

## INTRODUCTION FOR WTS BOARD MEMBERS

Watch This Space (WTS) is an artist-led organisation established in 1993, manifesting publicly as a vital collective resource in Mparntwe. It is a site for experimentation, artistic expression, critical conversation and making, showing & participating in art.

ARTIST RUN INITIATIVE

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Watchthis  
SPACE<sup>inc</sup>



WTS posits that art's definition has broad and soft boundaries, and that everyone is invited. It is an artist-run initiative, where artists like their galleries to also be karaoke halls, dance floors, cinemas, zine fairs, basketball courts, libraries and language classes; the artists are often interested in connecting art to politics, play, or experimentation.

It is lucky to exist in the middle of a small town on **Central Arrente** country, rich in artists. This small town lies in the middle of the Central Desert region, richer still. This area is in the middle of the continent, affording WTS a unique proximity to here and elsewhere.

WTS aims to present alternatives to institutionalisation, tokenization, and over-professionalisation of artists and the arts. It has been alive for 30 years, since then moving through many seasons and sites. It is currently based at 8 Gap Road, where it hosts a program of projects, workshops, film screenings, exhibitions and residencies.

It has 7 studio artists plus one Travelling Artist in Residence at any given time. Many people make up its moving parts: currently two co-directors, eight studio artists, a First Nations advisory board, curatorial committee, board of directors, the gardener, the volunteer crew

**– would you like to join?**

Watch This Space has played a critical role in the creative ecology of Mparntwe/Alice Springs over the past 30 years. It is an ARI hub where studio artists and exhibiting artists intersect, housing a diversity of creative practices. WTS employs Co-Directors who are supported by a Board and a Curatorial Committee that includes long-term members holding a depth of historical knowledge about the framework underpinning an arts practice in Central Australian contexts.

*Artist-run initiatives are about people, about who is prepared to do what. We are not in a place where there's a major arts institution pouring out energetic young artists to support an initiative like this. But we've had terrific public support in the past and we're look forward to that continuing. Artist-run spaces do come and go, but I don't think this one should [go], because it contributes so significantly to the cultural life of Alice Springs.*

**– Pam Lofts, artist and founding member**

## **Our values**

- **Responsiveness:** continually re-imagine and re-form in response to the needs and desires of our community.
- **Radical Openness:** curious and sensitive to what is yet to be known, what may need to be un-known, and what is not for all to know.
- **Nurturing:** experimentation within artistic practice, both locally and afar.
- **Collaboration:** together with integrity and joy.
- **Responsibility:** transparency, empathy and care to build trust.

## OBLIGATIONS OF A WATCH THIS SPACE BOARD MEMBER

If you are interested in joining our Board of Management, these are some responsibilities we expect of you:

### **MEMBERSHIP**

As stated in the WTS Constitution, Board Members must be Financial Members of the organisation (membership is \$35 for one year – see membership form for details).

### **ENGAGEMENT**

Be aware of current and upcoming WTS events and projects. This is not only for your own knowledge, but so you can share with others what is happening at the space.

### **AMBASSADORS**

WTS Board Members should see themselves as ambassadors for the space. Always advocate for and be supportive of the organisation to members of the community.

### **REGULAR MEETING ATTENDANCE**

The WTS Constitution states that a member can be suspended or expelled if absent from more than 3 consecutive committee meetings.

## **CLEAR COMMUNICATION**

Always let a Co-Director know if you can or can not attend a meeting.

## **PROFESSIONALISM**

It is an important requirement that Board Members are professional during their involvement with WTS. This includes, but is not limited to, reading relevant documents *prior* to meetings if required, punctuality, commitment to tasks, as well as the following responsibilities...

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD**

Financial and Legal management and responsibilities

Developing Strategic Vision and Plan

Decision-making for Policies and unexpected challenges

Recruitment of new members and staff

Advocacy of the organisation

Support for staff and artists