

Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board Update

227th meeting – April 2011

The 227th Meeting of the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board was held on Thursday 7 April 2011 at the Board Room of Arts Tasmania, 146 Elizabeth Street, Hobart. This is a summary of the key policy outcomes of that meeting.

PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND ARTS TASMANIA'S PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE

The Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board reviewed its policy relating to pecuniary interest in relation to members of its various expert assessment panels. As a result of this consideration, the Board wishes to advise that its policy is as follows:

The Board at its 220th and 227th meetings determined its policy on the eligibility of Panel members and organisations with which they have an association to apply.

Applications from Individuals

Panel members are not precluded from applying as individuals for assistance or grants from a Panel of which they are a member. Where a member has an interest in or is likely to derive a benefit directly or indirectly through such application, or any other application in which that member is neither an applicant or directly involved, he or she must absent themselves from any part of the proceedings of that panel which is relevant to, or likely to have an impact on, that application or applications. If the entire proceedings at a Panel's meeting are likely to affect the member or the member's application(s) however the member is involved, the member must absent himself/herself from that meeting. In such circumstances it is not sufficient that Panel Members merely absent themselves from the room whilst the discussion on their application is being made.

Applications from Organisations

Panel members who are members of, members of the board of, or employed by, an organisation are precluded from participating in the deliberations of that Panel where the

organisation has made application to that panel, or is

indirectly affected by an application to that panel, in the same circumstances and to the same extent as if that organisation's application was that of the Panel member, as an individual, as detailed above.

FUNDING FORUM – 17 MARCH 2011

The Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board and Arts Tasmania hosted an open forum with Arts Tasmania clients and stakeholders on 17 March at which Arts Tasmania advised the arts community of its likely budget position for 2011-12 through to 2013-14.

The arts industry was invited by the Board to proffer suggestions on its priorities as an industry; comments on how budget cuts should be meted out in 2011-12; and ideas on how funding programs might be restructured or re-imagined for 2013 and beyond.

The following key messages came from those present at the funding forum:

- Funding for success, not drip feeding, or applying random percentage cuts is important (even though this will mean funding fewer organisations/projects)
- Multiyear funding is essential to organisations' stability
- There should be acknowledgment of "leveraging" arts organisations receiving Arts Tasmania funding
- The infrastructure fund was valuable but will be given up in this year given the circumstances
- Once an organisation/service is cut to the point that it goes out of existence it is likely to be very difficult and expensive to restart it when the supply of funds increases
- Industry councils and the like in the arts sector should be fully independent of government
- Each of the major disciplines should be funded (even if one organisation only) in the organisations round

- The Board should not fund things just because we always have
- Keeping artists employed and in the state is more important than industry or professional development
- Cost benefit analysis on industry development programs and their return, as well as their place within government or within the sector is important

Two main outcomes from the funding forum are being taken up by industry representatives:

1. the formation of an industry-led council or other structure; and
2. the development of a strategic “campaign for the arts”.

Following an industry meeting held on 4 April, a group called the Tasmanian Arts Coalition has formed a Facebook page and has been debating various issues in that forum, as well as hosting further face to face meetings statewide.

The Board notes that the Tasmanian Arts Coalition has determined as its two main focus points: advocating positively for the value of the arts and for an increase in investment in the arts for Tasmania from the state government; and the formation of an independent representative body for the arts in Tasmania. The Board welcomes the debate and discussion and naturally would support any reprieve from budget cuts and indeed an increase of arts funding at all levels of government as well as in the corporate and philanthropic centre.

The Board also wishes to encourage exploration of other funding models and new business models, given the current economic and budget climate and the strong possibility that arts subsidy will continue to decline at both state and federal level in the future.

The Board invites all stakeholders, clients and arts supporters to participate in this debate; not only in relation to the forthcoming State Budget for 2011-12 but also in the development of new ways of supporting the arts in this state.

The Board does not wish to duplicate or in any way stifle open debate on these issues; and at the same time it is mindful that not everyone may be able or willing to engage on the Tasmanian Arts Coalition Facebook page

and that some individuals and organisations may prefer to communicate with the Board separately. The Board wishes to ensure it hears from all voices in this conversation.

There is now a Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board arts forum Facebook page on which the Board will put forward a number of ideas for discussion as a starting point for regular debate. If you do not have access to Facebook, you will be able to read a new discussion topic on the news section of the Arts Tasmania website each week and you can respond to this via email.

Topics for discussion include:

- Examining alternative funding models
- Changes to funding categories
- Allocation of a specific amount of funding for new work
- New business models for arts organisations

Over the course of the year, Arts Tasmania will capture online and face to face discussion to inform a strategic plan document that articulates the Board’s funding priorities and models over the next five – ten year period.

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.