

# ANNUAL REPORT

THE SOCIAL STUDIO

JUL  
2018  
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JUN  
2019

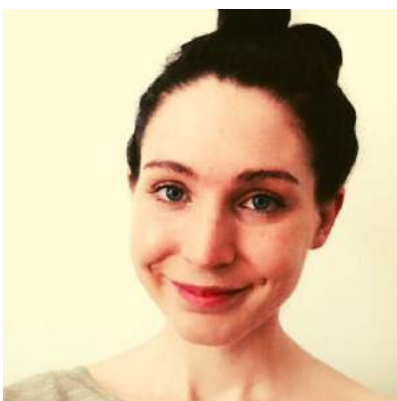
# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

Fashion and 'welfare' are not words that traditionally match. But the core strength of The Social Studio is that we are an organisation that always strives to challenge stereotypes: using fashion and design as a platform for inclusion results in a very practical response to engage young people from refugee and new migrant backgrounds and create opportunities to study and work, to connect and belong.

In 2019, our energetic social enterprise - comprising a fashion school where students can earn RMIT-accredited TAFE qualifications, a retail store and manufacturing hub - celebrated 10 years of operation. It's been a rewarding and eventful journey for us - and not without hurdles to navigate on the way to mark this milestone.

We would not be flourishing today without our incredible community - from volunteers to donors - who back our work and share our ambition for a more inclusive Australia. The contribution each and every one of our supporters makes has enabled us to extend opportunities, training, work experience and vocational pathways to the many talented students who've passed through the doors. And our alumni - all ambitious for the opportunities we can leverage for them - have connected to jobs and further study in diverse sectors ranging from fashion to banking to even running their own small businesses. This year, we were proud to learn one of our first graduates from our fashion school had embarked on her PhD in medical research. These success stories are the threads that sustains our collective effort and makes our organisation determined to do - and be - more as we look to the next decade.

Cate Coleman, CEO



Farah Farouque, Board Chair



# ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE FROM NYADOL NYUON

I've been a proud ambassador for The Social Studio for many years. At just 18, I too moved to Australia as a refugee. I was born in a refugee camp in Itang, Ethiopia, and was raised in the Kakuma Refugee camp in Kenya. I am now a lawyer, and in my spare time I am an advocate and volunteer for refugee and new migrant communities, including other Australians who share my South Sudanese background. From my journey, I know how important it is to have supportive settlement responses in the community that also fit the aspirations of young people from refugee backgrounds.

Ten years ago when I was introduced to The Social Studio I was amazed at what it represented. The innovative approach taken by this newborn social enterprise to harness the talent of young people from diverse backgrounds, felt genuinely empowering. Entering the Collingwood fashion school, shop and manufacturing hub, there's still a consistent theme of welcome for all - and dynamism.

Today, as never before, we need this kind of innovative response grounded in community action. Happy birthday, TSS!

Nyadol Nyuon



# THE SOCIAL STUDIO

Operating from a small shop and studio on Smith Street in Collingwood since 2009, The Social Studio provides a safe, welcoming community space for young people from refugee and new migrant backgrounds.

Our mission is to create pathways into long-term, rewarding employment for young people from new migrant and refugee backgrounds, and a community that celebrates artistic talent, skills and sustainable business.

We use the vehicle of fashion to create meaningful social change, we honour the contribution of migrants, and we strive to change public perceptions for people who have experienced being a refugee.

**Part school.  
Part production studio.  
Part retail store.  
All good.**





# THE SOCIAL STUDIO

## 2019 AT A GLANCE

**\$476,323** annual operating budget

**78%** of TSS staff positions filled by people from refugee or migrant backgrounds

**90+** people supported by our programs this year

**700+** people supported by The Social Studio since foundation in 2009.

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IMPACTS & OUTCOMES

**\$149,681** self-generated revenue

**20** jobs created for staff from refugee/migrant communities including: **8** ongoing positions across manufacturing, retail and education; and **12** casual positions across retail, production and events



# THE SOCIAL STUDIO FASHION SCHOOL

The Social Studio's Fashion School provides a variety of fashion and design-based education and training opportunities, including an 18 month Certificate III in Clothing Production (accredited by RMIT), as well as pre-accredited, social sewing classes.

