



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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

**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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BOARD

Chair - Harriet McCallum

Treasurer - Angela Ilton

Secretary - Jackie Anders

Members:

Carol Ross
Christian Vasquez
Sarah Luttrell
Craig Rogers
Mike Davis
Vyshnavee Wijekumar
Kirsty Hooper

STAFF

Chief Executive Officer - Jacinda Richards

Acting Chief Executive Officer - Kerstin Paulsen

Youth Arts Coordinator - Efren Pamilacan

Events Coordinator - Hëna Memishi

Marketing & Social Media Coordinator - Alec Pernes

Relationships and Development Manager - Bec Reid

Teaching Artists - Daisuke Benson, Lanie De Castro,
Emily Zdraveski, Alec Pernes, Dennis Pennalligen,
Martin Sedgfield

Emerging Artists - Monday Kunoo, L'wel Gay 'Ligi' Moo,
Nastaran 'Nasta' Ghalghovand, Van Biak 'VB' Thang,
Monica Autiak, Rito Huynh, Lonowon Kokeh

Igniting Legends 2020 Emerging Artists -
Maya Hajizadeh, Jumess Tshishimbi, Van Bawi Liam Sang

Igniting Legends 2021 Emerging Artists -
Stephanie Dixon, Yolande Arinda, Urlik Mageza

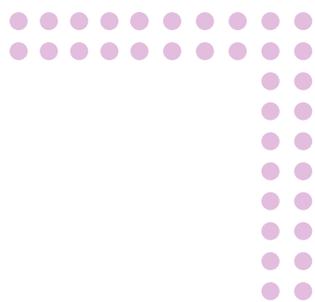
PHOTOGRAPHERS & FILM

Tiffany Garvie, Robert McKechnie, Hëna Memishi,
Kimberley Summer, Sam Wong

Annual Report Designer - Zoë Miller



L2R acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we unite and dance, the Boonwurrung and the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. L2R pays respect to their Elders both past, present and emerging.



COMPANY OVERVIEW

In 2009, Jacinda established L2R Dance (L2R) in the multicultural melting pot of Melbourne’s western suburbs. Starting from humble beginnings, L2R was born out of dance classes Jacinda ran at the Western English Language School (WELS) in Braybrook, Melbourne’s west. The classes gave young people a fun and social aspect to their learning, offering opportunities to make friends and connect in a safe and supportive environment. The organisation is now based at Footscray Community Arts Centre, the largest independent creative precinct in Melbourne’s west. Over the last decade, L2R has formed strong intergenerational relationships and watched participants follow their educational pursuits from primary school right through to university, empowering and inspiring them to give back to their local communities.

L2R is committed to delivering free dance programs, arts leadership opportunities and employment pathways to children, young people and their families who can’t access commercial dance and arts opportunities due to social and or financial barriers. L2R’s purpose is to advance culture through arts and cultural activities, contributing

to the nation’s vibrant cultural life. L2R draws from this history of hip hop culture with its aim to empower and critique social issues and tell the stories of our people, lands and cultures through the communal language of dance.

More than just a series of dance classes, L2R is led by the voices of the people it exists for. The organisation promotes social inclusion, mental and physical health, and builds resilience and self-respect by employing creative approaches to break down social barriers including age, race, religion, culture and gender, while promoting respect and resilience in the broader community. L2R aims to actively engage and foster artistic talent in Melbourne’s west while empowering and transforming the lives of young people through the power of dance.

It’s important to note the differences between hip hop dance classes offered in a dance school environment, when compared to the community dance workshops facilitated by L2R. The classes run by L2R do not have a focus on performance or ‘product’ but on process and the ways in which dance, specifically hip hop, can be a vehicle for expression and a means to forge connection and an identity in community.



OUR MISSION

To inspire positive vibes through one language, dance!

OUR VISION

A more inclusive world where people’s lives are enriched through access to the arts.

OUR CORE VALUES



KEY GOALS

- Provide high quality free dance programs in Melbourne’s west for children and young people facing disadvantage as a result of their experience being newly arrived, recent migrants or disadvantaged.
- Create the next generation of community leaders by connecting children and young people to services, enabling them to participate in a meaningful way to civic life.
- Create pathways into employment for young people, including in the arts and community development sectors.
- To make a positive change to the mental and physical wellbeing of newly arrived, migrant, refugee and at-risk children and young people in Melbourne’s west.
- Develop a sustainable model for delivering the L2R program that is adaptable to the changing needs of young Victorians.
- Develop and support L2R’s emerging and professional artists.

STAFF

L2R's headquarters are proudly located at the vibrant Footscray Community Arts where we sublease with cohealth Arts Gen. In L2R's office we have four part-time employees including Jacinda Richards (Founder & CEO), Kerstin Paulsen (Acting CEO), Efren Pamilacan (Youth Arts Coordinator), Hëna Memishi (Events Coordinator) and Bec Reid (Relationships and Development Manager).



CHAIR NOTES - HARRIET MCCALLUM

What an honour it is to Chair L2R, such a tenacious, ambitious and exciting grassroots arts organisation.

It is important to acknowledge the significant impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on our arts sector and all the amazing creatives that make the arts accessible to everyone. Because of this impact, the L2R team has used its core strength of connection and belonging to create and hold the spaces that supported everyone in the L2R fam.

While prioritising wellbeing, the L2R team has continued to work hard providing the dance and performance, learning and development, connection and partnership opportunities in the precious time that was available. Despite the limitations, L2R continued to grow and smash its strategic goals.

The L2R fam kept dancing online and producing exciting choreographies that spread those L2R positive vibes to new audiences well beyond Melbourne's west, yet still undeniably representative of our roots. L2R danced together and in the community whenever restrictions allowed, reigniting our community-based programs and keeping our fee for service offerings alive and kicking. Our Igniting Legends Program rolled with the punches, exposing our emerging artists to new and exciting experiences that allowed them to hone their artistic skills and interests. A huge congratulations to team members Hëna and Efren for their tireless work and commitment to achieve all of this. A very big thank you to our teaching artists Nasa, Emily, Dai, Lanie, Alec, Lonowon, Ligi, Maya, Van Biak, Van Bawi, Jumess, Monday, Monica, Nastran and Rito.

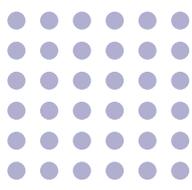
In 2020–21 the L2R team grew. Thanks to triennial funding from Maribyrnong City Council, L2R created a new Relationships and Development Manager role and the indefatigable Bec Reid joined the team. Bec has grown L2R's already exciting list of funders to include state and federal funding bodies and we have welcomed wonderful, new philanthropic partners to our community. A huge thank you to all our existing philanthropic funders who supported L2R through the last year and to those who have joined us at this exciting stage of L2R's development.

As with every year of L2R's existence, our founder and CEO Jacinda Richards was the guiding light and creative force for the organisation. Jacinda led the team through these full-on months while pregnant with babe #2. Since Jacinda has been on parental leave, L2R has been so fortunate to have the experience and capability of Kerstin Paulsen in the Acting CEO position, taking the team from strength to strength.

