

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.

Suite 2, 105 Whitehall Street, Footscray 3011

#### **Primary Contact**

Jacinda Richards
Founder & CEO
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#### **BOARD**

Chair - Harriet Mc Callum
Deputy Chair - Craig Rogers
Treasurer - Angela Ilton
Secretary - Jackie Anders
Members - Carol Ross,
Christian Vasquez, Sarah Luttrell
Youth Members - Amelia Vu, Hannah Mahoney

#### STAFF – Current

Chief Executive Officer – Jacinda Richards
General Manager – Lucy Pitt
Community Engagement – Lowell Demitita
Artistic Associate – Hëna Memishi
Marketing Manager – Jeevika Rajagopal
Financial Consultant & Bookkeeper – Tonic Partners

Professional Artists – Lanie De Castro, Emily Zdravevski, Maya Hajizadeh, L'wel Gay 'Ligi' Moo, Tracey Trinh, Nolly Zaa Thang, Nicole Sanders, Monique Nightingale, Gian de Filipe

Emerging Artists – Nastaran 'Nasta' Ghalhghovand, Phil Pham, Yolande Arinda, Urlik Iradukunda, Stephanie Sorn Dixon, Abul Deng, Valasia Makrynakis, Tyrone Palmer, Kihmo Quitentela, Amelia Vu, Ryan Condello, Harel Feliciano 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 within our artistic practice and operational activities and across our broader community resistance and within our artistic practice and operational activities of youth-led movements, community resistance and 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 cultural subversion. L2R gives a shout out (pays respects) to the Pioneers of 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 always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds always promoting always promoting and protecting all children's safety and best interests. We value diversity of all kinds always promoting all children's safety and best interests.



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 artist's voices and story-telling, 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 4,288 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, we truly re-centred the very why of L2R, we exist to make dance accessible to children and young people who face social, financial, or systemic barriers to participating in commercial dance spaces or pursuing a career in dance.

We're doing this at a time when the world is increasingly complex. The cost-of-living crisis in Australia, rising inequalities, and global instability continue to impact the most marginalised. At L2R, we remain committed to ensuring the arts aren't a privilege; everyone deserves access to creative expression, joy, and cultural connection. We proudly responded to growing demand with the launch of two new programs in Wyndham and Maribyrnong, strengthening our commitment to culturally safe, community-first dance spaces in Melbourne's West.

One of our biggest milestones has been seeing our long-term investment in young people as cultural leaders come full circle. I'm thrilled to welcome Amelia Vu and Hannah Mahoney to our Board as Youth Board Members, both of whom have strong connections to L2R as former program participants. This year, like every other, was full of wins, challenges, and big decisions, and I couldn't have navigated it all so gracefully without the unwavering support, optimism, and deep knowledge of the L2R Board and Staff. I'm surrounded by an incredible team whose passion and commitment truly shines, especially when things get tough. A special shout-out to Harriet McCallum for her constant support, wise words, and patience like no other - always responsive, always grounded, and always in

In the middle of it all, we also packed up shop and moved into a new home: a groovey two-storey space at 150 Whitehall Street, Footscray, which now serves as our HQ. It's a cosy hub where we rehearse, dream, and continue developing our artists' skills.

As we look ahead, we've been deeply engaged in grounded community consultation to shape our next five-year strategic plan (2026-2030). It's bold, ambitious, and bursting with dance, joy, and purpose, all informed by the voices of the young people we move with. This next chapter is about scaling our impact sustainably while staying true to the grassroots flavour that makes L2R what it is.

5.6.7.8 - DANCE!

#### – Jacinda Richards

Founder, CEO and Artistic Director - L2R Dance

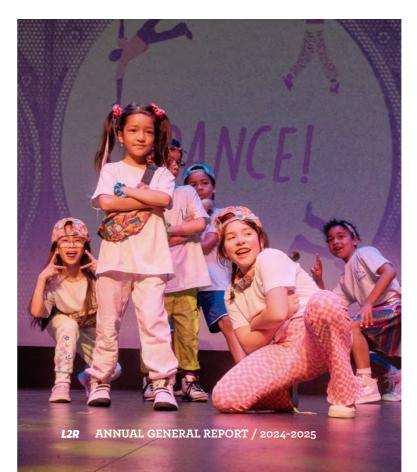
## **CHAIR REPORT** - HARRIET MCCALLUM

More than 10 years in, L2R Dance keeps growing the breadth and depth of its work with the children, young people and communities of Melbourne's West. L2R remains steadfast in its commitment to equalise the opportunities and possibilities of dance. And when we do that, we reveal the energy and talent of the participants and artists that are the lifeforce of L2R.

