

First Nations Performing Arts Workforce Development Roundtable Co-Facilitator Welcome Letter

Tuesday 13 June, 2023 9.00 AM - 4:30 PM
Abbotsford Convent, 1 St Heliers St, Abbotsford VIC 3067
blakdance.org.au/roundtable-2023

Dear Roundtable Participants

We are looking forward to working with you all next week.

You are one of nearly 100 people registered to attend this event - a sign of how important this moment is for First Peoples performing arts workforce development.

With so many people coming, we thought it would be good to share what to expect in certain sections of the agenda.

Before the formalities - 9am introduction sessions

All are welcome and highly encouraged to join us for these sessions: one for First Peoples representatives and the other for Non-indigenous representatives.

These concurrent sessions will help set up the ways we will engage and protocols throughout the roundtable. In these sessions we will help bring to life the Code of Conduct, how we will manage sensitive issues, and the role different cultural groups play in the conversations. Overall this is about helping us all iron out any barriers to working respectfully together toward positive solutions.

If you miss your session, be sure to grab one of us in the break to catch-up on key outcomes before you dive into participating in the roundtable.

Sharing of Issues - 11am session 'Where are we now?'

This is a session for actively listening.

In this session Elders and representatives from the host organisations will share their years of learnings and experience of workforce development issues. This session will help lay the foundation for the problems we are coming together to resolve.

You might find this session inspires you to share a similar experience, you realise another issue or sparks questions. If that's you, although this session is for listening only, we have you covered. There will be a graffiti wall set up that you can scribble your thoughts in the break that follows. We will check-in with the graffiti wall and address anything at the start of the next session.

Get your thinking caps on - 1.15pm session 'Solutions Workshops'

At the start of this session we will guide a recap and cover any relevant questions. We will then break into solution hubs. There will be a hub for each of the key issues covered in the 'Where are we now' session earlier.

You will be able to choose what issue you like, and throughout the session you can float or change to different hubs. Each hub will capture ideas and solutions. We will then all come together in the last session to review all the ideas to help inform future actions.

Hopefully this gives you a good taste of what to expect. Of course there is more we could say but we will save you the reading for now.

If we haven't had the opportunity to meet you yet, and you are keen to suss out who we are - feel free to check out our bios at the links below:

Cameron Costello - Quandamooka man

[Link to Bio](#)

Penny Miles - non-Indigenous ally

<https://www.tonygrybowski.com/penny-miles>

Finally, we know the responsibility to be entrusted to guide this conversation on behalf of the group of self-determined First Nations Performing Arts Organisation who are hosting this roundtable. We thank them for the opportunity and will continue to take our lead from them on how the day will move from issues to solutions.

See you soon!

Cam and Penny

