Good afternoon everyone, I can see people starting to come in.  Hello.  It's Esther here, Executive Director, I acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation people in Melbourne.  It's a very hard lockdown, we are all doing everything we can to look out for each other especially after today's news once again, and I'm especially happy to be with you all and be planning what's already next week's Arts Day on the Hill, I cannot believe it.  Please as you are coming in, please tell us all where you are, what country you're on today, I can see some familiar names there already, it's very lovely to see you all.  This is the penultimate week of the NAVA advocacy program because of course next week is arts on the Hill and we won't have a workshop at this time we will be busy working really, really hard together to build a critical mass arts advocacy and involve other people and make sure we are getting some key issues on the national agenda.  In the following week we are going  to have a debrief and I'm looking for a couple of speakers to join me for that.  Next Week 12 August is Arts Day on the Hill.  That's what we have been thinking about and talking about and building up our skills for all year.

            As ever, each session in the NAVA advocacy program is recorded, Leya Reid advocacy and communications manager is on the line as well, hello Leya.  There is live captioning, and you can see on the top of the chat there, if you have the chat window open there is the link to the live captioning and thank you to Helen and her colleagues in Brisbane for live captioning.  It's so super useful, whether you're hearing impaired, whether you're deaf, whether you have a connection where it is just easier to see the words, it is incredibly useful, and also on the basis of that we have the recording and transcription of this will be available tomorrow on the NAVA website alongside every single one of the sessions in the NAVA advocacy program.  And when you look back on them it is really quite extraordinary to see just the range of insights that we've had, the breadth of approaches we have had, and I will recap that in just a little second.  Still seeing everyone coming in.  Hello James.  Nice to see Adam Simmons, from the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.  There is Alaya on Gadigal country, hello to Nadia, also on Gadigal country and Anne Stafford from Bomaderry, great to see you as well.

            There is so much to talk about today, and we are going to start with a bit of a recap.  We're going to look at what we have done so far, and we're also going to go into a step by step detail on what the plan is for next week.  Now, I'm very interested to know how everyone has been going with the homework and the kit.  So please use the chat to let me know how the kit has been going, and what if any luck and success you've had in contacting MPs ahead of next week and any other things, I'm just going to give you a little minute to jump on the chat and tell me that, and I will make a little note to one of us, and then we'll come right back.  I can all the typing sounds, but yes, very keen to know how is everyone being going.

            Okay.  There we go.  We've got Kate from graduate wall country, and others who are just coming in, and I can see some familiar faces, Maragaret Hancock in Adelaide, Julian in WA, please let us know what country you're on and whether you have had some good success using the kit so far.  So Melissa has said she sent a jointly addressed letter to hair Mayor state MP and Federal MP raising attention on Arts Day on the Hill.

            That little distraction there was me sending a private message to Nadia who has just posted on our chat as well about an experience that she had and I just very secretly asked Nadia a question which she has just said yes to which is would she be willing to join us as a co‑presenter so week hear exactly what happened.  So Nadia has just said on the chat that she has had a great meeting with Susan Templeman, the member from Macquarie, being a polite lady, when we are on the chat like this I assume we are not necessarily sitting in front of a computer all respectfully dressed but Nadia assures me she is.  So Nadia I am going to press the button that makes you a presenter as well.  Hopefully that will all happen in a very straightforward way and then we will both get to see and hear Nadia.  I'm pressing the button right now, and then when we get to see Nadia, I'm just unlocking her mic and I'm unlocking her camera, and hopefully through the magic of click meeting Nadia will join us in just a sec.  There she is.  It works.  So brilliant.

            First of all, apart from having chatted on the chat and being this very kind of one way thing of not having had the chance to meet you so far, very nice to see you.

Great.  I've been loving every week, it's been really good‑

Excellent, tell us about you and your practice?

I'm a visual artist, sculpture and installation often cite specific things I'm interested in urban environments and movement in urban environments, I have been at Parramatta artist studios before, and I'm from Western Sydney and into Western Sydney.  I work as an educator at Art Gallery  New South Wales and Powerhouse Museum, and worked with (indistinct) art projects for education, so very passionate about arts education.

‑  I too am passionate about arts education, it's important not just in terms of the pathways but because, yeah, arts education strengthens our capacities across everything, it is just so important.

            When you are at the ... all schools are arts schools.

Yes, I had to facilitate workshops, we did at the end.

We did meet.  I loved that.

What happened with Susan Templeman.  What steps did you go through, what happen, take us through it.

I reached out to her because I realised that I actually know her daughter, and she is the member for the Blue Mountains for Macquarie which is a big area by encompasses the Blue Mountains where I group up, so I went to high school with our daughter so I put that at the top of the email, I know Phoebe, to catch her attention but also it was I'm getting in touch to let you know about an evident you will be interested in Arts Day on the Hill which is coming on the 12th of August and let her know there would be a lot of activity over social media on that day and it would be a chance for her to express her support of the arts and learn what the sector needs from her.  I put a second paragraph saying that I recognise that members of Parliament may not often get to meet artists personally and hear about our lives and what the sector needs so I'm showing some work in the Blue Mountains at the moment and I would like to invite you to come see the work at the gallery and perhaps we can have a chat.  She was great, she replied very quickly which she said today she doesn't usually do but she did recognise my name and I think we have met once when I was a teenager, and see bought work from that particular gallery before, so the director was really happy to have her come through as well, and yeah, and she had some time when she was in the upper mountains this morning.  So I drove up there and we had a meeting this morning.

And what did you talk about?