L2R's 2024-25 year was when we expanded our programs in Wyndham and Maribrynong in response to the growing interest and demand. Our 171 participants were part of almost 350 free dance classes across Melbourne's west. Our community events reached thousands of young people in regional and urban places. Through our free dance programs and gigs, L2R employed 18 young and emerging artists, strengthening L2R's position as a social enterprise.

There were more exciting and beautiful co-lab opportunities with values-aligned partners that saw how the strengths of L2R artists can bring to life their message or brand. There are some wonderful images in this report showcasing this work.

L2R continued to share the incredible outcomes of our programs through the outstanding, original production of I.D., and our always fabulous L2R Experience - the video is a much watch for anyone having a gloomy day!





L2R continues to stretch its ambition and see the potential and possibilities for our participants, artists, team and community. The last year was a time to reflect on how far we have come and look forward to the next five years - how we can sustain what makes L2R unique and successful, while we confidently head towards our next horizon.

Congratulations to the steadfast and creative leadership of CEO Jacinda and the incredible team of Lucy, Hëna, Lowell, and Jeevi. To all our wonderful teachers and emerging artists, your work gives L2R its heartbeat. To the most excellent, committed Board, Craig Rogers, Angela Illton, Jackie Anders, Sarah Luttrell, Hannah Mahonev, Amelia Vu, Carol Pollaro Ross and Christian Vasquez - thank you for all the hard work you put in.

I want to thank each and every one of L2R's funders. You are more than just the critical financial backing we need to do what we do. You are in our corner, you know that L2R makes a real and long lasting difference. We want you to know that the achievements and stories shared in this report do not happen without your partnership and belief in us. You are a very important part of this. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

And, as always to the participants of L2R Dance, thank you for being with us - you are the reason L2R is here, bringing to you the world of dance.

Well done L2R Dance on another cracker year take a bow!

- Harriet McCallum Chair - L2R Dance

# **OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT**

L2R continues to expand its position 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 2024/25, we proudly delivered 349 free dance classes and 9 school workshops throughout Melbourne's West; and employed over 18 young and emerging artists and. A notable change in our 2024-25 figures is the attendance of students at our schools workshops and Fam Jams. At L2R, we champion dance as a means to foster healthier, more connected communities. generating significant social, community, and economic impacts across the region.

#### **Community Impact**

- 10 free weekly dance programs
- 349 free dance classes delivered
- 9 dance programs delivered in schools
- 18 dance artists from culturally diverse backgrounds employed
- Participants from across Melbourne's West including, Maribyrnong, Brimbank, Melton, Mooney Valley, City of Melbourne and Wyndham local government areas.
- 22 performances at community festivals, events and corporate engagements
- 27 West-based delivery partners and funders
- 4,554 free dance classes delivered since 2015



#### **Participant Overview**

Panda Squad - 51 participants Next Gen Braybrook - 29 participants Next Gen Manor Lakes - 13 participants Lil' Legends - 16 participants WELS - 22 participants Breaking @ The Tin Shed - 41 participants School workshops and Fam Jams - 6059 participants

#### Total participants - 6231!

#### **Snapshot of Our Community**

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

46% 18+ 1% **15** of L2R's 3-5+<sub>years</sub> Emerging Artist of participants different cultural of L2R participants Alumni are engagement of L2R program participants. speak a language groups are currently identify as Deaf employed across other than English represented across L2R. or Disabled. our workshop at home. programs. 36% 2 families Gender have children of participants graduating through L2R's were born workshop programs <u>Male</u> 26% Female 26% Non-binary 5% per annum.

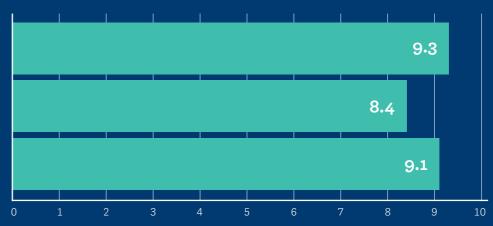
# PROGRAM IMPACTS AND THEORY OF CHANGE

This was the final year of our 2020 - 2025 strategic plan. We continued to work with Culture Counts to undertake in-depth evaluations of L2R programs through both quantitative and qualitative data collection.

