

Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board Update

229th meeting – July 2011

The 229th Meeting of the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board was held on Friday 29 July 2011 at the Arts Tasmania, 146 Elizabeth Street, Hobart. This is a summary of the key policy outcomes of that meeting.

ASSISTANCE TO ORGANISATIONS 2012 PROGRAM

The Board received the recommendations of its Assistance to Organisations Panel in relation to the Assistance to Organisations 2012 Program. The Board has considered this advice in preparing recommendations to the Minister for the Arts, and expects organisations will be notified of the outcomes in early September.

The Board wished to make it clear to applicants that an organisation's capacity on delivering artistic content is dependent not only on product, but also on governance and stewardship. Organisations in receipt of public money need to be cognisant of the environment in which funding decisions are made, and respond to that in their reporting and public engagement.

The Board also noted that there was some resistance to the adoption of good accounting standards, and wished to impress upon organisations that it was not acceptable. The Board urged organisations to follow the progress of the establishment of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) announced in the 2011-12 Federal Budget. The Australian Government has indicated that the Commission will implement a 'report-once use-often' reporting framework for Not-For-Profits, and that it is expected that this framework will require accrual accounting as mandatory for Not-For-Profits from 1 July 2013.

ARTS AND DISABILITY PROGRAM

The Board also received the recommendations of the Arts and Disability Assessment Panel in relation to its

allocation of \$140 000. The Board noted that a total of 22 applications were received with a total request of \$258 086.

In terms of regional representation, the Board was pleased that there were 6 applications received from the north-west; 6 from the northern region and 11 from the southern region.

The Arts and Disability Assessment Panel has recommended that next year's Arts and Disability Program be divided into three streams: Organisations; Individuals; and Mentorships in a bid to utilise the available funds with high calibre projects that are ongoing and inclusive. The Board is considering this recommendation in planning for the 2013 programs of assistance.

ARTSBRIDGE

The Chair of Assistance to Individuals Panel spoke to the Board about the current applications under consideration, noting the exciting opportunities that would be able to be taken up due to Artsbridge funding. The Board also heard that anecdotal evidence was suggesting that David Walsh's Museum of Old and New Art was having an unintended positive effect in that Tasmanian artists are garnering a higher profile internationally, and that is leading to more opportunities for Tasmanian artists.

The Board, in wishing to capitalise on the increased international interest in Tasmanian art and Tasmanian artists, allocated a further \$14 945 for Artsbridge effective immediately.

It urged all Tasmanian artists to contact Arts Tasmania should unforeseen national or international opportunities present themselves.

ROVING CURATOR PROGRAM: PRIVATE MUSEUMS AND GOVERNMENT COLLECTIONS

Arts Tasmania's Roving Curators work with communities state-wide to support, develop, enhance and promote Tasmania's unique and varied cultural collections. The program is staffed by two part-time museum and collections professionals based in Launceston.

The Roving Curators are made available to assist with a range of project types: collection management, cataloguing, preventive conservation, planning displays, interpretation plans, volunteer procedures, significance assessments, and so on. Under this program the Roving Curator works with a museum or collection for a period of up to 5 weeks (based on a full-time workload) – and collections apply to this program making a request for time, rather than a request for funding.

The Program is considered an exemplar in Government intervention in moveable cultural heritage and has had achieved positive outcomes in the sector that no amount of grant funding could have hoped to have achieve.

Arts Tasmania receives a number of inquiries from privately owned collections and from collections owned by other state government departments or by the Australian Government, seeking to avail themselves of the services of the Roving Curators. The Roving Curators are provided for not-for-profit community collections, but the Board noted the demand by private museums and collections and those owned and or managed by state or federal government departments – and has agreed to make the Roving Curators available to these bodies on a fee-for-service basis.

Arts Tasmania's website will be amended shortly with the charges that will apply, and the Board encouraged all private museums and collections and those owned and or managed by state or federal government departments to consider using the Roving Curators for collection projects.

VOTE OF THANKS: SAUL ESLAKE

Mr Eslake has been Chair of the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board since 2007, and this meeting marks his retirement from the Board.

The Board expressed its sincere thanks for his leadership and for the inspiration that he provided over the course of his Chairmanship.

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.