She was really curious to hear more about what the event was and when I started to describe it she said oh, wait, is this what happened last year when there was artists all over Canberra and I said yes, exactly, she was aware of it and very interested in it and she actually within the Labor Party is part of another arts group and I forgot the exact name of it but she gave me the name of a couple of other people she would reach out to also in that group.  She was really excited to hear about the range of topics we have been talking to and the sort of skilling up that has been happening in these sessions, she agreed with a lot of the (unclear audio) describing to her some of the conversations that have been had, politicians are who do you get coming into your office, and what are some good ways they do advocacy and how can artists replicate these approaches, she had never heard of the Australia and electorate profile things and her face lit up, and her assistant was writing it down and we looked at her electorate together and she was excited because she reiterated if you come in with data it's one of the best things you can see when people come to her office, and also specific asks was good too.  But apart from having a lovely conversation she was excited to after this particular session we have here for me to send us some follow up with what the questions are going to be, how she can engage, and she is going to go to coordinator cuss and a reminder to engage and on Wednesday be engaging and getting other people within her party to engage as well.

Nadia, that is absolutely brilliant, I have to see.  That is exactly what our conversations these last few months have been about, you know, like you say to find those ways of getting in there, to already have that mind set of how are other people approaching these guys, what does their typical day look like.  It doesn't surprise me that she hasn't heard of the Australia councils electorate profiles, no MP I have mentioned to has ever heard of it, and it's been around for a few years now.  Again it's that challenge where the Australia council can make the stuff available for us but if they come across looking like they are being advocates on a political basis, then it looks a bit dodgy.  Whereas it's there to help people.  It's super great.  Louise is saying on the chat that is awesome Nadia and applause.  And I'm also super thrilled and the thing that she is going to be doing next, temple man is going to be doing next is share the information with colleagues so that we really kind of build that up.  Yeah, brilliant.  Thank you.

No worries, I definitely wouldn't have had the guts to email her if I hadn't like already empowered by these sessions, so thank you, it's been very good.

That is wonderful of you to say.  Thank you.  Having made you a presenter, I have to work out how to unmake you a presenter so you can totally relax again.  Okay.  I think Leya just worked out how to do that.  Bye Nadia and hello back in the chat.  This interface is bizarre it's like everyone is chatting and you can magically appear and magically disappear.  If anyone else would like to share an experience that they have had and you are also respectably dressed, let me know and we can make that magic happen and have that conversation.  But yeah, thanks Nadia, because I mean the way you have just put that, there's the stuff, there's the skills and the approach that we have been building together and there is just also the confidence to go, well, yeah, we've been talking about this for a while and people want us to get in touch, this is what they want us to be doing, so yeah let's do that.  So Susan temple man is a member of the opposition, she has been in Parliament for some time.  She has got great relationships across the party and of course a party who is in opposition is very, very highly motivated to get in touch with people.  Kate is saying she's got something to share but she is respectably dressed.   Can I say that's fantastic.  I was in a conversation with philanthropist and I was finding it hard in a phone conference, just a really bad connection and I said could we switch to a Zoom meeting or something like that and he had to confess that he was still wearing his pyjamas.  And I said, look, that's fine.  Because we are all in our homes, and we are all absolutely entitled to wear anything we like even though our homes have been commandeered for work purposes.

            So today let's do a number of things together.  Let's talk about next week, talk about Arts Day on the Hill.  First of all a big thank you to everyone who has put themselves forward to be a media spokesperson or advocate and we'll be getting in touch with those people soon but we will talk about the roles of the spokes people and advocates.  We will talk about approaching your MPs and look at some specific tools that help you to do that and all of this of course is in the latest version of the handbook, which is the one from the last couple of weeks called national impact, it is now on the website and I'm reading Leya's one, she is going to post that link in just a sec and as you know we remind us that these workshops and everything that's in the non‑member section of the NAVA website is for everyone, but to make sure that we are honouring our relationship with our members that that handbook is just for members.  Thank you Leya.  She has just posted the information about the Arts Day on the Hill events which is there for everyone and we want everyone to be involved.  And now Leya's posting the links to all of the past hand books, enormous thanks Leya, and you will see the very last one, so we have advocacy, policy, media, politics and then impact, achieving national impact is the last one.  And lots of great goodies in there, we are going to go through some tools including them, the ways in which you might want to engage on social media and off line next week on Arts Day on the Hill.  With the focus as we will soon discuss on question time between 2 and 3 o'clock Eastern Standard Time.  And that is completely fine, Sandra who is just popping in, nice to see you too.  Then we will talk about, yeah, question time, what we will  do as a focus between 2 o'clock and 3 o'clock.  We'll talk about the ask and we will have a discussion together about what we are pitching.  And then we'll talk about involving others and how do we do things.  I should say to everyone that I have made a small injury, which is mostly fine, but I have not sat in my chair for an hour and a half in a row all week and so there might be different times I am doing a bit of this and maybe a little bit of movement and getting up and having a bit of a stretch, or I might find that the 90 minutes just flies by the way it does when we are all chatting, but if you see me looking a bit alarmed it's probably because I've sort of moved in a posture that I forgot I can't do right now.

            Anna is suggesting a Mexican wave.  I see, I start one and we all follow.  That could also be a thing.  Thank you Anna, we should totally do that at some point.  Anna, fuck this of a typographical way of doing that on the chat, that would be amazing.

            Okay.  So let's start with ‑ and Anna is just pointing out she can't see the No.5 handbook.  I will share it as well on the chat in a little minute.  But first of all thank you to everyone who has put yourselves forward to be a media spokesperson or an advocate.  We of course want as many people as possible involved on Arts Day on the Hill.  We want to achieve a really great national impact, we want to achieve a critical mass of people talking about arts issues.  We often talk about how isolated during COVID or how disparate and disconnected we are as individuals but also as under resourced arts organisations.  But the same time there are so many of us across Australia, and so what better way than to harness all of us as individuals on one day of the year and make sure that we get some great conversation happening that brings others in as well, asking the question that we are asking, also tagging in their MPs, also giving them a call and asking those critical questions about what is next for arts and culture in Australia, why haven't we seen an ambitious and reasonable package for the arts that recognises just what a driver of inspiration cultural cohesion and economic recovery our arts and culture is.  Why isn't there an overarching policy, and why doesn't arts get the look in that it should have across the policy table.  We're going to be asking those questions next week from each of our own unique points of you.  We asked you if you would like to be an advocate or a media spokesperson and the media spokes people will be getting in touch with you very soon.  The idea of that was for us to have a really big handful of people, a diverse group from across the country, if we can put together a bit of a dossier on when journalists say to us I want to speak to an artist have your information in advance knowing that you're happy to do that and there will be an extra workshop on being a media spokesperson which is next week.  The advocates, you are going to be leading the charge next week, making sure that other people are also involved, using the hash tag Arts Day on the Hill.  Rob is saying he has missed the survey deadline, Rob everyone is going to be involved, whether you are an official advocate which means you are being on location and getting other people involved or not, everyone is going to be involved, so the answer to that is very much yes.  Leya is reminding that the handbook is for members only, so you have to get into the website, and you can see all the resources that are there for NAVA members.  Hopefully that will pop you up now.