L2R has three strategic goals that guide our work, program design, artistic content 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, artists and staff using surveys and feedback sessions to report against L2R's goals.

Participants and artists ranked L2R against achieving our three goals:



Leadership strengthened and pathways in the arts cultivated

Community empowered and enriched by dance

Authentic expressions of art showcased and promoted



- I really enjoy Next Gen because of the extensive dance knowledge I've accrued because of it and the supportive and inclusive environment.
- Next Gen **Participant**
- I really enjoyed practising and performing with this team! We have amazing teachers who challenge us, and who always make sure everything is communicated clearly.
- Next Gen **Participant**

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT / 2024-2025 L2R

# TREASURER'S REPORT - ANGELA PISA ILTON, CA

As Treasurer of L2R Next Gen Inc, I am pleased to present the financial overview for the year ending 30 June 2025.

L2R Dance operates under strict financial standards to maintain compliance with the Register of Cultural Organisations, uphold Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, which enables donors to claim tax deductions, and retain the designation as a not-for-profit entity. This means that any surplus or funding generated is reinvested directly into L2R Dance, ensuring it remains focused on delivering to core purpose.

The financial data presented in this Annual Report has been extracted from the Special Purpose Financial Report for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, as audited by Collins & Co. Please refer to the enclosed statements, or feel free to request a copy of the Special Purpose Financial Report for detailed financial information.

The momentum built in 2024, set the course for 2025, leading L2R Dance to adopt a cautiously optimistic budget. However, the slowdown in the economy and the ongoing cost-of-living pressures affected all grant and performance activities. In response, the Finance Committee and Board committed to continually reviewing and resetting the approach for the year. Much like our response during Covid, our guiding principle was to protect jobs and preserve the core business of running free youth dance classes for those who would otherwise not have this opportunity.

There has been a significant uptake in classes and the programs have expanded to meet demand which further highlights this service as a real need for young people. The decision to invest and secure specific funding and in-kind support for grassroots programs has been well received. Although there was significant slowdown in fee-for-service compared to previous years, the team worked tirelessly to secure meaningful job opportunities for dancers and performers, allowing them to showcase their craft to wider audiences. Thanks to everyone's diligence and focus we have successfully navigated these challenges together.

Importantly, we continue to diversify our funding base, with increased support from all levels of government and new philanthropic partnerships in the private sector.

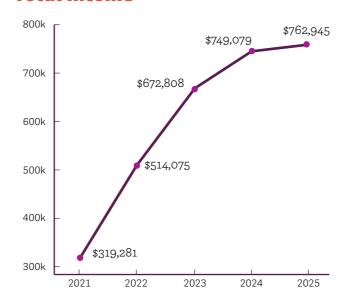
It is truly joyful to feel the energy of the team and to see the values each person brings to L2R's purpose and mission. The support crew shows up every single day, and being part of this team as a board member is an honour and a privilege. I extend heartfelt thanks to our funding partners for believing in L2R Dance's community impact. Your generosity is never taken for granted. Because of your support, and the collective belief in our purpose, L2R Dance remains financially sound and continues to thrive year on year.

#### – Angela Pisa Ilton

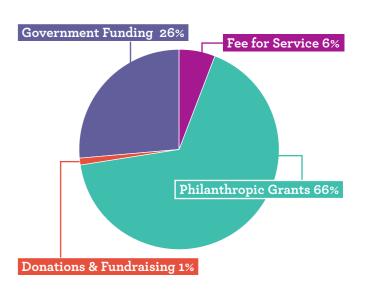
Treasurer - L2R Dance

#### L2R GROWTH STORY

#### **Total Income**



#### 2025 Income Sources



#### L2R PERFORMANCE REVENUE IMPACT Fee for Service





#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

#### INCOME

Total Income	\$762,945
Misc. Income	\$205
Interest Income	\$7,080
Government Funding	\$202,143
Philanthropic Grants	\$500,657
Donations & Fundraising	\$4,340
Fee for Service Income	\$48,520

