

ORDINARY MEETING	12
21 FEBRUARY 2024	

REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND (RADF) COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

79/6/8| #7326465

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approves the appointment of Merindi Schrieber, Mounira Almendoar, and Rose Rigley to the RADF Committee, effective from 1 April 2024 to serve a maximum term of four years with an option to stand down after two years.
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 appointments.

INTERESTED PARTIES:

- Merindi Schrieber
- Mounira Almendoar
- Rose Rigley

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the Ordinary Meeting on 23 August 2023, Council appointed Shontell Ketchell to the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Committee as the Film/Screen and First Nations Arts & Cultural Projects representative, however Shontell's new role at Arts Queensland created a conflict of interest.

Emma Fowler-Thomason also resigned from the RADF Committee after three years due to new employment commitments.

As a result, three positions on the RADF Committee representing the following portfolios are vacant:

- First Nations Arts & Cultural Projects
- Film/Screen
- Visual Arts

A direct invitation was issued to arts professionals to apply for the three positions on the RADF Committee. Members of the local arts and cultural community who identified as

First Nations and/or have experience in film and television production and visual arts were invited to apply.

Three arts professionals who scored very highly across the criteria are being recommended to fill the positions.

The applications were assessed by a panel of Creative Life officers and approved by the Executive Manager Creative Life with final approval sitting with Council.

BACKGROUND:

The *Regional Arts Development Fund Committee - Terms of Reference General Policy* requires that RADF Committee members serve a maximum term of four years with an option to stand down after two years. The policy states that Council will establish a RADF Committee membership that is culturally and geographically representative of the community by either of two methods:

1. Publicly advertising for expressions of interest, and/or
2. Direct invitation of Committee members for portfolio areas.

The Committee's composition is carefully considered in terms of a balance of practicing artists and arts administrators, as well as knowledge, experience, and networks in the nominated portfolio areas.

Newly appointed Committee members are required to sign a RADF Committee Member Code of Conduct and attend a program induction.

As part of the annual RADF funding an honorarium payment of \$350 per member, per major round, is made to committee members in recognition of fulfilment of their duties and is covered by Arts Queensland's contribution.

COMMENT:

The following recommended applicants received the highest scores against the RADF Committee assessment criteria for their specific portfolio areas.

Merindi Schrieber – First Nations Arts & Cultural Projects

Merindi Schrieber is a multi-disciplinary Kuku Yalanji/English/Irish artist who captivates audiences of all ages through songs, stories and weaving. Merindi is the founder of Bulkaway Muruku, an organisation that supports artists, cultural practitioners, and elders to share stories and activities through song and stories at private functions, festivals and events. Merindi was involved in the First Nations Children's Festival 2022 and was awarded the Australian Council of the Arts Fellowship 2023 for her ongoing work in community and cultural development.

Merindi has also shared the stage with some of Australia's greatest artists, including Tiddas and Emma Donovan and recently wrote her first piece of theatre *Birmba*, which had three sold-out performances at the Cairns Children's Festival 2023 and is set to tour in the near future.

Mounira Almenoar – Film/Screen Industry

Mounira Almenoar is a research associate and project manager with over 20 years of experience in the screen industry specialising in research, education, project management and content creation. Mounira was the primary research associate on *Best Practice in Approaches to Addressing Equity and Inclusion in the Screen and Broadcast Industries*, an international study conducted for the Australian Film Television and Radio School and her experience has led her to work with regional, national and international organisations including Screen Queensland, Screen Australia, Diversity Arts Australia, Ausfilm, Netflix and the Motion Picture Association. Mounira also volunteered her time, both as a consultant and judge for the Understory Film Festival 2023, demonstrating her genuine commitment to the Cairns community.

Rose Rigley – Visual Arts

Rose Rigley is a visual artist who has exhibited her work locally, nationally, and internationally, as well as in several solo shows. Her artistic abilities encompass a variety of media, including sculptural assemblage, drawing, mixed media, and artist books. As an independent artist and co-founder of the artist-run-initiative *Sixfold Project*, she has extensive experience in applying and securing funding from local, state, and federal governments. Rose teaches practical art skills, (printmaking, sculpture and drawing), along with art theory, at TAFE Queensland (Cairns campus) and through a variety of community-based workshops.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council:

1. Approves the appointment of Merindi Schrieber, Mounira Almenoar, and Rose Rigley to the RADF Committee, effective from 1 April 2024 to serve a maximum term of four years with an option to stand down after two years.
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 appointments.

Option 2:

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

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

The Executive Manager Creative Life and Director Lifestyle & Community have reviewed the assessment and support the recommendations. The proposed RADF Committee members have been selected in accordance with the *Regional Arts Development Fund Committee Terms of Reference General Policy*.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Foster', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Stephen Foster
Executive Manager Creative Life

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Destry Puia', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Destry Puia
Director Lifestyle & Community