            Secondly, how do we get in touch with those MPs on Arts Day on the Hill or ahead of that so that we are forming those great connections.  I'm going to be sharing my screen a few times and asking you the awkward question can you see this, so when I ask the awkward question please do let me know in the chat whether in fact you can see this.  I am showing now the final advocacy program which is called understanding the impact.  Can you all see that, one hopes yes, thank you rob, thank you Leya I say a, thank you Kimberly.  Good.  Normally I will have asked by now how everyone's audio is, am I coming through okay.  Okay.  Good.  Okay.  Brilliant.  That is very, very good to know.

            So there have been of course some additions to the handbook, we go through our welcome there about what advocacy is, what's the state of the arts right now.  I can see in the chat that Anna has now got No.5, brilliant.  What advocacy is, various tools and exercises and activities to do making those global comparisons which can be super useful on the day itself.  Going into the parliamentary friendship group for contemporary arts and culture and who is on that, these are sort of your, if you are uncertain about which MPs to contact and you've already contacted your local member, these are absolutely ones to prioritise and we have been contacting MPs to schedule some Zoom meetings on Arts Day on the Hill that we'll invite some of the advocates into and we'll talk about that by email during the week as well.

            So how do we do this?  Well, first of all, really important to, let's say the first thing we are going to do is connect with our MP on social media or in person, as we know, government in our democratic Westminster system has a million different ways for us to get in touch with MP, there also seem to be a million different barriers to doing that but once we see what those ways are, it becomes really straightforward.  Now, there are a number of ways to connect with and to find your local MP.  And I am going to show you some of the really useful tools, and these are all linked on the handbook there, I'm going to show you some really useful tools for how to contact MPs and find out about them.

            Now I'm going to press a whole other button and find a website.  Can you now see a website which is the Australian electrical commission that says find my electorate.  Very much hoping you can.  I'm just moving that a bit so I can see.  Great.  This is just at electorate.ac.gov.au.  This is going to be entry level for some of us, we are going to scaffold into more detail here.  There is this super useful thing to just tell you what electorate you are in.  You can search by locality, you can do a lot of things there, so you can just choose a post code, mine's going to be extremely easy so I won't even bother.  But the first postcode that someone enters into the chat I will search and we will find the electorate.  Who's got a post code.  3073 is the winner.  And then we click there, and in fact there are a number of suburbs there and all those suburbs, Keon Park, Reservoir, they are in the Federal electorate of Cooper.  Your member is Geraldine Kearney, one of the great advocates for workers’ rights and also you can have a look at a map, you've got all the different suburbs that are in there and that is all super useful.  So very easy to find there what electorate you're in.

            Knowing that, how do we then find something about that person, and let's go to what Nadia mentioned earlier that the MPs didn't know, which is the Australia council electorate profiles.  Are you all now seeing that on your screen?  Yes.  Good.  Who has used it?  Apart from Nadia.  Who has used this before?  Yeah.  Great.  Okay.  So the electorate which of course I have ‑ excuse me ‑ electorate of Cooper.  Let's go with, let's continue with that.  All you have to do is scroll down here and you can choose any electorate, Federal electorate, and there you go, it's Geraldine Kearney is her full name from the Australian Labor Party.  You can Zoom in on the map, I have quite a few friends in that electorate, and then check this out, there is this extraordinary range of information, I totally agree Yvonne, it really is excellent.  You can look up a percentage of a portion of people who are engaged, 35 per cent visit art galleries.  I would have thought it was more in that electorate.  65 per cent visit cinemas, there would be a few cinemas in that electorate.  Everyone attends or participates somehow, and then here's a look at ticket buying and you can compare people going to arts and sports events.  Ah, and we can see that they are, it's surprising, 4.4 per cent down on the national average for arts events, they're 12 and a half per cent up on the national average for sports events.  So if you were presenting this information to an MP maybe you wouldn't focus on that statistic, you would focus on this one and say when it comes to attending any event, arts or sport, any cultural event, people in the electorate of Cooper are 11.1 per cent above the national average.  Here are the cinemas, the numbers of screens they have.  And then going back up, that was engagement, that was on the audience side of things, which of course MPs are always interested in, and then if you look at the industry side, we can side how many people are employed in that electorate.  Look at that 4,639 people working in cultural and creative sectors there, and then there is a breakdown of what that means.  We've then got cultural and creative businesses there, there are numbers of people they employ, turn over size, you know, bigger than 2 million organisations, down to the very small end of the small to medium.  And then some further information by electorate.  So this is enormously useful tool, any time you're about to go into a meeting with an MP to be able to say, this is why, this is my practice, I live and work, or live or work in your electorate, my practice is this, and then to give you some further context, there's this many people who work.  Yvonne is saying it explains why they don't buy as many tickets, because they work in the arts.  Exactly right.  So that is the electorate profiles tool which every time I talk about this with someone I always say I really do think it is one of the most radical things that the Australia council's ever done, and it was set up, I'm pretty sure the year before last under the direction of the former head of research, who now works with the international federation of arts councils and culture agencies and since her time it was set up with a limited range of data, and theory updating that, using ABS staff, using grant application data, using a lot of things.  Yes, Diane, also regarding gender disparity, and that's always incredibly important for us to be aware of and be armed with the information.

