shine, and for every dancer to feel the pride and confidence that comes with owning the big stage.

It's this joy, connection and unity that lies at the heart of who we are, brought to life through the power of dance.







IGNITING LEGENDS

Youth Arts Coordinator – Gian De Felipe

This is my first time contributing to the annual report for L2R. I was employed in the middle of 2025 as the Youth Arts Coordinator overseeing the Igniting Legends program.

A bit about me: I was born in Makati City, Philippines and I migrated to Australia with my mum in 2003. I've always been surrounded with dance and music as my parents also partook in hip-hop and street/club dance during their youth in the 80s. In the 90s and 2000s, hip-hop was hitting the mainstream in the Philippines and growing up as a Filipino, our culture has always encouraged kids to sing and dance any chance they get; it was everywhere from TV to school assemblies, programmes and family gatherings. This has helped shape my values as a human being and my passion for dance. I've also done my fair share of travelling to different cities and countries to learn from different people and experience different dance scenes and cultures.

Being the Youth Arts Coordinator for Igniting Legends 2025 cohort has been a fulfilling journey. The program is designed to support young up-and-coming dance artists in taking leadership roles within L2R and encourage them to contribute to the broader street dance community in Naarm, and anywhere else their dance journey takes them. Before taking on this role, I had the privilege to work at some of the program's projects as a DJ, workshop facilitator and panel speaker, and I've always had firsthand experience in seeing what they do and have achieved during their time with the program.

This year we had 5 interns for the Igniting Legends program, and the placements were offered to Ansh Dey, Erikyle Aguilar, Kevin Mach, Paris Jarvis and Xiao Zhu (Kexin Li). Simone Etheve from the previous cohort was also offered a Coordinator Support role, and she has been a massive support throughout the program.

The Resonance event made a great impact on our dance community and I truly believe that it was one of the best battle event activations we had in Melbourne in 2025. We received great feedback from the community and the people we worked with throughout the process of creating and executing the event.



One of the best things about this program is the organisation's ability to be flexible and accommodating to the ideas and needs of the participants. I believe this has been the key component on what this program can do for any up-and-coming dance artists that would like to be a part of it. Each year will always come different as different young aspiring artists will always have fresh ideas and this helps shape what the program is and how we can provide for each cohort. Programs like these can have a ripple effect on the overall street dance community by providing opportunities and paid work for dance artists like us.

My lived experiences in the street dance community and its culture have been an essential part of being able to provide insight and facilitate for our young participants. Experiencing the Youth Arts Coordinator role has been challenging and insightful and I've enjoyed every part of it; I feel privileged to be in this role and to be a part of the L2R team and I always think that this is one of the best jobs I've ever had. If I continue to facilitate for this program as a Coordinator in the future, I can plan the flow of the program better and set things in ahead of time to help us organise ourselves before we offer the roles for future applicants.

– Gian De Felipe
Youth Arts Coordinator

Resonance

In November 2025 the Igniting Legends cohort delivered Resonance, an experimental street dance battle, in partnership with Chunky Move. Resonance was conceived of and delivered entirely by the collective of 5 Legends with support from the L2R team and Chunky Move.

The event was a huge success, with 147 participants and audience members. Feedback from the street dance community included:

> " This provided a great safe space for myself to explore different aspects and elements of myself as an aspiring dancer and look forward to more events similar. Thank you to the team for organising an outstanding event ! "



> " THE MOST EPIC EXPERIMENTAL BATTLE TO EVER HAPPEN IN NAARM! "

New Strat Plan

As we close one strategic chapter and begin another, I feel incredibly proud of how far we have come, and even more excited about how far we can go. L2R has come a long way. We have grown from an ambitious grassroots idea into Australia's only youth hip hop and street dance not-for-profit and social enterprise contributing to the broader arts, education, youth and community sectors. We have strengthened our partnerships, expanded our programs, created new opportunities for artists and young people, and built a foundation from which we can think much bigger.

Our Strategic Plan 2026–2030 asks us to think beyond what we have already achieved and imagine what L2R could become. It gives us permission to dream bigger, take risks, build boldly and stay grounded in the values and culture that have always shaped who we are. The next chapter is not about simply doing more. It is about honoring lineages, going deeper, creating greater impact and challenging what is possible through dance.

We undertook an extensive 14-month community consultation process to inform the development of our new Strategic Plan. This included dedicated planning days with two external consultants, followed by multiple feedback sessions across all of our free dance programs to ensure the voices of our young people, artists, and community were central to the final plan.

Our 2026 Strategy was borne out of our L2R community. We created it with 50+ young people aged 6 – 25 from L2R's free dance programs, 23 Professional and Emerging Artists, 6 staff members, 9 Board members and 2 external consultants. It was made using butchers paper, sticky notes, textas, dance moves, Chupa-Chups, surveys, coffee, whiteboards, generosity, curiosity and joy. We are proud to have created a road-map that reflects the dreams, experiences and future visions of all of our communities.

THANK YOU'S

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