



HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT WE KNOW?

Accessing & engaging
with current quality
research and
evaluation in the
youth arts sector.

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Josh Hoare, Artistic Director, Cirkidz

THIS SESSION... we explore together



HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT WE KNOW?



EVALUATION AND/OR RESEARCH?



A RESEARCH STUDY –
CIRKIDZ – PARTNERING
WITH THE ACADEMY



FRAMING OUR EVALUATION
AND/OR RESEARCH SO IT
DOESN'T GET LOST IN THE
VOID – WHO READS IT?
WHO NEEDS TO READ IT?



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO
KNOW?



GENERATING RESEARCH
QUESTIONS



ACCESSING CURRENT
RESEARCH AND PROGRAM
EVALUATION – WHAT IS OUT
THERE? HOW CAN IT BE
USEFUL?



Why evaluate? Why research? Who needs to know?

At this moment there is no dedicated statement about the arts as it applies to children and young people.

Tracing through Council's A Culturally Ambitious Nation: Strategic Plan 2014 To 2019 reference about arts and young people is captured under Goal Three as being "We will strengthen artistic experiences by, with and for children and young people by facilitating collaboration between young people and more established artists to create new work"[xii]. This is about developing artist product, not about inclusive arts engagement.

*The Australia Council for the Arts has always had as a primary objective the support of excellence, but **the invisibility of young Australians in this policy statement is stark** and we are no closer to a dedicated strategy about the arts for children and young people.*

(Sandra Gattenhof, November 2018, National Advocates for Arts Education)

Arts matters...

Art matters. Artistic expression and appreciation are at the core of what makes us human. The inclination, indeed, the compulsion and mandate to evaluate artistic expression, is also an essential trait of our shared humanity

(Patton in Rajan, R.S, & O'Neal, I.C. (Eds) (2018). *Arts Evaluation and Assessment: Measuring impact in schools and communities*. Palgrave MacMillan:US)

Research/ Evaluation What is the difference?

Research

Purpose is **testing theory (and/or creating theory)** and producing generalizable findings.

Questions originate with scholars in a discipline.

Quality and importance judged by peer review in a discipline.

Ultimate test of value is contribution to knowledge.

Evaluation

Purpose is to determine the effectiveness of a specific program or model.

Questions originate with key stakeholders and primary intended users of evaluation findings.

Quality and importance judged by those who will use the findings to take action and make decisions

Ultimate test of value is usefulness to improve effectiveness.

Patton, Michael Quinn (2014).

What
evaluation
or research
tools do you
use?

- Survey, interview, participatory workshop, drawing, creative response observational fieldwork, impact terms, social media, images, film, other?
- Pair and share the tools you currently use
- How do you choose and why do you choose?

A research case study – partnering with the academy

Josh Hoare, Cirkidz and Richard McGrath, University of
South Australia

The research question – why this question?

The methodology – how was the research conducted?
What was it like to partner? Pros and Cons

The outcome/report – how was the research
disseminated and to whom?



What do you want to know?

Create small groups of 2-4

Consider the work your organization does – what are the burning questions you have about and of, plus more...

- Social impact, artistic impact, aesthetic impact, participation, individual learning, child-focused, co-participation, youth led, sector development, artist input, artist learning, organizational structure, mission and vision, inclusion and diversity, longitudinal impact, evaluation tools, partnerships, intergenerational learning, impacting policy...
- Create 1-3 questions that could/may represent what you want to know more about
- Group share
- Consider the partnership between Cirkidz and Uni SA – how could your organisation engage/partner in that way to explore one of these questions?

Research and evaluation reports

Creative Places: https://www.culturehive.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Evaluation_in_participatory_arts_programmes.pdf

ATYP: <https://atyp.com.au/about/annual-reports/>

Barking Gecko: https://issuu.com/barkinggeckotheatrecompany/docs/evaluation_report_issue

bighart: https://www.bighart.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/BighART_Evaluation_ArtEquityCommunity.pdf

Creative Convergence: <https://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/creative-convergence/the-project/>

TheatreSpace: <http://sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=8197>

Polyglot: <https://www.polyglot.org.au/artistic/evaluations/>

Gifts of the Muse: Reframing the Debate about the Benefits of the Arts
https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2005/RAND_MG218.pdf

Collaboration: <https://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/pages/collaboration-paints-a-bright-future-for-arts-education.aspx>

Australia Council for the Arts: <https://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/research/research-partnerships/>

New Victory Theatre: <https://newvictory.org/about/research/>

Arts Council of Britain: <http://gesculcyl.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Understanding.pdf>



Often research is written up as an academic article in a peer reviewed journal, goes into the body of research in that field, or an academic book publication (with SAGE or with Springer or Palgrave MacMillan for instance)



Evaluation is often presented as part of an organization's board reports, in e-news, for funders, to acquit etc.



