

# Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board Update

226<sup>th</sup> meeting – February 2011

The 226th Meeting of the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board was held on Friday 4 February 2011 at the Board Room of Arts Tasmania, 146 Elizabeth Street, Hobart. This is a summary of the key policy outcomes of that meeting.

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

---

The Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board's first meeting of each year includes an extended discussion on strategic directions for the arts in Tasmania. Following is a summary of that discussion.

The Board's areas of strategic intent were confirmed as:

1. Support
2. Facilitation
3. Advocacy
4. Capacity building; and
5. Infrastructure.

Of central concern to the Board was how to handle any further reduction in funding that might occur in the forthcoming State Budget. The Board considered the quantum of funding as it currently stood, and noted that Tasmania's funding of the arts per capita is the second lowest in the country.

The Board concluded that its focus should be to create an enabling environment for artists and arts organisations to have the best support possible to create the best work they can.

The Board noted that its allocation to Assistance to Organisations (\$2 210 212) represented 77.8% of the Board's total funding. The Board further noted that

of that amount, \$1 064 501 (or 48.2%) is already committed to existing multi-year funding agreements.

The Board indicated that it was time to reconsider offering multiyear funding for organisations for 2012 and beyond given the fact that Arts Tasmania did not have surety of funding.

In this context, the Board agreed that the Infrastructure Fund would not be able to be offered in 2012.

The Board also requested that artist and arts organisations be canvassed as to their suggestions of how best to allocate reduced resources in the coming funding round; and what future strategic funding priorities can maximise support to the sector with the funds available. Arts Tasmania will organise these discussions in due course.

## **PRINCES WHARF #1**

---

The Board discussed the redevelopment of Hobart's Princes Wharf Shed No. 1 (PWI) as a multipurpose site designed to provide amenity, infrastructure and flexibility to cater for a wide range of uses, from small public day-to-day use of parts of the site (such as the forecourt and new decks on the Castray Esplanade side) through to major events such as the Taste Festival and MONA FOMA.

The Board supported the redevelopment of PWI as another venue in Hobart. However, it noted concern from arts organisations that the venue is being managed in a way that focuses on generating financial returns rather than in fulfilling any other social or cultural goals.

The Board noted that a number of arts organisations contributed to the community consultation process

led by Neil Cameron, and the expectation that was held at that time was that PWI would provide an additional venue for artists and arts organisations to utilise.

The Board was advised that post-stage 2 works to be completed in June 2011, charges for the hire of PWI will be \$4 000 per day plus GST, with a 30% discount for not-for-profit organisations with tax-exempt status. The Board noted concern from the arts community that the hire charges are outside the reach of most Tasmanian arts organisations, particularly since it is unclear whether or not charges will also apply on top of this rate for hiring staging, lighting and other equipment. The Board noted that compared with other venues, for example, the Derwent Entertainment Centre, this cost is prohibitive for arts organisations.

The Board also noted that advice had been given to arts organisations that they should seek sponsorship and funding from state and local governments to offset the hire costs. The Board does not support this position, as it would further diminish the pool of funds available to support and create arts projects and activities. The Board will provide policy advice on this issue to the Minister for the Arts.

Recognising the need for an accessible venue, the Board supported the redevelopment of PWI as another venue in Hobart. However, it noted that the venue is being managed in a way that focuses on generating financial returns rather than in fulfilling any other social or cultural goals. The Board strongly supports the development of Parcel 4 adjacent to the Theatre Royal as a shared space with the Conservatorium of Music, including a 300-400 seat black box performance space, as beneficial cultural infrastructure worthy of future government investment.

## ARTS AND DISABILITY

---

The Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board considered amendments to the Arts and Disability Grant Program to address the issues identified by the assessment

panel in the first grant round, particularly eligibility and the pursuit of quality arts outcomes:

- Clearer guidelines on eligibility where required to allow the Panel to make decisions more effectively;
- The Panel wished to focus on professional arts development and arts outcomes; and
- It was noted that the aim of the projects should be to overcome barriers of impairment in order to build people's capacity and professional arts practice.

The Board adopted the definition of disability as prescribed in the Tasmanian Disability Services Act 1992:

*"disability" means a disability –*

- a) which is attributable to an intellectual, psychiatric, sensory or physical impairment or a combination of those impairments; and*
- b) which is permanent or likely to be permanent; and*
- c) which results in –*
- d) a substantially reduced capacity of a person for communication, learning or mobility; and*
- e) the need for continuing support services; and*
- f) which may or may not be of a chronic episodic nature.*

### 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.