



MEGALO PRINT STUDIO

**2023-2026
STRATEGIC
PLAN**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Megalo Print Studio acknowledges, respects and honours the unceded sovereignty of the Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri nations on whose country we dwell; and the traditional ownership and custodianship of all Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and First Nations peoples across whose lands we and our partners live, work and create.

MEGALO PRINT STUDIO 2023-2026

Megalo Print Studio has maintained a steadfast commitment for over forty years to our fundamental mission – **to share and support the creative voices of our communities through print**. We believe that print remains unique as an inherently democratic, collaborative and innovative artform; and we are dedicated to providing the space to develop skills and knowledge, and to share stories and visions, for print practice in all its manifestations.

Megalo is the only studio in Australia – and one of very few worldwide – to provide artists, creative practitioners and the broader community, at all stages, with access to facilities in the full range of print disciplines: screenprint, lithography, relief and intaglio. Our role as a leading arts organisation, recognised across Australia and internationally, is to support engagement with the whole experience of print practice through:

year-round studio access;
classes, workshops and learning programs;
residencies for emerging and established practitioners;
exhibitions and engagement activities;
creative and professional development opportunities; and
collaborative partnerships throughout Australia and overseas.

Megalo has always grown, and evolved, as our communities and their needs have changed and developed. Now we face a period of transition, with the emergence and recognition of new voices, new technologies and new challenges – and we are determined to embrace these changes once more, guided by our core values.



We **welcome**

Megalo offers support for all members of our communities to express their creative vision, and we openly invite everyone to share their skills and their stories.

We **connect**

Megalo reaches out to bring people together, near and far – building links between artists and audiences, artforms and communities locally and globally.

We **inspire**

Megalo provides pathways and opportunities for artists and communities worldwide to develop their creative and professional practices.

MEGALO NOW

Megalo was founded in 1980 as Megalo International Screen Collective: a workshop cooperative of Canberra-based artists focussed on generating employment opportunities, and social and political engagement, through creative design and production. As Megalo Access Arts from 1986, Megalo developed a reputation throughout Canberra's growing arts community, and beyond, as a creative venue where creative excellence and community access flourish in unison.

Megalo's peer organisation, Studio One, specialising in press-based printmaking – lithography, relief and intaglio – operated from 1983 until 2000; when the Studio

One equipment was brought together with Megalo's facilities. This has enabled us to provide combined access to the full range of print activity for members, residents and the community at large.