I want to thank all of the L2R Board members for their commitment and teamwork over the last year, Angela Ilton, Jackie Anders, Christian Vasquez, Sarah Luttrell, Carol Ross, Craig Rogers, Mike Davis, Kirsty Hooper and Vyshanvee Wijekumar. I wish to acknowledge the contributions and dedication of Kirsty and Vyshanvee who completed their Board terms in 2020–21 and welcome Jackie Anders, our new Board Secretary.

It's amazing to be celebrating such a successful year in the life of L2R given how hard it was. As this annual report shows, L2R has been unflinching in delivering on its strategic plan and ambition. We know this organisation already achieves greatness, and we are so ready to take it to the next level.

- **Harriet McCallum, Chair**



CEO NOTES - JACINDA RICHARDS



Over the last twelve months this calamitous health pandemic has immobilised humans across the globe and drastically impacted our beloved arts sector. I am extremely proud to be part of an organisation that has forged exciting and creative ways to ensure we mobilise through dance and stay connected to our mind, body and community. I want to send solidarity and compassion to artists and our many arts partner organisations. I thank them for their tireless commitment to a creative led recovery, ensuring Australia’s vibrant cultural life will survive and thrive beyond Covid-19.

It goes without saying, L2R’s part time team of staff, Hëna, Efren and Bec and seven professional teaching artists are a dedicated bunch of legends that constantly inspire my leadership. I want to recognise that many of them have had their own personal dance and creative arts careers halted which I can only describe as heartbreaking. However, these unique and determined creatives have continued to deliver fun, meaningful and impactful programs and performances through the language of dance. Epic!

Hëna has done a tremendous job developing our fee for service which has increased artistic excellence, consistency and professionalism. This allows us to better support our artists while opening up exciting new opportunities such as the NGV Triennial collaboration. This was a fabulous way to unite the team at the end of a difficult year, setting the tone for things to come.

Efren’s patience, passion and creative guidance to our young peeps on paid internships through the Igniting Legends Program is remarkable. With constant lockdowns his commitment to the delivery of this program in a digital space has had an enormous and positive impact on our Legends by providing economic support, accountability and a safe space to turn up, learn, be heard and create.

At the beginning of 2021, L2R achieved a huge milestone with the support of Maribyrnong City Council’s Triennial Arts funding. We expanded the fam and appointed long-time ally and legend Bec Reid as our Relationships and Development Manager. Bec works collaboratively with myself, Efren & Hëna to help us grow to the next stage of organisational development with focus on strategic areas, Hustle and Legends.

Thursdays are a breath of fresh air because Legends are in the HQ. I absolutely adore the banter & creative chaos, making my heart sing while constantly reminding me of L2R’s values. The growth and development of these 12 inspirational young leaders ensures me that L2R is driving real change through dance and staying true to its mission. I have known many of these special humans for 5–10 years and the interpersonal bonds are strong. I absolutely adore my time supporting them to unpack the world through dance.

I would like to acknowledge and say thanks to L2R’s Board of directors for their continued support and enthusiasm. Their breadth of skills & passion is such an important part of L2R’s ability to continue to thrive in such uncertain & wobbly times. A special shout out to L2R’s Chair Harriet McCallum who goes above & beyond to patiently lend guidance & mentorship to me as I build operational knowledge in my creative brain.

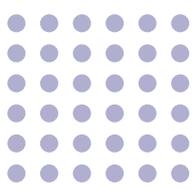
A huge fist bump to our 93 participants and their families from across our core free dance programs who make up the ever expanding L2R fam. We are here with you through these challenging times and we are committed to inspire positive vibes through one language, dance!

To wrap up this incredible year we appointed the wonderful Kerstin Paulsen as Acting CEO to keep the seat HOT while I grow my own maternal family. Kerstin is kind, caring and a mega boss lady. We are extremely lucky to have such a powerhouse leading us throughout 2021. You go girl!

So, what’s next? So much. Buckle up!

Bec Reid sums it up perfectly – ‘L2R is zeitgeist!’

- Jacinda Richards, CEO



ACTING CEO NOTES - KERSTIN PAULSEN



It's been inspiring to step into Jacinda's hot seat while she is on maternity leave, and we are all thrilled to welcome baby Frank to the L2R fam!

In 2020/2021 the pandemic wasn't holding us back and we connected 93 participants with the power of hip hop, inspiring our next generation of emerging artists at over 124 classes both physical and online. In Term 1 2021 our physical classes were fully booked at Rec West; it was such a good vibe to see everyone groovin' and connecting again.

L2R performed at over 28 events — offering a vast diversity of experiences from high profile City Sessions at Sidney Myer Bowl, shooting a television commercial at the National Gallery of Victoria, to connecting with our core community at Be Bold Festival in St Albans and an online program at Refugee Week in Melton. These events not only brought joy to the community after the year that was, but also resulted in the direct employment of over 13 emerging & professional artists.

Since we emerged from lockdown our new floor show has been performed eight times and is fresh, fun and full of good vibes. Audiences danced with us at City Sessions, and we felt the love and respect of our community. With the support of our resilient community, our work continues to grow exponentially each year and we are delighted to have moved into the medium sized charity category.

I thank the members of the Board and Chair Harriet McCallum for their support and leadership in my first few months as Acting CEO of this small, but mighty organisation. My heartfelt thanks go to all our talented staff and to the extended L2R fam, including the incredible artists who keep us moving week after week. On behalf of all of us, thank you to the participants, and to our supporters who inspire us to strengthen and grow L2R each year. We are ready to plan our biggest year of celebration yet – in 2021/2022!

- Kerstin Paulsen, Acting Chief Executive Officer

RELATIONSHIPS & DEVELOPMENT REPORT - BEC REID



After riding the Ronacoaster throughout 2020, I was deeply honoured to formally join the L2R family in the new role of Relationships and Development Manager in January 2021. Through the significant triennial investment from Maribyrnong City Council, L2R has been able to create this new role forming another key component of the organisation's structural development. It's super timely as L2R steps into the next chapter of its life.

It was also a lovely coalescence of the personal and professional, as I'd been a sincere fan of L2R since its inception, admiring Jacinda and the team for their tenacity, grace and authenticity. I also come from dance, so I was firmly in the wheelhouse and energised to advocate for the power of dance and L2R.

The remit was clear, to nurture existing stakeholder relationships, build new artistic and fiscal relationships and basically I was determined to get the name "L2R" across as many decision makers' roundtables and 'home office' emails as possible. The goals have been across income diversification, artistic advocacy and increased organisational awareness.

The Cashola

Bull out of the gate, within the first six months of the role from January to June 2021, L2R lodged 14 investment submissions, (approximately one every fortnight) and secured \$65,000 of new income into the organisation. A focus has been to attract investment from local, Victorian and Australian Governments. L2R has a strong track record throughout the philanthropic landscape, so an internal target was set to increase government investment from 10% to 20% of the organisation's annual turnover. In short, we are on track. For the first time in the organisation's history, L2R has now secured investment from the Victorian State Government's arts and cultural body, Creative Victoria and the federal arts body, The Australia Council for the Arts. Local MP Tim Watts has also endorsed L2R to receive investment through the Federal Stronger Communities program.

The Art

This role has also been able to participate in broader artistic conversations sharing L2R's values, methodologies and art. In collaboration with the rest of the staff, this role is able to dream into artistic possibilities and plan resourcing pathways to make the art come to life. It's a specific magic to the role and the alchemy of the team.

