



Four Years On

Reflections of our achievements

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Snapshot

Established in 2015, the Centre for Stories:

- Collects, collates and disseminates the stories of people from marginalised groups and diverse backgrounds.
- Fosters emerging writers with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and other minority groups.
- Offers internships to foster diversity in arts administration.
- Develops relationships with artists linked to the Indian Ocean; current relationships include Indonesia, Singapore, and India.
- Hosts and produces events to showcase emerging artists.
- Partners with government and non-government agencies to expand creative industries to include other voices within Western Australia, Australia, and the region.
- Contributes to the Government's policy directions in Cultural Industries, Cultural Diversity and Multiculturalism and Engagement within the Indian Ocean Rim.
- Enhances cultural diversity, cultural industries, and community engagement.
- Empowers multiple voices to shape broader narratives about art, culture, and Western Australian history.
- Realises the City of Perth strategic initiatives for 2030.

Fostering the Next Generation of Creatives

Writing

The Centre for Stories has mentored 35 emerging writers over four years.

Outcomes:

- Rafeif Ismail won 2017 Deborah Cass Prize for Writing.
- Yuot Alaak was shortlisted for 2018 T.A.G Hungerford Award.
- Holden Sheppard won the Griffith Review Novella Prize.
- Tinashe Jakwa was shortlisted for the 2019 Deborah Cass Prize for Writing.
- Belinda Hermawan was shortlisted for the 2019 Fogarty Literary Award.
- Multiple publications in journals and literary magazine.
- Appearances at major writers' festivals around the country.
- Three publications produced by Centre for Stories.
- Contributions to anthologies published by Black Inc. and Fremantle Press.
- Two contracts for full length manuscripts.

Oral Stories

The Centre for Stories has trained over 80 people in the craft of oral storytelling over four years.

Outcomes:

- Stories shared on the Centre for Stories" podcast and published on the website.
- Stories shared at live events at the Centre and externally at various venues.
- *Stories Staged* – Three stories presented on stage at two sold-out shows at The Blue Room Theatre Winter Arts Program in 2018.
- *Saga Sisterhood* a project with South Asian Women presented on stage at two sold-out shows at The Blue Room Theatre Winter Arts Program in 2019.
- *Saga Sisterhood* invited to perform at Mapping Melbourne 2019.
- *A Mile in My Shoes* stories toured the UK, Europe, USA and Brazil. Over 25,000 people have walked in the Western Australian shoes and listened to the stories collected by the Centre for Stories. These stories continue to tour globally.
- Four storytellers presented stories at the Denmark Festival of Voice in 2018.
- Two storytellers will perform at Fringe Festival 2020.
- Over 22 story training projects completed.

Internships

Nurturing the next generation of arts administrators. To date we have taken on:

- Five internships with undergraduate and postgraduate Curtin University students.
- Two internships with undergraduate University of Western Australia students.
- One internship with an undergraduate Notre Dame University student
- Two internship with undergraduate Murdoch University students.
- Three internships with Year 10 high school students.
- Six interns not associated with a university program.

Facilitating Diversity in the Creative Sector

Showcasing Emerging Creatives Through Events

174 creatives have participated at events at the Centre for Stories, which include workshops, readings, conversations and mentoring emerging creatives.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Local:

- Screenwest
- The Blue Room Theatre
- Curtin University
- Lit Live
- PEN Perth
- Alex Hotel
- Underground Writers
- Community Arts Network
- Perth Writers Festival

National:

- *Liminal Magazine*
- Digital Writers' Festival
- Footscray Community Arts Centre

International:

- *Singapore Review of Books*
- *Tiger Moth*
- Makassar Art Space

Commissions

The Centre for Stories has been commissioned to undertake story training and collection with the following organisations:

- Perth Arts Festival
- Office of Multicultural Interests
- Department of Health
- Ruah
- Act-Belong-Commit
- WA Museum
- City of Wanneroo
- Curtin University
- State Library of WA
- The Fathering Project
- Youth Link
- Perth Theatre Trust

Competitive Grants

Grants have been received from the following funding bodies:

- Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries
- Copyright Agency
- City of Perth
- Catalyst CAN Fund
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Creative Partnerships
- Department of Education

Private Sponsorship

- MinterEllison
- Freehills

Other sources of income

- Renting of the Centre for Stories venue
- Ticketed events

Audience Reach

— *Internal Events*

On average, the Centre for Stories holds three events per week. As a result, close to 15,000 people have come through the Centre's doors in the last four years.

