

Assess Arts and Meeting Disability Projects Report 17 March 2015

Assessment Meeting Report

LIFETIME CARE AND SUPPORT AUTHORITY (LTCSA) AND ARTS NSW

ARTS AND DISABILITY PROJECT FUNDING

Closing Date: Monday, 9 February 2015

Panel Meeting Date: 17 March 2015

In November 2014 the Lifetime Care and Support Authority (LTCSA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Arts NSW to provide funding for Arts NSW to deliver a one-off arts and cultural grants program in 2015 – the LTCSA and Arts NSW Arts and Disability Project Funding. This funding program was designed to support projects that improve social inclusion outcomes for people with disability through increased involvement in arts and cultural activities.

The program provided funding for arts and cultural projects at any stage in their creative development and/or public presentation. Projects were required to include the direct participation of people with disability.

The benefits of the funded projects could be realised by participants in the Lifetime Care and Support Scheme – which provides treatment, rehabilitation and attendant care services to people severely injured in motor accidents in NSW – as well as other people with disability.

Funded projects were required to demonstrate the legacy the project will leave for future Scheme participants, other people with brain and/or spinal cord injuries and people with disability more generally. Legacies might include:

- New models for supporting people living with injuries to participate in the community;
- Improved skills, knowledge and attitudes of people in the community;
- New ways for people living with an injury to access activities they might enjoy; and/or
- More opportunities for people living with injury to participate in arts and cultural activities.

Objectives

The objectives of the LTCSA and Arts NSW Arts and Disability Project Funding are to increase opportunities for people with disability, in particular current and future Scheme participants, to participate in arts and cultural activities, including activities that:

- Develop professional opportunities for artists with disability;

- Support the development of excellence in arts and disability projects and programs and build the capacity of arts and cultural organisations to support people with disability; and
- Increase community and cultural awareness and reduce attitudinal barriers to disability access.

Assessment

LTCSA and Arts NSW Arts and Disability Project Funding applications were assessed by a panel including peers, a representative of the LTCSA and a representative of Arts NSW's Arts Development and Investment team, against specific assessment criteria:

- Artistic and Cultural Merit (Quality)
- Engagement and Participation (Reach)
- Viability (Health)
- Budget (Health).

ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

The panel recognised the high calibre of the applications for this specific round of funding.

The quantity of applications indicated a strong desire within the disability community and the wider artistic community to recognise the impact of artists with disability on culture and arts experience in NSW. The applications ranged from projects by auspiced groups through to organisations seeking to increase their capacity for presenting performances and exhibitions to a more inclusive audience.

The applications, on the whole, were well presented and detailed. Roles, responsibilities and outcomes were clear and target participants and/or audiences were identified. However some applications did not directly refer to the professional artists that they were engaging for their programs, which made it difficult to discern the artistic quality of the project. Other applications presented budgets with insufficient detail, which made it difficult to gauge whether artists with disability were being directly supported or not.

The applications which made a deep impression on the panelists were those which directly employed artists with disability as lead artists. The panel recommended that applicants to any future arts and disability funding program strongly consider this in the way that they frame their proposals and ideas.

The panel was delighted to see an almost 50/50 split between projects presented in Sydney and in regional NSW.

Contemporary artforms represented in the applications were diverse, however, there were very few applications representing artists in literary or musical fields.

The panel noted that the funded projects would leave a strong legacy for current and future Lifetime Care and Support Scheme participants, other people with brain and spinal cord injury, and people with disability more generally. Anticipated legacies include:

- Enhanced skills of artists with disability, both in relation to their own professional development as an artist and in working with other artists with and without disability
- Enhanced artistic capacity in regional NSW, including opportunities for artists with disability in regional NSW to work with artists from metropolitan Sydney and interstate
- Enduring works of art created by people with disability that highlight the artistic ability of people with disability, encompassing visual, multi-media and performing arts
- Increased social and artistic networking, including artists with and without disability and other people with disability
- Increased awareness across NSW of the ability of artists with disability to produce high quality work across a range of art forms
- Improved links between arts organisations across geographic areas to support the professional development of artists with disability and to increase the involvement of people with disability in professional arts and cultural activities
- Increased awareness of the needs of Lifetime Care and Support Scheme participants and other people with brain and/or spinal cord injury.

Although this funding program is one-off, it has emphasised the proliferation and diversity of new work made by and with artists with disability in NSW, and their relevance within the broader cultural landscape.