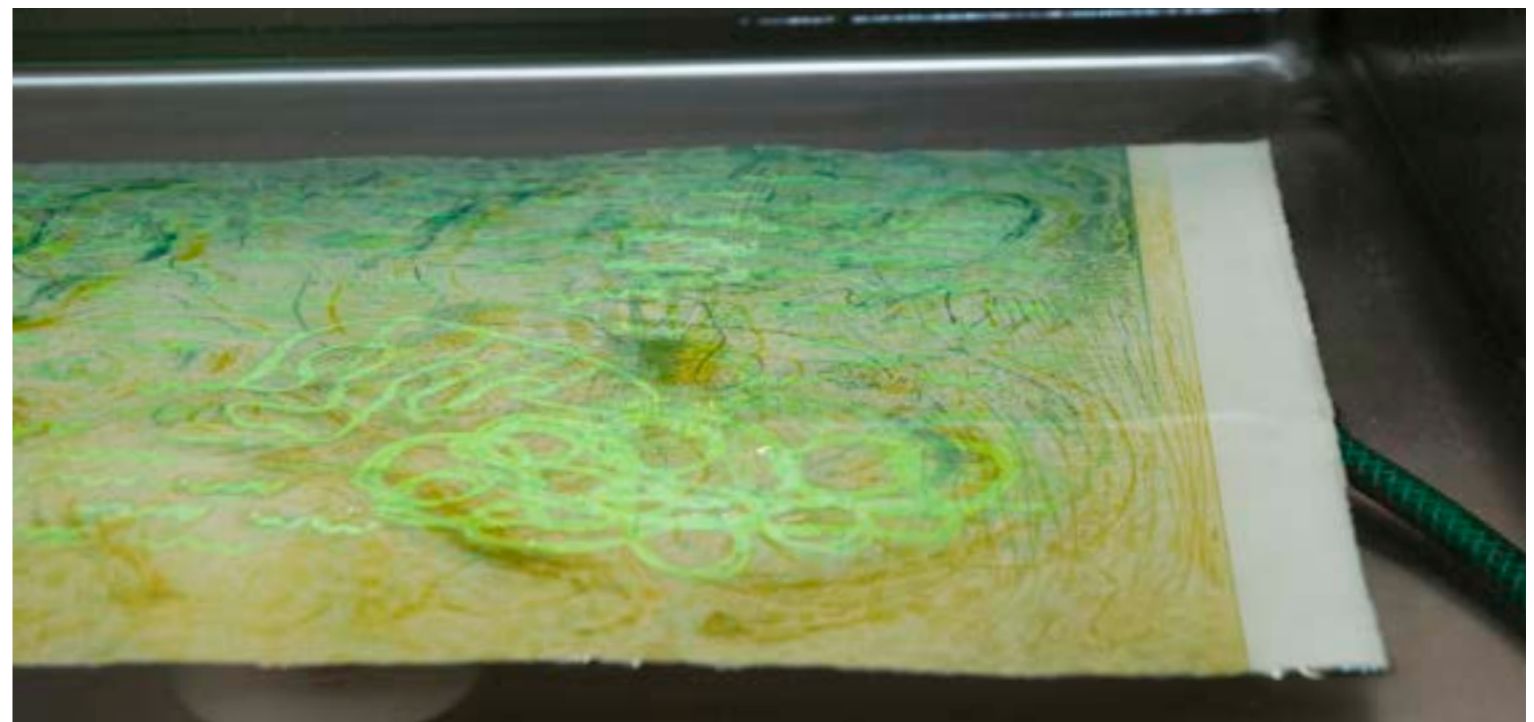
Since 2013, Megalo has been located in heritage premises at Kingston, offering year-round studio access alongside a diverse program of workshops, residencies, exhibitions and professional development opportunities. We have maintained an intense commitment to supporting the voices and creative practices of our members and our growing communities, while establishing a national and international reputation for excellence in artistic endeavour.

Megalo continues to face new challenges which we must meet if we are to maintain our status as Australia's leading arts organisation in print, and to fulfil the evolving expectations of our communities. Key issues addressed within our strategic planning include:

Our mandate to **provide access to print facilities** for artists and the broader community – for which demand is continually growing – requires the complex negotiation of regular studio access, workshop and class programming, necessary facility maintenance and financial sustainability.

The evolving nature of print itself, as an expanding and cross-disciplinary field, entails the **expansion of our facilities, equipment and expertise** into new and emerging hybrid practices, in order to retain Megalo's reputation as a site for the generation of innovative practice.

Inflationary pressures both within Australia and internationally are demonstrably affecting both our **communities' capacity to access Megalo** facilities, and supplier requirements in delivering resources and materials essential for service provision. Competition across and beyond our sector, in a period of recovery and recuperation, continues to affect Megalo's capacity to **grow support for activities beyond regular operations**.





Throughout our history, Megalo has consistently demonstrated the agility and creativity required to meet and overcome similar pressures. In addressing and surmounting these challenges now, we can rely on our fundamental strengths:

Our unique status, experience and reputation among our sector and communities – locally, nationally and internationally – as Australia’s leading print organisation.

A dedicated and passionate membership base, who are active both as users of our facilities and as advocates for our goals and activities.

A broad network of strong and mutually supportive relationships with peer organisations and funding bodies, based upon longstanding and consistently growing collaborative partnerships.

A skilled and resourceful team of Board members, staff, and supporters with exceptional expertise.



BUILDING TOWARDS THE FUTURE ARTS PRECINCT

Megalo Print Studio is one of seven leading arts organisations participating in the ACT Government's development of the future arts precinct at Kingston, led by the Suburban Land Agency and artsACT. This new precinct will establish a unique arts destination, and provide exceptional opportunities for creative engagement and expression for artists, audiences, visitors and the broader community.