            So you've got a way of finding out what electorate you're in and what's going on there.  What about how do you actually find an MP and get in touch with them?  Well, unsurprisingly there are a lot of ways, again it's a Westminster democracy, politicians are obliged to give ways to get in touch with them and hopefully you are now seeing, thanks Leya for that link, very useful, sorry, I should be doing that.  The first thing I posted, which was the AEC, I'm just posting that there as well, and across back to, where are we, contacting members and senators, you are hopefully seeing a page that says contacting members and senators, I'm just going to post that in as well.  All members and senators have a page on the Parliament House website, they also have their own page which is like their political party page and in those you'll find their media releases and photo opportunities where they're hugging an artist and doing all those other pre‑COVID things that we could do, but this page, extraordinarily gives you a downloadable list of senators and members and in the good old days when we could afford to post things that didn't cost a dollar per envelope there are address labels you can download in come a separated values and then import any mail merge you are doing, obviously that mail merge can be for email as well so you can customise letters.  This is incredibly useful for just finding everyone's contact details.  Nadia is pointing out something very important, which is if you would like statistics on the participation of female identifying in general non‑male identifying people, the studies done by the Countess report are excellent.  Thank you for posting that Nadia, Nadia has loved and admired and supported the Countess, including last year’s Countess report, and I have taken part in one of the counts, I don't know if others have as well, it's an extraordinary and incredibly important group of volunteer feminists across the country and those counts are basically community events where we sit down in front of a spreadsheet and we literally look at, okay, let's look at awards today, how many people entered, how many won, of what gender, and Nadia is pointing out the previously survey but also the next one is being updated to have more information specifically on counting non‑binary people which haven't present in the previous reports.  They are on outstanding group of people, the Countesses, thanks for posting that Nadia.  Not a correction, an update.  Go team.  So to contact a senator or member electronically, then you can also just enter your key words here, and let's find a, Larissa's post code, 4305, and enter it there, and here we have 14 results for relevant MPs around the 4305 post code, which of course is relevant MPs and senators and that's just random go to search, Gerard Rennick, senior for Queensland, there's his postal address telephone number and look at some very interesting information, like like he's married, he was born in Chinchilla South Australia, he has numerous qualifications, he has put his mind to that university study which is really fantastic.  And here are all of the previous committees that he has served.  And of course you will find that for any MP there.  And you can also see over here that there is a link to the first speech and other recent speeches.  Who knows what the first speech is?  Of course, Chinchilla in Queensland, as opposed to South Australia, which I think is what I just said.  Thanks.  Who knows what an MP's first speech is?  And have you listened to some first speeches or know any particular infamous first speeches?  There are very, very interesting thing to have a look at.  That's right, Anne, they used to be called the maiden speech, which for all the feminists reasons we have just been discussing it's no longer called that, it's called a first speech and Kate is rightly pointing out that Pauline Hanson had an infamous first speech.  Any time a new member of Parliament is elected and they go and join Parliament they have the opportunity to make a first speech where they basically layout their vision, all the reasons why they wanted to become an MP, and it's really, it's one of those fascinating kinds of ‑ like imagine if you're going into a job, like any job, and the first thing you have to do is tell the entire country why you're doing that, how does that relate to your values, to your ‑ often their personal story, their upbringing.  John is pointing out they should use it to introduce themselves, their key interests and thumbs, and someone pointing out they can say anything they like.  It's true because they know anything said within those Houses of Parliament is protected by parliamentary privilege and that means they can't be sued for defamation or any other kinds of poor speech.  There are certainly standards around propriety and so on, but yes, there are a number of infamous speeches where people have just kind of gone to town.  Yvonne east is pointing out that senator, Maria Farounghi of New South Wales greens made the most brilliant speech, and for those who don't know, Yvonne painted senator Farounghi's portrait last year and thank you to Sally for posting the SBS story on her first speech.  This page now, first speeches, which I'm just going to post the link into the chat, and hopefully you are seeing this okay, this is the link to everyone's first speeches, there's a video, and then there's also the text of the first speech.  So whose first speech would you like to see?  We won't choose, Fraser Anning, that would be too much.  We won't play the video, we'll just open up the text there.  Shall we find the Prime Minister's maybe.  Julia Gillard's would have been really interesting, but I think this is only got the current serving MPs.  Let's see if I can find ‑ no, this page is showing us the ones who have only just come in, but you can still find everyone else's first speeches as well.  So I'm just going to Google, because it will be quicker than navigating the Parliament's website, I'll just go and find Scott Morrison's first speech.  Hopefully we are still seeing that screen.  So when Scott Morrison did that it was still called, or displayed as the maiden speech, and you can see there on the video, he did have substantially more hair back then.  So here it is.  On Thursday 14 February 2008, here is the first speech that the Prime Minister made.  You'll see in this that he talks about Captain Cook, so right away, is talking about the importance of cook, he talks about sport, hard work, generosity, et cetera, he talks about the values of the party, and his role as previous State Director.  He talks about the property council of Australia and the tourism industry, and then he goes into some detail about religion, and I know it's a bit difficult to see on the screen there, but if you've got the time and the interest to go back on the Prime Minister's first speech, you'll find that it is really quite insightful as to the interests that occupied his time, that have occupied him, you know, across his time in Parliament.  So those are all the different ways of contacting your MP, so we now know how to do that.  And yeah, the first speech is incredibly important, it also really means something to an MP when you can say, yeah, I read your first speech, and I really appreciate you talking about arts and culture in your electorate or mentioning your favourite artist.  It's really interesting stuff.