New Connections

L2R has now connected with publicist Ben Starick from Starling Communications to begin a long-term relationship. Ben shares L2R's values and is now standing by to publicise organisational opportunities as they are mutually identified. In L2R's quest to grow beyond Melbourne's west, new conversations with local councils in Shepparton in regional Victoria and Frankston in Melbourne's outer east are also in train for L2R's artists to deliver workshops and performances with more young people throughout Victoria.

In short, it's been fantastic and this is all after only six months. The Resources and Development Manager role has complimented the rest of the team by energetically backing them, sharing the Ronacoaster ride, sharing a commitment to L2R and the belief for every body to have access to a creative life.

With love.

- Bec Reid, Relationships & Development Manager

YOUTH ARTS COORDINATOR REPORT - EFREN PAMILACAN



June - Dec 2020

In the midst of Victoria's lockdown peak, the second half of 2020 was a heavy moment for everyone. During this time the 2020 Igniting Legends cohort of emerging artists Jumess Dinanga, Maya Hajizadeh and Van Bawi Liam Sang stayed connected as the program's activities were shifted online. They learnt about the creative industry through talks, film and movement workshops. August brought a refreshing pace into the weekly sessions with the introduction of artist mentors to the program. The professional artists were musician/bboy Leon Gillette, spoken word/performing artist Ileini Kabalan and choreographer Nadia Tornese.

Together with filmmaker Kimberley Summer, the emerging artists spent the last part of 2020 developing skills within their practice and ideas for their individual film projects. Throughout November and December we took every safe opportunity to film these projects and bring them to life. Jumess's spoken word piece saw us on location at Werribee Park capturing her within all the amazing scenery, Maya's shoot was a journey through Melbourne's laneways as she danced within the urban environment, and Van Bawi's shoot brought us inside Dancehouse, collaborating alongside Leon Gillette in a drums n' breaks visual piece. I'm incredibly proud of the emerging artists of 2020 who've gone through such difficult circumstances yet still achieved their program goals.

January - June 2021

A new year brought with it a refresh to the Igniting Legends Program. Through an open call for expression of interest within L2R participants. The team identified three new emerging artists; Yolande Arinda, Stephanie Dixon and Urlik Mageza.

During the start of the program, we took time to look at what it means to be an artist and where someone stands as 'emerging'. From here, a clearer idea of what the program could mean for them could be envisioned. A suite of 'Job-readiness' is part of the induction where the emerging artists wrote their first bio and acquired items such as Working with Children Checks, Superannuation accounts, Tax file numbers and formulated CVs.

With places and spaces slowly opening, it was amazing to be back face-to-face again. After spending the past months reconnecting with L2R in this new capacity, I took the opportunity to familiarise emerging artists with what Melbourne has to offer in the arts, planting inspiration seeds for pathways. The activities included:

Photoshoot w/ Hëna Memishi

We kicked off our first week with an amazing photoshoot with the talented Hëna Memishi. We spent the day touring around the inner west; heading to locations such as Whitten Oval and Pipemakers Park.

NGV - Triennial

Our first tour was experiencing the Triennial exhibition at NGV. We had great conversations about what it means to make art, why people make art and how it relates to them, directly or indirectly. A highlight was Atong Atem's exhibition.

Dancehouse

Through our ongoing relationship with Dancehouse, we were offered tickets to a double bill of two amazing and contrasting contemporary dance performances: Memoria del Cuerpo Vivo by Gabriela Green Olea & Oscar Poncell, and MOTH by Aimee Schollum. This introduced them to a world of dance that is highly technical, participatory, and political. Many conversations ensued that night and the weeks after. For most of them, this was their first experience of contemporary dance, outside of community practice.

Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Over two weeks we explored the city's laneway venues checking out two great shows as part of the MICEF, Emo - Black Santa and Aurelia St. Clair - Woke 2.0. These shows were curated so the emerging artists could experience other emerging artists of colour in different art forms. There were great discussions after these shows about how their performances went. The emerging artists also discussed how some jokes hit whilst others didn't. This created a great space to talk about the concept of 'failure' as lessons building blocks towards success.

City Sessions

Thanks to the amazing support from Art Centre Melbourne's First Call Fund, L2R was able to access a bus to transport participants from our programs in the west to Sidney Myer Music Bowl to experience City Sessions. The event was a huge celebration of street dance in Melbourne.

For the emerging artists it meant witnessing the vibrant dance communities that are around them, on a prominent stage. Instilling the notion of individual and collective power.

VCA - Melb Uni

Keeping our connection with VCA Dance, we were invited to a presentation night of their third-year students at Testing Grounds. Just like Dancehouse, this brought another perspective of what dance can do. We watched the students weaving in and out of the grounds through contact improvisation and choreography. We also had a great chat about Stephanie's journey so far at VCA, as one of the first intakes from a purely street dance background.

YIRRAMBOI

Aligning with L2R's efforts to develop First Nations knowledge and form connections within the arts, the cohort attended two events during Yirramboi Festival. First, we ventured to the Capitol Theatre to watch a series of works centred around First Nations perspective as part of Blak Fillums.

To finish up our interaction with the festival we had the privilege of attending Ziggy Ramo's Black Thoughts at Melbourne Recital Centre. This was one of the most powerful shows we have witnessed.

After a few months of getting to know the emerging artists, exploring the wider arts sector, and engaging with artists, institutions, and festivals we collectively identified interests to explore through the Igniting Legends Program model *Dream. Explore. and Reflect.* The next step will be tailoring a more curated approach on how to engage the cohort. This will include partnering with artist mentors for creative development, as well as beginning to think about what videos they'd like to create with Kimberley Summer. Exciting stuff ahead! Watch this space.



EVENTS COORDINATOR REPORT - HËNA MEMISHI



After the tumultuous year that was 2020, the L2R fam showcased resilience and the importance of a united community. Covid had a huge impact on the arts and many performers were left to hang up their sneakers and put their dreams on hold. This year I really felt the importance of my role as L2R's Events Coordinator and wanted to focus on creating job security and income for our artists through our fee for service stream.

This financial year I'm proud to say we had 28 bookings, with a total revenue of \$30,789.28 smashing our target of \$23k! With 20% of this income going back into L2R to keep us operating and grooving and the remaining 80% goes directly towards employing our artists.

This wouldn't be possible without the hard work and passion of our team and reflects how the arts plays such a big role in uniting community. A huge part of smashing our goals was new and exciting high-profile collaborations with Arts Centre Melbourne, MPavilion's carpark takeover and the AFL Unity Cup.

In 2020, L2R was fortunate to collaborate with the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) to create the promotional television commercial for their Triennial exhibition. A team of nine L2R artists including professional, emerging and children from Panda Squad responded to numerous works including those of Koons and Refik Anadol. This was a dream collaboration and was a monumental experience. It was also ground breaking to be the first to breakdance inside the NGV! We look forward to our community taking over more of these types of public spaces.

This year we have grown our connection and partnership with the Mushroom Group's outreach program, On Track. Together we have delivered four school holiday programs across Brimbank and the Melton regions. On Track focuses on DJing and MCing which are part of the five elements of hip hop (DJing, MCing, Breakdancing, Graffiti and Beatboxing), this is such a perfect fit for L2R and we are excited to continue this partnership and work with the Mushroom Group to expand to regional Victoria in 2022.