#### **EXPENDITURE**

NET SURPLUS/

(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR

Total Expenditure	\$757,540
Operating expenses	
Administration and	\$140,598
Marketing and Promotion	\$17,492
Depreciation	\$3,522
Program and Production Costs	\$25,429
Artist Wages, Fees and Oncosts	\$167,028
Management Wages, Fees and Oncosts	\$403,471

#### **AT 30 JUNE 2025**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

#### **ASSETS**

Total Non-Current Assets	\$7,682 <b>\$7,682</b>
Total Current Assets Fixed Assets	\$518,881
Other Current Assets	\$5,580
Accounts Receivable	\$32,206
Cash & Equivalents	\$481,095

#### LIABILITIES

**EQUITY** 

**Total Equity** 

**Retained Earnings** 

**Current Earnings** 

Accumulated Funds

Accounts and Payables	\$47,331
Provisions for Annual and Long Service Leave	\$38,870
Grants in Advance	\$377,775
Other Current Liabilities	\$3,878
Total Current Liabilities	\$467,854
Other Non-Current Liabilities	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities	-
Total Liabilities	\$467,854
Net Assets	\$58,709

# ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT / 2024-2025 L2R

\$5,405

MARKETING & ENGAGEMENT
- JEEVIKA RAJAGOPAL

In 2024–2025, our marketing efforts focused on amplifying L2R's vision to empower young people through dance. We strengthened our presence across social media, community partnerships, and events, driving engagement and visibility for our free programs.

This year, our social media channels grew by 6%, reaching 3360 followers and generating a high level of engagement, with dynamic video content showcasing our dancers and community impact performing strongly. We launched collaborations with local photographers and videographers Kimberly Summer, Avneil Mohan, Estee Ho and Amelia Vu, creating content that helped platform the talents of our young people, resulting in increased audience connection and community interest in our social enterprise and free dance programs.

Our website traffic stayed consistent, supported by regular blog updates, programs information, and a style refresh to the overall look and feel of the website.

Through strategic collaborations with partners and supporters such as Chunky Move, Dancehouse/Melbourne Fringe, Ausdance, Good Ideas Studios and more, we ran successful campaigns for I.D., The L2R Story and The L2R Experience, raising awareness around our programs and L2R's profile in the national youth dance sector.

Looking ahead, our priorities include: expanding our digital content portfolio, growing email marketing engagement, and leveraging new partnerships to reach wider audiences. By continuing to share compelling and powerful stories, we aim to inspire ongoing support for what we do.



\$58,709

\$58,709

Community mail subscribers (up 4% from 850 in 2024)



**Instagram followers** (up 6% from 3179 in 2024)



**Facebook followers** (down 0.3% from 1372 in 2024)



TikTok followers (down 1% from 295 in 2024)



**Unique website visitors from** July 1 2024 - 30 June 2025





# GETTING JIGGY: LET'S DANCE PROGRAMS MANAGER – LOWELL DEMETITA

It has been a roller coaster of a year since the last annual report. We currently have 10 programs running each week during the Victorian school term. Managing these programs has been both easy and challenging, but overall fulfilling.

Our junior programs are thriving, with a growing waitlist. Working with the young people has been rewarding for our teachers as the engagement is high and the energy of the children is full of laughter and smiles.

All teachers are now self-sufficient, able to adapt quickly and deliver strong experiences for participants. We have a pool of 14 teaching artists who, through training with myself and the team over the past year, have shown strong professional conduct in their work.

Our Wyndham program is gaining momentum and building a great dance community. It has also become a space for artists Urlik Mageza and Abul Deng to take the lead and grow in teaching, facilitation, and community engagement.

Next year, I will return my focus to community engagement and explore new ways to connect with the 12–25 age group. This may include researching how to use social media more effectively to showcase dance. I will also work on bridging the gap between our Next Gen cohorts and pathways to becoming a Igniting Legend and or a professional artist, with an emphasis on creating more performance opportunities.



# 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

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

#### Breaking

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

#### Friday Hip Hop

WELS Wyndham For students aged 12–25

#### Friday Hip Hop

WELS Braybrook For students aged 12–25







## **PREET TRIVEDI** NEXT GEN PARTICIPANT

How long have you been dancing at L2R? Why do you like it?

