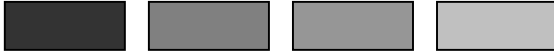




ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



Dance Board

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
15 July 2005

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL Friday 7 October 2005.



September 2005

This report provides a context to the assessment of the applications submitted to the Dance Board on 15 July 2005. It provides some statistical analysis of the results of the grant round and more general comments made by the Board during the assessment of the applications.

This Assessment Meeting was held on 1 September 2005. **20 applications** were assessed in the Key Organisations category.

- **Key Organisations-Triennial** Triennial Grants provide funding to a limited number of outstanding organisations to assist the development and advancement of dance in Australia. Applicants should be leading exponents or advocates of dance. They must have a substantial record of achievement and be able to demonstrate that they have enriched Australian dance both by their work and through the development of artists, ideas and process. They must also be able to demonstrate that triennial funding will enhance their ability to continue to develop and fulfil this role in the future.

The Board is seeking to support organisations which have a national impact or are models of excellence in their particular area of dance, or are outstanding dance companies. At this level of operation the Board expects organisations to understand and articulate its position in the dance community and to outwardly engage with the broader community.

- **Key Organisations-Program:** Program Grants provide one-year funding to a limited number of significant organisations to enrich the diversity of dance practice. They are for organisations that are testing boundaries and demonstrate creative thinking and innovation in both artistic programming and administrative processes. Small dance companies and other structures that support dance practice are a priority.

Please note that receipt of a Program Grant in one year gives no guarantee of funding beyond that year. Each year, all applications compete on their merits for available funding.

Applicants should demonstrate their ability to implement a program of well-planned, interconnected activities in a year, or an activity that occurs over the greater part of the year.



ATTENDANCE

Shane Carroll, Chair (NSW) trained at The Australian Ballet School, and has danced with several companies including Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT) and the Sydney Dance Company. Shane has a wealth of experience in teaching and lecturing both in classical and contemporary dance. She regularly teaches for major companies across Australia and internationally.

Simon Dow (WA) Simon Dow is currently the Artistic Director of the West Australian Ballet. Prior to this he was the artistic director of the Milwaukee Ballet. Simon has been a principal dancer with many companies including the San Francisco Ballet, the Washington Ballet and The Australian Ballet. He has appeared frequently as a guest artist internationally and at prestigious festivals. He has choreographed ballets for many companies including the Washington Ballet, New York Festival Ballet and the Boston Ballet. Simon has taught extensively throughout Australia and overseas.

Rebecca Hilton (Vic) is a Melbourne based performer, teacher and choreographer. A Victorian College of the Arts Graduate, she has performed with many companies including Dance Exchange, Dance Works and Stephen Petronio Company. Rebecca was a founding member of the Lucy Guerin Dance Company and has appeared in the work of Margie Medlin. Her choreography has been presented in Australia, the U.S.A., South America and Europe.

Jeff Meiners (SA) has been involved in dance for 20 years in the UK, Sydney and now Adelaide teaching all ages and running programs with artists, teachers and community workers to support development in metropolitan and rural regions. Jeff is currently a lecturer at the University of South Australia's de Lissa Institute of Early Childhood and Family Studies.

Steven Richardson (VIC) is currently the Creative Producer, Cultural Venues at the City of Melbourne. He has worked for a number of arts festivals and other organisations and has a broad experience in the arts spanning more than twenty years as a creative producer and director in the small to medium arts company sector. Steven has worked for many Australian arts companies in a variety of creative roles from performer to producer.

Suzan Williams (Qld) is currently the Regional Touring Coordinator- ARTS at the Queensland Arts Council where she is responsible for developing and coordinating national tours of Queensland's major performing arts companies. Prior to retiring from performing in 1999, Suzan specialised in performing and producing dance works for young audiences with Darc Swan Contemporary Dance Company, Queensland Ballet, Queensland Arts Council's School Touring Program and her own company, PointeBlank Productions.

(one vacancy)

For this meeting the Board was assisted by one **Participating Adviser**:

Helen Herbertson (Vic) has been creating dance performance for over three decades for many Australian companies and as an independent performer and choreographer. Helen has been Artistic Director of Melbourne based Danceworks as well as Dancehouse. Since 1999, one of Helen's foci has been touring, and she has regularly presented her work in Australian and overseas festivals.



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Dance Board met in September to discuss 20 applications submitted to the Key Organisations category.

The remarkable breadth of range in artistic practice, presentation and collaboration from the Triennial and Program companies and the high degree of excellence in the programs presented was indicative of the rich palette of expression that choreographers and dancers are currently creating.