Where do you publish or present your organization's research or evaluation?

Telling the story
of the research?
Where should
we report and to
whom?
What
determines this?

Telling the story of the research? Where should we report and to whom? What determines this?

IN RETURNING TO THE EARLIER SLIDE ABOUT THERE BEING NO DEDICATED POLICY STATEMENT IN RELATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE ARTS...HOW DO WE INFLUENCE POLICY WITH OUR RESEARCH AND EVALUATION WORK ?

ACADEMIC JOURNALS

Research in Drama Education (RIDE), Youth Theatre Journal, NJ – Drama Australia Journal, Youth and Society, ASSITEJ, American Alliance for Arts Education, The Journal of Arts Management

Link to further journals: <https://www.tandfonline.com/openaccess/openjournals>

THE CONVERSATION – multi-sector audience <https://theconversation.com/au>

DISCIPLINARY / SECTOR CONFERENCES

Wellbeing, marketing, youth studies, social enterprise, education including principals, arts education, literacy, assessment, history, early childhood, social policy, family studies

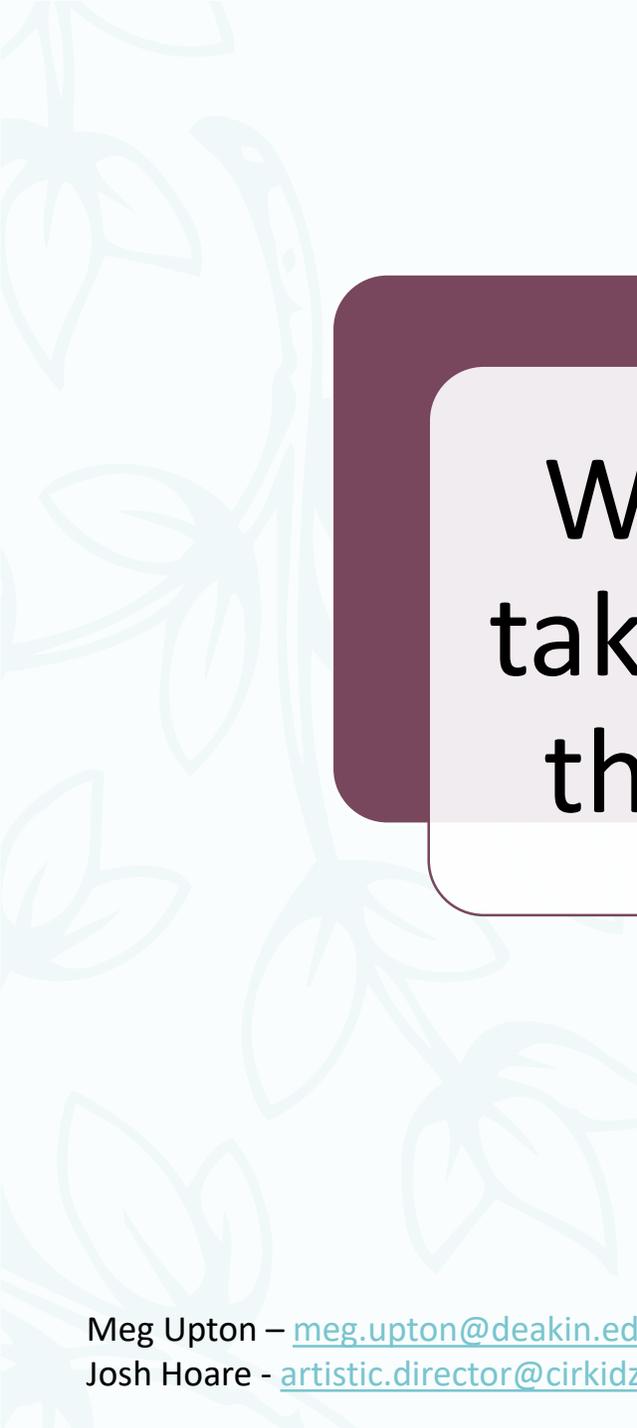
A useful link: <https://aifs.gov.au/other-family-related-conferences>

SOCIAL MEDIA SITES, BLOGS, ARTSHUB, THEATRE NETWORK AUSTRALIA

From this summit...

At this moment there is no dedicated statement about the arts as it applies to children and young people (Gattenhof, 2018)

What would that statement be?



What is your
takeaway from
this session?

What more do
you want to
know?