



OPERA QUEENSLAND LIMITED
ACN 010 258 750

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Directors present their report together with the financial report of Opera Queensland Limited ("the Company") for the year ended 31 December 2024 and the auditor's report thereon.

Directors

The Directors of the Company at any time during or since the end of the financial year are:

Linda Apelt *BEd, GradDipC, MEdSt, GAICD*

Appointed Chair January 2022

Member, Audit and Risk Committee since January 2022

Member, HR Committee since January 2022

Director since January 2022

Katie McNamara *BPharm (Hons), MBA, GAICD*

Appointed Deputy Chair May 2023

Director since September 2020

Member, Audit and Risk Committee since April 2022

Will Fellowes *BCom, GradDipCA, GAICD*

Appointed Treasurer May 2023

Chair, Audit & Risk Committee from May 2023

Member, Audit and Risk Committee since September 2016

Director since July 2019

Judith Mather *MBus (HR Management), MBus (Philanthropy and NFP)*

Director since September 2019

Member, HR Committee

Jody Currie *BA Gender Studies*

Director since October 2021

Chair, HR Committee May 2023 – May 2024

Member, HR Committee since April 2022

James Walker *DipBus, DipAgric, DipMarketing, DipFin*

Director since August 2023

Member, HR Committee since March 2024

Mark Fenton *F CPA, MBA, BBus, FAICD*

Director since March 2024

Member, Audit & Risk Committee

Jane Keating *BA Psych and Soc, GAICD*

Director since May 2024

Chair, HR Committee since May 2024

David Gow *BCom, LLB, FAICD*

Treasurer May 2019 – May 2023

Chair, Audit and Risk Committee May 2019 – May 2023

Director since April 2018

Retired February 2024

Directors' meetings

The number of Directors' meetings and number of meetings attended by each of the Directors of the Company during the financial year were:

	Directors Meetings		Audit & Risk Committee		HR Committee	
	Attended	Held*	Attended	Held*	Attended	Held*
L Apelt	5	6	4	4	3	4
D Gow	1	1	1	1	-	-
W Fellowes	6	6	4	4	-	-
J Mather	5	6	-	-	4	4
K McNamara	3	6	4	4	-	-
J Currie	5	6	-	-	4	4
J Walker	4	6	-	-	1	3
M Fenton	4	5	2	3	-	-
J Keating**	4	4	-	-	4	4

* Reflects the number of meetings held during the time the Director held office during the year

** External Committee Member until 29 May 2024

Vision

Growing a community connected by the transformative power of opera.

Purpose

Creating a vibrant and sustainable program of classic, contemporary and new work by diverse artists for diverse audiences across Queensland and beyond.

Our strategy

As one of the country's leading arts organisations we take our responsibility for the development of the sector seriously, fostering collaborations with other companies and artists to create opportunities for artistic exploration and development. We are committed to building a skilled workforce that can deliver a broad range of performances and programs – from grand productions in the Lyric Theatre to festivals in the Outback.

We are also committed to the creation of new work and embrace the ongoing challenge it presents in building trust with audiences. We aim to address this challenge by increasing our annual mainstage offering to three fully staged works. These productions provide the greatest platform for sustained connection with our audiences and balanced artistic risk taking.

Key to our success are the relationships we build with other Queensland artists and organisations, First Nations communities, culturally and linguistically diverse people (CALD) and people with disabilities. Collaborating to share costs and leverage investments will continue be a high priority, including utilising existing networks such as Opera Conference. Through these relationships we enable the creation of new Australian productions and increase the capacity of communities across the state to participate in the joy of telling stories with music.

Opera Queensland is a major employer of artists and a wide range of other arts professionals, including administrators, music and language staff, stage managers and production crew. This makes us uniquely placed to produce work of exceptional quality and scale. In doing this we have an important role to play in preparing the Queensland arts sector for the important role culture will play in the upcoming Cultural Olympiad and 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

The outcome of this approach will include:

- Making Queensland a focal point of creative energy in opera
- Create meaningful employment for a strong community of artists and arts workers
- Increase capacity of the Queensland arts sector
- Artists, arts workers and audiences who are reflective of the diverse Australian community

- Audiences who are advocates for the joy and connection opera creates in their lives and the wider community
- Deeper relationships with our audiences and extended communities across the state
- Greater opportunities for diverse audiences to participate in the art form
- Establishing Opera Queensland as an internationally renowned centre of creative excellence
- Increasing representation of women, First Nations and people with disabilities working in creative leadership roles
- New works added to the opera repertoire
- Works of scale illuminating the complex array of creative forces involved in producing opera
- Collaborations that precipitate new creative opportunities

The greatest challenge over the coming years is to build income levels to enable Opera Queensland to capitalise on opportunities to create works and events that nurture a Queensland voice, engaging audiences locally, nationally and internationally.