            So then on Arts Day on the Hill itself, we are going to take to social media, I should say of course the really important thing as well is to follow the MPs that you want to engage with on social media now so that you're ready to tag them in next week.  So follow them on Twitter, there is also, I'm just going to try and find on Twitter, I haven't had this page lined up, but I'm just going to try and find, because there is actually a Twitter list that the house of reps and the Senate puts out of all of the MP, you don't have to go and follow all of them, you can just follow that list.  So I'm pressing the share screen button again, hopefully this will work, and let me know if you can now see Twitter and there is, for those of you who are on Twitter, here's the link, this is a Twitter list that you can follow which is all of the senators.  And here's what they have been posting recently, we've got senator Katherine King saying Australia needs a plan for aviation, senator Jonathan Duniam, welcoming citizens, through a citizenships ceremony, Senator Shaheen is posting images of a Lebanese photo journalist who has taken an image here of a nurse in Beirut, given the absolute crisis happening there today and big love to everyone who has Lebanese family and friends.  And here we have a Senator Victoria posting information about the COVID's workers permit.  We can see the range of formal things people are posting, links to party stuff, links to government stuff and then sometimes just getting into discussions as well.  Katrina Billick has bought herself a lovely bunch of flowers, she's a senator from Tasmania, she led the 2016 Senate inquiry into the brandist situation for the arts, those of you in Tasmania I would very much recommend getting in touch with Senator Katrina Billick.  So there we go, you can follow them individually but you can also follow those lists and just, yeah, sort of get them all together.

            So next week, what are we going to do?  We are going to connect with our MPs over social media or in person.  Now, can you all now see the handbook?  And at this point while I'm waiting for your yeses, I'm just going to make a few little gestures of movement.  Caroline Phillips, the answer to your question is that I'm a dual citizen, I'm also a citizen of another country.  So number one, connect with people and follow them ahead of Arts Day on the Hill.  If your state restrictions allow, ask that person for a meeting now, so that you can meet with them on the 12th, because we've been talking a lot about doing this on‑line, but Arts Day on the Hill, because not on the Hill, because they're not sitting in Canberra, because that session has been cancelled, let's get out there and do a range of things.  So using the advocacy program handbook, we search their background, their first speeches, their electorate, so you are really ready.  On the day use the hash tag Arts Day on the Hill to advocate what the arts need right now.  Share images of your meetings, record a video, tag in your MP, involve as many people as you can.  Adam said something about jewels, I don't know if that's a typo.  I'm not sure what you mean.  Ask the question in a different way, and then I will work out what you mean.  Now, to help with, connecting on social media, Leya has put together a fantastic downloadable kit of the images and graphics, the social media tiles and also, and I hope this share works, I'll just close that share and open out, Leya has made this fantastic virtual Zoom background, this is Leya everyone.  And it gives you the instructions as to how to load that on Zoom, oh, I see, sorry Adam.  Thank you.  So back to the focus.  You can use this amazing Zoom background and thank you to Leya for putting it together and giving us the great screen shot for how to do that in Zoom, you can record a video of you being in Parliament House and asking a question of an MP, because given Parliament is not sitting, there won't be a question time on that day.  Question time is on every sitting down, 2 o'clock to 3 o'clock Eastern Standard Time, and it's a time where, it's the one you would normally see on the news, it is the shouty he is, most rambunctious time of the Parliament.  What it's showed to be is members of the government or the opposition or anyone in the house asking a question of any minister and then that minister having to answer that question.  Now, of course over the years as Parliament has evolved and has as the conventions have evolved, it's choreographed, all the questions are put together in advance, the two teams, the red and blue team, work out what they are going to do, who is going to ask and there is a fixed amount of time MPs have to ask questions and anyone who has watched question time before you can see how they kind of talk down the clock, taking up their time with what is often not the most direct answer.  They do that to take up the maximum amount of time possible so that fewer questions can be asked after them.  Obviously there are MPs who take this very seriously and as their democratic responsibility.  So this is your chance now, this is our chance between 2 o'clock and 3 o'clock to post a question on Twitter, on Instagram, using stories, using video, use this as your background when you're recording your video, tag in the MP or the Minister that you're asking the question to, and let's have some fun with this, let's ask some direct questions, but let's enjoy grabbing people's attention over artist's question time on Arts Day on the Hill.  And thank you again to Leya who has just posted the link of the downloadable logos as well.  So that great Arts Day on the Hill yellow, you can also use that for the various tools and things.  So if you're busy on next Wednesday 12th of August, which of course you are, you'll be earning your living or as we do in Melbourne, staying at home, and also trying to earn your living, if you've only got a short amount of time to jump on social media and encourage everyone else to, then please do that between 2 and 3 o'clock Australian Eastern Standard Time to be with that critical mass during question time and of course using the hash tag Arts Day on the Hill.  That we are binding all of those things together.

            So that has taken us through to what are we doing, how are we doing it, how do we connect with people, asking those questions, tagging others into those social media conversations, making sure that we're also bringing on board people who have got big followings on social media and have them connect with us as well.  So what are we actually going to ask for?  What are the kinds of things that we're going to be advocating for on the day?  Something that we often talk about in planning for meetings and engaging with politicians, is to be really clear and concise, is be brief and to the point, be prepared to listen.  I know that, of the several MPs who have already accepted our invitation for our meeting next Wednesday a couple have already got back to me and said I'd like to give just a big of a talk, a bit of an outline on why the arts matters to me and I said, yeah, great, it would be fantastic for people to see.  Importantly, not attacking their policies.  And this is kind of, you know, it can seem really counter intuitive, but particularly when there are MPs who really disappoint us with their current record or their previous record, and it's totally understandable to just want to go the attack.  But what happens when we do that?  What happens when we just write a ranty Facebook post or a tweet or something that just attacks them?  A few people typing all at once, so you've no doubt had some experience of this, or been on the receiving end of all that horrible trolling and bullying.  Julian is pointing out that yes, we can point out the unfortunate lack of policy for the arts.  We can offer clear accounts of the impacts of their policies or lack thereof, and opportunities for improvement.  No MP is going to respond well when we just say, look, you know, your attitude to the arts is bullshit, it's fucked it's insulting, here's all the negatives.  We can say that when Australia doesn't have an arts and cultural policy, we're not making the best use of the skills, the talent, the opportunities.  There is so much information on the NAVA website in our advocacy section, in our news and opinions section, particularly I'm just thinking about my most recent, had a piece in the guardian last week, or possibly the week before, let's just say recently, which summarises some of the policy positions and some of the problems with them, there's so much to draw on in the way that we identify that.  But most importantly, whether it's a meeting, whether it's a tweet, being relevant, knowing what's top of mind for them, and knowing what's in the news as well, I mean there's only one news item at the moment really, isn't there, and drawing clear connections to what's important for us, so how do you find that relevance.  Nadia is just pointing out that Susan Templeman suggest using stats can help you, if you can say X amount of people in your electorate care about this, you will be supporting your interest by doing X.  Don't forget these people are motivated by being popular.  If people don't vote for them,  then they don't get elected.  And very important point, Kerrie, Kerrie is just pointing out that at some point in the future, hopefully some mere point in the future COVID will no longer regulate our lives, we will need funding for a huge celebration and artists will be at the forefront of those events, maybe we can give them the best good news story for each of their electorates, brilliant Kerrie.  Sandra has got to head out to a meeting, totally fine and see you next week.  That would be wonderful, Sandra.  And Anna is saying great Kerrie, excellent.  So knowing what's relevant, knowing what's top of mind, knowing what's in the news, we've talked, we've had a great experience all year through this program around what makes news, what develops policy, you know, what are all of those connections, what are politicians hearing or what do they need to hear from us, so this is our opportunity to draw on all of that in how we engage with them.