Expectations from the field were high but funds remained limited and the Board had little room to move. Despite the careful planning that has taken place over the past three years to enable the Board to assess all triennial companies at the one meeting, with few new funds the ability to create significant change was limited. The Board was frustrated that it could not respond to the demands before it, in particular by several long-standing companies.

It was pleasing that we were able to support three new companies in the Triennial category. Dancehouse, Lucy Guerin Inc and Stompin Youth Dance Company were invited to apply to the category and their inclusion complements the national dance infrastructure.

Pressure still remains in the Program category though, with high quality work being produced by these companies, and the Board were pleased to be able to respond to this, by awarding 4 out of 6 grants.

A figure of \$125,000 'new money' was allocated to the Key organisation category for this round and this amount includes indexation of 2.3% for triennial companies. Moving into the current financial year, Council has committed to supporting with indexation, the triennially funded companies across all artform boards. This is a new commitment that companies have only recently been informed about.

Young and Emerging Artist funds devolved from the Federal government to the Australia Council have been confirmed for the 05-06 financial year. The Dance Board will decide on initiatives for these funds at its Policy meeting on October 11.

This meeting saw the attendance of the new Key Organisations team who offered commentary on Business plans and financial management. I would like to acknowledge the valuable and appreciated contributions made to our discussion by participating advisor Helen Herbertson, As well, we recently learnt that a new Board member Frances Rings has been appointed and we look forward to welcoming her at our next meeting.

On a final note I would like to draw your attention to Creating Pathways – an Indigenous dance forum for mid-career artists. Ausdance National is the project manager for Creating Pathways, a three-day forum for Indigenous dancers to be held at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra from 27-30 October.

Shane Carroll

Chair



OUTCOMES

Program Title	Application (Number)		Success %	Application (Amounts - \$)	
	Received	Approved		Requested	Approved
KEY ORGANISATIONS PROGRAM	6	4	66.7%	\$563,451	\$277,000
KEY ORGANISATIONS TRIENNIAL	14	13	92.9%	\$8,112,000	\$4,769,487
Total	20	17		\$8,675,451	\$5,046,487

No out of time applications were considered at this meeting.

A full list of approved grants is attached.

FEEDBACK

General Feedback:

- The Board was pleased to note the increased communication and collaboration between companies in Australia.
- The Board also noted the high level of artistic risk and excellent work proposed by applicants.
- Applications to this category should focus on clarity. Communicate your plans clearly and directly. You are encouraged to use jargon-free language when describing your program.
- Ensure that your application provides the rationale for *how* your company will achieve the activities proposed.

Key Organisation Triennial applications:

- Those applications that rated highly presented holistic applications with a vision that was clearly connected to the proposed activity over the triennium.
- The Board noted an improvement in the Business Plans presented. These should be concise and clear. Companies should be mindful that duplication of information does not occur as it makes the Business Plan less succinct and focussed.
- Key Performance Indicators need to be more specific with clear timeframes.



INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Dance Board and Community Partnerships and Market Development Division (CPMD) International Market Development Strategy

The Dance Board and the Audience and Market Development Division have developed an international market development strategy to build on our successful collaboration on a number of significant international projects.

The strategy responds to the growing international interest in, and demand for, Australian contemporary dance through an informed and strategic approach to promotion, export and exchange.

The strategy combines responsive and proactive ways of working to ensure optimum impact. Therefore, projects may be initiated and developed by Council or may be developed through proposals from artists, companies, and Australian or international producers/presenters.

Four key markets have been identified on which to focus a consolidated promotion and profiling of Australian contemporary dance:

- North America (particularly USA)
- Western Europe (specifically France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium)
- United Kingdom
- Japan.

The Dance Board and CPMD are pleased to announce recent funding through this strategy to Australian Dance Theatre (ADT). ADT has received \$29,000 to undertake a tour of 'Held' to Theatre de la Ville in November 2005. ADT is the first Australian company to be invited to perform at this prestigious venue- a coup for ADT !

For more information on this strategy, please see our website- http://www.ozco.gov.au/council_priorities/international/dance_market_development/

7th Australian Performing Arts Market (APAM)

Up to 40 leading Australian performing arts companies will take centre stage at the 7th Australian Performing Arts Market (APAM) in Adelaide from 27 February - 3 March 2006. They will be hoping to woo more than 400 leading national and international performing arts presenters, producers and arts decision-makers looking to take Australian shows on the road.

APAM is a biennial event established by the Australia Council in 1994 to increase national and international touring opportunities for Australian performing arts. Since then, APAM has directly resulted in over 60 Australian companies undertaking around 150 tours to 1200 venues, generating around \$30 million in revenue.