Opera Queensland's business development strategy builds upon the success of recent years, increasing income and support from private donors and corporate sponsors to ensure the ambitious goals of the organisation are realised.

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Company in 2024 were:

- Presentation of three mainstage productions at Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC):
 - *Lucia di Lammermoor*, a new concert production with Director Patrick Nolan and Conductor Richard Mills
 - Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, a new production directed by Yaron Lifschitz, with Conductor Benjamin Bayl
 - *Strait from the Strait*, a new Torres Strait Islander musical, co-produced by Opera Queensland, Yumpla Nerkep Foundation and QPAC, in association with Brisbane Festival
- Presentation of Brisbane Bel Canto Festival, including Jessica Pratt in Concert at QPAC, Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and Bel Canto Long Lunch with Maggie Beer.
- Andreas Scholl in concert with EnsembleQ at City Tabernacle Baptist Church.
- A tour of the new Opera Queensland production, *Do We Need Another Hero?*, presented in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Maryborough, Proserpine, Ingham, Hughenden, Cloncurry, Mount Isa, Winton, Longreach, Barcaldine, Blackall-Tambo, Quilpie, Stonehenge, Roma, Goondiwindi, Warwick, Caloundra and Gold Coast.
- The fourth year of the Festival of Outback Opera, in Winton and Longreach.
- The presentation of 5 recitals in the Opera Queensland studio:
 - Alex Raineri – Speechless
 - Heru Pinkasova & Brendan Murtagh – Pacific Harmonies
 - Amy Lehpamer & Alex Raineri – The Best of Broadway (According to Amy Lehpamer)
 - Virgilio Marino & Alex Raineri – Songs of My Life
 - Adrian Strooper & Alex Raineri – A Window into Song
- Presentations of *Hansel & Gretel* in collaboration with shake & stir theatre co were delivered to primary students across metropolitan and regional Queensland as part of the schools touring program.
- Three community events of *Sing Sing Sing* in the Opera Queensland studio.
- Opera Queensland's 2024 Young Artists were six singers, Nick Kirkup, Nina Korbe, Lachlann Lawton, Olivia Payne, Shikara Ringdahl and Connor Willmore, and director Eugene Lynch. These artists were provided with extraordinary opportunities to challenge and extend themselves, receiving specialised tuition, participating in performances on our mainstage, touring with our regional program and Festival of Outback Opera.

- In-school programs and residencies, and community workshops as part of our Learning, Regional & Community activities.
- Creative developments of a number of new works, including *Straight from the Strait* with First Nations artists from Torres Strait, *Do We Need Another Hero?* regional touring production, and a new opera being written by Indigenous singer-songwriter Jess Hitchcock.
- Wardrobe services for the creation of costumes for the new Opera Conference production of *Rusalka*.
- Various audience development and fundraising events and initiatives.

Review and Result of Operations

The result for the Company for the year was a total surplus of \$187,991 (2023: \$169,314).

A four-year summary of results is presented below.

Financial Performance	2024 \$	2023 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
OPERATING REVENUE				
Event Income	1,897,166	1,641,686	1,612,336	1,415,857
Sponsorships & Donations	2,115,666	2,246,728	1,876,535	1,236,631
Grant Income	4,525,494	4,105,296	4,347,595	4,815,247
Other Income	1,278,407	649,401	531,187	465,847
Total operating income	9,816,733	8,643,111	8,367,654	7,933,582
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Production & Touring Costs	6,960,310	5,819,227	5,767,161	4,770,818
Marketing & Business Development	1,435,822	1,362,270	1,488,690	1,385,589
Infrastructure and Administration	1,569,698	1,407,176	1,227,358	1,324,069
Total operating expenses	9,965,830	8,588,673	8,483,210	7,480,476
Net Result from Operating Activities¹	(149,097)	54,438	(115,556)	453,106
Bequests & Endowments	-	-	317	550
Fair value adjustment	337,088	114,876	(166,348)	449,262
Reserves Matched Funding	-	-	-	100,000
Total Income from Restricted Items²	337,088	114,876	(166,031)	549,812
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT	187,991	169,314	(281,587)	1,002,918

1 Net result from Operating Activities excludes a number of restricted income streams which are not available for operating purposes.