So then what's the plan?  Connect with them, ahead of time, request a meeting on the day if you can, or better yet, if you're in one of the places that are not locked down, invite them to you, to visit your studio, gallery, if you have something on that day, even if you don't, who was it, one of our speakers told us, Mark Textor or Helen O'Neill told us how much MPs love that behind the scene experience, take them to your gallery or studio where the action happens, given that unique experience.  Using the handbook research their background, first speeches, electorate or state.  On the day get ready for action and then at question time let's aim for that critical mass and really engage MPs in some fantastic questions and provocations.  How do we do that?  Well, here's something we prepared earlier.  I know Twitter is not everyone's thing but Twitter is the one that constraints a number of characters that we can use, so we've got a couple of sample things there that you can easily just re‑work.  And tag in a local member.  I'm an artist who works in your electorate, my work is this kind of thing.  And let's do blah, and link across to NAVA's advocacy page or your web page.  You might want to make broader views.  You might want to make broader points around arts led tourism, and did you know that arts tourists are high valued, they travel further, stay longer and spend more than domestic tourists, what about jobs, did you know that for every million dollars in turnover the arts industry creates 9 jobs, which is just just absolutely incredible, there is so much extraordinary data out there, really, really no shortage of it.  I'm just going to post a piece I had in the Guardian, because some of those statistics, I quote from there, and it will just give you the link to, where I've mentioned those things in that guardian article, it links you directly to the source, the actual source of those things.  Definitely some good stuff there to get you fired up.  Please use plenty of images, videos, get on Instagram, Facebook, stories, you know, bring it to life.  Get your phone out and give us a tour of your studio, Arts Day on the Hill isn't just about advocating for policy change that we'd like to see, it's also about, remember, that clear and compelling advocacy which is about you and your work and your story.  Advocacy again, it is just a public activity that puts forward a vision, your vision in this case, in a way that is constructive, positive, you've heard me describe advocacy before as telling a particular story, offering a set of insights, maybe connecting those up to a current issue, but the way that you do that, because it's you, and it's unique and compelling in the way that you do it, it is so compelling that the person that you tell it to, whether it's an MP or someone else, they are motivated to tell that story again whether they agree with you or not.  Now, that principle is fundamental to human socialisation, nothing moves as quickly as a little meme, gossip in a small town, this is the base of social media, we retweet things because the way someone has put something is so compelling that we're passing it on.  So insights into your practice as well, that we've got social media for a day filled with a story of artists, when someone clicks on that Arts Day on the Hill hashtag, then they are getting an extraordinary experience, you know, diving into the experience, the world of being an artist, a visual artist, a range of art forms we have been talking about.  So that is next week, Wednesday 12th of August.  And so there won't be a workshop like this this time next week, because we will all be busy doing all the things.  However, we will get together on Wednesday 19 August, so that we can debrief.  We can talk about how it all went, and we can answer these questions together, what was useful, what was challenging, let's reflect back on the entire program, and then in particular let's think about what would you all like to do together next.  Which I think is going to be hugely important.  Now, the back page is there.  One of the last pages of the advocacy kit there, looks at where to from here, Arts Day on the Hill being a good important focus, but just a beginning.  And that question of what kind of an advocate would you like to be in the future can be really challenging and something that we often talk about with each other is that we touched on this a little bit today, we can often get really disappointed and frustrated with politicians and when we hear them, you know, talking about self‑serving things or like we had that in a discussion with Abdul Abdullah and Jane Morey about the political exploitation of his work for selfish reasons, or when we hear politicians attacking artists, educators, a range of, there are a lot of ways that for all the good that they do, there's a lot of ways that politicians disappoint us, so sometimes when we feel that way we just think, well, I just won't disengage, I'm not interest, I can't trust these people, I just won't disengage altogether.  Of course the down side of that is that when we disengage, or when we stop listening to them, and stop following what's going on, then we actually kind of, we sort of seed that territory, give it over, and what we're doing is giving more power and not less power to the very people that we've just said we don't trust.  Obviously none of us can afford to do that, exactly, then they can do whatever they want when we disengage.  This is what the Prime Minister is talking about when he praises quiet Australians.  What easier way than to talk in a constructive way how it's a virtue as an Australian that you just keep to yourself, keep quiet, keep your opinion to yourself, don't express yourself.  So look, disengagement is not an option.  The option is how much would you like to engage.  And for those of us who have been part of the workshops week to week, we are going to turn up the volume how much we are going to engage next week with Arts Day on the Hill, but after that you might have a little bit of time to commit, you might have a lot, so my challenge to you is think about what level of advocacy engagement do you want to have in the future.  Do you see yourself as social, do you see yourself perhaps more as activist or would you like to have a citizen level of engagement.  So social.  Just basically where you're talking about it, sharing stuff on social media, as we note here in the kit, imagine of all of NAVA's 50,000 plus on‑line friends and followers committed to just one share per day let alone all on the one day, that would be incredible, and would have an impact, decisionmakers follow those kinds of things, journalists do and will keep it up and keep running with it, will say what is this focus today, let's find out some more, follow this story, there's an artist posting some really interesting links and videos to their work and they're relating their work to a very pertinent issue about the lack of JobKeeper job seeker support et cetera, I'm going to get in touch with that artist and follow the whole thread.  Let's achieve that impact together and we can do that if lots of us only do a little bit.  Maybe you want to be an activist, maybe there's particular issues you want to keep pursuing.  And that's what we've just been talking about, find your electorate, read their first speeches, look up the senators, talk up local council, social in person is very important, when all our neighbours had to work from home she says they learnt lots about the arts by seeing me paint in my garage each day and wanting to ask about being an artist.  