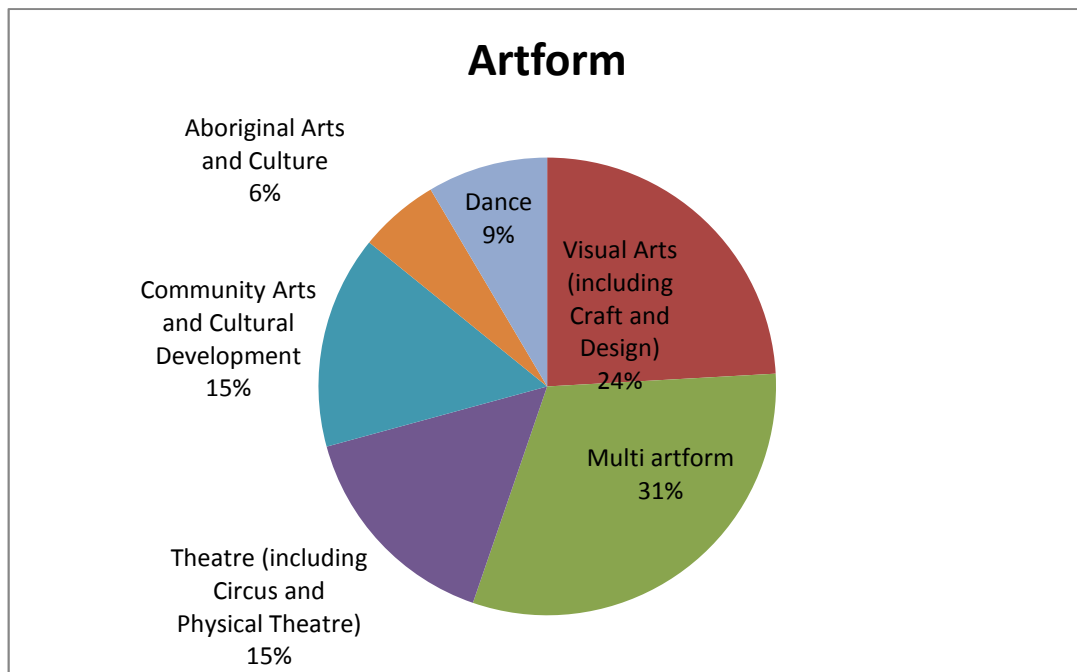
The program has also revealed the desire of organisations that are not specifically focused on the disability sector to engage in new kinds of programming to address social inclusion. This also provides a strong legacy for current and future Lifetime Care and Support Scheme participants, other people with brain and spinal cord injury, and people with disability more generally.

The panel also recommended that returned grant funds totalling \$35,348 from the NSW Arts and Disability Partnership between Arts NSW and the NSW Department of Family and Community Services be allocated to the applications from the Riverina Community College (\$9,000) and the Cerebral Palsy Alliance (\$26,348).