Megalo is privileged to play a role in this initiative, and we are committed to supporting its success through connections and collaborations with our peer organisations, and all stakeholders involved in the future precinct.

Megalo's current location is directly adjacent to the future arts precinct site; and with construction expected to take place within the life of this plan, we anticipate intermittent disruption to our regular schedule of studio activities from 2023 onwards. To ensure that we are able to maintain our expected

levels of service to our communities, Megalo's planning through 2023-2026 incorporates provision for expanded off-site and outreach programming during periods of restricted access to our facilities. Much of this activity will be delivered in partnership with peer arts and community organisations, further strengthening our collaborative connections; and Megalo will also strive to work with and support our colleagues in this period of transition.

Once open, the new arts precinct will bring with it new opportunities for creative growth, alongside new expectations from our communities for extended access to our studio facilities, workshops and programs. To ensure that Megalo can effectively contribute to the success of the precinct right from the start, our planning throughout this period will incorporate the flexibility to respond to these expectations and opportunities, centred upon collaboration and communication with our colleagues and communities.



STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS AND GOALS

Megalo's activities and operations in 2023-2026 will seek to deliver on our mission of sharing and supporting the creative voices of our communities through four primary goals:

- 1** Maintaining and expanding access to print facilities for all members of our communities
- 2** Increasing opportunities for developing creative and professional practice in print
- 3** Embedding engagement with print throughout the cultural life of Canberra and beyond
- 4** Ensuring sustainability and supporting organisational growth

Across all four of these goals, and deeply aligned with our core values of welcoming, connecting and inspiring, Megalo's activities will also seek to fulfil three priority commitments:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creative practice
- Inclusive and accessible creative practice
- Innovative, experimental and cross-disciplinary print practice

These strategic goals and commitments will be supported through a cohesive and integrated creative program including artist residencies, workshops and classes, exhibitions, public events and collaborative initiatives, with many activities effectively addressing multiple priorities.

STRATEGIC COMMITMENT 1

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural and artistic practice

Megalo Print Studio acknowledges, respects and honours the unceded sovereignty of the Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri nations on whose country we dwell; and the traditional ownership and custodianship of all Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and First Nations peoples across whose lands we and our partners live, work and create. Throughout our history, Megalo has been privileged to work with many First Nations artists and organisations, and to support their voices through creative and cultural practice; and we are committed to maintaining this support across all areas of our activities.

Key Activities

Maintain respectful and meaningful dialogue with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and organisations across all areas of activity.

Develop and extend ongoing partnerships with Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and First Nations community arts and cultural centres within the ACT, across Australia and throughout the Pacific region, through skills development exchanges and residencies.

Establish a dedicated studio residency program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

Ensure consideration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation and participation across all professional development opportunities, including exhibitions and outreach projects.

Provide opportunities for training in cultural awareness and competency for staff, Board members and volunteers.

Actively pursue opportunities for the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in governance and management.

Actively support and assist the establishment of the dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Space within the development of the future arts precinct at Kingston, and the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in planning for the precinct.



STRATEGIC COMMITMENT 2

Inclusive and accessible artistic and creative practice

Megalo's heritage is founded upon our role as a partner for multiple community voices, of all backgrounds and abilities, and championing equity and recognition. It is essential for us to live up to this responsibility, and we will continue to reach out and welcome the inclusion of artists and audiences representing the full diversity of the ACT and beyond.

Key Activities

Develop and extend ongoing partnerships with peer community organisations, through creative development opportunities and programs.

Design and deliver effective workshop courses addressing the specific needs and abilities of participants with diverse abilities in collaboration with peer community organisations, include off-site and outreach initiatives.

Maintain ongoing assessment and upgrades of studio accessibility in consultation with peer organisations and members; and actively pursue opportunities to enhance and upgrade accessibility of facilities and equipment.

Provide opportunities for training in accessibility and inclusivity competency for staff, Board members and volunteers.

