

WESTERN SYDNEY  
ARTS FELLOWSHIP  
14 October 2015

Assessment  
Meeting  
Report

Arts & Cultural  
Development  
Program



Arts  
NSW

# Assessment Meeting Report

## 2015 WESTERN SYDNEY ARTS FELLOWSHIP

**Closing Date:** Monday, 14 September 2015

**Panel Meeting:** Wednesday, 14 October 2015

The Arts & Cultural Development Program (ACDP) – Western Sydney Arts Fellowship provides the opportunity for a professional arts practitioner from any art form.

The fellowship is open to artists and performers or arts/cultural workers from all art forms, including dance, design, digital arts, history, Aboriginal arts, literature, music, theatre, screen and the visual arts.

The recipient is awarded \$50,000 to support a self-directed program of activities that could include undertaking a mentorship or residency, travel within Australia or internationally, and short term courses, research and/or the creation of new work.

The Western Sydney Arts Fellowship applications were assessed by a panel of arts sector peers against the following criteria:

1. demonstrated high artistic merit
2. potential to significantly benefit the applicant's artistic practice
3. demonstrated contribution to Western Sydney arts and cultural practice.
4. the program is well planned and achievable

## ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

Members of the panel agreed that:

- overall the applications to the inaugural Fellowship were of a high calibre with good representation across art forms, region and gender.
- the number of applications was encouraging; it speaks to the ongoing viability of the Fellowship.
- the programs of activity demonstrated that there is a variety of interesting work based in Western Sydney across all art forms and platforms.

The panel noted

- the strong representation of visual arts focused applications and would encourage more submissions from arts/cultural workers in the region.
- CALD artists as well as work with CALD communities were strongly represented.
- the number of competitive applications demonstrated a sustained embedded engagement and participation within Western Sydney.
- strong applications offered a program designed to extend and transform the artist's practice and detailed significant professional development for the artist, articulated how they would contribute to the arts and cultural quality, innovation excellence and development across Western Sydney.
- a better understanding of project versus professional development is required overall. If including a project in their program of professional development, applicants are encouraged to clearly define how the project will develop their career.

The panel recommended that

- artists should better link their proposed program with their current practice.
- Potential applicants are encouraged to speak to Arts NSW staff and gather appropriate support from industry/arts sector peers.
- applicants should ensure the budget reflects the proposed activities and timeline. Strong applications included detailed budgets with clear, realistic funds allocated. Potential applicants are encouraged to seek advice to improve budget and quality of supporting material.

## FUNDING STATISTICS

GRANT CATEGORY	2015 Western Sydney Arts Fellowship
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	30
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	1
SUCCESS RATE	3.3%
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$1,500,000
AMOUNT FUNDED	\$50,000

## SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT

### 2015 WESTERN SYDNEY ARTS FELLOWSHIP

#### Mr Khaled Sabsabi

Khaled Sabsabi is a socially-engaged artist who specialises in multimedia and site-specific installations. His work is anchored by his Western Sydney and migrant experience. He was born in 1965, Tripoli, Lebanon, and migrated with his family to Australia in 1978 due to civil war. Khaled grew up in Auburn and began his creative life in the late 1980s as a Hip hop performer and Community Cultural Development practitioner.

For 28 years Khaled has worked in mainstream arts and state institutions in the Western Sydney and broader national and international context. He has worked across borders and cultures to create immersive and engaging art experiences that question rationales and complexities of the self, identity and change. In 2005 Khaled completed a Master of Arts at COFA University of NSW and since have continued to extend his artistic practice.

He was awarded the Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Scholarship (2010), 60th Blake Prize (2011), MCG Basil Sellers Fellowship (2014) and Fisher's Ghost Prize (2014). He is represented by Milani Gallery, Brisbane, and has 10 works in private, national and international collections. Khaled has participated and presented in over 52 solo and group exhibitions in Australia and abroad. He has also participated in the 5th Marrakech

Biennale (2014), Sharjah Biennial 11 (2013), 18th Biennale of Sydney (2012) and 9th Shanghai Biennale (2012).

He has made a significant contribution to Western Sydney through his decision to live and work in Western Sydney; initiate and develop projects; advocacy and lobbying; create, present and donate arts works; collaborate, mentor and train people and artists within Western Sydney.

The Fellowship will enable Khaled to take 6 months leave from his position at Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and focus solely on his professional artistic practice. He will create five new works and consolidate three decades of practice by cataloguing his works and publishing a digital artist's monograph.