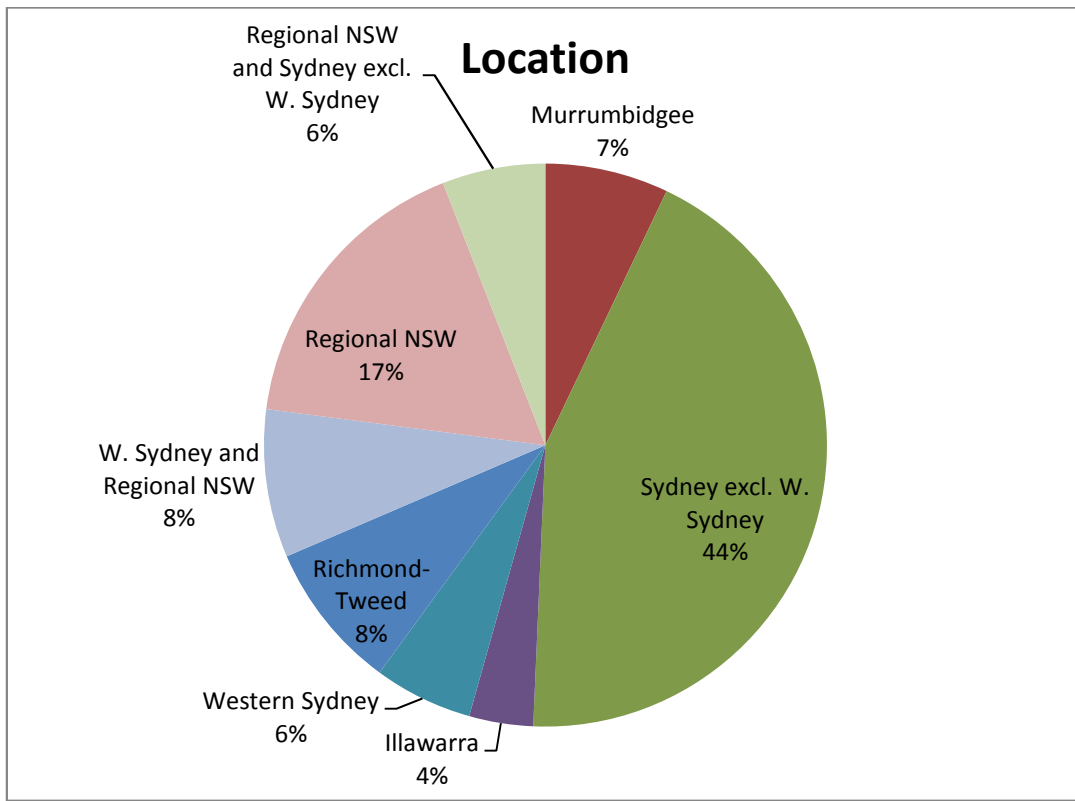
FUNDING STATISTICS

GRANT CATEGORY	LTCSA and Arts NSW Arts and Disability Project Funding
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	56
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	15
SUCCESS RATE	26.7%
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$2,474,373
AMOUNT FUNDED	\$705,348

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING BY ARTFORM



DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING BY LOCATION



SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

LTCSA AND ARTS NSW ARTS AND DISABILITY PROJECT FUNDING 2015

Accessible Arts for Outlandish Arts - \$60,000

Outlandish Arts will develop and deliver a statewide tour of the performance piece 'Falling in love with Frida', an intimate and enticing performance that explores the life, loves and legacy of artist Frida Kahlo (1907-1954). The tour will also include an extensive workshop program involving people with disability, including people with brain, spinal cord and musculoskeletal injury. Workshops will focus on dance, creativity, artistic legacy, love and sexuality.

Accessible Arts for The Epicormia Collective - \$60,000

The Epicormia Collective, comprising six Northern Rivers-based artists living and working with disability, will undertake 16 months of professional research, development, collaboration and production work for a multi artform exhibition project: 'The Re-authoring Impulse'.

Arts Northern Rivers Inc. for Dance Integrated Australia - \$60,000

The 'Corner Dance Lab 2016' is a disability-inclusive skills development and performance project based in regional NSW. This multi artform laboratory is led by Philip Channells (Dance Integrated Australia) in collaboration with Gavin Webber (The Farm), Ben Ely (Regurgitator) and digital-media/performance artist Kellie O'Dempsey. It connects local, interstate and international artists with emerging practitioners to increase contemporary dance / theatre activity in the Northern Rivers region of NSW.

Australian Dance Council t/a Ausdance NSW for Murmuration Dance Theatre - \$60,000

Murmuration Dance Theatre is an emerging professional integrated dance company working with artists with and without disability to create new contemporary dance theatre. Murmuration Dance Theatre will run a multi artform residency program at Addison Road Community Centre in Marrickville, to develop a new work. The project will also engage the local community through classes, studio sharings, open days and critical discussions.

Cerebral Palsy Alliance - \$26,348

'Can You See Me? Theatre' is an initiative of the Cerebral Palsy Alliance's St Ives Community Access Program that provides people with complex disability the opportunity to create theatre. 'Can You See Me? Theatre' will develop and rehearse a new production 'Jalpari...Water Angel' for performance in 2016.

Illawarra Performing Arts Centre t/a Merrigong Theatre Company - \$25,899

Merrigong Theatre Company and The Disability Trust will develop a new mixed abilities theatre work, 'Bent', that explores how people with disability participate in civic life. The development will commence with weekly Disability Trust drama classes in 2015 and proceed to a two week creative development period in 2016.

Metro Screen Ltd for Torrid Films - \$30,000

Using satire, black humour and characters not content to be part of the background action, 'The Committee' is an energetic, irreverent and "in your face" six-part interstitial or webisode drama series that explores and challenges ideas related to disability. The funding is for the creative development stage of this project, to professionally mentor 10 artists with disability (writers, actors and musicians) in writing 6 x 5 minute episodes and rehearsing and filming one episode with a music score. The work will form part of a pitch package to engage broadcasters and screen funding bodies for production funding to produce the series.