APAM is a rare chance for artists, presenters and producers from around the world to network and explore touring opportunities.

The 7th Australian Performing Arts Market is an initiative of the Australia Council for the Arts and is presented with the support of the South Australian Government (through Arts SA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

APAM will be held at the Adelaide Festival Centre, in conjunction with the Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts and Adelaide Fringe.



STEPS IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

BEFORE THE MEETING

Staff check eligibility and register applications on Council's computer database. You will receive a letter acknowledging your application with an application number and staff contact for your reference. Staff analyse the statistical information provided by applicants to help Council measure the effectiveness of its grant programs. Staff prepare applications and support material for the Board assessment meeting. Applications are made into booklets and sent to Board members. Peers are invited to participate as advisers to the Board at the meeting bringing additional expertise and perspectives to the assessment process. Staff also check and manage any conflicts of interest that Board members and peers have with applications and study the applications in order to provide information to the Board as required (see below *).

AT THE MEETING

ASSESSMENT

Board members assess your application against the published selection criteria. Board members may examine support material at the meeting or by prior arrangement.

Board members may also take into account information from other sources such as:

- their attendance at performances and other events;
- reports from members of the Register of Peers who may be asked to provide formal assessments of designated works;
- reviews, videos and recordings, referee reports and other material;
- any previous Australia Council grant acquittal reports and performance agreements you may have had; and
- communication with State and Territory agencies.

Boards may decide not to fund the application at the level requested. While your application may meet the stated selection criteria, this does not guarantee you a grant. The Australia Council receives many more applications than it can support. The success of your application must rest ultimately on the merits of your proposal against published criteria and in competition with all the other applications considered for funding.

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

All applicants will be notified of the Board's decision by mail during the month indicated in the Handbook and the application forms. Information about grant decisions will not be released over the phone.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will receive a letter of agreement offering you a grant. This letter outlines the terms and conditions of the offer. Payment of a grant will not be made until you have accepted the conditions by signing and returning the letter of agreement.

ACQUITTAL OF GRANTS

Acquittals are the artistic and financial reports that you must provide after completing your project. Acquittal reports enable the Council to fulfil its obligations of accountability as well as allowing us to learn about the success or otherwise of your project. These reports are a valuable way for you to contribute to the policy development work at the Australia Council.

**Staff do not make funding decisions. Staff provide information and advice to Council, Boards and advisory bodies to assist their determination of policy and assessment of grant applications. Staff also provide information to potential grant applicants and administer the Australia Council's grant programs to enable a simple, fair and efficient assessment of applications.*



GRANTS LIST

Dance Board
KEY ORGANISATIONS TRIENNIAL
Round Id: 14548 Closing Date: 15-JUL-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Australian Dance Council Ausdance Inc	2006-2008 Program of activities	ACT	\$570,000.00
Australian Dance Theatre	2006 Program of Activities	SA	\$237,336.00
Buzz Dance Theatre	2006-2008 Program of activities	WA	\$368,280.00
Chunky Move	2006-2008 Program of activities	VIC	\$495,000.00
Dance North	2006 Program of Activities	QLD	\$184,140.00
Dancehouse Inc	2006-2008 Program of activities	VIC	\$383,625.00
Expressions Dance Company	2006-2008 Program of activities	QLD	\$368,280.00
Leigh Warren and Dancers Pty Ltd	2006-2008 Program of activities	SA	\$613,800.00
Lucy Guerin Association Inc	2006-2008 Program of activities	VIC	\$306,900.00
Restless Dance Company Inc	2006-2008 Program of activities	SA	\$255,000.00
Stompin Youth Dance Company	2006-2008 Program of activities	TAS	\$268,446.00
The Australian Choreographic Centre Incorporated	2006 Program of Activities	ACT	\$163,680.00
Tracks Inc	2006-2008 Program of activities	NT	\$555,000.00
Grants this Round: 13		Amount Approved:	\$4,769,487



GRANTS LIST

Dance Board
KEY ORGANISATIONS PROGRAM
Round Id: 14549 Closing Date: 15-JUL-2005

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
De Quincey Company Limited	2006 Program of Activities	NSW	\$82,000.00
Force Majeure	2006 Program of Activities	NSW	\$65,000.00
Kage Physical Theatre Association Inc	2006 Program of Activities	VIC	\$65,000.00
TasDance	2006 Program of Activities	TAS	\$65,000.00
Grants this Round: 4		Amount Approved:	\$277,000.00
Total Grants: 17		Total Amount Approved:	\$5,046,487.00