The aim of the school is to provide an alternative, flexible learning environment for students who may have struggled in more conventional education.

## **2019 FY impact:**

**20** students enrolled in Certificate III in Clothing and Textile Production

**40** students enrolled in social sewing classes

**96%** retention/completion rate

*"After I arrived in Australia about nine years ago I applied for fashion studies at different schools but my application was always rejected because I don't speak fluent English and I ended up working in a bakery as a kitchen hand. I was very frustrated and almost gave up on my dreams until I found The Social Studio. I'm now studying CERT III in Clothing Production at The Social Studio and it was a very happy and proud moment when they offered me a paid internship in their manufacturing studio"*

- Keom (pictured), student in TSS Fashion School (and intern in TSS Production Studio!)



# THE SOCIAL STUDIO PRODUCTION STUDIO

Accredited by Ethical Clothing Australia, we provide a production service for independent or socially conscious designers who are interested in developing sustainable and ethical fashion products locally, with a strong focus on reducing their environmental impact.

Some of the beautiful, ethical local labels we have proudly manufactured for this year include Duckling in Space, CakeBread, and Studio Tinta.

*“By assisting me in the manufacture of all of my beautiful clothing thus far, The Social Studio have been instrumental in helping me get my small start up business off the ground, for which I will be forever grateful for.”*

- Abbey Barnes, *Duckling In Space*, TSS Production client.

# THE SOCIAL STUDIO RETAIL STORE

Our retail store provides opportunity for local designers and emerging labels to display their designs. The Social Studio also has its own fashion label, where all garments are ethically made using reclaimed and up-cycled materials gathered from local industry.

The TSS Label is designed by our in-house designer, manufactured in the TSS manufacturing studio and sold in the TSS retail store.

Some of the talented designers and diverse product ranges we showcase in our store include Nina Sepahpour, R E M U S E, Krack Lae, Loris, Kenshi Candles, OVAZANIA, and Feather and Spear.

*“The shop has an incredible variety of unique pieces. LOVE.”* Erika, TSS Retail customer.



# THE SOCIAL STUDIO EVENTS

A series of public-facing events and projects - that involve music, dance, modelling and fashion - aims to demonstrate the vibrant creativity of TSS's community of young designers, while providing building blocks for creative expression, self-esteem, cultural pride and community engagement.



Pictured  
(clockwise  
from top left:  
Melbourne  
Spring  
Fashion  
Festival street  
runway;  
Virgin  
Australia  
Melbourne  
Fashion  
Festival  
panel  
discussion;  
Virgin  
Australia  
Melbourne  
Fashion  
Festival 10  
Year  
Retrospective  
Exhibition