2 Restricted Items include:

- Philanthropic bequest and endowments
- Fair value of adjustment of financial assets (shares and managed funds) attributed to the donation and endowment reserve and other investments
- Reserves matched funding from Creative Australia

A more detailed review of the operations of the Company during the financial year is contained in Chair's Message and CEO & Artistic Director's Message in the Annual Report.

The Company is exempt from income tax.

Performance measurement

The Company measures performance through agreed outcomes and performance indicators established in collaboration with the Queensland and Federal Governments. These performance measures align with the five core goals listed below, as articulated in the *Strategic Plan 2025-2028*. Performance measures and benchmarks are reviewed, and new measures set on an annual basis.

- Lead change in opera in Australia
- Support sector and artform development
- Nurture and grow audiences
- Embrace diversity to build strong, vibrant communities
- Ensure operational sustainability and resilience for future generations

Members guarantee

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have share capital. The liability of its ordinary members is limited to \$50 for each member and the total amount liable for 2024 is \$550 (2023: \$600).

Events subsequent to balance date

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the directors, to affect significantly the operations of the Company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

Lead Auditor's independence declaration

The Lead Auditor's independence declaration is set out on page 7 and forms part of the directors' report for financial year 2024.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors:



Linda Apelt
Chair
Brisbane, 30 April 2025

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

In the opinion of the Directors of Opera Queensland Limited ("the Company"):

- (a) The financial statements and notes set out on pages 8 to 26 are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2024 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures; and
- (b) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Apelt', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Linda Apelt
Chair
Brisbane, 30 April 2025

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY ANTHONY WHYTE TO THE DIRECTORS OF OPERA QUEENSLAND LIMITED

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit of Opera Queensland Limited for the year ended 31 December 2024.



Anthony Whyte
Director

BDO Audit Pty Ltd

Brisbane, 30 April 2025

OPERA QUEENSLAND LIMITED
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		2024	2023
		\$	\$
REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS	Notes		
Event Income	8	1,897,166	1,641,686
Sponsorships & Donations	9	2,115,666	2,246,728
Other Income	10	1,074,579	472,616
Net gain/(loss) on financial assets	11	337,088	114,876
Grant Income			
Queensland government			
Operational grant		2,823,061	2,856,181
Project funding		653,056	354,000
Other grants		100,000	100,000
Opera Conference funding	6	60,540	-
Federal government			
Operational grant		489,995	724,627
Project funding		100,000	-
Opera Conference funding	6	264,342	-
Local government		34,500	70,488
TOTAL REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS		9,949,993	8,581,202
Financial income		203,828	176,785
TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME		10,153,821	8,757,987
 EXPENDITURE			
Production & Touring	12	6,960,310	5,819,227
Marketing & Business Development		1,435,822	1,362,270
Infrastructure & Administration		1,569,698	1,407,176
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	13	9,965,830	8,588,673
 Net surplus / (deficit)		187,991	169,314
 Other comprehensive income attributable to members of the company		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY		187,991	169,314

The Statement of Comprehensive Income is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements set out on pages 12 to 26.

**OPERA QUEENSLAND LIMITED
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Subordinated Loan	Donation and Endowment Reserve	Accumulated Surplus	Total Accumulated Funds
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2023	200,000	3,017,580	2,772,093	5,989,673
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	-	114,876	54,438	169,314
Balance at 31 December 2023	200,000	3,132,456	2,826,531	6,158,987
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	-	268,875	(80,884)	187,991
Balance at 31 December 2024	200,000	3,401,331	2,745,647	6,346,978

The Statement of Changes In Equity is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements set out on pages 12 to 26.

- i During the year \$268,785 was recorded as a net gain (2023: \$114,876) on financial assets relating to investments held for restricted endowed funds and \$68,213 (2023: \$0) on financial assets relating to other investments held within accumulated surplus.

