

BOARD MEMBERS

1 July 2022

HELEN O'NEIL
(Chair)

Chair of Performing Arts Connections, representing arts centres, touring companies and service organisations in Australian live performance, and Chair of South East Arts. Former Board member of Craft ACT, Currency House Inc and the Australian Film Finance Corporation. Executive experience includes roles as Country Director of the British Council in Australia leading cultural relations in the arts, science and higher education; as Executive Director of the Australian Major Performing Arts Group and the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences; and with Opera Australia. In public policy she was Senior Adviser to the Minister for the Arts, The Hon Simon Crean and also worked with the Minister for Communications, The Hon Kim Beazley. Worked in screen and digital areas with News Ltd, and as a journalist with the ABC and The Age. She has degrees from the University of Melbourne (BA) and from Harvard University's Kennedy School (MPA).

DR RACHAEL COGHLAN
(Deputy Chair)

Rachael Coghlan is an experienced CEO, cultural strategist and design curator with 20 years' experience leading transformation projects in Canberra's creative organisations and national institutions. She is currently establishing a cultural strategy program at Parliament House and is the public art curator for the Canberra Light Rail. As CEO/artistic director of Craft ACT and the DESIGN Canberra festival, Rachael forged international partnerships to build visibility and income for local artists, and her commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration was acknowledged by the Australian Institute of Architects (ACT) Clem Cummings Medal. Rachael was awarded a PhD from the ANU and a BA (first class honours) from University of Canberra. Her research bridges practice and research, specifically how museums can become relevant, multi-vocal platforms for the wider social good. She is a board member of the Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum and was an ex officio member of the Craft ACT board.

GORDON RAMSAY
(Ex officio as Chief Executive Officer)

Gordon is a former member of the ACT Executive (2016–2020) during which he held 6 portfolios, including Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts and was a member of various national ministerial councils. He has a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Law (Hons) from Sydney University and a Bachelor of Theology from the Sydney College of Divinity. After working as a lawyer in commercial and intellectual property at Freehill Hollingdale and Page he and his family moved to Canberra where he led Kippax Uniting Church and UnitingCare Kippax for 19 years working in areas of service, social equality, inclusion and poverty. He led governance and organisational restructure



CANBERRA
MUSEUM
+ GALLERY

THE
NOLAN
COLLECTION

ACT
HISTORIC
PLACES

CANBERRA
THEATRE
CENTRE

with UnitingCare NSW.ACT (and then Uniting) from 2011-2016. He led the ACT Targeted Assistance Strategy and was a member of the ACT Community Inclusion Board between 2006–2008. He has provided consultancy support on policy and organisational governance, strategy and structure locally and nationally for much of the past two decades. He has been an ACT Community Inclusion Advocate, member of the ACT Better Services Taskforce, Community Champion for the “Time to talk: Canberra 2030” and led ACT Anti-Poverty work. He is currently a member of the Board of The Neighbourhood Canberra and the Uniting Church National Assembly Taskforce to develop an apology to the LGBTIQ+ community. He was recognised in the Australian of the Year awards as an ACT Local Hero finalist in 2015.

SHAD SEARS

Shad is a Partner within the PwC Assurance practice in Canberra. Shad has over 21 years' experience providing professional services and advice to government and private sector clients. Shad holds Master degrees in both Cyber Security and Information Technology, a Bachelor of Commerce and is also a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators.

GENEVIEVE JACOBS

Genevieve Jacobs has been a journalist for 30 years, working in print and radio. She was a longtime ABC Canberra presenter and is now the Group Editor for Region Media and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Genevieve is a director of the Cultural Facilities Corporation, the Conflict Resolution Service and the Australian Center for Christianity and Culture. She chairs the ACT arts minister's advisory council and Canberra international Music Festival and has an enduring interest in building and strengthening community engagement.

JULIAN WIDDUP

Julian Widdup is an experienced director having served on the boards of major Australian and international companies including airports, power utilities, port corporations, financial services, hospitals and public sector enterprises. Julian has a strong background in finance and risk management, having held executive leadership roles with Palisade Investment Partners, Access Capital Advisers and previously worked with the Australian Government. Julian is a fully qualified actuary and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He completed the Senior Executive Leadership Program with Harvard Business School, holds a Bachelor of Economics and a Master of Business Administration from the Australian National University, and received the ANU University Medal. Julian has a strong interest in the arts. He is currently a director of Screen Canberra, the ASX-listed Rural Funds Group and Australian Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund.

MICHAEL SOLLIS

Michael Sollis is an interdisciplinary artist who promotes how the arts can nurture creative mindsets which generate new ideas. This has included work as founder, composer, and director of the Griffyn Ensemble, and the very first Artistic Director, Education for Musica Viva Australia. As a teaching artist Michael has facilitated projects in places such as Scottish prisons, Egyptian schools, work in urban, rural and remote schools across Australia; and lecturing composition at the Australian National University. His work on sung stories in the Papua New Guinea highlands is published by ANU E-Press and the Australian Journal of Linguistics. Michael was one of several artists who brought together the ACT Creative community to form the Canberra Artists Action Group, and was the founding chair of the International Music Council's Youth Board. Michael was born and raised on Ngunnawal country, following the footsteps of custodians who have listened to this land for centuries.