

MEDIA ALERT

Generating connections for artists with disabilities in Canberra

Artists in the Canberra region experiencing disability and disadvantage can't wait for the launch of GENERATE canberra arts access network. GENERATE is an inclusive initiative arising from the demand for one central arts and disability hub for artists to access information and have conversations about what's happening locally in the arts. Key to the network will be an exciting new website www.generate.net.au being launched on 27 November, giving artists the opportunity to join as members, upload artist statements and images, create their own blog sites, access resources like templates for project planning and receive regular newsletters.

Coordinator of GENERATE, artsAbility Officer Caro Roach from the ACT Community Arts Office says "There are so many great creative programs for people with disabilities already happening across Canberra through both arts organizations and health and community services. But people don't know they have so many choices, or can't always identify who is doing what, when"

The GENERATE network will have it's virtual home on the internet, creating a comfortable place for artist's to feel they belong, but we will also be meeting informally each month to look at current exhibitions around the Canberra area or visiting interested organisations. As well as artists, organisations from the arts, health and community sectors are invited to join the network. Disability ACT's Community Development Officer Nadine Stephens says "This is a great initiative for supporting cross sector inclusion, and will really increase opportunities for people to participate. This isn't about setting up a new program, but about connecting people, through this new network, with what already exists in their local community"

The network will support creative and professional opportunities including projects, seminars, workshops, mentoring and social initiatives. If you want to be part of this growing network, start with a night of music at the exciting community launch on Friday 27 November, from 7pm, at the Ainslie Arts Centre for the GENERATE canberra arts access network LAUNCH GIG. Just to show we are serious about networking this great night comes to you through partnerships with the ACT Community Arts Office, Canberra Musicians Club and Music For Everyone; connecting arts and disability communities to build an inclusive network for Canberra artists; valuing, supporting and promoting accessible and visible arts in Canberra.

And to make a great thing even greater, we are also celebrating the inaugural Social Inclusion Week Australia (23 – 29 November 2009), spearheaded by inspirational community leader Jonathon Welch, well known for his leadership with the Choir of Hard Knocks.

GENERATE canberra arts access network LAUNCH GIG

7 – 11pm

Friday 27 November 2009

Ainslie Arts Centre, Elouera Street Braddon

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02 6247 1882, 0450 960 899, And going live from 27 November www.generate.net.au