

## Mitch Wilson They/Them

(Nominated by Tom Patton)

<b>Lived MG DNA.</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<b>Finance/Accounting</b>	<b>Human Resources</b>
4 - Extensive	3 - Advanced	3 - Advanced	2 - Competent
<b>Risk Management</b>	<b>Arts/Event Sector</b>	<b>Legal</b>	<b>Business Strategy</b>
2 - Competent	4 - Extensive	2 - Competent	3 - Advanced

I would love the opportunity to serve the Mardi Gras membership and the Pride movement in Sydney as a board director. I would bring my experience leading the Australian Festival Association to oversee and set the direction of Mardi Gras as we build on the success of Sydney WorldPride 2023.

Mardi Gras has had such a profound impact on the lives of so many of us. It was a safe space for people like me, when I was questioning my sexuality and gender identity, to explore and experiment. I can live my life as an out and proud trans, non-binary person because of the impact Mardi Gras has had on Sydney since 1978. The Board has had far too few trans and gender people serve as director and I want to see that change.

I bring to the Board experience as a former State and Federal political staffer, former public affairs lead for a multinational live entertainment company and am currently Managing Director of the Australian Festival Association, the peak advocacy body for Festivals. I have expertise in strategy, governance, finance & budgeting and stakeholder and conflict management.

I think most of our community is disappointed about the recent infighting on the Board. I would work to bring all Board members together and align to provide stability and direction to the Mardi Gras organisation and staff from their Board.

### **LGBTQIA+ alliances**

Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras

Rainbow Labor

## PROFILE

Managing Director of the Australian Festival Association, the national festival peak body with over ten years working in public policy and communications across State and Federal politics, a multinational live entertainment company and for Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. Experienced in strategy, government relations, project management, stakeholder management, budgeting, governance, messaging, media, issue and crisis management.

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

### **Managing Director, Australian Festival Association, Sydney**

AUGUST 2022 – PRESENT

Reporting to the AFA Board I lead all aspects of the Association's work from strategy, governance, finance, HR and membership

### **Project Manager, Australian Festival Association, Sydney**

JULY 2021 – AUGUST 2022

Project managed \$1 million COVID-recovery grant scheme for festivals on behalf of Creative Victoria

### **Partnerships , Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, Sydney**

JANUARY 2021 – MAY 2021

Managed key government, corporate and community stakeholder relationships for 2021 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade including strategic government sponsors Destination NSW and City of Sydney.

### **Senior Adviser, Office of the Hon. Ros Spence MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Community Sport and Youth, Victorian Government, Melbourne**

JUNE 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

Provide high quality advice and briefings to the Minister and Chief of Staff in a fast-paced environment, including for the State Budget, Cabinet and key policy development and announcements during COVID-19 lockdowns in Victoria.

### **Corporate Affairs Manager, Live Nation, Melbourne**

MAY 2019 – JUNE 2020

Reporting to the CEO, responsible for the development and implementation of Live Nation Australia and New Zealand Corporate Affairs and Government Relations strategy

### **Adviser, Office of the Hon. John Graham MLC, Shadow Minister for Music and the Night Time Economy, Tourism and Major Events, Gaming and Racing & Forestry, NSW Parliament, Sydney**

OCTOBER 2016 – MAY 2019

Provide strategic communication and policy advice to Mr Graham in his shadow ministerial portfolio areas, principally on Contemporary Music. Detailed knowledge of NSW Parliamentary processes.

### **Adviser, Members of the NSW & Australian Parliaments, Sydney**

APRIL 2010 – SEPTEMBER 2016