OPERA QUEENSLAND LIMITED
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	14	1,780,299	3,317,627
Trade receivables and other assets	15	430,013	829,533
Total Current Assets		<u>2,210,312</u>	<u>4,147,160</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	16	887,564	941,014
Investments	17	4,518,608	2,121,102
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>5,406,172</u>	<u>3,062,116</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>7,616,484</u>	<u>7,209,276</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	18	319,352	286,899
Employee benefits	19	181,723	185,931
Lease liabilities		48,976	45,036
Other	20	605,443	380,284
Total Current Liabilities		<u>1,155,494</u>	<u>898,150</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	19	57,182	46,334
Lease liabilities		56,830	105,806
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>114,012</u>	<u>152,140</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>1,269,506</u>	<u>1,050,289</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>6,346,978</u>	<u>6,158,987</u>
<i>Represented by:</i>			
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Subordinated loan	21	200,000	200,000
Donation and Endowment Reserve	20	3,401,331	3,132,456
Accumulated surplus		2,745,647	2,826,531
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS		<u>6,346,978</u>	<u>6,158,987</u>

The Balance Sheet is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements set out on pages 12 to 26.

OPERA QUEENSLAND LIMITED
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash flow from operating activities			
Cash receipts from customers and grantors		10,485,303	7,564,380
Cash paid to suppliers and employees		(10,107,970)	(7,915,826)
Interest Received		78,950	109,833
Net cash (used in) / from operating activities	24	<u>456,283</u>	<u>(241,613)</u>
Cash flow from investing activities			
Acquisition of investments		(2,060,418)	-
Interest and dividends received		153,187	102,650
Acquisition of plant and equipment		(41,344)	(172,414)
Net cash (from) / used in investing activities		<u>(1,948,574)</u>	<u>(69,765)</u>
Cash flow from financing activities			
Payment of lease liabilities		(45,036)	(67,652)
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(45,036)</u>	<u>(67,652)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash & cash equivalents		(1,537,328)	(379,030)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1st January		3,317,627	3,696,657
Cash and cash equivalents at 31st December	14	<u>1,780,299</u>	<u>3,317,627</u>

The Statement of Cash Flows is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements set out on pages 12 to 26.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

1. Reporting entity

Opera Queensland Limited (the “Company”) is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001*. The company is domiciled in Australia and its registered offices are at 140 Grey Street, South Bank Queensland.

The principal activities of the Company are to, celebrate and enrich life in our communities through opera experiences.

The financial report was authorised for issue by the directors on 30 April 2025.

2. Basis of preparation

(a) Statement of compliance

The financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

A statement of compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards cannot be made due to the Company applying the not-for-profit sector specific requirements contained in Australian Accounting Standards.

(b) Basis of preparation

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars and prepared on the historical cost basis.

There are no estimates or assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the financial report.

The accounting policies below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in the financial report.

(c) Going concern

Forecasts of cash flows have been prepared for the 12 month period from the date the Directors have approved this financial report which support the Directors’ view that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due in this period.

Having regard to the above the Directors are of the opinion that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis. Accordingly, no adjustments have been made to the financial report relating to the recoverability and classification of the assets carrying amounts or the amounts and classifications of liabilities that might be necessary should the Company not continue as a going concern.

(d) Economic dependency

The Company’s operations are funded in part by the Queensland and Federal Governments (the Funding Agencies), subject to the company meeting its funding and reporting obligations under the special conditions in the *2021 to 2024 Tri-Partite Funding Agreement* and *2025 to 2028 Multi-Partite Funding Agreement*.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

The terms of the Multi-Partite Funding Agreement are set out in Note 27. The Multi-Partite agreement has been made under the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework (NPAPF).

The ability of the Company to maintain its operations is dependent, inter alia, on the continuing financial support of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Federal Government through Creative Australia as set out in the relevant Multi-Partite Funding Agreements.

This in turn is dependent upon the Queensland Performing Arts Centre providing its venues on the planned dates for productions.

(e) New Accounting Standards

The Company has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (the AASB) that are relevant to their operations and effective for the current year. Their adoption has not had any material impact on the disclosures and/or amounts reported in these financial statements.

3. Significant accounting policies

(a) Revenue

Revenue is measured based on the consideration specified in a contract with a customer. The Company recognises revenue when it transfers control over a good or service to a customer.

Event Income

Event income from performance ticket sales are recognised when performances, for which the tickets were sold, take place.

Grants

The annual grants from the Queensland (Arts Queensland) and Federal (Creative Australia) Governments are received in instalments as scheduled under Multi-Partite Funding Agreement (Note 27). Grant revenue is brought to account when controlled, at the fair value of the consideration received. Grant revenue is subject to fulfilment of conditions as stipulated in the Multi-Partite Funding Agreement. In 2024, the Company satisfied all conditions of the Agreement.

Grant revenue includes an amount that is paid directly to the Opera Conference to fund joint productions across states (refer Note 6).