# PROFILE: NANCY

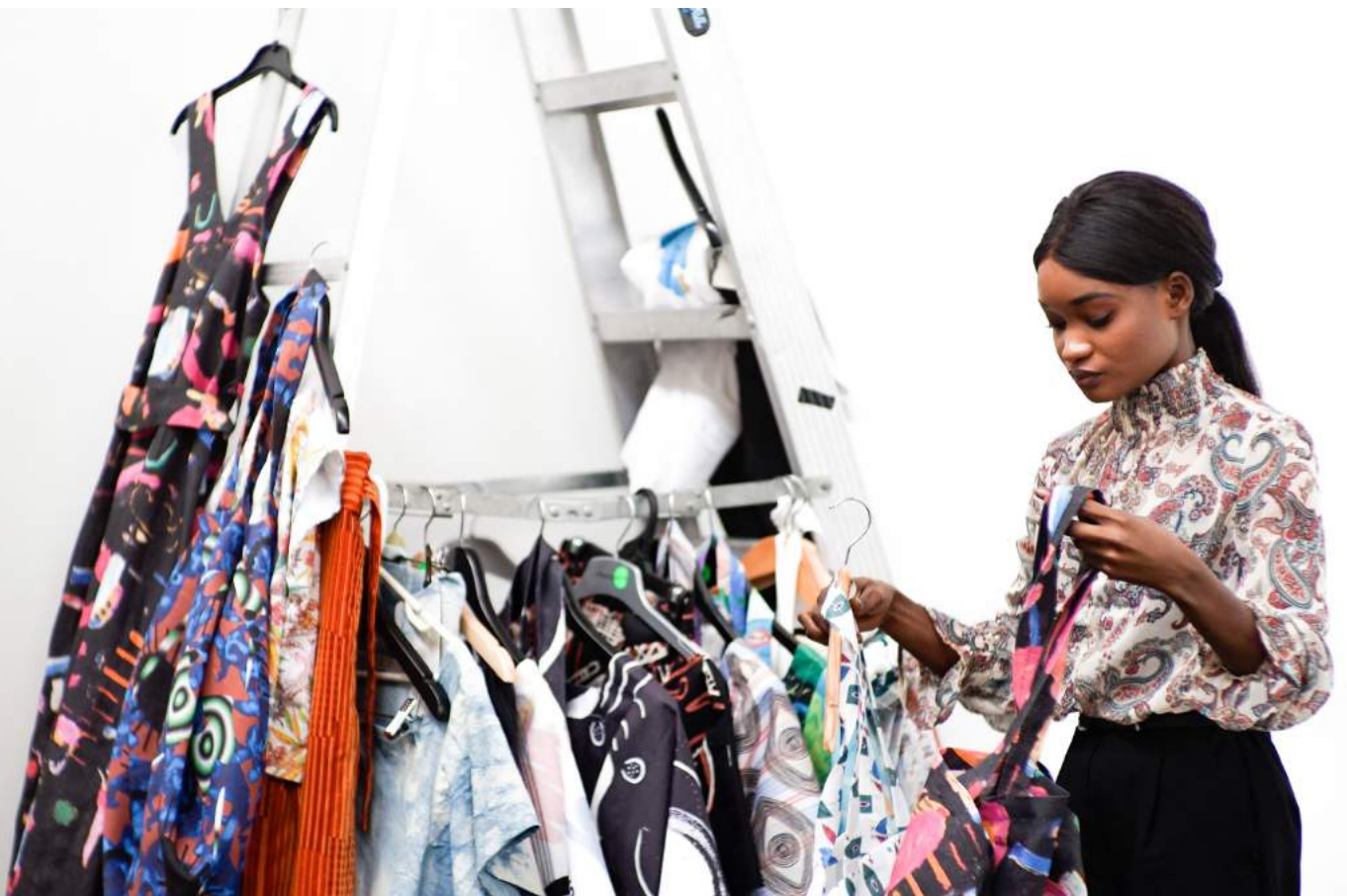
*"It's a kind place. I feel I belong to a community when I come to The Social Studio"* says Nancy, 21, who spent six months completing an internship learning all facets of the fashion business at The Social Studio.

Nancy, whose family fled South Sudan when she was a baby, has talent and grit. Having spent her early childhood in a refugee camp in Uganda, she did not learn to read in any language until she was nine years old.

Today, this determined young Australian woman is studying for an associate degree in design and technology at RMIT in Melbourne.

In addition to completing her internship with us, Nancy has now been hired as a teacher in The Social Studio's Fashion School.

