

# Regional Partnerships

Thursday 3 August 2016

## Assessment Meeting Report



Arts  
NSW

# Assessment Meeting Report

# REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

**CLOSING DATE: MONDAY 20 JUNE 2016**

**PANEL MEETING: THURSDAY 2 AUGUST 2016**

The Arts & Cultural Development Program (ACDP) Regional Partnerships category supports significant strategic and long term partnerships in regional NSW, which will stimulate strong and diverse regional arts and cultural activity and leave a legacy.

Strategic partnerships across and beyond the arts and cultural sectors, including those with local government authorities or other public, private and community organisations are supported.

Organisations, partnerships and groups based in regional NSW can apply. Funding is available for new projects and/or the significant developments of a current project.

Applications are assessed by a panel of arts sector peers against the following Assessment Criteria:

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

## ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

Applications were well spread geographically across the state and were representative of different art forms.

The strongest applications demonstrated artistic rigour and relevance in the context of the region. It was impressive how many applications had ambition of vision by proposing new ways of working and demonstrated big picture thinking. It was clear that regional projects have the potential to lead the arts sector in NSW in its contemporary arts practice. It was also important that applicants articulated how projects were connecting meaningfully with the region in which they are based. There were a number of strong applications which strategically engaged with Aboriginal communities, organisations and artists.

This round included a relatively high number of projects with an emphasis on health outcomes rather than artist outcomes. The panel reinforced the need for artistic and cultural merit to be at the forefront of applications for them to be competitive in this category. It is important projects demonstrate clear artistic and strategic direction.

The panel commented on the importance of support letters particularly if Aboriginal communities and their representatives are identified in applications.

The strongest applications were detailed, clear and strategic in describing their aims. The roles of partners were meaningful, well defined and demonstrated an intention of ongoing strategic engagement supported by evidence of commitment (through support letters). Partnerships providing inkind and cash contributions ranked highly in this round.

Notes to budgets are important for the panel to understand if the project is effectively utilising resources. Budgets that lacked detail and were not transparent made it hard for the panel to score highly. It is important to check applications carefully before submitting. A number of applications contained basic errors.

## FUNDING STATISTICS

GRANT CATEGORY	Regional Partnerships
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	18
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	6
SUCCESS RATE	33%
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$1,887,564
AMOUNT FUNDED	\$535,346

## SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

### **Tamworth Regional Council: \$37,100**

*Re-Stitching Culture* is a series of doll making workshops in both Tamworth and Walgett NSW, where Indigenous textile artists will pass on their knowledge and skills. Doll-making has important meanings that translate personal and community identity. This practice is deeply intertwined with symbolic meanings around spirituality, rituals, family histories, and communal traditions. It will result in an exhibition, curated by Glenn Barkley, providing opportunities for powerful exhibition interpretation, touring NSW and internationally. Delivered through a partnership between Tamworth Council, Gomeroi Gaaynggal Centre, the University of Newcastle and two international partners.

### **The Cad Factory: \$125,099**

*Shadows and Consequence* consists of two major artworks, *Shadow Places* and *Specimen Return*. These two large scale, site specific projection events to be held in regional NSW, will examine human and non-human relationships and their histories and changes in the region over time. These works will contribute to intelligent, meaningful dialogue around regional locations and the greater Australian narrative. The artworks will be made in collaboration with national institutions, local organisations, Riverina artists, school students and community members.

### **Outback Theatre for Young People: \$140,000**

Regional Arts Connect is a mentoring, information sharing and up-skilling project targeted at regional arts practitioners and young people that spans four remote regions of NSW. Using 25 years of regional youth arts experience, Outback Theatre for Young People will implement this project by providing regional organisations with a place where they can share resources, convene and support other practitioners.

### **South East Arts (NSW) Inc: \$135,000**

An Aboriginal arts and cultural festival at Jigamy Farm Eden will showcase and celebrate traditional and contemporary culture. The festival will be held in Spring 2018 and highlight Yuin culture and the story of the Bundian Way, through visual arts, dance, music, film, performance, presentations and storytelling. The main partners are South East Arts, the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council and Twofold Aboriginal Corporation.

### **Arts North West Inc: \$51,147**

*The Stuff of Tales* is a partnership with New England Writers Centre, the Museums Australia NW Chapter and Bauer Media to develop and promote access to, and engagement with, small museums in the New England North West. A writer will work closely with each museum to deliver professional development workshops as well as to create a story for young

people inspired by an object chosen from the permanent collection. The project will culminate with the creation of an online storybook, a collection of youth generated digital stories and a marketing campaign developed for the cultural tourism market.

**Lake Macquarie City Council: \$47,000**

*Art(ful) Futures* is a regional strategic partnership project aimed at mentoring mental health service users with art skills, through the processes of establishing a sustainable art practice. This will be achieved through an intensive series of workshop sessions culminating in a public exhibition, and education/public programs supported by gallerists, artists and mental health workers.