

## **MULTICULTURAL ARTS VICTORIA BOARD NOMINEE STATEMENTS** (Listed in alphabetical order)

### **CHIDAMBARAM S SRINIVASAN**

*My intention in nominating for a Board position at MAV, is to expand the capacity, reach and range of MAV in building a creative and rich arts landscape in Melbourne and Regional Victoria to make our Arts scene more multicultural and representative of the diversity of Victoria.*

*I have been a longstanding supporter of cultural activities in the communities in Melbourne for over 3 decades.*

*In my role as VMC Commissioner and as a keen supporter of MAV and its activities over the years, I have attended numerous concerts and performances organised by MAV, including Mapping Melbourne, Emerge Festival programs etc. in Melbourne and Shepparton.*

*I am a passionate advocate for expanding the opportunities and platforms for performing arts groups and artistes from multicultural communities. I am very familiar with the issues facing the artistes from the diverse communities especially the South Asian and Indian music and dance groups and artistes. This knowledge places me in an excellent position to provide cultural leadership to promote productive community and arts collaborations.*

*I imbibed my interest in music and dance art forms from my Mother, which enabled me to be part of my College Orchestra playing keyboard and harmonica in India. After migrating to Melbourne in 1980, my daughter (Dr Priya Srinivasan) started learning Indian classical dance, which revived and reinforced my interest and support to the dance and music art forms. She is a passionate supporter of MAV and has been extensively involved in many initiatives of MAV such as Mapping Melbourne 2017.*

*I believe my international work experiences, intercultural understanding, community and corporate connections and understanding of government relations, will enable me to build international and local partnerships and contribute to achieving the objectives of MAV.*

*Based on my community engagement experiences as a Commissioner in the Victorian Multicultural Commission (for 6 years), among other things, I have been a strong advocate for performing arts initiatives, increased funding, opportunities and support for multicultural performing arts and artistes, in Melbourne and Regional Victoria.*

*My experience in the corporate world (IBM), having worked in the IT industry in Australia, India, Japan and USA in senior positions for more than 32 years has given me access to a network of corporate connections.*

*My work experiences with Small Business mentoring and in advising a charity organisation (TEWOAF) in areas of strategy, marketing, governance, policy review, fund raising and operations review, will be of value to MAV. I have successfully worked in cross-cultural business*

*and social contexts, thanks to my proficiency in multiple languages including English, Tamil, Japanese, Hindi, Bengali and Sanskrit.*

*Having been a keen supporter of Multicultural Arts Victoria and its activities over the years, I am committed to serve MAV with a focus on enlarging the engagement with the artistes from diverse communities and give them encouragement and sustainable support in the area of performing arts.*

*For multicultural arts to flourish in Victoria, I believe it is essential to raise awareness of the benefits of multiculturalism through arts and employ vigorous advocacy to funding bodies not only government but also philanthropic corporate Boards and high net worth individuals among the multicultural communities.*

## **JUDITH KLEPNER**

*I am seeking the support of MAV members to undertake a second term and continue my work on the MAV Board.*

*I bring a lot of diverse policy, committee and governance experience, in community, multicultural and arts portfolios, and great passion and enthusiasm for the arts, with family involved in visual and performing arts as well! So, I do my best to attend as many MAV events as I can, to both enjoy, celebrate and support our fabulous artists and the MAV staff who work so hard to support them.*

*Amongst other roles, I worked at the Ethnic Community Council of Victoria as Policy & Regional Development officer for 4 years and continue as a member and committee member.*

*I maintain strong ties with the City of Port Phillip, where I served two terms as Councillor. I served on many CoPP committees, including the Audit, Multicultural and Planning Committees, and represented the City externally at the Municipal Association of Victoria and at the Victorian Local Governance Association. I also have now returned to the Gasworks Arts Board as a community member, having previously represented Council on that Board.*

*I am a former member of the Victorian Adult, Community and Further Education Board, and a current Board member of Dental Health Services Victoria. I am also currently the President of Star Health Service and chair its Strategic Policy and Planning Committee. I have also served as a member of its Audit and Risk Committee, and of its Quality Committee.*

*I hold a BA, Dip Ed and a Graduate Diploma in Multicultural Studies and Education. I am a Graduate member of the Institute of Company Directors and am a qualified Mediator.*

*I would be delighted to continue to bring to the Board my relevant Governance skills, experience and qualifications; community engagement, commitment and connectedness; political experience, judgement and tact; and great enthusiasm for the organisation and its work.*

*I am a longstanding supporter of the MAV and would be very pleased to contribute to its ongoing success by continuing to serve on its Board. I look forward to speaking to my nomination at the forthcoming MAV AGM.*

## **LINDA PETRONE**

*I have been a passionate advocate for - and champion of - multiculturalism, social inclusion and human rights during my twenty-five years working across government, the NFP sector and private industry.*

*In government I worked to address systemic barriers to equality and promote cultural, linguistic and faith-based diversity and human rights through my various roles at the Multicultural Commission of Victoria (VMC). I headed research to develop and implement VMC's research agenda, working in partnerships with universities, multicultural community groups and service agencies to inform government policy and address diversity issues. I managed the state's Community Strengthening Program for grant funding which joined up local migrant, refugee organisations with financial and program resources, to respond to systemic issues of discrimination, disadvantage and exclusion. I also had the pleasure of collaborating with Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV) on significant state programs and events.*

*As General Manager for Courts Services in the Department of Justice I drove and managed strategic changes in criminal court reporting which lead to improved access to services for linguistically diverse groups and financially disadvantaged populations.*

*In my current role at Oxfam's Manager of Analysis, Accountability and Business development I ensure strategic decision making - enabled by analysis and technical expertise - delivers on Oxfam's global goal to tackle poverty, address gender injustice and promote equality. My understanding of these and other complex social issues are supported by my Master in Human Rights Law and Master in International Development.*

*I bring to the MAV strong community development experience, strategic thinking and a proven history working collaboratively and enthusiastically with local community, government and multicultural sector agencies to drive positive outcomes and social inclusiveness. I welcome the opportunity to be part of the MAV board and its great achievements*

## **SYMON KOHUT**

*I am a grandchild of the postwar Ukrainian refugee migration to Australia. I grew up in a closely connected Ukrainian community in Melbourne, immersed in its rich cultural activities and surrounded by dreams of another home.*

*I have been co-opted onto the Board of Multicultural Arts Victoria for the past two years during which time I have had the pleasure and privilege of witnessing and supporting the work of this wonderful organisation from the inside. Recently in my work as a Board member I have been keen to help explore the potential for MAV artists to find new connections and possibilities working with schools and the Education sector.*

*I bring a combination of skills and experience to MAV. I have been a professional musician in Melbourne, playing in indie bands for a number of years and later working with choirs as a composer and choral director. With choirs in particular I explored the sacred and secular choral music of Ukraine and its neighbours and presented it in the spirit of discovery to a range of audiences throughout Victoria over many years.*

*I have a degree in law and I currently work for the Department of Education and Training, supporting Victorian government schools with legal, industrial and employee relations issues.*

*I believe I bring to my role on the Board a sophisticated and practical understanding of multicultural arts, their critical significance for ethnic communities and the potential for them to resonate beyond those communities and foster social cohesion and individual growth and purpose. I bring a high level of professionalism, with analytical and organisational skills and experience in people management and governance. My contribution to the MAV Board is founded on my deep conviction that developing multicultural arts in Australia is perhaps the single most important means of fostering a shared, inclusive and uniquely Australian sense of nationhood. I would be honoured to be elected to the Board in order to have the opportunity to continue to contribute my talents and my time in service of MAV's mission.*