You must share a story about that next week Kate, that would be amazing.  And absolutely right.  As we say further up in the toolkit, that social level of advocacy, you know, can be about chatting at the shops, you know, with whoever makes your coffee or sells your essential things, talking about your work and normalising that I think is enormously important.  And then maybe you want to have a citizen level of advocacy involvement or rather than political engagement.  You can find out what's going on in the house of reps or the Senate this week.  There's these websites that automatically update with the running procedures and so on on the day.  You can look at government enquiries that are accepting submissions.  And as a NAVA member you always get information about the enquiries that we're submitting to and ones we'd love your input on.  You can look at what NAVA is doing at the moment, particular actions and events and so on and what we are advocating for and then of course staying connected as a member, not just of NAVA but of the relevant membership based organisation in your field, and so staying connected in a more, ongoing way, whichever one you choose, social activist or citizen, and maybe it will be different ones at different times, but choose one, it's so important that we remain engaged with the processes that decide the things that control our lives.  It really is that fundamental.  And in the arts where, as we have seen, particularly in the first few weeks when we were talking about policy, and what makes for policy, realising that of course in the absence of a written arts and cultural or creative industries policy at the Federal level there are absolutely unwritten policies, if we look at the decisions that government is making and the pandemic is putting those into sharp relief, we start to get a sense of why some things are supported and some things are not supported.  So who has got some questions about any of those things?  We have talked about advocates in the media, spokes people about getting in touch with and finding ways to research their MP, requesting that meeting, getting in touch with them ahead of time, ideally if you are in the non‑Victorian state we can get out and about, inviting them to something or a meeting at their electorate office is super great.  That focus on question time, so that we are making the most of that  critical mass at that time, looking at the specific things that we're asking for and then involving lots of others.  So I can see that a few of us are typing.  So any questions about anything at all that we've covered today, or really going back as well across the time.  What are the best hash tags to use next week says Anna, and the very best one is Arts Day on the Hill, and in the past we've used create Australia's future when we were looking at the kinds of things we wanted people to be thinking about for, what connects the COVID crisis to the future we're trying to develop, but for now, Arts Day on the Hill is going to be the best way to bind together all of our stuff.  So question, I think a major problem with arts advocacy is many artists don't feel like any kind of progress will benefit them.  It's different to other movements requiring advocacy where a move forward is good for everyone, more money for the arts, more awareness of the arts, it doesn't help all artists, often it's unfortunately just helping those that are already doing okay.  That's what I have heard from my arts community anyway.  Okay.  So then incredibly important point Angela.  The last thing that we should be doing at this time is exacerbating the various structural inequities that have been exposed by this pandemic situation.  How can we use that day to make sure we are advocating for individual artists, small to mediums, collectives, those who are not advantaged.  And this goes to the question as well of putting things forward that critique policy without being an attack.  We can easily link to that package, the 250 million dollar package, 160 million in cash and a 90 million dollar debt option.  We can look at that and say, great that the government has put out a package for some sectors, but in fact omits this, this, this and that.  You'll see detailed pieces on that on our website that you can draw specific information from, but let's use this opportunity to highlight what those gaps are, and I think Angela, on a day like Arts Day on the Hill, for us to talk about how arts and cultural services is a 111.7 billion dollars industry whereas the average income of artists is only 1,800 from creative work alone and that amount has not changed since the 80s is a really important thing to point out and to say this is why we need ambitious investment that allows artists who drive the economy to drive and spire us out of this pandemic situation.  Kate Smith is saying, yeah, the making process is so individual, the collective advocacy feels like a whole other world.  Yeah, it really does, which is why on a day like Arts Day on the Hill, just sharing maybe even an insight into the making process, that in itself is important advocacy, and using that hashtag connects it up to a thread of other people's more strident policy focused advocacy so that we're doing both.  We're seeing those beautiful insights into someone's world and what they make, and that is being read alongside posts, Instagram stories, et cetera, that are about that bigger picture.  Now, just scrolling up.  Anna says I feel every citizen in the arts or otherwise would have benefited from this session, because more than that using the benefits of creating a well-researched well considered argument and staying keenly engaged in the broader community.  Yeah, absolutely.  It's no coincidence that in this kind of structure here we compare social activist and citizen, this is absolutely fundamental to good citizen ship, do we want an Australia that is creative ambitious, thoughtful adventurous confident, or do we want quiet Australians, it's that stark.  Nadia is agreeing with Angela, talked about that with Susan Templeman today, yay, how are emerging artists get a foothold in the arts in the future in the post‑COVID environment, some great things to advocate for is funding for small to medium organisations to say alive assessing the availability of job seeker and job keeper for the arts.  Angela, if we were able to advocate to other artists our voice would be so much louder, exactly.  So we have a week between now and Arts Day on the Hill to contact other artists, link them to this, tell them what the plan is, and involve them, and also as Nadia was saying about, you know, just that little push, that little confidence to share something, it's such a great opportunity to connect artists in a lot of different ways.  Nadia's pointing out that Adam had a great suggestion about making arts activities and work to be part of the accessible activities that make a person eligible to stay on JobKeeper.  Yeah, Nadia in the past has advocated about this as well.  There's information about that on our website.  Especially this notion of mutual obligation.  The Federal Government's expectation is that, when is it, I think like four weeks from now, they're going to be expecting people to be demonstrating that they're looking for a certain number of jobs per month.  