Nancy is among the hundreds of young people from diverse backgrounds who have found a supportive environment - and practical assistance - for their creative talent at The Social Studio.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

This has been a year of financial consolidation and strategic planning for growth, including laying the foundations for a new community site in Heidelberg West (we secured the keys in June!); a move to the new Collingwood Arts Precinct in early 2020 and expanding our retail and manufacturing offerings. In the 2018-19 financial year, our annual operational costs reduced from approximately \$600,000 to \$475,000 per year; however we anticipate increased growth in revenue in the subsequent 2019-20 FY to reflect these new activities and the implementation of our long term strategy.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash on hand	4	82,534	70,463
Accounts receivable and other debtors	5	73,407	56,225
Inventories on hand	6	27,354	33,345
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>183,295</u>	<u>160,032</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	33,196	49,558
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>33,196</u>	<u>49,558</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>216,491</u>	<u>209,591</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable and other payables	8	31,663	25,109
Provisions	9	17,013	13,475
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>48,676</u>	<u>38,584</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>48,676</u>	<u>38,584</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>167,815</u>	<u>171,007</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		<u>167,815</u>	<u>171,007</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>167,815</u>	<u>171,007</u>

THE SOCIAL STUDIO INC  
ABN: 98 376 502 818

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue	2	476,323	606,869
Changes in inventories		(5,991)	23,475
Consumables used		-	(26,824)
Employee benefits expense		(286,404)	(365,532)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(16,803)	(16,781)
Finance costs		(227)	-
Other expenses		<u>(170,090)</u>	<u>(223,488)</u>
<b>Profit (loss) before income tax</b>		(3,191)	(2,280)
Income tax expense		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Profit (loss) for the year</b>		<u>(3,191)</u>	<u>(2,280)</u>
Profit (loss) attributable to members of the entity		<u>(3,191)</u>	<u>(2,280)</u>

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL STUDIO

**Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report**

My 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.

Name of Firm: Joseph Boyar  
Chartered Accountant

Name of Principal: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Boyar



Address: 3/967 Glen Huntly Rd Caulfield South Vic 3162

Dated this 22nd day of October 2019



# OUR PEOPLE

## **Board Members**

Farah Farouque (Chair)

Dr Alberto Furlan (Vice-Chair)

Ruth Owens (Treasurer)

Lew Hess (Secretary)

Dr Grace McQuilten (Public Officer and Founder)

## **Staff**

Cate Coleman, CEO (from November 2018)

Jade McKenzie, interim CEO (March 2018 - November 2018)