We are looking forward to Melbourne slowly reopening so we can continue to use the arts to connect and strengthen our community, creating more training, development and employment opportunities for our artists.

As Covid forces us to move towards a digital world, my focus was continuing to build a larger online presence and broaden our reach. With the support of L2R I did some professional development and completed a short course in Content and Social Media Marketing at RMIT. This course levelled up my skills and gave me the tools to deliver a content and social media plan.

In 2020, we had 1,859 Instagram followers and in July 2021 we reached 2,170 which is 17% growth, exceeding our goal of 10% growth.

Next year our focus will be on collaborating with local creatives and brands to create art and content that highlights the unique voices of our community.

- Hëna Memishi, Events Coordinator

NEXT GEN 3019



Next Gen is one of our core free dance programs for young people aged 12–25yrs. I lead this program with the support of our professional artists who rotate on a fortnightly basis.

L2R has such importance in our community, especially for a young person in today's climate.

Next Gen is not only a free weekly dance session, but also a safe space with an open-door policy aiming to improve a sense of belonging and collective identity through self-expression and creativity. We are a collective who support each other, we hold space to share our stories and for unique voices to be heard.

This past year we have had 33 young people participate in this program, 16 are long term L2R fam. I had fears of low participation, as it had been a year since we had in person classes. However these numbers positively reflect the impact we have on young people and the importance of our weekly classes.

After running online classes for most of 2020 we were super excited to start fresh in 2021 with a brand new location, Rec West Braybrook. We felt as though we had outgrown Visy Hub and it was time for a new home.

We now run Panda Squad, Next Gen and Breaking at Braybrook out of Rec West, creating consistency across our org, which allows the Panda Squad to Next Gen pipeline to run smoothly.

A major part of L2R's delivery model is to strengthen our connection to Western English Language School (WELS) and to ensure we are supporting access to newly arrived young people.

This was another reason why Rec West is a great location, as it's within walking distance from WELS. In 2020, we had five WELS participants and this year we had 16 WELS participants. This big leap in numbers clearly shows the positive impact of the new location.

I look forward to continuing to build and nurture this program, by using street dance as a vessel to enrich the lives of young people. I'm excited by the next generation of leaders in Melbourne's west.



TREASURER'S REPORT

- ANGELA ILTON

As the Treasurer of L2R Dance I always enjoy my job of presenting the financial reports. Even in a year that continued to challenge the very essence of the core business, L2R Dance applied learnings from 2020 and elevated to keep working around the brick wall the arts, education and entertainment industry was again up against during the next wave of Melbourne lockdowns.

During the year, L2R Dance leadership team reviewed the year that was and undertook to redefine strategic priorities. Dreaming of big ambitions and having a renewed energy is evidenced in the financial statements. The team pursued targets for work and fee for service opportunities, new grants and enhanced relationships and maintained true to the value and commitment of reaching communities and young people.

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 2020 to 30 June 2021, as audited by Collins & Co.

The finances tell a great story:

Income remains relatively stable with prior year, however the make up of those earnings is from new and varied sources as an active pursuit to minimise risk:

- A key service of L2R Dance is in self generating revenue streams, via fee for service. Every opportunity was taken to secure paid performances in between lockdowns. An amazing 28 gigs, equating to revenue over \$30k. Most importantly 90% of this income represents employment and performance opportunity for L2R artists which we will continue to drive out of Covid-19. (Read more in Hëna's report.)
- As with the prior year, our philanthropic partners continue to be our major funding source (including multiyear commitments) and are encouraged by the new and creative ways the L2R crew persistently deliver services and engage with communities. Special thank you to our long term foundation partners Besen Family, Shine On, Sydney Myer, Dyson, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and William Buckland. (See full list of funding partners.)

- Due to multiyear funding, cash balances (refer to cash on hand line item) are healthy and reflect earnings relating to the upcoming and future year's programs and campaigns. We represent these in the financial statements as committed grants for future.
- A key pursuit has been to build relationships and tap into available grants across all levels of government, leading to an increase of government sourced funding almost tripling on prior year. Thank you to all including Australia Council, Creative Victoria and Maribyrnong City Council.
- We are grateful for our access to Federal, State and local government Covid-19 relief payments in excess of \$77,000 which helped to ensure some financial stability for employees, teaching staff and the continued delivery of core programs via social media and virtual activities.

On the main, expenses remained similar to prior year with some exceptions outlined below:

- Specific investment in the newly created role of Relationships and Development manager, Bec Reid, ultimately leading to a more robust and diverse pipeline with a significant increase in funding applications. (Read more in Bec's report.)
- With consultation, an independent industrial relations laws review was undertaken on contractors to identify any exposures or obligations to superannuation payments. The board took the decision to support a voluntary self disclosure to the ATO during the Government's superannuation guarantee amnesty without risk of further penalties.
- Wages relating to management and community were boosted with Job Keeper government incentives and passed directly through to employees.

You just can't help but love the way this organisation runs. An arts org with a big heart focused on doing good in the community and a smart head for business, committed to governance, integrity, accountability and good money management. A great endorsement to the commitment, motivation and empathy of on-the-ground leaders; Jacinda, Kerstin, Bec, Efren, Hëna and the ever present, always engaged, emerging leaders, teachers and performers.

- Angela Pisa Ilton, Treasurer

FINANCIALS

L2R Next Gen Inc.
Registration number: A0060710N

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Income:	
Fee for service	\$30,789
Government funding	\$89,500
Philanthropic grants	\$198,000
Miscellaneous fundraising & income	\$15,040
add: Committed grants from prior year	\$130,982
less: Committed grants for future	(\$223,688)
TOTAL:	\$240,623

Covid-19 Government Incentives:	
Business support	\$25,000
Cash Boost support	\$12,258
Job Keeper payments	\$41,400
TOTAL:	\$78,658

TOTAL INCOME: **\$319,281**

less: Service Delivery Expenses:	
Community wages & oncosts (incl. Job Keeper)	\$78,056
Program & performance expenses	\$13,210
Teaching artist fees	\$34,057
Emerging artist fees	\$23,306
Marketing & communications	\$21,688
Training & development	\$6,337
TOTAL:	\$176,654

Management & Accountability	
Management wages & oncosts	\$89,366
General administration & overheads	\$18,254
Compliance and reporting	\$11,603
Voluntary Disclosure - Superannuation Amnesty	\$28,444
TOTAL:	\$147,667

TOTAL EXPENDITURE: **\$324,321**

OPERATING PROFIT **\$5,040**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 30 JUNE 2021

Current Assets:	
Cash on hand	\$302,842
Accounts receivable (Covid-19 assistance)	\$2,211

Non-Current Assets:	
Office equipment	\$3,560
Accumulated depreciation	(\$3,340)
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$305,273

less: Current Liabilities	
Grants received in advance	\$223,688
Accounts payable	\$13,836
Provision for annual leave	\$9,181
TOTAL LIABILITIES:	\$246,705

NET ASSETS: **\$58,568**

EQUITY: ACCUMULATED FUNDS: **\$58,568**

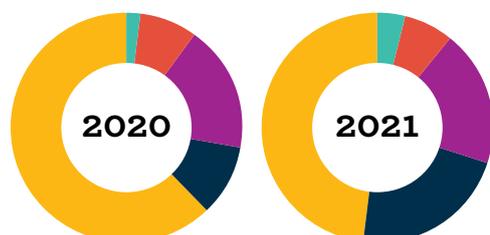
L2R PERFORMANCE REVENUE IMPACT

Fee for service:

2021 - 28 gigs	\$30,789
2020 - 25 gigs	\$23,687
2019 - 33 gigs	\$31,295
2018 - 21 gigs	\$16,180

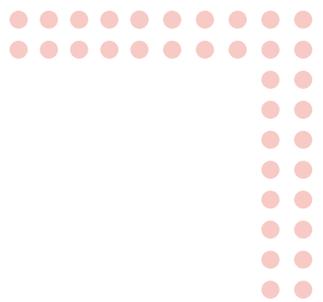
Emerging artist earnings:

2021	\$23,306	
2020	\$21,815	
2019	\$15,721	
2018	\$9,568	



INCOME SOURCES

- Fee for service 8%(2020)/7%(2021)
- Covid-19 assistance 18%(2020)/19%(2021)
- Philanthropic grants 62%(2020)/48%(2021)
- Donations & fundraising 2%(2020)/4%(2021)
- Government funding 10%(2020)/22%(2021)



STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 - 2025

Strategically L2R is still pivoting from a focus on increasing program delivery and participation to retention of our current young peeps through high quality and meaningful arts engagement opportunities. While restrictions are in play, L2R's priority is a creative-led recovery with a focus on equity so that everyone can play a part in future proofing the arts sector for the next generations.

In February 2021 we held a planning day to expand on our Strategic Plan 2020–2025. The planning day looked at big picture ideas for growth, sustainability, program diversity and accessibility, L2R headquarters expansion, as well as brand development and recognition.

L2R's values and mission held fast and, in many ways, because L2R has stayed true to its core business, it weathered the Covid storm of 2020–2021 relatively well and could plan for more growth and expansion.





STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT

SUSTAINABLE RESILIENT BUSINESS MODEL

- Strong social enterprise
- New multi-year philanthropic funding
- New corporate sponsorship
- Arts partnerships with institutions and national festivals

PEOPLE

- New staff – Marketing (PT), Youth Worker, Finance Manager (PT), increased FTE for existing roles.
- Social Enterprise/diversified funding
- Professional development and leadership

PROGRAM

- Program delivery beyond the west: Shepparton, Geelong, Dandenong, Melton/Wyndham
- Local crews to support and deliver true L2R outcomes
- Artistic development and commissioned work
- Continued development with First Nations artists

L2R HOMEBASE

- A flexible, adaptable youth arts space
- Own or collectively own with other like-minded orgs

TAPPED INTO ALUMNI

- Advocacy for our programs

DIVERSIFIED STUDENT PIPELINE

- Positive youth development
- Strong referral networks
- Integrated into schools in the west

MONITORING & EVALUATION

- Track operational performance
- Drive learnings
- Demonstrate impact
- Storytelling

STRUCTURED ANNUAL MARKETING PROGRAM

- Global/national relationships and brand recognition
- High-profile L2R ambassadors
- Rewarded for excellence
- Shared storytelling and evidence of impact
- Marketing Manager to own and drive



MONITORING & EVALUATION

In early 2021 we engaged a consultant, Diana Baker from Hau Meni & Associates Pty Ltd, to create a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF) to support us in implementing our Strategic Plan 2020–2025.

The new framework builds on the values, programs and activities developed through the strategic planning process. The MELF makes use of existing data and introduces tools that can do ‘double time’ such as facilitate a learning process, promote teamwork or self-reflection in addition to monitoring effectiveness of the program.

L2R has developed three end-of-program outcomes which are interlinked and together contribute to realising L2R’s vision.

They are:

1. **Community empowered and enriched through dance**, by providing free dance classes to youth and children;
2. **Leadership strengthened and pathways into the arts cultivated**, by providing mentoring and leadership opportunities to emerging artists; and
3. **Authentic diverse expressions of art showcased and promoted**, by connecting to the wider community through gigs and showcasing L2R’s work.

Since March, L2R staff, teaching and emerging artists participated in two interactive monitoring and evaluation workshops. Everyone got up and literally learnt how to think more on their feet and now feel more ownership over how L2R functions.



SOCIAL IMPACT

- 7 free weekly dance programs
- 4 part-time staff
- 7 professional dance artists from culturally diverse backgrounds
- 10 emerging artists employed on a regular basis
- 6 emerging artists employed on paid internships
- 8 highly skilled, professional and diverse board members
-  participants that represent over 27 different cultural groups
-  participants that reside in Melbourne's west including Maribyrnong, Brimbank and Wyndham local government areas
- 28 performances at community festivals, events and corporate engagements
- 24+ funding and delivery partners
-  644 community mail subscribers
-  2,173 Instagram followers
-  1,286 Facebook followers
-  Since 2015, over 3,602 free dance classes delivered
- 82 IRL classes delivered across the Panda, Next Gen, Breaking, WELS & Melton programs
- 42 online classes delivered

PARTICIPANT OVERVIEW

WELS:	10 participants
Panda Squad:	29 participants
Next Gen:	33 participants
L2R Wyndham:	On hold due to Covid
Breaking@Braybrook:	18 participants
Melton:	3 participants
TOTAL:	93 participants

Total number of beneficiaries 2015–2021:

2014/2015: 80

2015/2016: 122

2016/2017: 129

2018/2019: 130

2019/2020: 95

2020/2021: 93

Total number of participants throughout 2020/2021: 80

61% of participants speak a language other than English at home

45% of participants were born overseas

24+ different cultural groups are currently represented across L2R including: Afghani, Vietnamese, Ugandese, Burmese, Thai, Persian, Iranian, Pakistani, Chinese/Cantonese, Chinese/Mandarin, Hakna Chin, Zomi Chin, Karen, Urdu, Tibetan, Arabic, Spanish, Japanese, Filipino, Sudanese, Liberian, Congolese, Scottish and Australian

Gender

42% Male 58% Female

Where participants live, work and/or study

Maribyrnong 17%, Brimbank 72%, Wyndham 2%, Moonee Valley 5%, Other 5%





CORE DANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

L2R's seven free weekly hip hop dance programs promote social inclusion, mental and physical health and self-respect by employing creative approaches to break down social barriers including age, race, religion, culture and gender while promoting resilience in the community. L2R aims to empower and promote inclusion by providing a unique 'safe-space' for self-expression, confidence building and skills development in the arts while developing connection and a sense of belonging. The children, young people and families that access L2R programs cannot access commercial dance classes and opportunities due to social and financial barriers.

L2R's free weekly dance programs are delivered across four sites and three local government areas including Brimbank, Wyndham and Maribyrnong. The programs align with the Victorian school term. A successful part of our framework is to have one experienced lead teaching artist who is paired with an emerging artist. The emerging artist learns the ropes, assists with the delivery of the program, builds confidence and increases artistic skills, while benefiting from mentoring by the experienced lead teacher.

