



## The A List Create Space Media Release

A grant from the Department of Social Services will see the creation of neuro-inclusive arts and cultural events for autistic people around Australia.

[The A List](#) will use the grant to support the first of its kind *Create Space Arts Initiative*, which aims to assist major arts and cultural venues in Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane become more accessible and inclusive.

Over the next twelve months, The A List will collaborate with its partners, [Aspect \(Autism Spectrum Australia\)](#), [Australian Catholic University \(ACU\)](#) and [LEGO](#) Australia, to create and deliver neuro-inclusive cultural events designed to engage all neurotypes in a safe, respectful and fun environment.

Aspect will assist participating venues to create inclusive environments that cater to the needs of Autistic individuals and their families, while ACU will provide opportunities for autistic students to be trained as volunteers. LEGO Australia will contribute

staff and materials to enhance art exhibitions, play events, and community builds.

The project will also feature an Advisory Board made up of autistic adults with extensive experience in the arts sector, who will oversee the initiative's design and implementation alongside The A List team. Details on key dates and locations will be announced shortly.

Nicole Gamerov and Bianca Shapiro, co-founders of The A List and [MyCareSpace](#) (a platform connecting people with disability to supports), said the initiative is committed to inclusivity and community engagement.

“Although research indicates that the arts significantly enhances quality of life for people with disabilities, they face higher barriers to attendance and participation. Our goal with *Create Space* is to build environments where all neurotypes can come together, learn from each other, and participate in arts and culture in a supportive, accessible and inclusive space,” Gamerov said.

The initiative also includes comprehensive training for venue staff on autism inclusion and developing a volunteer training program in collaboration with ACU.

Shapiro said these efforts aim not only to improve access and safety for autistic youth and the general public, but also to embed inclusive practices in mainstream venue programming and create employment opportunities for newly trained autistic volunteers.

“We are not simply making it possible for autistic individuals to fully share in the arts community today, we are creating a legacy,” said Shapiro. “With specialised training, these chosen venues can continue to offer support and accessibility to the neurodivergent community moving forward.”

Madeleine Jaine Lobsey, project director of *Create Space* said the initiative would open up the creative world to autistic people.

“As an autistic person myself and lover of arts and culture, I have experienced first-hand the challenges of accessing events and fully participating in them. I am excited to create new opportunities for autistic artists and volunteers to enter a world they have previously found difficult to navigate,” she said.

“It will also enable neuro-divergent individuals and their families – many for the first time – to attend events and access spaces that are usually unavailable or limited for them, and enable neuro-typical people an opportunity to connect with the autistic community and garner more understanding and acceptance.”

**Find out more:**

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