



Alliance Française  
*Sydney - Australie*  
Cultural Foundation

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Alliance Française de Sydney Cultural Foundation Limited

## Alliance Française De Sydney Cultural Foundation

The Alliance Française de Sydney Cultural Foundation ("Cultural Foundation") is a not-for-profit cultural organisation established in 2019 with a mission to promote French cultural events and Franco-Australian cultural exchanges.

The Cultural Foundation is a new cultural arm of the Alliance Française de Sydney, established in 1899.

Throughout the year, events relating to film and cinema, literature, performing arts, visual arts and other art forms are organised. This long list of events includes film festivals, exhibitions, masterclasses, book signings, talks, design, television, radio, community arts and much more.

Nestled in the heart of Sydney, the centre is also home to a comprehensive media centre.

The Cultural Foundation supports the annual Alliance Française French Film Festival and the Alliance Française Classic Film Festival. This Festival is organised by Alliance Française de Sydney in collaboration with Alliance Française branches across Australia's capital cities, with the Embassy of France in Australia, and in association with Palace Cinemas.



# Objectives and Activities

## The Alliance Française French Film Festival

The 31st edition of the Alliance Française French Film Festival (AFFFF) was certainly memorable. Launched in Sydney on 10 March and boasting a diverse program of 49 films, 11,500 enthusiasts attended the Festival in the eight short days it ran before the mandated state-wide closure of cinemas.

Much to the delight of loyal supporters and our committed sponsors, the team quickly began preparations for a relaunch of the Festival to coincide with the reopening of cinemas in August. In what would be the first major public event following the lockdown of Sydney, 10,500 patrons attended reduced-capacity sessions where social distancing was maintained in accordance with government regulations. Morgane Blondel is to be thanked for her contributions to the Festival this year.

A new cinematic advertisement of AFS was produced by Bruce Walters from The Situation Room and was launched during this year's edition of the Festival.

This year, we thanked and farewelled Philippe Platel who, as the Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of France in Australia was the Artistic Director of the AFFFF over the past four years. Karine Mauris has taken over these roles for the 2021 festival.

Supported by the Festival staff in each capital branch of Alliance Française in Australia, the Embassy of France in Australia, Palace Cinemas and the Orpheum, the Festival is the leading French film festival outside of France, the largest intercity film Festival, and the most-visited French cultural event in Australia.

We would like to pay special tribute to our sponsors for whom 2020 was also a difficult year.

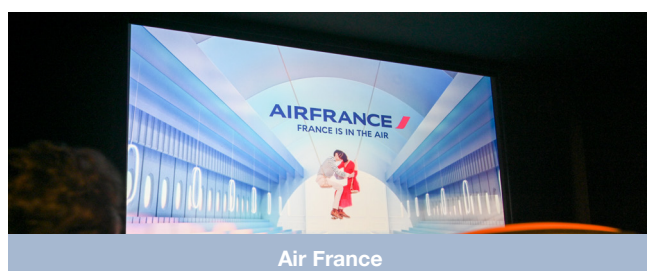
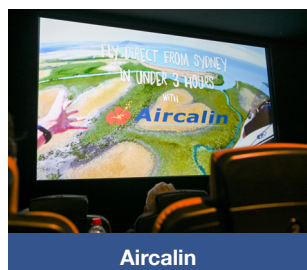






Figure 14 AFFFF Sydney 2020 Opening Night Gala



Figure 15 AFFFF Sydney 2020 Opening Night Gala



Figure 16 The Hon. Natalie Ward, MLC and Lyn Tuit, President of AFS at the AFFFF Sydney 2020 Opening Night Gala



Figure 17 AFFFF Sydney 2020 Opening Night Gala



Figure 18 AFFFF Sydney 2020 Opening Night Gala



## Events

Typically, the Alliance Française de Sydney is a bustling centre with over 300 guests per week attending a cultural calendar of soirées, wine tastings, exhibitions, discussions, and presentations. During this year of social distancing and isolation, Chloe Gunn and Morgane Blondel found creative ways for AFS to remain connected to its community through a series of digital events.