Panda Squad

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

Next Gen 3019

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

Wyndham 3029

- Monday 4-5pm, Youth Resource Centre, Hoppers Crossing. For young people aged 12-25

Breaking @ Braybrook

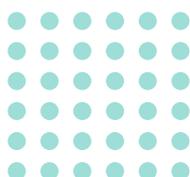
- Friday 4.30-6.30pm, Rec West, Braybrook. For young people aged 12-25

Melton

- Monday 4.30-5.30pm, Taylors Hill Community and Youth Centre. For young people aged 12-25

WELS

- Thursday 3.30 - 4.15pm, WELS, Braybrook. For young people aged 12-18







IGNITING LEGENDS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Led by Efren Pamilacan, L2R's Youth Arts Coordinator, and supported by CEO Jacinda Richards, the Igniting Legends Program places three young people annually who are connected to L2R on paid internships to foster artistic skills and career aspirations in the creative arts industries. Over the past year, L2R has worked with nine emerging artists who represent six different cultural groups – Sudanese, Karen, Vietnamese, Iranian, Burmese, Thai, Ugandan, and Congolese. Most are born overseas, speak English as their second language, have migrant and refugee backgrounds and have been connected to L2R for more than four years. They all demonstrate leadership, passion and commitment to dance, L2R and their cultural communities. We are extremely proud of L2R's exciting and dynamic team of young creative leaders!





IGNITING LEGENDS EMERGING ARTISTS 2021



Urlik Iradukunda

My name is Urlik Iradukunda. I'm 18 years old and an emerging artist based in Melbourne west. I have experience in the creative industry as an actor, model and singer and I'm currently starting my journey as a professional dancer. My journey starts with a young Urlik in the country of Uganda where I was in multiple dance crews and performed with well-known artists in Uganda. I was 10 years old when I started dancing and I have haven't stopped since.

I joined L2R Dance in 2016 and it has been a pleasure to be a part of such diverse and dedicated team. Initially, I wasn't good with hip hop dance as my background is in Afro and dancehall, but I have seen improvements in my dancing and now I am more open to every genre of dance.

To me being an emerging artist is a journey. You hope that you'll find yourself through the journey. As an artist I believe you always have expectations but sometimes it doesn't go as you planned. The entertainment industry is very competitive so it's hard to know exactly where you belong. Acknowledging myself as an emerging artist helps guide this journey towards success. I hope to find my place in the industry whilst building a foundation, working towards my craft and finding my voice.

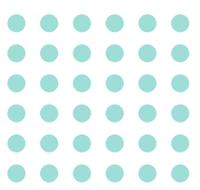


Yolande Arinda

I am Yolande Arinda but most people know me as "Yo" because it's short and sweet. I was born in Uganda and I moved to Australia in 2015. I joined L2R in 2016 after finding out how much I loved learning different types of dance cultures other than Afro-beat. I believe that I have been dancing to music since I was in my mom's womb and that's why i love dancing.

I represent all young females in our society that feel like they have no voice to express their feelings and emotions because of their lack of confidence. I want to show society that there are multiple ways people can express themselves without being judged. That's why I believe I speak through dance and I want more people to know that they can too.

To be an emerging artist to me means being able to learn something new, but as you are learning, try to improve the idea and if possible try to create something unique and different from others with the knowledge gained during this time. In order to do so you must love what you are doing or enjoy what you are learning. I am interested in learning more about public speaking and improving my confidence in front of a big audience.



Stephanie Dixon

I am Stephanie Sorn Dixon but everyone calls me Steph. I am 18, Australian born with Thai heritage. I have multiple interests in the creative arts including dancing, acting and singing but am mainly focusing my journey at the moment as a professional dancer. I originally started dancing in my room watching YouTube tutorials before discovering Kpop and

performing at my high school. Yolande, who I went to high school with introduced me to L2R in 2018 and through that I had been introduced to the amazing world of hip hop dance.

Through L2R I discovered the many different styles within hip hop dance and have had many wonderful opportunities to explore further through performances, workshops, dance battles and am currently undertaking my Bachelor of Fine Arts (dance) at Melbourne University (Formally VCA Dance). For me, dance has created the person I am today. It has aided me to become more confident and ways towards self love/care, I've met many phenomenal and inspiring artists which has allowed me to develop happiness within myself and spread happiness to others within my community.

An emerging artist to me means a creator who never stops learning and growing. Who continues throughout their career discovering who they are and who they want to be as an artist. In this continuous journey there will be moments that will be tough and may cause us to be frustrated with ourselves but that in turn will aid us in pushing us forward to recognise what we want and find the right pathway for us. In saying this I hope to ride this crazy wave of life and take every opportunity to develop my practice and explore who I want to be as an artist.



CULTIVATING LEGENDS & PATHWAYS INTO THE ARTS: Stephanie Sorn Dixon VCA Scholarship

Since 2019, Jacinda and the team have been developing a relationship with the new Head of Dance at the University of Melbourne, Dr Carol Brown to break down barriers for L2R's young dancers to access tertiary education at this world-renowned institution. 'We aim to dissolve boundaries and provide equitable opportunities for dancers from diverse backgrounds inspiring, and catalysing their potential to activate futures unforeseen.' – **Carol Brown**

In 2020, we had our first participant pursue dance in higher education. We are excited to announce that Stephanie Dixon was accepted into VCA Dance in the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, at the University of Melbourne University, with a fees scholarship! L2R and VCA align with our values and responsibilities to foster resilience, creativity and support for the emergence of Australia's next generation of dance artists.

We would like to thank Carol Brown for her commitment to L2R providing creative, dynamic and inclusive dance opportunities to under-represented artists from Melbourne's west. We look forward to the continued development of this exciting relationship in these extraordinary times.

“ We are dealing with so many huge problems in the world at the moment. From the climate crisis, to the call for anti-racism to be acknowledged... dance is such a healing, it's enabling, it's an empowering art form.”

– **Carol Brown, VCA**

“ As a first-year student at VCA, I've had many learning opportunities to grow as a dance artist. While I love being able to progress with different dance styles, I've realised I put a high expectation upon myself to grow faster, to catch up to the other students. So, I have taken some time to not put pressure on myself and enjoy the journey. My favourite class has been street dance. I feel I know a lot about street dance, but the classes at VCA have opened my eyes to the history, culture and some new moves I can now whip out. Due to my timetable I haven't been able to go to L2R's weekly classes. However, L2R's supportive nature, fiery passion and explosive energy continues with me throughout my time in the course. L2R inspires emerging artists like myself, which allows me to share their values and spread these vibes to my peers with bursting flavour. I'm so excited to continue my next two years at VCA and to push myself as an ever-growing artist.”

– **Stephanie Sorn Dixon 2021**

Steph was offered the VCA Directorate Scholarship by Professor Barb Bolt, former Director of Victorian College of Arts.



CITY SESSIONS

In April 2021, a celebration of Street Dance took place where audiences witnessed Australia's best go head to head in a 2vs2 style battle in the genres of Hip hop, House and Funk! A special iteration of a long standing community event which was presented at Sidney Myer Music Bowl as part of Arts Centre Melbourne's Live at the Bowl series.

L2R was a collaborative group amongst other diverse communities that performed and participated in the dance battle. Other acts included House of Dévine, Jungle City, Brothers in Arms and Burn City Waack.

Our teaching artists Daisuke Benson and Alec Steelo were among the participating battlers that took the winning prize in House and Hip hop!