I mean where?  Mutual obligation is also about being a good citizen, contributing to the community, and absolutely artistic  practice does that.  Julian says how about statements such as when I vote I will be prioritising the party or candidate which demonstrate their support for and understanding of the vital role of the arts in Australia.  Yeah.  Brilliant.  Good.  Clear.  These are massively important issues and they affect people's vote, and be very clear about saying that.  Adam says keeping one eye on making our posts and interests of education for our audiences also, yes.  If we can help our supporters, our audiences to engage with Arts Day on the Hill activity then they can get involved as our advocates and spread the word.  Yeah, for sure.  One of the things that we've talked about, I forget now with whom we made this a big focus, but that notion of third party advocates, if you have a friend, colleague high profile person in another industry, and they would be happy to take part, now is the time to get in touch with them and make sure they do that.  And often I find on social media there will be friends I'm catching up with on social media, sometimes only because we are across the country and they have 20,000, 50,000 followers, so I'll send them a direct message in Twitter or in Instagram, and say hay, can you give this a share, and often people are really happy to do that, it's better than just tagging someone into a post if it's not actually about them, just send the direct message and they could do that one hopes.  Perhaps after Arts Day on the Hill Kate Smith is saying, we can have lessons on how to engage with our State Governments and local councils.  NAVA always puts out election report cards on upcoming elections, there are several coming up this year, local government and State Government.  The Northern Territory election is 22 August, and we will put out an election report card the week, ending 21 August, that compares what the parties are promising for the arts and that's going to be a very useful tool for you in the Northern Territory and others who are interested in that election, but yes we do that routinely, but yes, and sessions could be really great.  Angela says, can NAVA set up a Facebook so it's always a Facebook event for next week's meeting we can invite our arts colleagues to so they might get a last minute run down on Arts Day on the Hill, yes, we will totally do that, I'm answering on behalf of Leya, thank you Leya, in fact I know these sessions are there as a Facebook thing.  But yes, we'll certainly make Arts Day on the Hill an event and people can check in and do all those things and go back on the past videos and so on.  Now, we have got just five minutes left.  Who has got any final questions?  So just a reminder though that next week is Arts Day on the Hill.  And that means that we're not having one of these sessions next week, we will be getting in touch with the advocates and media spokes people on next steps.  Everyone is going to be welcome, needed, required to take part, very, very important, and we're getting out all that information, and please, rope in other people who you know, et cetera.  So this time next week we won't be having a session like this but we will have one the week after, which is Wednesday 19th, the one that I confused earlier, and that's going to be our debrief session and then looking at some next things to do together.  Thank you Kate Smith.  You're very welcome.  And yeah, it is massive thanks to the NAVA team.  It is quite extraordinary, when I look at the range of sessions that we've been able to put together, I'm just going to go back to the program again, just to review where we've been, because it is so super worthwhile to go back on those past videos, I've been doing that a bit, because we've been so extraordinarily fortunate to have this great range of people, Alex and Anne to start with, looking at key issues in our galleries and museums and the broader issues, and then Nadina and Selina had been two of last year’s advocating also involved this year and then a great session on First Nations arts advocacy with Nadina and Wesley, which is the one I really enjoyed going back and replaying.  And then all the politicians who have presented and those great insights into what they want to be hearing and what confuses or interests them, but also Zoe and Darren who work in a policy but also consulting and lobbying way to see from those contexts and those industries how politicians are engaged with.  And then those great weeks on policy development.  John Daily, that was a treat, Jackie Bailey, Mike Murdak, I thought he would say no, given he was recently sacked but it was very generous of him to contribute and then Maria (indistinct) of course.  Kate is saying John daily was her favourite.  It was such a great session.  And brilliant to have a session in a local park would be absolutely amazing.  So yeah, the policy section was fantastic, and then that great media engagement section, all those insights from Michaela a's career, from George's, I was intrigued to get that great demographic change analysis from George and how that correlates with arts policy or lack thereof, and then those, yeah, really good but super interesting insights from Abdul and with Jane and then of course Adam, which was a fantastic session and then the pool particulars with Nicholas, mark and Helen.  So it's been quite extraordinary line up, so please, yeah, make best use of those videos, or you might want to, maybe there's something that's popped into your mind, you can go back of course on the transcripts of all of those, and you can grab quotes from them and use that at Arts Day on the Hill as well.  Or link people back to the videos, like there's so much there to use.  Okay.  Just got a couple of minutes left.  So my massive thanks in advance to everyone for next week on the big collaboration that we are all going to contribute that we're all going to, we've got some really good work to do together next week, hopefully, we will achieve not just a great critical mass but we will get a range of people talking about what is needed for the arts, what is needed right now, what artists do, an insight into your world, your practice, your studio.  A connection between your practice, your concerns and current political issues, the way in which your work and then by extension the work of artists and organisations is a really important way through COVID‑19 and beyond, we're going to draw on each other's strength next week, we're going to be ambitious and courageous, and we're also going to infuse some very much needed constructive, very much needed optimism, because it has been a difficult period, the pandemic, and those of us in Victoria, you know, getting a bit glum and we need you to cheer us up and the whole country needs to know the importance of arts and culture at this time.  Thank you very much everyone.  See you on the hashtag Arts Day on the Hill next week Wednesday 12 August in particular around question time, 2 o'clock to 3 o'clock Eastern Standard Time.  Let's do this everyone.  Have a fantastic week and I will see you next week.  Bye everyone.  Thank you Leya, and thank you so much Nadia for joining in, that was fantastic to be able to have you join the chat as well.  Leya is going to turn off the big button in just a sec.  See you all next week.