Ensure consideration of inclusivity, diversity and gender equity in the development of all professional development opportunities, including representation in exhibitions, residencies and outreach projects.

Actively pursue opportunities for the inclusion of diverse voices in governance and management.

Actively support and assist the inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives in planning for the future arts precinct at Kingston.



STRATEGIC COMMITMENT 3

Innovative, experimental and cross-disciplinary print practice

The field of print is uniquely positioned to take advantage of the development of new technologies, as a discipline founded upon collaboration and innovation across multiple artforms. Megalo has always enthusiastically embraced this potential, marrying the pursuit of experimentation with a commitment to maintaining core techniques and modes of practice.

Key Activities

Develop strong collaborative relationships with peer organisations in cross-disciplinary experimental, digital and hybrid practices.

Pursue opportunities for staff skills development in the provision of technical support for cross-disciplinary practice, including training programs and professional exchanges.

Develop the Megalo Editions initiative as a collaborative and sustainable model of partnership between Megalo printers and creative practitioners across multiple disciplines.

Actively support and assist planning for the inclusion of cross-disciplinary facilities within the development of the future arts precinct at Kingston.

Develop a sustainable model for the extension of studio facilities into cross-disciplinary practice, and pursue partnership opportunities to support growth in this area.



STRATEGIC GOAL 1

Maintaining and expanding access to print facilities for all members of our communities

The core of Megalo Print Studio's activities has always been the provision of access to professional print facilities, equipment and support. We are dedicated to ensuring that everyone across our communities, at all levels of experience, can take advantage of opportunities to learn and create.



Key Activities

Maintain year-round safe and affordable studio access to print facilities and equipment, with the provision of technical support and expertise from trained staff for all members and users of Megalo facilities.

Deliver a comprehensive annual program of classes and workshops designed to facilitate technical and conceptual skills development for participants at all levels of experience.

Develop and promote an effective and flexible program of outreach workshops supporting engagement with print across the broader community.

Provide residency opportunities, including access to facilities, equipment and technical support, for emerging and established creative practitioners, including:

- Establishing a dedicated residency program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists;

- Extending the scope of residency awards for ACT-based artists;

- Maintaining the provision of full-year residency awards for recent graduates from ACT tertiary institutions; and

- Maintaining the provision of residency awards for non-ACT based and international artists.

Actively pursue opportunities to enhance and upgrade the accessibility of studio facilities and equipment for members, users and participants of all abilities.

Actively pursue the extension of our facilities in cross-disciplinary and experimental print practice.

Undertake regular comprehensive review of fees and charges in consultation with members and users.

Goal Alignments

1	2	3	4
Blue	Pink	Yellow	Grey
Blue	Pink	Yellow	Grey
Blue	Pink	Yellow	Grey
Blue	Pink		
Blue	Pink		
Blue	Pink		Grey
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STRATEGIC GOAL 2

Increasing opportunities for developing creative and professional practice in print

Megalo's facilities and services are unique in Australia in the scope we offer for artists and creative practitioners to experiment and expand their practice at all career stages. In this period, still governed by the sector-wide need to recover and re-establish sustainability, the opportunities that Megalo provides in creation, presentation and promotion will be more essential than ever before.



Key Activities

Maintain year-round safe and affordable studio access to print facilities and equipment, with the provision of technical support and expertise from trained staff for all members and users of Megalo facilities.

Deliver a comprehensive annual program of classes and workshops designed to facilitate technical and conceptual skills development for participants at all levels of experience.

Provide residency opportunities, including access to facilities, equipment and technical support, for emerging and established creative practitioners, including:

- Establishing a dedicated residency program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists;
- Extending the scope of residency awards for ACT-based artists;

- Maintaining the provision of full-year residency awards for recent graduates from ACT tertiary institutions; and

- Maintaining the provision of residency awards for non-ACT based and international artists.

Present an annual curated program of exhibitions showcasing the diversity and richness of contemporary print practice, and representing the scope of emerging and established creative practice locally, nationally and internationally.