Other special purpose grants, including local government grants and other State grants awarded are recognised at the time the obligation is fulfilled. All such grant funding provided in 2024 has been spent on the activity as required, and in accordance with each agreement. The Company did not receive any other forms of Government assistance.

Sponsorships

Cash sponsorship is recognised as income on receipt of the monies, at the fair value of the consideration received. The fair values of in-kind sponsorships are agreed between the Company and the sponsors having regard to the services being provided and are recognised as revenue over time.

Donations and Bequests

Cash donations, bequests and endowment funds are recognised as income on receipt of the monies. Non-cash donations and bequests are recognised when the gift is received by the Company and is recorded at fair value. Pledged donations are not recognised as income until received.

Financial Income

Unrestricted interest and dividends are recognised as income on receipt of the monies. Restricted interest and dividends earned on Bequest Investments are recognised as deferred income (refer Note 20) until the specific performance obligations of the Bequest are met.

Other Income

Other income comprises fees and income earned from workshops held, tickets to fundraising and other company-held events, venue and equipment hires, provision of services, and other minor subsidiary activities. Other income is recognised when the performance obligation is met, at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

(b) Production costs

Direct costs relating to productions

The total cost of staging productions, including the manufacturing of costumes, scenery and properties, is charged as expenditure in the period in which the production is performed by the Company.

Season launch and brochure costs

Costs associated with the season launch and the development and printing of the season brochure are expensed when the launch occurs and when the brochures are sent out.

(c) Property, plant and equipment

Items of leasehold property, plant, equipment and motor vehicles are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment losses (see accounting policy 3 (f)).

Depreciation/amortisation is charged to the statement of comprehensive income on a straight line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of property, plant and equipment. The estimated useful lives in the current and comparative periods are as follows:

- Leasehold property - peppercorn 100 years
- Leasehold property - other 3-6 years
- Plant and equipment 3-10 years
- Lease plant and equipment 5 years
- Motor vehicles 3-6 years

The residual value, if not insignificant, is reassessed annually for impairment.

The Company has a long-term peppercorn lease of its premises at a rent of \$1 per annum. The Company has elected to recognise this lease in the balance sheet at deemed cost within property, plant & equipment and is amortised over the life of the lease. Refer to Note 16.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

(d) Leases

At inception of a contract, the Company assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To assess whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, the Company uses the definition of a lease in AASB 16.

i. As a lessee

At commencement or on modification of a contract that contains a lease component, the Company allocates the consideration in the contract to each lease component on the basis of its relative stand-alone prices. However, for the leases of property the Company has elected not to separate non-lease components and account for the lease and non-lease components as a single lease component.

The Company recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for any lease payments made at or before the commencement date plus any initial direct costs incurred and an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, less any lease incentives received.

The right-of-use asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the end of the lease term unless the lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset to the Company by the end of the lease term or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the Company will exercise a purchase option. In that case the right-of-use asset will be depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset which is determined on the same basis as those of property and equipment. In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses if any, and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot readily be determined, the Company's incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise of both fixed payments and variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date.

The lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. It is remeasured when there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate, if there is a change in the Company's estimate of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee, if the Company changes its assessment of whether it will exercise a purchase, extension or termination option or if there is a revised in-substance fixed lease payment.

When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

The Company presents right-of-use assets in "property, plant and equipment" and "lease liabilities" in the statement of financial position.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

(e) Goods and services tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as a current asset or liability in the balance sheet.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

(f) Impairment

The carrying amount of the Company's assets is reviewed at each balance sheet date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

An impairment loss is recognised whenever the carrying value of an asset or its cash generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The recoverable amounts of the Company's plant and equipment assets are calculated as the depreciated replacement cost of the asset.

Impairment of receivables is measured at an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses. Receivables are individually assessed for impairment.

(g) Employee benefits

Wages, salaries and annual leave:

Liabilities for employee benefits for wages, salaries and annual leave that are expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date represent present obligations resulting from employees' services provided to reporting date, are calculated at undiscounted amounts based on remuneration wage and salary rates that the Company expects to pay as at reporting date including related on-costs, such as workers compensation insurance and payroll tax.

Long service leave:

The Company's net obligation in respect of long service leave is the amount of future benefit that employees have earned in return for their service in the current and prior periods. The obligation is calculated using expected future increases in wage and salary rates including related on-costs and expected settlement dates, and is discounted using the corporate bond rate at the balance sheet date which have maturity dates approximating to the terms of the Company's obligations.

