



## ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



Inter-Arts Office  
ArtLab

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE  
14 December 2007

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL  
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC  
DISCUSSION UNTIL 14 MARCH 2008

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

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This report provides a context for the assessment of applications submitted to the Inter-Arts Office ArtLab Initiative on 14 December 2007. It details statistical analysis of the grant round and more general comments made by the Inter-Arts assessment panel (panel) during the selection of applications at a meeting held on 22 February 2008.

The Australia Council supports interdisciplinary arts primarily through the Inter-Arts Office. This includes creative processes such as hybrid arts, experimental practices and cross-disciplinary projects involving artists and practitioners from other fields.

Generally speaking, the Inter-Arts Office will accept an application for funding if:

- it cannot be readily identified by Australia Council staff as having a creative process or artistic outcome that meets the funding guidelines of an existing artform board or committee of the Council; and
- it meets the 'General eligibility requirements' for funding by the Australia Council.

The Inter-Arts Office also has a referral process for those people not sure to which section they should submit applications, or for those intending to make an application to the Inter-Arts Office and would like relevant feedback. Please contact Inter-Arts Office staff if you would like to discuss this process.

## ATTENDANCE

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The Inter-Arts Office does not have a board or committee. Instead it convenes assessment panels after each closing date made up of peers from the field, who assess applications and make recommendations on funding to Council.

The panel for the 22 February 2008 ArtLab assessment meeting consisted of the following peers:

### **Caroline Farmer (VIC)**

Caroline is the Executive Director of Experimenta Media Arts and previously had positions as Director of 24HR Art- the Northern Territory Centre for Contemporary Art in Darwin, the manager of the Australian Network for Art and Technology and as a lecturer in Media Production and Screen Studies.

### **Cat Hope (WA)**

Cat is a composer, sound artist, songwriter and noise artist whose interdisciplinary practice crosses over into video, performance art and installation.

### **Stephen Jones (NSW)**

Stephen is an Australian video artist and electronics engineer, who recently completed research on the history and development of art and technology as represented in computer graphics and electronic and digital imaging in Australia.

### **Shannon O'Neill (NSW)**

Shannon has been active as a sound and media artist in Sydney since the early 1990s. He is a former director of Liquid Architecture Sydney and Electrofringe festivals, and a former manager of ANAT's Embracing Sound Program.

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**Melentie Pandilovski (SA)**

Melentie is the Director of the Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide. He has curated more than 100 exhibitions, including artists such as Stelarc, Mike Stubbs, Chico MacMurtrie, Eduardo Kac, Tissue Art&Culture, Lei Cox, Oleg Kulik and IRWIN.

**Josephine Starrs (NSW)**

Josephine is a media artist and senior lecturer in Film and Digital Art at Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney University. She has collaborated on several media arts projects, including the recent *Seeker* installation.

**Craig Walsh (QLD)**

Craig is primarily interested in hybrid / site-specific projects and the exploration of alternative contexts for contemporary art. His work often utilizes projection in response to existing environments and contexts.

The following Inter-Arts Office and Council staff were in attendance:

Andrew Donovan	Director and meeting convenor
Ricardo Peach	Program Manager
Lia Kemp	Acting Program Officer
Catherine Birrell	Section Co-ordinator
Tina Pupas	Administrative Officer
Guests:	
Cecelia Cmielewski	Project Manager, Community Partnerships

## DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

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I would like to start by thanking the Inter-Arts assessment panel for their time and commitment in assessing applications to the ArtLab program. This is the second time this initiative has been offered by the Inter-Arts Office, and the panel observed that applicants were far more adept at explaining their proposals in the context of research than in the previous round.

The panel was particularly responsive to projects that detailed a concise and logical research methodology, whilst clearly articulating potential artistic outcomes for the project. The panel was also responsive to applications that were genuinely collaborative in nature, reflecting the objective of the ArtLab program to nurture and support new interdisciplinary, artistic collaborations that offered the best opportunity for the development of new knowledge, artistic innovation and creative-risk-taking.

The panel noted, however, that there were still a number of applicants who were essentially proposing creative development toward a new work rather than a significant, open exploration or research program.

The panel strongly encourages potential applicants to contact staff before making any application to the Inter-Arts Office. This assists applicants to understand the aims of the initiative in relation to their project proposal.

To assist in the assessment of future applications to the Inter-Arts Office, the panel strongly encourages individuals to register on Council's Register of Peers, which is used to identify people to sit on future panels.

Upcoming 2008 closing dates for the Inter-Arts Office include 31 March for the New Work initiative, 1 May for Inter-Arts Residencies and 1 December for Inter-Arts Projects. Please see the Australia Council website for further information.

On behalf of the Australia Council and the panel, I would like to thank all the artists who took the time to submit an application to the ArtLab program. It was exciting to see such a significant progression in the quality and scope of applications received to this round and I encourage you to seek feedback on your application.