Develop off-site exhibition and outreach projects in collaboration with peer organisations and community and business partners.

Develop and promote retail operations for the effective marketing of artworks and creative products to a wide audience.

Develop the Megalo Editions initiative as a collaborative and sustainable model of partnership between Megalo printers and creative practitioners across multiple disciplines.

Deliver a diverse program of public activities and events, including artist talks and demonstrations, exhibition launches, and open days, as opportunities for the promotion and development of professional creative practice.

Actively promote Megalo facilities for the design and delivery of artistic and commercial commissions.

Goal Alignments

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Blue	Pink	Yellow	Grey
Blue	Pink	Yellow	Grey
Blue	Pink		
	Pink	Yellow	
	Pink	Yellow	
	Pink	Yellow	Grey
	Pink	Yellow	Grey
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	Pink	Yellow	Grey

STRATEGIC GOAL 3

Embedding engagement with print throughout the cultural life of Canberra and beyond

As Australia's leading open print organisation, Megalo Print Studio has a specific and key role to play in supporting national and international recognition of Canberra as the arts capital of Australia. Our activities across the ACT and beyond will consistently serve not only to raise the public profile of our own special place, but to demonstrate the vibrancy of contemporary print practice and our partner disciplines.



Key Activities

Present an annual curated program of exhibitions showcasing the diversity and richness of contemporary print practice and appealing to multiple audiences.

Develop off-site exhibition and outreach projects in collaboration with peer organisations and community and business partners.

Deliver a comprehensive annual program of classes and workshops designed to facilitate technical and conceptual skills development for participants at all levels of experience.

Develop workshop courses in collaboration with secondary and primary education institutions, and community education and training providers, to support curriculum outcomes; including an effective flexible program of outreach workshops.

Deliver a diverse program of public activities and events, including artist talks and demonstrations, exhibition launches, and open days, designed to complement our artistic program and foster community engagement with print practice.

Develop and promote retail operations for the effective marketing of artworks and creative products to a wide audience; including the active development of the Megalo Editions initiative.

Promote and provide access to the Megalo archive collection as a living expressive record of print and social practice across the developing communities of Canberra and the ACT.

Actively support and participate in territory-wide celebrations of creativity, innovation and design, in partnership with colleagues and peer organisations across multiple sectors of community, business and government.

Undertake a comprehensive review of organisational branding and marketing, with consideration towards the development of the future arts precinct at Kingston.

Goal Alignments

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STRATEGIC GOAL 4

Ensuring sustainability and supporting organisational growth

The achievement of our creative and community aspirations will only be possible if Megalo is able to maintain itself as a strong and resilient organisation. Sound governance and financial management remain fundamental to our ongoing development; and we actively seek to strengthen our capacities through diverse and collaborative operations.



Key Activities

Goal Alignments

	1	2	3	4
Encourage active membership retention and growth through the provision of services and creative development opportunities.				
Maintain and enhance active engagement with members and supporters through communications activities, including social media, email, and feedback channels.				
Maintain and extend strong and mutually beneficial partnerships with peer organisations and funding bodies locally, nationally and internationally.				
Provide professional development opportunities for staff through formal training and skills exchange partnerships.				
Maintain strong governance structures with a diverse and skilled board membership, and an effective suite of policy documents regularly reviewed to industry best practice.				
Maintain strong financial management with rigorous internal and external oversight mechanisms.				
Develop and promote retail operations for the effective marketing of artworks and creative products to a wide audience; ; including the active development of the Megalo Editions initiative.				
Actively pursue the further diversification of income generation streams, including:				
Promoting Megalo facilities for the design and delivery of artistic and commercial commissions;				
Developing and implementing strategic corporate and philanthropic engagement; and				
Ensuring consistent and regular application towards diverse external funding opportunities.				
Undertake regular comprehensive review of fees and charges in consultation with members and users.				
Undertake a comprehensive review of organisational branding and marketing, with consideration towards the development of the future arts precinct at Kingston.				

MEGALO PRINT STUDIO

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ACT
Government



Australian Government
Visual Arts and Craft Strategy