

# Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board Update

228<sup>th</sup> meeting – June 2011

The 228th Meeting of the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board was held on Friday 3 June 2011 at the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Arts, 12-16 St John Street, Launceston. This is a summary of the key policy outcomes of that meeting.

## **AUSTRALIA COUNCIL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS' REALIGNMENT**

---

The Board considered the discussion paper from the Australia Council for the Arts on funding for Community Arts and Cultural Development practitioners and companies.

The Board expressed concern about the impact on Tasmanian Regional Arts if the Discussion Paper's proposed changes go ahead.

The Board felt that the discussion paper from Council was somewhat obtuse and lacked the degree of clarity necessary to ensure that a full considered response could be made. It appeared, in the absence of compelling argument to the contrary in the paper to be an exercise in cost-shifting.

The Board considered that a criterion of national significance appeared oddly aligned with what constituted good Community Cultural Development, noting that best practice can be and often is regional; and indeed that national significance in Australia is often regional difference. The Board believed that Community Partnerships should prioritise projects and programs that exert regional influence that becomes national influence.

The Board's submission also pointed out that service organisations support artists, and that the proposed changes would diminish the support that practicing artists receive, especially in regional areas.

As a final point, the Board noted what it perceived to be a bias at Council in funding artists over arts

organisations. It reiterated that arts organisations were often the largest employers of individual artists, and it was possible to support the industry both through organisations as well as individual artists.

The Board requested that Arts Tasmania work with other States and Territories in preparing a unified national response to the Australia Council for the Arts' discussion paper, so as to present a unified submission that included the points outlined above.

## **FUNDING FORUM CONSULTATION**

---

The Board noted that following the forum with Arts Tasmania clients and stakeholders in March 2011, at which Arts Tasmania advised the sector of its likely budget position for 2011-12 through to 2013-14, the arts industry was invited to proffer suggestions on its priorities, comments on how budget cuts should be meted out in 2011-12, and ideas on how funding programs might be restructured or reimaged for 2013 and beyond.

The Board also noted activity on its Facebook forum, where a series of question/discussion points in relation to particular topics of relevance to the TAAB and arts funding in the future were posted. There were 26 topics on the discussion board, loosely grouped into these headings:

- possible changes to current funding programs;
- strategic priority areas;
- new business models;
- arts industry organisations; and
- advocacy campaigns.

The Board further noted that once the State Budget has been brought down on 16 June, Arts Tasmania will consider face to face consultation with the sector around the state in relation to the most resonant topics from the Facebook discussion

**About the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board**

The Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board was established under the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board Act (1975) to provide policy and funding advice to the State Government. The Board comprises members from various sectors of the arts and the wider community, appointed by the Minister for the Arts. The Board provides advice to the Minister through recommendations for the expenditure of the annual arts grant and loan allocations.

The Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board acts as an advocate for the arts and cultural sector and provides broad policy advice on arts industry issues to Government.

