

Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board Update

230th meeting - October 2011

The 230th Meeting of the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board was held on Thursday 27 October 2011 at the Arts Tasmania, 146 Elizabeth Street, Hobart. This is a summary of the key funding and policy outcomes of that meeting.

ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS 2012 PROGRAM

The Board received the recommendations of its Assistance to Individuals Panel in relation to the Assistance to Individuals 2012 Program. The Board has considered this advice in preparing recommendations to the Minister for the Arts, and expects applicants will be notified of the outcomes in mid to late November.

The Board noted that the standard of applications was very high, and that as a result the round was very competitive. In particular, the standard of literature applications was better this year, and the Panel also noted that there was a range of very good applications from former Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music students. The Board noted that the Conservatorium has introduced business practice units three years ago – and that this may have had an impact on the standard of applications.

In relation to the highly sought after Arts Tasmania/Vitra Design Fellowship, the Board was made aware that the Vitra workshop program was not available at the time of the closing date for applications to the Assistance to Individuals Program. This had the effect of making it difficult

for applicants to contextualise how the Arts Tasmania/Vitra Design Fellowship would help their career development.

As a result of this timing discrepancy, the Panel recommended – and the Board accepted – that the fellowship be considered out of session in future, to allow applicants to put together more focused arguments and strategies in their applications – in full knowledge of the program on offer.

SMALL MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS PROGRAM

The Board also received the recommendations of the Small Museums and Collections Panel in relation to its allocation of \$40 000. The Board noted that a total of 10 applicants received funds totalling \$26 544 and 106 days of Roving Curator time.

The Board was extremely pleased to recommend all applications for funding and/or Roving Curator time.

In relation to the remaining funds of the allocation to this program, the Board has approved the following three Panel Initiatives:

1. Museum Accreditation Program (MAP) - this initiative involved the researching and developing (if found desirable) a museum accreditation program for Tasmania for the community museum sector. The initial stage of the initiative would involve liaising with the Tasmanian community museum sector and the

establishment of a sector reference group, as well as research nationally and internationally on museum accreditation programs.

2. Making Museums Work: recruiting and managing volunteers - for managers or supervisors of volunteers working in a community museum, organisation or history group. The workshop will be presented by Arts Tasmania's Roving Curators and Volunteering Tasmania at three venues to provide training and advice to help improve the recruitment and management of volunteers.
3. Making Museums Work: box making - for community museums, organisations or history groups; presented by Arts Tasmania's Roving Curators and a box making expert at Oatlands to provide hands-on training on box making for housing collection objects.

PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The Board considered a revised Conflicts of Interest section for the 'Handbook of Procedures and Conventions of the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board', intended to improve clarity. The agreed Conflicts of Interest policy and procedure is reproduced here:

2.11 Conflicts of Interest

2.11.1 Where Conflicts Can Arise.

Conflicts of interest can be actual, potential or perceived, and they can arise whenever a person in public office or performing public duties is involved in a decision making process. A conflict of interest arises when, through the consideration of any matter within the scope of that person's official duties, that person has a pecuniary or any other interest, or may receive any benefit direct or indirect. The conflict may involve the private affairs of the official or those of a person, group of persons, close friend,

business or organisation to or with whom that official is related, thereby making those affairs a subject in which the official has an interest.

An actual conflict arises where the official's present duties or responsibilities conflict with or concern the official's existing personal interests or matters in which that official has an interest.

A potential conflict of interest arises where the personal or other interests of the official could conflict with that person's official duties in the future.

A perceived or apparent conflict of interest arises where it may appear to an objective member of the public that an official's personal or other interests could improperly influence the performance of that official's duties whether or not that is the case.

2.11.2 Procedures to Avoid Conflict of Interest

When Board, Panel, Committee and staff members are likely to be involved in a process, application, deliberation or decision in which they have a conflict of interest – actual, potential or perceived – the member must declare that interest and absent themselves from the room to take no further part in any aspect of the process, deliberation or decision. If there is any doubt or question as to the existence or extent of a conflict of interest, the member must leave the room while the Board, Panel or Committee, guided by the Chair, who shall have the determining vote, considers the declared interest and determines what, if any, further part the member may take in the proceedings in which that member has a conflict.

The minutes of the meeting shall record the declaration of interest, the determination and the duration of the member's absence from

the meeting or proceedings.

2.11.3 Conflicts of Interest and Panel deliberations - Individuals

Panel members are not precluded from applying to or seeking assistance as individuals from any Panel of which they are a member, however, where a member makes an application to or seeks assistance from a Panel of which they are a member, they must absent themselves from and take no part in the meeting(s) or proceedings of the Panel at which their application is to be considered.

2.11.4 Conflicts of Interest and Panel deliberations - Organisations

Without limiting the scope of conflict of interest through relationships and friendships, 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 during the Panel's consideration of that organisation's application and the Chair will determine whether the member's interest in that organisation precludes the member from any other parts of the Panel's deliberations for that funding round.

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.