Among these was the virtual wine tasting event run in partnership with M. Chapoutier, whereby bottles of wine were delivered to participants ahead of a live tasting via Zoom with a sommelier. Other events, such as the Interview with the Creator of Van Gogh Alive sought to promote cultural events around Sydney during a very challenging time for the arts.

We would also like to thank board member Marie Chrétien who developed and presented five events in 2020.

## List of Events:

- Media Event: “The Alliance Française French Film Festival Line-Up Reveal” with Karine Mauris
- Online conference: “Matisse and Picasso – Parts 1 & 2 (in English)” with Marie Chrétien
- Online conference: “Matisse and Picasso – Parts 1 & 2 (in French)” with Marie Chrétien
- Online conference: “Colours of Impressionism – Parts 1 & 2” with Marie Chrétien
- Online conference: “Women in Cycling” with Maria Nash
- Online event: “Virtual wine tasting with M. Chapoutier”
- Online conference: “French cinema, a global and cultural phenomenon” with Associate Professor Michelle Royer
- Online conference: “Interview with the creator of Van Gogh Alive” with Bruce Peterson in a live interview with Marie Chrétien
- Online conference: “The life and work of Vincent Van Gogh (in English)” with Marie Chrétien
- Online conference: “A history of coffee” with Darren Smith
- Online conference: “The life and work of Vincent Van Gogh (in French)” with Marie Chrétien

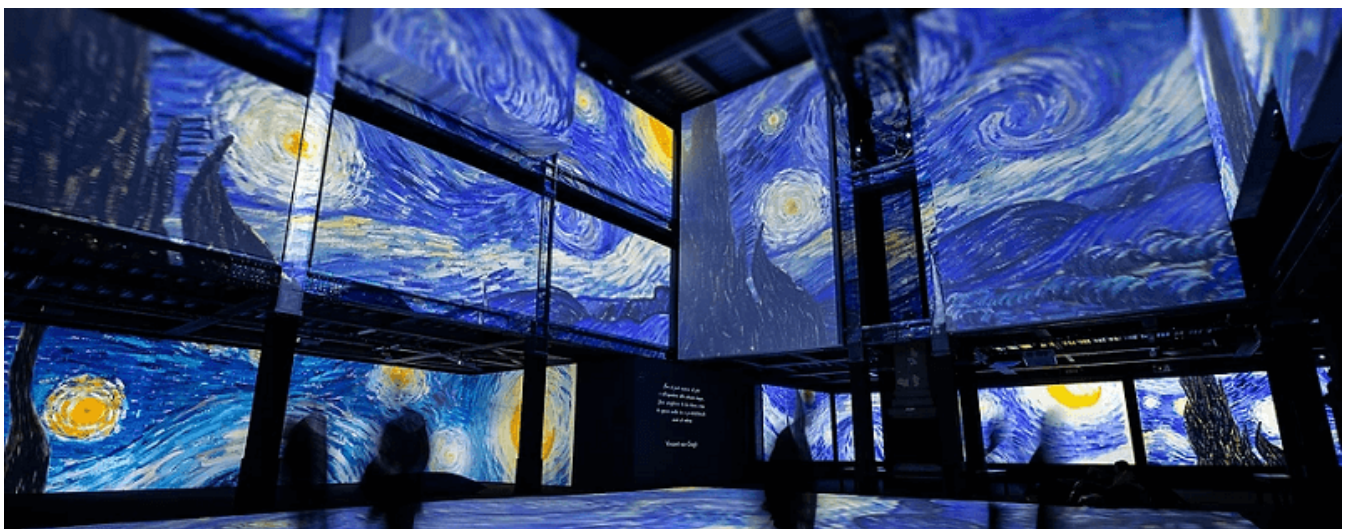


Figure 19 Van Gogh Alive Interactive Art Experience