Superannuation:

The Company contributes to industry defined contribution superannuation funds in accordance with current legislation and to authorised personal superannuation funds. Contributions are recognised as an expense in the statement of comprehensive income as incurred.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

(h) *Provisions*

Provisions are recorded when the Company has a present obligation, either legal or constructive as a result of a past event. They are recognised at the amount expected at reporting date for which the obligation will be settled in a future period. Where the settlement of the obligation is expected after twelve (12) or more months, the obligation is discounted to the present value using an appropriate discount rate.

(i) *Accounting Standards*

A number of new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 January 2025 and early application is permitted. The Company has not applied any of the new or amended standards in preparing these financial statements. The Company does not expect the new or amended standards will have a material impact on the financial statements on initial application.

(j) *Financial instruments*

The Company's principal financial instruments comprise cash and short-term deposits, receivables, payables and share investments.

Non-derivative financial instruments

Non-derivative financial instruments comprise trade and other receivables, cash and cash equivalents, loans and borrowing, and trade and other payables.

Non-derivative financial instruments are recognised initially at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition non-derivative financial instruments are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment loss.

A financial instrument is recognised if the Company becomes a party to the contractual provision of the instrument. Financial assets are derecognised if the Company's contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire or if the Company transfers the financial asset to another party without retaining control or substantially all risks and rewards of the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised if the Company's obligations specified in the contract expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and call deposits. Bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Company's cash management are included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the statement of cash flows.

Share investments

The Company measures all share investments initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition, investments are measured at fair value as the contractual terms of the financial asset do not give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest. Any profit or loss due to subsequent change in fair value is recorded in the profit or loss in the statement of comprehensive income.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

(k) Joint arrangements

Under AASB 11, the Company classifies material interests in joint arrangements as either joint operations (if the Company has rights to the assets, and obligations for the liabilities, relating to an arrangement) or joint ventures (if the Company has rights only to the net assets of an arrangement). When making this assessment, the Company considers the structure of the arrangements, the contractual terms of the arrangements and other facts and circumstances.

The Company has one joint arrangement, being an interest in Opera Conference, which is an entity established for the purpose described in Note 6. The Company's contribution in 2024 to Opera Conference was \$324,882 (2023: \$0). This joint arrangement is not material to the Company and consequently has not been accounted for as a joint arrangement.

4. Company membership

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have share capital. The liability of the members is limited to \$50 for each member. Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company, in the event of the same being wound up while a member, or within one year after ceasing to be a member, for payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company (contracted before membership ceases) and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories amount themselves, such amount as may be required, not to exceed \$50 per ordinary member.

Membership of the Company consists of the following:

	No. of members	
	2024	2023
Life Membership	9	8
Ordinary Membership	11	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20	20

5. Income tax

In accordance with Section 50-45 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act* the Company is not liable for income tax.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

6. Opera Conference

In 1995 the state opera companies – Opera Queensland, West Australian Opera, State of South Australia united with the national company, Opera Australia, in a formally constituted partnership known as the Opera Conference, where the companies collaborate to produce and present one new production in most years, and to support opera regional touring throughout Australia. The Australian Government and the respective state governments fund the Opera Conference through each opera company’s Funding Agreement. Funding identified for this purpose is redirected by each opera company to the Opera Conference partnership to fund the collaborative initiatives undertaken. In 2023, no tranche payments were made, with the Funding Bodies approving that the funds be used by each company to assist financially through the recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic. Tranche payments recommenced in 2024.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Annual funding amount contributed to Opera Conference by Opera Queensland from:		
State Government funding	60,540	-
Federal Government funding	264,342	-
	324,882	-

7. Auditors' Remuneration

Audit services – cash	30,400	29,000
	30,400	29,000

8. Event Income

Differences in event income between 2024 and 2023 are largely due to the number of Concert Hall performances (3 Brisbane Bel Canto performances in 2024, 2 performances of Macbeth in 2023) and increased regional performance income. There was also an increase in box office income and decrease in performance and co-producer fees due to the different presentation arrangements for mainstage productions in 2024.