I joined with L2R around March 2024 so I have been dancing with them since over a year. I love dancing here because it's a cool inclusive vibe, the teachers are sick, choreographies are always cool and also challenging. Hip hop here is good because it's a comparatively newer style for me and I've learnt a lot.

#### Do you use any of the things you learn in Next Gen in other parts of your life?

Definitely the confidence, I can see that from when I first joined I was a bit more closed and compact but now I take feedback on board and try and open up my moves which has given me more confidence within dance and outside when it comes to just general vibes with other people. I'm more expressive now as well.

#### How does dancing make you feel and/or inspire you?

I enjoy dancing mainly because I love music and try and make it too. Since I've joined L2R and started hip hop, I've only ever been inspired to make music or listen to music that forces you to get up and groove or dance.

Why do you like street dance/hip hop? What does this particular dance form mean to you and why do you choose it over other styles?

I love that genre of music, the bouncy drums, addictive synths etc so Hip hop and street dance is just a perfect fit to that. Also because I try and make that style of music, dancing to that style makes me enjoy it even more and also helps me learn more about its musicality from a dance perspective too.

#### What's your favourite thing about Next Gen?

The fact that it is open for all levels of experience and that the teachers are super accommodating and supportive. I came in not being sure how it would go but because of the support and push of the teachers and the choreo I now love it and am doing more and more dance.





# GIGS & GROWTH CREATIVE PRODUCER- HËNA MEMISHI

#### **Artist Camp**

In March 2025, we hosted our third annual Artist Camp, bringing together 24 professional and emerging artists to co-create our 10-minute street/club dance floor show.

Over two big days, the camp centred on collaboration, creativity, and artistic exchange. Six L2R Artists led the creation of original choreography beginning with Nic's attentiongrabbing intro, Trace's high-energy hip hop, and the essence of Valasia's choreography, to Monique's soulful house, Urlik's vibrant Afrobeat rhythms, Ligi's explosive breakin' and a fresh LiteFeet addition led by Harel.

These diverse styles were seamlessly woven into a cohesive performance that showcases the collective voice and movement language of our team.

Artist development remained at the heart of the camp, supporting our crew to choreograph group pieces and our Emerging Artists on performance readiness.

The 2025 Artist Camp is a powerful catalyst for growth, leadership, and unity, laying a solid foundation for future performance opportunities.



We reached an audience of over 500,0000 in 2024-25, supported by our work with Moomba, Mecca and Platypus!

#### I.D.

L2R's 2024 creative development, I.D., premiered in October 2024. The work was delivered in partnership with Melbourne Fringe and Dancehouse, generously supported by Melbourne Fringe's Cash to Create program. The work centred on movement as a site of celebration and how self-identity both informs and is shaped by dance.

Created by L2R artist Stephanie Dixon with choreographic mentorship from Lowell Demetita and performed by Nolly Zaa Thang, Phillip Pham and Harshil Vora, the work focused on the ways in which celebration through dance has different manifestations for each dancer – for some it is centred around the legacy of a specific style of dance; for others it is an honouring of cultural identity.

#### **CREATIVE CREDITS**

Creative Lead: Stephanie Dixon
Choreographic Mentor: Lowell Demetita
Dancers: Nolly Zaa Thang, Phil Pham, Harshil Vora
Music: Billali
Lighting: Sidney Younger





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#### **Social Enterprise**

L2R's Social Enterprise exists to create meaningful employment pathways for young people and emerging artists. At its core, our Social Enterprise is about empowerment - equipping the next generation of artists with the tools, skills, and experience they need to build sustainable and thriving careers in the arts.

Through paid opportunities, our artists gain:

- On-the-job experience performing and facilitating across a wide range of settings
- Professional development in business and sole-trader practices
- Ongoing training and mentorship
- Industry insight and material resources to confidently navigate the creative sector

100% of the proceeds from our Social Enterprise is reinvested directly back into L2R making dance accessible to young people.

This year, we've streamlined our Social Enterprise offerings into four core categories that reflect our values, artist skill sets, and market demand:

#### 1. Commercial

Partnering with brands, agencies, and organisations to bring creative visions to life. We offer choreography, creative direction and talent casting that connects professional street and club dance artists to the commercial sector.

#### 2. Community

Staying true to our roots and spirit of Hip Hop, we share our good vibes with the broader community with our Fam Jams and our inclusive dance workshops.

