



arts bus
ARTISTS FOR KIDS CULTURE



Contacts:

Kylie Greer
Director & Executive Officer
M: 0423 225 182
E: hello@akc.org.au

Gen Townsend
AKC artsbus Program Manager
M: 0478 814 840
E: artsbus@akc.org.au

Postal Address: 8 Martin St, St Kilda, Vic 3182
W: akc.org.au **IG:** @akc_artsbus & @artistsforkidsculture **FB:** /AKCartsbus & /artistsforkidsculture

Artists for Kids Culture: making art make a difference

Artists for Kids Culture PROFILE

Founded in 1994 by a group of artists and friends wanting to make a positive difference to the lives of children living in inner-Melbourne public housing, **Artists for Kids' Culture** (AKC) distributes funds to children experiencing hardship Australia-wide. AKC funds enable children to participate in life-enriching artistic and cultural pursuits such as art, dance, music, theatre and sporting activities, from which they may otherwise be excluded. In 2021, Artists for Kids Culture launched the **artsbus**, which brings meaningful arts opportunities to kids who may otherwise miss out.

AKC is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission and is a listed Public Benevolent Institution with Deductible Gift Recipient status.



Artists, sponsors and the art loving community generously support AKC. Professional artists donate art and these works are auctioned at a gala event each year. The AKC Art Auction is an iconic event on the Melbourne art scene.

AKC It is described by many as the "charity started by David Larwill". David is an important artist in the Australian art world but sadly passed away in 2011. His generosity and artistic legacy lives on through AKC.



Applications for AKC grants come via welfare agencies, schools, community playgrounds, parents, carers, artists and sporting organisations. The AKC Committee meet monthly to assess and administer grant applications. AKC committee members include children's welfare advocates, artists, gallery owners, legal and accounting professionals and business people.



The AKC artsbus brings arts engagement to kids who may otherwise miss-out.

The **artsbus** is a mobile arts facility enabling AKC to facilitate meaningful and inclusive arts activities. Many children and young people with complex lives find it hard to access the arts due to transport, family responsibilities and social hardship. The AKC artsbus comes to children to provide a quality creative service for free. It's about letting children and young people **explore, create and grow**.



What makes an artsbus adventure?

- **Warm-up activities** to have fun and connect
- Child-led play and **creative exploration**
- **Stations** for artmaking and learning techniques
- Use of **recycled or local materials** as much as possible
- **Finished outcome** for kids to take home or exhibit

Comments from child participants include:

- *"...and now art is one of my favourite things to do"*
- *"I like art now. It made me feel proud of myself to try something new"*
- *"Ahh, the artbus is here"*
- *"I now really love art"*
- *"I feel like the art is keeping the boys quiet, cause normally they are shouting".*
- *"I've seen the Gym Bus, I've seen the Library Bus but I have never seen the artsbus"*

The **artsbus** is staffed by a program manager, feature artists as well as a team of Artist for Kids Culture volunteers. We adhere to the Victorian Government Child Safety Standards and all adults associated with the artsbus have a current Working With Children Check.

Artists for Kids Culture artsbus resources and programs operate using the following:
 Best Practice work practices set by [Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority](#)
 Operate using the 7 Child Safety Standards set by [Commission for Children and Young People](#). Employees and volunteers undergo Working with Children Checks and a Crimcheck

Let's collaborate!

School programs

The AKC artsbus may facilitate school incursions or after-school programs. We tailor our programs to the school's interests, group sizes, and children's interests.

Examples of incursions facilitated by the artsbus include:

- Make a mural with the artsbus
- Inspired drawing in response to a theme
- Painting with feature artist, Olana Janfa
- Somali weaving workshops with feature artist, Muhubo Sulieman
- Collaborations with local artists near your school and more!

The artsbus parks in an outdoor undercover area and unfolds like a Mary Poppins bag with tables, chairs, and art supplies. On cold/wet days or where the vehicle is unavailable, programs can occur inside a classroom. We offer **45 - 90 minute** programs that can be repeated in a once-off, consecutive, or series format with 15 – 30 children per group. Please contact us with your idea for the program, age group/s and size, budget, and any arts mediums or experiences you are interested in.

Bring the AKC artsbus to your next event!

Artists for Kids Culture want to share the AKC artsbus as a resource across Victoria. Through partnerships, we can run targeted programs and support existing events to bring art to kids who might otherwise miss out. Whether you are a school, community group, artist initiative or other organisation, we want to hear your idea!

[Complete the expression of interest form here](#)

Contact: artsbus@akc.org.au - Gen Townsend, AKC artsbus Program Manager,

All partnerships are done with the spirit of the AKC values:

AKC values hope.

AKC respects children, their supporters and families.

AKC supports children to participate in their chosen activities.

AKC is passionate about enhancing the wellbeing of children through inclusion.

AKC believes participation in positive activities is paramount to wellbeing.

AKC encourages children and organisations to pursue new activities.

AKC is generous and wants to lift the spirits of children experiencing hardship.



artsbus images – on the road



2021 Feedback included:

"I think you are really really kind and I love how much creativity I can show with you guys "

"I love the art bus"

"The art bus is really good plus I love the watermelon and chips"

"Absolutely love the arts bus!! A fabulous opportunity for children to engage in art in a creative, fun, safe environment!!"

"I am very grateful and thankful for the art bus, my daughter was looking for an activity and she love art. The bus is so friendly and welcoming. I couldn't praise them enough for the work they are doing with the children from park towers, these children really need this kind of attention and acceptance, and some parents are struggling so this being free really helps us parents"