9. Sponsorships & Donations

Sponsorships - cash	448,636	305,091
Sponsorships – in kind	454,401	913,487
Philanthropic Trusts and Foundations	300,000	300,000
General Donations	912,629	728,150
	2,115,666	2,246,728

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
10. Other income		
Differences in other income between 2024 and 2023 reflects increased third party production hires and wardrobe services.		
11. Net gain/(loss) on financial assets	337,088	114,876
Net gain/(loss) on financial assets represents the fair value adjustment on reserves and bequest investments.		
12. Production & Touring		
Differences in expenditure between 2024 and 2023 reflects the different presentation arrangements for mainstage productions in 2024 and costs associated with the manufacturing of costumes for <i>Rusalka</i> .		
13. Employee expenses included within total expenditure		
Productions & touring	3,576,297	2,992,752
Community programs & education	99,753	131,131
Marketing & business development	740,985	695,829
Infrastructure & administration	824,230	686,104
	5,241,266	4,505,815
14. Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash balances	500	500
Bank balances	579,799	2,097,577
Short-term deposits	1,200,000	1,219,550
	1,780,299	3,317,627
15. Trade receivables and other assets		
Trade receivables	332,195	730,539
Prepayments	97,818	98,994
	430,013	829,533

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
16. Property, plant & equipment		
Lease premium and leasehold improvements at deemed cost	797,102	797,102
Accumulated amortisation	(228,254)	(220,368)
	568,848	576,734

The Company has a long-term peppercorn lease of its premises at a rent of \$1 per annum. The Company has elected to apply relief under the accounting standards and measured the peppercorn lease at deemed costs.

Plant and Equipment at cost	788,681	747,337
Accumulated depreciation	(562,944)	(519,682)
	225,737	227,654
Right-of-use assets – photocopiers & storage	204,001	204,001
Accumulated depreciation	(111,022)	(67,375)
	92,979	136,626
Net book value property, leases, plant and equipment.	887,564	941,014

At 31 December 2024, \$495,527 of assets has been fully written down (2023: \$487,117).

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment are set out below:

Reconciliations

Lease and leasehold improvements

Carrying amount at the beginning of the year	576,734	584,619
Amortisation charge for the year	(7,885)	(7,885)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	568,848	576,734

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<i>Plant and equipment</i>		
Carrying amount at the beginning of the year	227,564	92,464
Acquisitions during the year	41,344	172,414
Disposals during the year	-	-
Depreciation charge for the year	(43,262)	(37,225)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	<u>225,736</u>	<u>227,654</u>
 <i>Right-of-use assets</i>		
Carrying amount at the beginning of the year	136,626	151,553
Acquisitions during the year	-	50,580
Disposals during the year	-	-
Depreciation charge for the year	(43,647)	(65,507)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	<u>92,979</u>	<u>136,626</u>

Depreciation and amortisation expenses for the year are included under Infrastructure & Administration expenses in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Right-of-use assets consists of the Company's photocopier lease and storage lease.

17. Investments

Bequest investments – at cost	3,178,202	1,530,025
Bequest investments – revaluation	261,109	591,077
Bequest investments – at fair value	<u>3,439,311</u>	<u>2,121,102</u>
 Reserves investments – at cost	 1,011,085	 -
Reserves investments – revaluation	68,213	-
Reserves investments – at fair value	<u>1,079,298</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>4,518,608</u>	<u>2,121,102</u>

18. Trade and other payables

Trade payables	44,161	27,374
Other payables and accrued expenses	275,191	259,525
	<u>319,352</u>	<u>286,899</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
19. Employee benefits		
Current		
<i>Liability for long service leave</i>		
Carrying amount at the beginning of the year	59,003	65,655
Leave accrued/(paid or reversed) during the year	20,270	(6,652)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	79,272	59,003
 <i>Liability for annual leave and TOIL</i>		
Carrying amount at the beginning of the year	126,928	87,358
Leave accrued/(paid or reversed) during the year	(24,478)	39,571
Carrying amount at the end of the year	102,450	126,928
<i>Total Current Employee Benefits</i>	181,722	185,931
 Non-Current		
<i>Liability for long service leave</i>		
Carrying amount at the beginning of the year	46,334	36,152
Leave accrued/(paid or reversed) during the year	10,849	10,181
Carrying amount at the end of the year	57,182	46,334
<i>Total Non-Current Employee Benefits</i>	57,182	46,334
 20. Other Liabilities		
Current		
Government grants in advance	183,855	100,000
Other income received in advance	111,381	78,378
Ticket sales in advance	95,945	52,038
Deferred revenue – Bequest (dividends and interest earned)	214,262	149,868
	605,443	380,284

Deferred revenue comprises restricted interest and dividends earned on Bequest Investments and are not recognised as earned until the specific performance obligations of the Bequest are met. The terms of the bequest require corpus bequest funds to be held by the Company and invested, with the income generated from the endowed funds to be contributed towards Opera Queensland’s young artist program activity. The total donation and endowment reserve as at 31 December 2024 was \$3,401,331 (\$2,541,379 corpus plus \$859,952 fair value adjustment on investments) (2023: \$3,132,456 (\$2,541,379 corpus plus \$591,077 fair value adjustment on shares)).