#### 3. Corporate

'Groove Lab' is our new workplace wellbeing offering for corporate engagement. Our aim is to inject energy, creativity and connection into the workplace.

#### 4. Schools

From one-off incursions to multi-week programs, we collaborate with primary and secondary schools to deliver engaging dance workshops that inspire young people to move.

By outlining these four categories, we aim to make it easier for clients to navigate our bookings page and streamline the overall booking process and offering.

### **CASE STUDY NICOLE SANDERS EMERGING TEACHING ARTIST**

Starting off as an L2R performing artist, what drove you to become a teaching artist?

Teaching with L2R was first introduced to me at our community workshops that are held with our performance gigs. That aspect of our sessions always excited me the most. I then covered Em Zdravevski's slot for Panda Squad at the end of 2024 - this gave me an opportunity to find out about the responsibility and skill of an L2R teaching artist, all which I both resonated and wanted to grow in.

#### Why is teaching dance important to you?

Teaching dance is important to me as it creates opportunity to bring a new experience to an individual. Specifically with weekly sessions, teaching allows me to create a low pressure space where students are in a comfortable realm to grow at their own pace.

#### What has been your biggest learning experience as an L2R teaching artist been so far?

This year teaching at both Next Gen and WELS has given me unique experiences which have required the skill of adapting on the spot. I enjoy when in this position as it allows me to find new ways to provide for the students and is a reminder of the job being to help individuals grow their understanding of dance.

You are also a dance teacher outside of L2R. What are the key differences in teaching at L2R and in your other jobs?

Teaching at L2R feels more personal and homely. I think a key difference is that there is a lot more room to be human and make mistakes, for both students but specifically teachers! (I promise I'm a competent teacher lol).

#### How has teaching at L2R contributed to your life?

It's definitely grown my value in community. It's made me find a responsibility for our next generation, upcoming dancers, or people who are interested in dance. I think it's made me realise I have something to provide, whether that's tangible knowledge or leading by example.



## The L2R Experience 2024 – The Chapters

The L2R Experience is the grand finale of a year of dedication, hard work and incredible achievements from the dancers who participate in our free dance programs – Panda Squad, Lil Legends, Breaking and Next Gen. This year's showcase, The Chapters, produced by Hëna Memishi, L2R's longstanding Creative Producer, was all about the history of hip-hop – the foundations and roots of the artform. Traversing decades, the show was as educational as it was entertaining.

The crews explored the different eras of hip hop through the dance styles, music, fashion and technology of each decade, weaving them together seamlessly. Each teacher individually choreographed sections that fit into the overarching narrative, as the carefully curated soundtrack and visuals pulled the audience further in, enhancing the vibes.

From Breaking in the birthplace of Hip Hop, The Bronx, in the 70's, to the Old School social dances of the 80's, each group danced to classic jams. The L2R Crew even recreated iconic scenes from beloved Y2K dance movies like 'Honey' and 'You Got Served' that got the crowd hyped right off their chairs and onto their feet!

This year, The L2R Experience was part of Be Bold Festival at St Albans Community Centre; a family friendly arts festival celebrating arts, culture, creativity and diversity in Melbourne's vibrant west. We are grateful to Creative Brimbank and the Bowery Theatre for all their support in making this ambitious end-of-year showcase a reality!



" I'm so proud of what we achieved. The L2R experience is time to unite as family and share our love for hip hop. The intergenerational nature of this community is something very unique, special and inspiring!"



# **THANK YOU'S**

Board, Staff, Tonic Partners, evaluation consultant Culture Counts and to all our extraordinary talented participants and artists which we have the privilege to collaborate with:

Photographers Nam Chops, Avneil Mohan, Estee Ho Videographers Kimberly Summer and Amelia Vu Graphic designer Riley Towers

#### **FUNDING PARTNERS**



























































#### **DELIVERY & PRESENTATION PARTNERS**

SMARTS, Footscray High School, Maribyrnong College, Western English Language School, The Venny, St Albans Community Centre, The Tin Shed, RecWest Braybrook, City of Melbourne, City of Maribyrnong, Chunky Move, Phoenix Youth Centre, Passion Dance Studio, O2 Studios, The Bowery Theatre, Dancehouse, Melbourne Fringe.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT / 2024-2025

