

ORDINARY MEETING	10
21 FEBRUARY 2024	

CREATIVE AUSTRALIA – ARTS PROJECTS FOR ORGANISATIONS FUNDING APPLICATION

79/5/7 | #7352741

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approves the funding submission to Creative Australia for the Arts Projects for Organisations funding round for up to \$100,000; and
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise any and all matters relating to the above submission.

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Creative Australia, UQ Art Museum, Museums and Galleries NSW, Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF).

Note: The identification of interested parties is provided on a best endeavours basis by Council Officers and may not be exhaustive.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council is eligible to apply for Creative Australia's (Australia Council) Arts Projects for Organisations fund for a maximum of up to \$100,000.

BACKGROUND:

The Arts Projects for Organisations grant supports a wide range of activities that benefit both the arts sector and the general public, including national and international audiences and communities. Organisations that conduct arts programs, projects, or provide services to artists are encouraged to apply. Organisations can propose a single project, a series of projects, or annual activity programs.

Grants are available ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000. Supported activities must last no more than two years from the proposed start date.

Submissions close 5 March 2024 and if successful, activity from this grant must commence after 1 June 2024.

COMMENT:

The grant application aligns with the aims in Council's Strategy for Culture and the Arts 2022, including supporting the continuous growth of the regional arts community and the

city's cultural capabilities, as well as being known for the Arts and Cultural Capital of Northern Australia.

Should Council be successful in obtaining the grant, it will be used for a new iteration of an exhibition, *OCCURRENT AFFAIR*.

OCCURRENT AFFAIR is a major exhibition featuring new and recent works by Brisbane-established Indigenous artist collective proppaNOW, who have had a five-year hiatus to focus on their individual careers.

The founding members of proppaNOW include Dr. Richard Bell, Tony Albert, Megan Cope, Jennifer Herd, Laurie Nielson, Vernon Ah Kee and Gordon Hookey. This exhibition iteration includes artists, Shannon Brett, Warraba Weatherall and Lily Eather. All artists are from Queensland and are well respected as important artists of their time.

proppaNOW was awarded the 2022–2024 Jane Lombard Prize for Art and Social Justice unanimously by a jury chaired by international arts and culture leaders. This led to a short-term residency in New York, USA.

OCCURRENT AFFAIR speaks to several themes including the role of arts as a vehicle for critical conversation in tackling challenging societal issues. This is a unique opportunity to create a space for dialogue and discussion with a broad range of visitors to the gallery.

Included in the exhibition is an extensive education and public program plan that will enable formal and informal engagement with schools, further education groups and community members/organisations. Taking a life-long learning approach will extend the exhibition's reach and facilitate a deeper connection to the exhibition that will encourage community to look at the world in new ways through art.

This exhibition will also be presented as part of Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) which attracts a national and international audience.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council:

1. Approves the funding submission to Creative Australia for the Arts Projects for Organisations funding round for up to \$100,000; and
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise any and all matters relating to the above submission.

Option 2:

That Council does not support the recommendation and adopts an alternative course of action.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

If the application for funding with Creative Australia is not successful, further funding applications from other similar programs will be sought. Additionally, the annual programming budget and curatorial program can accommodate changes in incoming grants throughout the year.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The funding request of \$100,000 will be used for associated exhibition costs, which include: transportation, storage, artist fees, public programming, workshops and installation. Local vendors from several different industries will be engaged through their connections to this exhibition. National and international audience attraction to this exhibition will stimulate the surrounding economy in the city centre around the Court House Gallery precinct.

Museums and Galleries NSW are also providing \$90,000 of in-kind support towards the tour of the exhibition to Cairns.

The Arts Projects for Organisations funding stream does not stipulate co-contribution but 'diversity and scale of income and co-funding' is considered as part of the viability criterion. Council will be providing \$16,000 in venue-related staffing and \$7,500 of venue hire income as in-kind contribution.

Project external costs	\$ 103,225.00
Project touring costs	\$ 91,290.00
CRC Venue and Resource Hire	\$ 25,737.11
Grant value	\$ (100,000.00)
M&G NSW In-kind contribution	\$ (91,290.00)
CRC contribution to project	\$ 28,962.11

Community and Cultural Heritage:

The exhibition will further the objectives of the arts and culture strategy in celebrating and highlighting indigenous culture and creative expression as a compelling part of Cairns' regional identity. The artists represented in the exhibition are recognised nationally and internally as significant Australian artists which meets the strategy's objective to increase Cairns reputation as a centre of excellence for the arts. In addition, the exhibition will create accessible and natural pathways for diverse communities to look at and consider challenges issues leading to collective solutions.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The exhibition supports two key strategies within the corporate plan. The first is a partnership with the University of Queensland Art Museum and Museums and Galleries New South Wales meeting the strategic objective to position Cairns as the arts and culture capital of Northern Australia. The second corporate plan strategic theme is diversifying the tourism portfolio as Cairns will be the only location for this exhibition in Northern

Queensland and part of the CIAF program. The exhibition will extend visitation and tourism opportunities.



Stephen Foster
Executive Manager Creative Life



Destry Puia
Director Lifestyle & Community