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
21. Subordinated Deferred Loan	200,000	200,000

The directors consider that as the subordinated deferred loan is only repayable on the winding up of the Company, or earlier by mutual consent between the Company and the loan holder, (being the Queensland Government) and it is subordinated to all other loans and creditors, it should be disclosed with the members' funds in the balance sheet. The loan is interest free.

22. Grant Conditions – Reserves Held

Opera Queensland's minimum required level of reserves held is 20% (net assets as a percentage of total expenditure) as defined by Creative Australia. Reserves exist and are maintained in order to protect the Company in the event of unanticipated adverse financial circumstances. As at 31 December 2024, unrestricted Reserves are above the required level of 20%.

23. Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

The Company, by the nature of its operations, has entered into contracts with artists, theatre proprietors, suppliers and others for productions, commissions and performances scheduled to be delivered or to take place after 31 December 2024. Total amounts payable under these contracts are set out below.

Payable within one year		
Artists' fees	331,700	463,075
Venue hire & production	312,165	298,304
Other	-	-
	643,865	761,379
Payable within 2 – 5 years		
Other	-	-
	643,865	761,379

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
24. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities		
<i>Cash flows from operating activities</i>		
Net (deficit) / surplus for the year	187,991	169,314
Bequest and Reserve financial assets	(337,088)	(114,876)
Investment income	(88,793)	(66,952)
Disposal of fixed asset	-	-
Depreciation	51,147	45,110
Amortisation	43,647	65,507
<i>Operating profit before changes in working capital and provisions</i>	(143,096)	98,103
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Trade receivables & other assets	399,519	(642,007)
Other non-current assets	-	-
Trade & other payables	32,454	142,943
Employee benefits	6,640	43,100
Provisions	-	-
Other current liabilities	160,765	116,247
<i>Net cash from / (used in) operating activities</i>	456,283	(241,613)

25. Financing Arrangements

The Company has an undrawn bank overdraft facility for \$300,000 which is secured by a first registered mortgage over the Company's lease at South Bank.

26. Related party disclosures

All directors are non-executive and are required to be members of the Company. Several members of the Board are also Patrons of Opera Queensland. No remuneration is payable to the Directors of the Company and there were no amounts paid to superannuation funds or as retirement allowance in connection with the retirement of any Directors of the Company. Directors are provided with tickets free of charge to represent the Company at promotional events.

Key Management Personnel provided donations to the Company during the year of \$39,780 (2023: \$60,859) and in-kind sponsorship of \$9,900 (2023: \$3,080)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Executive compensation included in the Statement of Comprehensive Income is as follows:

Short term employee benefits	590,766	534,321
Long term employee benefits	15,657	9,718
Post-employment benefits	61,843	53,374
	668,266	597,413
	668,266	597,413

27. Tri-partite and Multi-Partite funding

The Company receives funding from both the Queensland Government, administered by Arts Queensland, and from the Federal Government, administered by Creative Australia, (collectively the Funding Agencies).

Grant funding for 2024 was received subject to the conditions of the *2021 to 2024 Tri-Partite Funding Agreement*, which was signed on 23 July 2021.

A Multi-Partite Funding Agreement for 2025 to 2028 was signed on 18 December 2024. The funding detailed therein being subject to the Company complying with various conditions which are in general that the Company achieves the Government Priorities, Key Performance Indicators and Special Conditions as agreed and reviewed annually. These conditions include the Company continuing to meet its reporting obligations and ongoing close monitoring of budgets and programs.

The approved funding for the year 2025, excluding indexation is:

	\$
Creative Australia	776,967
Arts Queensland	<u>2,922,282</u>
	<u>3,699,249</u>

28. Subsequent Events

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the directors, to affect significantly the operations of the Company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Opera Queensland Limited

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Opera Queensland Limited (the company), which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial report, including material accounting policy information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the accompanying financial report of Opera Queensland Limited, is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) Giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other information

The directors of the company are responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is information included in the Opera Queensland Limited's directors' report, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors of the company are responsible for overseeing the company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website (<http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>) at:

http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BDO Audit Pty Ltd



Anthony Whyte

Director

Brisbane, 30 April 2025