— *Festivals Organised*

- 2016 Australian Short Story Festival
- 2018 Australian Short Story Festival
- Side Walks, one-day festival
- Fresh Prints
- World Poetry Day
- Out and About – Perth Festival



Testimonials



'As an alumnus of one of the Centre's 2016 Ways of Being Here mentorship, I can attest to the life-changing impact of the Centre and its initiatives. After the conclusion of my mentorship, I went on to win a national writing prize as well as several state prizes. Since working with the Centre during Ways of Being Here, I have been published locally and nationally, and I am currently completing my first novel, a feat that would not have been possible without the skills gained through the mentorship and the ongoing support of the Centre.'

– Rafeif Ismail

'I was intrigued by the Centre's activity in providing a space for writers, creatives, and storytellers. I quickly found my place in the ecosystem and worked with Caroline to apply for funding to run storytelling workshops for South Asian women in which we were successful. We have reached women from all shades of the South Asian community, introducing them to the power of storytelling, safe spaces to express themselves and confidence building. There has been interest expressed from Multicultural Arts Victoria and Footscray Community Arts Centre to tour these storytellers to Melbourne. The Centre's openness and generosity has provided me with the motivation to continue spreading the importance of storytelling and bringing people together (especially in today's political climate).'

– Sukhjit Kaur Khalsa

'There is definitely a lovely community vibe and I have always felt very welcome attending events or visiting the reading room. I love the environment and aesthetic of the reading room, it is a very peaceful place to peruse the shelves. Warm, nurturing and positive – I think the Centre does a wonderful job of elevating the reading/writing space in Perth without being elitist.'

– Audience Member Survey

'In terms of my career development, Bright Lights, No City was pivotal and a catalytic moment. After the launch night, where I stood up and shared my true story to an audience for the first time, I felt creatively unencumbered after years of internalised homophobia. I wrote a novella titled Poster Boy and finished it in a remarkable four days. It won the prestigious nation-wide Novella project and was published in Griffith Review in October 2018. I have gone on to share my Bright Lights, No City story at writers' festivals and recently told my story at an annual fundraiser for Lifeline WA, helping them to raise funds to train more telephone counsellors for people in crisis. This is a testament to the far-reaching social and cultural impacts of the work done by the Centre for Stories in the diversity space.'

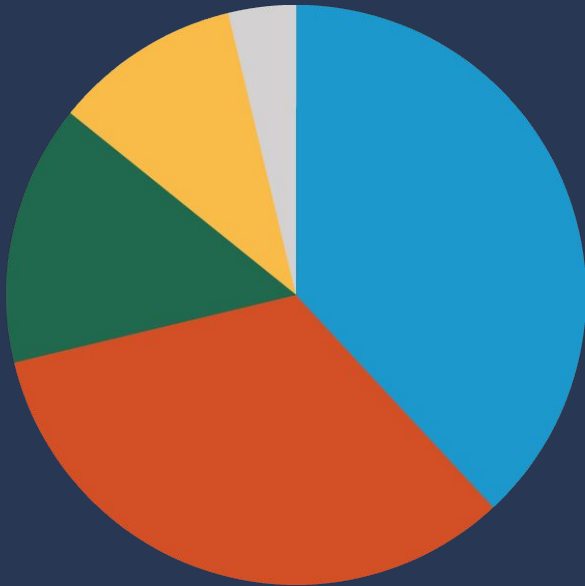
– Holden Sheppard

'Diversity of guest speakers/authors; a program that seeks to show Perth people and Western Australians something beyond their borders or comfort zones – yay! A sense that there is real integrity behind the intentions and programming of this Centre; it is a local node for global stories and writers, bringing experiences and perspectives to Perth audiences.'

– Audience Member Survey

Income Sources

Major Sponsors - Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; MinterEllison; City of Perth; Herbert Smith Freehills and Curtin University



- Commissions
- Competitive Grants
- Sponsorship
- Events
- Rent

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