Andrew Donovan  
Director Inter-Arts

# Success Rates by Category

Inter-Arts Office

Meeting Start Date: 22-FEB-2008

Meeting End Date: 22-FEB-2008

Program Title	Application (Number)		Success %	Application (Amounts - \$)	
	Received	Approved		Requested	Approved
<b>ArtLab</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>\$1,593,550</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

- The panel stressed the importance of using **simple, clear, succinct** language in applications. Please adhere to 12pt type size and leave sufficient margins to allow binding without obscuring your text.
  - **Guidelines** must be read carefully and page limits adhered to. Excess pages are not submitted to the panel and may make your application disjointed and hard to follow. If in doubt, please contact Inter-Arts staff.
  - The panel stressed the importance of **support material** in the assessment process. Some applications were let down by the quality and volume of their support material, as excess material is not shown to the panel.
  - Applications involving the creation of '**new**' **technologies** must demonstrate that the technologies do not already exist. Applicants are encouraged to undertake **rigorous research** to ascertain whether the technologies are already in use by practitioners in either the arts or other disciplines.
  - Projects should be **new collaborations** and involve a degree of **risk-taking**. Some applications appeared to be previous works re-purposed for the ArtLab initiative.
- The Australia Council predominantly funds **Australian artists and collaborators**. Requests involving funding for overseas artists or other practitioners should demonstrate that their special expertise is not available in Australia, and demonstrate how the outcomes will feed back into Australian arts ecology.
  - Some projects submitted to ArtLab were **not experimental or research oriented**. If you are unsure of whether your project is suited to Inter-Arts funding, please contact staff to discuss this before making your submission. Staff can refer you to other sections of the Australia Council if your project is more aligned with their funding programs.
  - The panel commented that many projects did not have **significant in-kind or cash contributions** from contributing partners. With a major grant such as ArtLab, a significant contribution is generally expected from participating partners or organisations.
  - The panel would like to encourage artists to register on Council's **Register of Peers**, which is used to select experts from the field as panel members for assessment meetings. Artists who have experience in inter- and cross-disciplinary arts practices and experimental, hybrid art projects are particularly encouraged to register. Please go to <http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/about-us/artform-boards/the-register-of-peers> to download a form.

## ***New Work Initiative***

***Closing Date: 31 March 2008***

The purpose of this initiative is to provide funding support for individual artists and groups to mount a public performance or exhibition of new work created through interdisciplinary or hybrid arts processes.

The Inter-Arts Office encourages applications from individuals and groups producing interdisciplinary or hybrid works that interrogate and challenge traditional relationships between artwork, audience and artist.

Please note this one-off initiative aims to support the production of new work that has not previously had a public outcome.

For further information please visit [http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grant\\_items/new\\_work\\_-\\_inter-arts](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grant_items/new_work_-_inter-arts) or contact Inter-Arts Office staff toll free on 1800 226 912

## ***Inter- Arts Residencies***

***Closing date: 1 May 2008***

The Inter-Arts Office will consider artist-initiated residency proposals from artists creating work through interdisciplinary and hybrid arts.

Applications are encouraged from artists in all states and territories, regardless of where the residency takes place.

Artists working in media arts should also consider the range of studio residencies offered by the visual arts board, the literature board and the ABC national radiophonic residency offered by the music board.

For further information go to: [http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grant\\_items/residencies\\_-\\_interdisciplinary\\_arts](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grant_items/residencies_-_interdisciplinary_arts) or contact Inter-Arts Office staff toll free on 1800 226 912

## ***Inter-Arts Projects***

***Closing date: 1 December 2008***

Project grants support artists working in interdisciplinary and hybrid arts to engage in research and development, creative development and/or production.

This category primarily supports the following activities:

- research and development
- creative development
- production.

Projects may propose one or more of the components mentioned above. Presentation of works may be included within the proposal.

In this funding round the Inter-Arts Office encourages applications from artists exploring participatory experiences for audiences through interdisciplinary or hybrid arts such as:

- investing the audience with an element of creative agency in a work and so blurring the lines between 'creator' and 'viewer'
- using audience interaction to help generate the artistic experience or to materially create elements of the work
- using locative media to create performance or game-play involving audiences in public environments.

If you believe your project may be eligible for support through Inter-Arts Projects, please contact Inter-Arts Office staff to discuss your proposal.

For further information go to: [http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grant\\_items/inter-arts\\_projects\\_-\\_interdisciplinary\\_arts](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grant_items/inter-arts_projects_-_interdisciplinary_arts) or contact Inter-Arts Office staff toll free on 1800 226 912

# STEPS IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

## Before the Assessment

Staff check eligibility and register applications on the Australia Council's (Council) 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 Inter-Arts assessment meeting. Applications are made into booklets and sent to panel members. Staff also check and manage any conflicts of interest that panel members have with applications and study the applications in order to provide information to the panel as required (see below \*).

## Assessment

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

Panel 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.

The Council 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 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

All applicants will be notified of the Council'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.

## Successful Applicants

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, Committees, Panels 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

Inter-Arts Office

Round Id: 15739, Meeting Date: 22 February 2008. Closing Date: 14 December 2007.

<b>Client Name</b>	Fox, Robin
<b>Application Title</b>	Robin Fox will collaborate with Jon Rose, Jim Sosnin, Rod Cooper and Frieder Weis on the 'Transmission Project', a wireless data technologies platform for designing human/machine interfaces. They will investigate the compositional, installation and performance possibilities of the design, presenting works in progress on the themes <i>Wheel, Wind</i> and <i>Water</i> during the testing stage of development.
<b>State</b>	VIC
<b>Amount</b>	\$75,000.00
<b>Client Name</b>	Khut, George
<b>Application Title</b>	George Khut will collaborate with Lizzie Muller, Garth Paine, Jonathan Duckworth, Catherine Truman and Somaya Langley on 'Thinking through the Body', an investigation of the use and potential of touch and movement in body-focused interactive art. The collaboration will use a variety of body-sensing technologies to explore the possibilities of interactive art that links technical experimentation and artistic expression.
<b>State</b>	NSW
<b>Amount</b>	\$75,000.00

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**Grants this Round: 2**  
**Amount Approved:**

**\$150,000.00**

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**Total Grants: 2**

**Total Amount Approved:**

**\$150,000.00**

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