With support of Arts Centre Melbourne, L2R Dance participants were provided access to the event in the form of transport with our very own bus picking up all the young people in the west from our programs. Facilitated by Hēna Memishi who organised the bus, and bringing participants to and from the event. A big thank you to Arts Centre Melbourne for supporting L2R to attend the event through their Community Access Support.





What did you have for breakfast?

I had my usual, big pot of chai tea and a house deposit (avocado on toast).

How would your friends describe you?

Optimistic, sunny and bouncy.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

Only you are responsible for your own generosity.

Describe yourself in three words.

Hopeful, energised and paradoxical.

What's important to you... can you explain your values?

Love. Treat other humans, animals and the planet the way you would like to be treated.

Tell us one thing that no one knows about you?

I love languages so sometimes I practice being an airline host and sharing flight announcements in other languages.

What are your dreams and future goals?

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

In 10 years time I would like to have created a small forest and be an arts philanthropist.

Why is dance important to you?

Because we were dancing before we were speaking and it's a truly universal communication place.

Can you explain to me how and where you practice dancing?

I practice in the lounge room and I host social dances, I perform on stages to encourage other people to move their bodies too.

How does performing make you feel?

The most alive.

Does your cultural background play a role in your dance practice?

Yes, my grandmother ran social dances so I learnt about the importance of dancing in the community from watching her.

Talk to me about hip hop.

What do you like about hip hop?

I love that hip hop is activism and that it was born from a political place so it continues to evolve. My understanding is that hip hop will always be relevant.

What role does L2R play in your life?

I'm the self-elected President of the L2R Fan Club.

What exciting projects do you have coming up?

Making social dance space for young rainbow families.

- Interview by Yolande Arinde



FEE FOR SERVICE STREAM

Total income: \$30,789

Total number of performance & workshop bookings: 28

7% Total income through fee for service

2016/2017: 6%

2017/2018: 9.5%

2018/2019: 18%

2019/2020: 8%

2020/2021: 7%

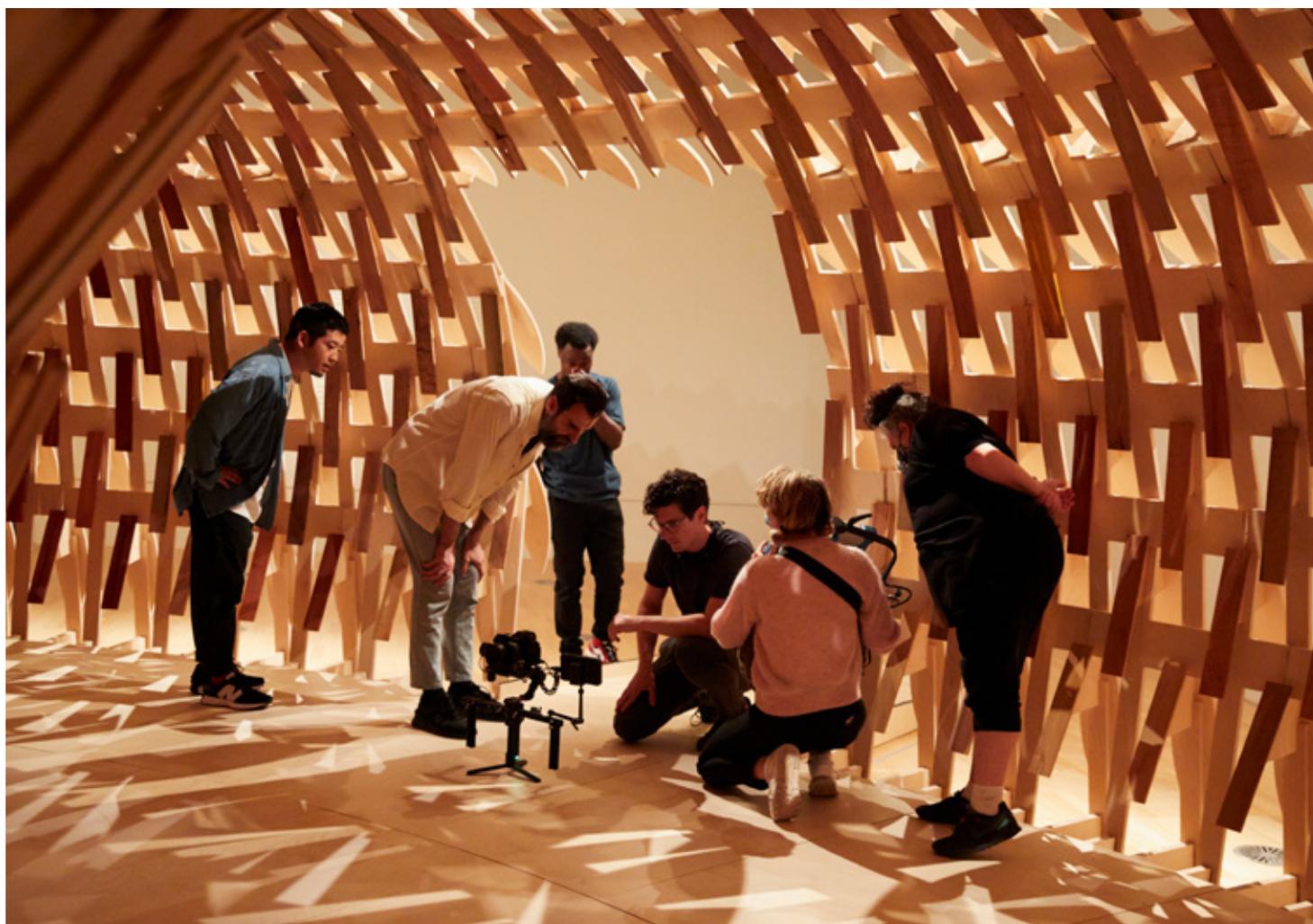
L2R is proud to use dance as a platform to unite community and spread good vibes at some of Melbourne's biggest events and cultural celebrations.

100% of the revenue from our fee for service performances go back into our unique charity that provides opportunities for young people to participate in dance.

100% of proceeds go towards creating social change through dance.

Performance Highlights from 2020/2021:

- NGV Triennial TVC
- City Sessions
- MPavilion
- Arts Centre Melbourne workshops
- AFLW Unity Cup
- Be Bold Festival



NGV Triennial

L2R was thrilled to collaborate with NGV on their Triennial 2020 TVC. Triennial is Australia's most visited exhibition celebrating contemporary art and design.

We used dance to connect the spaces, as we travelled through the gallery and responded to the diverse range of art.

From the freedom of house footwork choreographed by Daisuke and Alec, to the powerful breaking by Lonowon, to the joy of our Panda Squad choreographed by Jacinda.

Together we used street dance and its unique storytelling to take the viewers on an exciting experience throughout the gallery.



MPavilion

MPavilion is Australia's leading architecture commission—a cultural laboratory where the community can come together to engage and share.

We were assigned Parkade Carpark designed by Peter McIntyre to hold an hour-long showcase facilitated by our emerging and professional artists along with our L2R community. This takeover included hip hop dance performances and battles, MCs and a DJ, culminating in an all-in participatory jam session where community members joined in, grooved along and showed off their moves.



Arts Centre Melbourne Workshops

In the peak of lockdown September 2020 and April 2021 we teamed up with Arts Centre Melbourne to bring some digital vibes to the school holidays. LIT STEPS was formed as a free online Zoom workshop for children aged 5–8 years and reached over 430 families.



