

BPOC

ARTS AUSTRALIA



www.bipocarts.com.au
[@bipoc_arts_australia](https://www.instagram.com/bipoc_arts_australia)



BIPOC Arts Australia acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we work, live and create art. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging.

We would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who for 50,000 years, have watched over the lands, waterways and skies of Australia.

We deeply value and are grateful for the culture, stories and memories that are graciously shared with us all and we work towards educating ourselves and providing better support to our traditional custodians for generations to come.

Hello from BIPOC Arts Australia

BIPOC Arts Australia is a collective of BIPOC creatives

working within the Australian arts and entertainment industry.

This community was created by a BIPOC creative to support the growing need to recognise, and nurture fellow BIPOC creatives. BIPOC Arts Australia provides a safe space for BIPOC only artists to share their information and create meaningful and lasting professional relationships.

We use the term BIPOC - Bla(ck), Indigenous and People of Colour as we feel it best aligns with our community. Although the term BIPOC was born from the struggles of the African Americans, we seek in our own land the recognition of creatives who are Bla(ck), Indigenous or People of Colour living and working in Australia.

We do not wish in anyway to diminish the daily struggles of First Nations people and recognise their ongoing struggles are unique to this land.



About BAA

Hi. I'm AJ, a Bi-racial Australian multi-genre Artist, and founder of BIPOC Arts Australia.

I have been living and working as a BIPOC creative in Australia for over 20 years and I have watched and waited patiently for growth, development and change.

Earlier this year (2021) I attended a casting where I was told that I was 'needed to fill a diversity quota'. I cannot even truly begin to explain how it felt hearing this, however, some of the feelings were hurt, shock, sadness, confusion, and ultimately disappointment. It made me sit up and really pay attention to what was happening in the creative arts industry in Australia.

I saw ignorance and a lack of education and understanding regarding true diversity, inclusion and representation of BIPOC within the creative industry of Australia. This is when I realised I needed to be a part of a solution that would support and amplify the voices and creative journeys of BIPOC in Australia.

This platform is designed to support BIPOC only creatives by providing a safe to do just that - CREATE! My dream is to become a funding platform for BIPOC projects throughout Australia, and it's only a matter of time before that comes true.

- AJ

Vision & Mission

OUR VISION:

Our vision is for an Australian creative arts industry that fully supports, acknowledges and represents BIPOC creatives in a conscious and respectful way.

OUR MISSION:

Our mission is to always hear and see our BIPOC creatives and to provide a safe space for BIPOC creatives to connect, create and support each other.

OUR VALUES:

BIPOC Arts Australia value the artistic expression of all BIPOC Artists - whatever the medium.

We want to amplify the voices of BIPOC creatives living and working in Australia.

We strive to identify areas where further work can be done to ensure BIPOC creatives receive the best possible opportunities to further their creative journeys.

We are acutely aware of cultural belief systems and the learned behaviour that shapes societies, and therefore, we remain compassionate and objective in all our communication.

Our intention is to provide a space that allows our creatives to express their truths

We acknowledge the enormity of the fight for sovereignty that First Nations people continue to face.

We deeply value and are grateful for the culture, stories and memories that are graciously shared with us all and we work towards educating ourselves and providing better support to our traditional custodians for generations to come.

In August 2021, we launched www.bipocarts.com.au and in just one month we have over 100 creatives (and growing) listed on the site. In the coming months, leading into 2022, we have multiple projects and creative events planned that will see us promoting the creatives that are listed on the platform.

MEET THE MAKERS:

Each week, we will introduce and promote 2 of our BIPOC creatives via our Instagram page @bipoc_arts_australia

BAMS - BIPOC ARTS MINI SERIES

A BAA initiative that will explore the lived experiences of BIPOC creatives living in Australia. Each episode will feature 5 BIPOC Creatives of varying mediums and initial production will be QLD due to current COVID restrictions.

The project will be an entirely BIPOC led production. Our entire process is to ensure our BIPOC creatives are safe, respected and heard.

INTERACTIVE ARTS EXHIBITIONS

BAA Interactive Arts Exhibitions provide our creatives a safe space to showcase their art! Each exhibition will see 5 BIPOC creatives of all mediums showcasing their artistic medium of choice in a shared creative space.

Create

How we work



BIPOC Arts aims to support BIPOC creatives through various portals. If you feel that your organisation is able to assist us in achieving our goals, please reach out.

Funding & Grants:

BAA aim to offer mini grants of up to \$1000 per month to BIPOC creatives. Each grant will come with expected deliverables and deadlines to ensure funds are used accordingly.

Arts Creation:

BAA aim to facilitate the creation of art through interactive art exhibitions and pop up events throughout Australia. These events will be specifically for BIPOC creatives

Cultural Exchange:

BAA aim to engage with global partners to facilitate cultural exchange programs with BIPOC creatives in other countries

Training & Education:

BAA aim to engage with other POC organisations to offer training & education to BIPOC creatives

Allyship pathways:

BAA aim to engage with non-BIPOC organisations to create and facilitate pathways that support BIPOC creatives within their organisations.

'We must always attempt to lift as we climb' - Angela Davis

We seek to partner with POC organisations to share in inspiration and innovation that will benefit BIPOC creatives.

We are working closely with other POC organisations to develop pathways that will provide opportunities for BIPOC creatives to progress in their chosen creative field.

ALLYSHIP:

If you are a NON-BIPOC individual or organisation looking to partner with us, please fill out the following survey.

We do not engage with NON-BIPOC groups who seek to amplify their own voices.

We partner with Ally's who have taken the time to truly educate themselves and show commitment to the continued support of BIPOC creatives in Australia.

We suggest you access the following resources to consider whether or not you are a true Ally:

<https://guidetoallyship.com/>



We have attached a checklist for you to complete, along with a link to a questionnaire. Please take time to complete this.