Museum of Contemporary Art Ltd - \$60,000

The MCA will create opportunities within its Bella Plus program for people with disability or living with injury, focusing on professional development and social integration within an arts environment. The project includes:

- Bella Plus Connect – a monthly arts program offering skills development and social integration
- Bella Workshops – MCA Artist Educators and specialist artist-led workshops
- Bella Mentorship – a professional development program with MCA Artist Educators
- Bella Training – tour guide training with MCA Artist Educators
- Bella in the House – a partnership program with Sydney Opera House providing access to contemporary art across both cultural institutions
- Bella Events – including a collaborative artwork for Brain Injury Awareness Week in August 2015.

Performing Lines Ltd - \$41,905

Urban Theatre Projects in partnership with Northern Rivers Performing Arts will redevelop the format of their critically received 2014 work, 'My Radio Heart'. Following overseas interest in the work, for this iteration director Rosie Dennis will work with mixed abilities band, Tralala Blip, towards national and international touring of the show. Performing Lines is the tour producer.

Re-development of the work will take place in Lismore in September, with a season at Carriageworks planned for October 2015.

Riverina Community College - \$50,000

'The Art Factory' project is a collaborative, multi-partner initiative that will see the establishment of the first supported studio in the Riverina region. It will facilitate professional development opportunities by providing visual artists with disability the support, guidance, mentoring, networks and career paths required to establish and maintain a high-quality, creative, contemporary arts practice. The project includes workshops over 48 weeks, solo showings and an exhibition at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery.

Royal Rehab - \$59,977

The 'ImagineMe' project is a series of creative skill-building photography and digital-imaging workshops where participants create self-portrait artworks using professional photographic equipment adapted for people

with spinal cord injury living in regional, rural and remote areas of NSW. The project will also include a touring exhibition of artworks created in the digital workshops in collaboration with NSW regional arts organisations.

Shopfront Theatre for Young People Co-op Ltd - \$57,000

The Shopfront Bodylines Ensemble will rework and present its landmark theatre piece 'Out of Line' at the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP) in August 2015, followed by focused schools workshops in dance theatre. Senior emerging artists with disability in the ensemble will take the lead on the redevelopment and ATYP and Shopfront will establish working relationships and support requirements.

In September 2015, the emerging artists will embark on a structured mentorship in developing skills to plan a new theatre work, with a short performance for IDPWD 2015.

The project forms the first stage of a co-production with ATYP and UK company Graeae Theatre's youth program in 2016.

Studio Artes Northside Inc. - \$28,000

'Studio ARTISTS: Expanding Islands' is a series of creative development workshops, art fairs and festivals that the Studio ARTISTS will participate in between July 2015 and December 2016.

The project involves participation in two Sydney based contemporary art platforms: Underbelly Arts (July 2015) and Sydney Contemporary (September 2015). The project also includes a series of creative development workshops in partnership with Erth Physical and Visual Inc. to develop a multi artform performance piece to be submitted for inclusion in a 2016 arts festival program.

'Expanding Islands' will increase the Studio ARTISTS' connection with the contemporary and commercial art worlds.

Sunnyfield - \$46,220

'Rising Hatch' is a unique collaboration between Sunnyfield and the Art Gallery of NSW's Access Program. The project will focus on 12 emerging artists living with a disability and/or acquired brain injury, and Art Gallery of NSW staff and volunteers. The group will be mentored by professional Western Sydney Hatch facilitators and Sunnyfield's Community Culture and Arts Coordinator in theoretical and practical components. The group will work toward a performance piece inspired by specific artworks from the Art Gallery of NSW collections, culminating in public outcomes at the Art Gallery of NSW and Riverside Theatres in December 2015.

Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council - \$40,000

Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council, in partnership with Aboriginal community Elders, Disability Services Australia, local schools, three local councils and the Campbelltown Arts Centre, will deliver classes with Aboriginal people with disability. The project will engage and develop a permanent art work at Tharawal's Couridjah site and individual art work that will be exhibited at Campbelltown Arts Centre at the end of the project.

The art works will be based on 'How my community see my disability' and 'How I see my disability'. A major part of the project will be about connecting the participants to country and their culture.