PRESENTATION PARTNER TESTIMONIALS

“ It was great to connect with L2R to celebrate the city's reopening after lockdown with the second NGV Triennial. L2R went above and beyond the brief, offered a creative and flexible response and delivered exceptional results with the utmost professionalism. We look forward to working with L2R again across the organisation.”

– Melissa Ray, NGV

“ L2R are a vibrant and inclusive performance group with community always at their front and centre. Their workshops encourage confidence, self-expression and teamwork to young people who may not otherwise have a creative outlet. Our school student participants always love their specialised hip hop dance performance and workshop – the artists bring so much energy and passion. We relish every opportunity we can to work with L2R!”

– Alie Pickin, On Track

“ We love L2R Dance! During the school holidays, in the peak of Melbourne's lockdown 2020, L2R's Dai and Lanie brought their explosive energy via Zoom workshops to support over 430 families get down in their homes. Their engagement and enthusiasm is infectious and inspiring. They kept the pace upbeat and encouraged all to participate and dance to their best. L2R Dance bring the vibes!”

– Simon De Lacy-Leacey, Arts Centre Melbourne





L2R MARKETING - 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



It was a bit of deja-vu for L2R Dance in 2021 as the pandemic continued to leave its mark on the Melbourne arts and cultural events scene. But in true L2R style, our crew has been able to throw down, spin and power through with some fancy footwork.

In what was a disruptive year, we're extremely proud of our b-boys and b-girls and their efforts in keeping our community connected and inspired with positive vibes through one language, dance!

With the support of our community, our brand continues to grow exponentially year on year. The highlight of 2021 was our brand collaboration and partnership with NGV Melbourne's Triennial celebration where our crews brought some amazing artwork to life through the power of dance.

It's these types of brand partnerships that get us excited because they give us a clear compass to help navigate these uncertain times and they highlight the power and value of the L2R brand.

Our social community continues to grow, as does our organic and paid social efforts, but it's not vanity metrics we're after – instead our focus is on meaningful connection, positive community sentiment and engagement.

I'm also excited to introduce Alec Pernes who will be joining the L2R fam very soon as our first ever dedicated Marketing and Social Media Coordinator. Alec is intimately familiar with the L2R brand and brings with him a diverse skill set across content creation and marketing smarts that will help us level up our paid, owned and earned marketing efforts in 2022!

So as the YouTube video goes, "...we get locked down, but we get up again!.."

Bring on 2022!

- **Christian Vasquez, L2R Board Member**

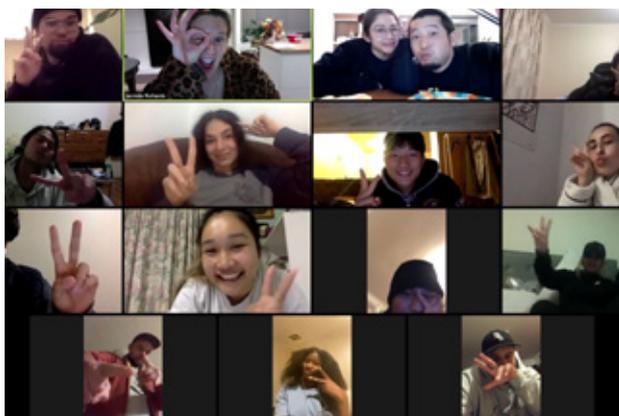


COVID-19

“ I’ve learned to challenge myself. Sometimes I succeed. Sometimes I fail. Life goes up and down. However, now I have an understanding about why I am dancing, what the ‘mental’ side of pursuing my goals is about, not just the physical. Particularly in lockdown, the brain needs food as much as your body, and doing the Legends Program is helping me to feed my brain and grow my confidence. ”

- Maya Hajizadeh

L2R held steady and continued to be led by the voices of the people it co-creates with, moves with & advocates for; Australia’s future creative protagonists.



Despite 2020 being a full year of no physical classes, L2R defied the odds and not only survived but grew the organisation to a medium sized charity. Armed with the power of dance, we were able to maintain a welcoming culture and kept on grooving digitally with over 42 live online classes held over Zoom and Instagram. The kitchen dance party was alive and stronger than ever!

Throughout the Victorian lockdowns, L2R acted as another family and sanctuary, where its values-led practices not only created a joyful escape, but also fostered health and wellbeing.

The Covid-19 pandemic was not the only distressing factor to the year that was. The death of American black man George Floyd on 25 May, and the subsequent resurgence of the #BlackLivesMatter movement highlighted the structural and systemic racism across Australia, including in the health system.

When restrictions were lifted, the organisation rebounded stronger than ever with some incredible high-profile collaborations. L2R was once again able to generate joy, an authentic voice and cultural expression throughout our fee for service work.

Our 2021 programs also returned with a bang and we were fortunate to be back and fully booked for most of Term 1 & 2. With a new Covid Safe Plan, we built a great culture among our young Panda dancers where kids could express themselves safely. The importance of maintaining hygiene and physical distancing was approached in a gentle and fun way with dance bubbles and full body listening.

The Igniting Legends Program continued to work seamlessly with online learning via Zoom and was unique in reflection to the year that was. Support for young people was needed more than ever and L2R was fortunate to be ready and able to provide paid internships for three of our emerging artists, as they navigated the ever-changing world in their personal lives in connection to the currents of wider society.

Our 2021 cohort of Igniting Legends were fortunate to spend the first four months of the program attending a myriad of different shows and art forms, planting inspiration seeds for pathways. Urlik was not familiar with all that Melbourne had to offer, but now feels he has a much broader understanding of the arts and feels more confident about joining the industry.

The pandemic continued to cause disruption for L2R and arts and culture in Australia, and we returned to lockdown 4.0 in May–June 2021. In this unprecedented time, when independent contractors were widely ineligible for government financial support, L2R passed on any government financial support directly to our teaching artists and continued to demonstrate how much we value their ongoing commitment to our work.

L2R continues to pivot our programming work towards digital platforms, and keep programs viable, relevant, and sustainable to the communities we work for. We thank everyone for their dedication and ongoing contribution to L2R in these chaotic times and look forward to bouncing back stronger than ever with our Block Party in 2022.

Even in the lowest moments of lockdown, dance has not just survived, but thrived and our community kept connected with positive vibes, through one language, dance!

FRIENDS

In-kind Contributors and Supporters

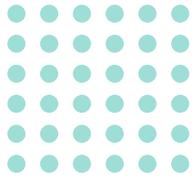
cohealth Arts Gen
Cyclone Creative
Federal Member for Gellibrand, Mr Tim Watts MP
Footscray Community Arts Centre
Maddocks
Melbourne Recital Centre
The Social Studio
Wala Connections
Zoë Miller

Delivery & Presentation Partners

Di Baker
Centre for Multicultural Youth
Mushroom Group
Rec West Braybrook
Western English Language School
Arts Centre Melbourne
Wyndham Youth Resource Centre
Melton City Council
Be Bold Festival
National Gallery of Victoria
M Pavilion
Footscray High School
TAC Unity Cup
Flying Fox
RMIT

If you and/or your organisation would like to donate your time or services to L2R, we'd love to hear from you!





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!





L2RDANCE



L2R_DANCE



L2R_DANCE



L2R DANCE