Aleksandra Nedeljkovic, Business Development and Operations Manager

Andrea Philippou, General Manager

Tegar Sugiaman, Operations Assistant

Elva Li, Bookkeeper

Anongratchana Tangjitsomkid, Bookkeeper

Mariam Mousslimani, Teacher and Training Coordinator

Janelle Magee, Teacher and Training Coordinator

Tenielle Gilbert, Youth Coordinator

Fiona Hussain, Teacher

Nancy Oziya, Teacher

Kwabla Klogo, Sewing machinist and Teacher

Mathanarajan Sinnathamby, Teacher

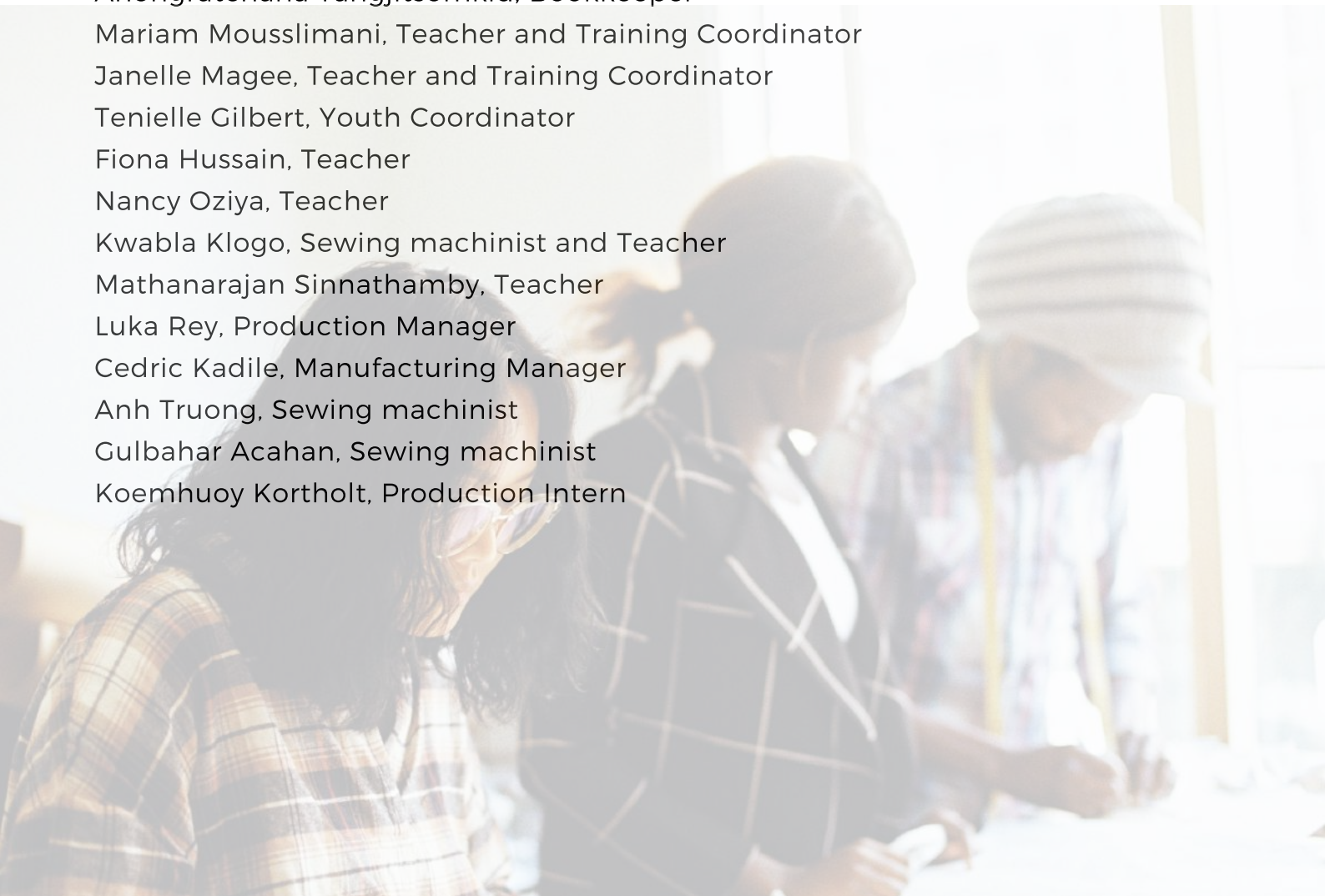
Luka Rey, Production Manager

Cedric Kadile, Manufacturing Manager

Anh Truong, Sewing machinist

Gulbahar Acahan, Sewing machinist

Koemhuoy Kortholt, Production Intern



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you so much to our wonderful community of supporters, including:

ALPHA60  
Asia  
Hassan (Asiyam)  
Atong Omoli  
Australia Post  
Australian Communities Foundation  
Babbarra Woman's Centre  
Baker Foundation  
Banyule City Council  
Bul  
Brasher Family Foundation  
Campbell Edwards Trust  
Christopher Baker  
ClifRoy Community Bank  
Cory Porter (Mr Congo)  
Creative Victoria  
David Goss  
Equal Access Fund  
Fox Family Foundation  
Hamish Graham  
Holding Redlich  
The Ian Potter Foundation  
Igniting Change  
Inner North Community Foundation  
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Kate Beynon  
Kate Kennedy  
Ken Done  
KUWAI  
Kyah Parrott  
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Nyadol Nyuon  
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RMIT  
Ross Gittins  
Ruth Owens and Kevin Lynch  
Ryan Cooper Family Foundation  
Sally-Anne Dower-Owens  
StreetSmart Australia  
Tin & Ed  
Tucker Family Foundation  
Vincent Chiodo Charitable Foundation  
Victorian Multicultural Commission  
Westpac Foundation  
The William Buckland Foundation

## **Contact Us**

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