



ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



Inter-Arts Office

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
15 October 2007

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL 19 DECEMBER 2007



ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report provides a context for the assessment of applications submitted to the Inter-Arts Office on 15 October 2007. It details statistical analysis of the grants round and more general comments made by the Inter-Arts Assessment Panel (Panel) during the assessment of the applications at the meeting held on 28 November 2007.

The Inter-Arts Office supports new artistic practices that do not fall within the existing funding guidelines of the artform boards. This includes creative processes such as interdisciplinary and hybrid arts 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 unsure of which section they should submit applications to, 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 have any questions in relation to the referral process.

ATTENDANCE

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

The panel for the 28 November 2007 assessment meeting consisted of the following peers:

Annette Downs (TAS)

Annette is currently the producer of Tasmanian Performs, an Arts Tasmania initiative for the performing arts, managed by Performing Lines Ltd. Originally trained as a dancer Annette has worked as a university lecturer, performer, choreographer, director, artistic director and general manager.

Amy Barrett-Lennard (WA)

Amy is currently the Director of PICA (Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts). Having built a high profile in Victoria and nationally Amy was the Director of Linden, St Kilda Centre for Contemporary Arts in Melbourne for five years. She has a strong interest in working with artists from a wide array of cultural backgrounds and across a broad range of media.

Linda Carroli (QLD)

Linda Carroli is a writer, editor and consultant living and working in Brisbane. A former editor of art, science and technology electronic magazine fineArt forum, she has published and presented non-fiction globally as a journalist, essayist and critical writer addressing themes in art, urbanism, culture and technology. She currently serves as Chair of the Board of ANAT.



ABOUT THIS REPORT

Christian Haines (SA)

Christian Haines is a sound artist and designer. He is a lecturer in music technology at the Elder School of Music. He is the studio coordinator at the University of Adelaide Electronic Music unit and teaches electro-acoustic design, electronic music, computer music, programming and music technology.

Jeff Khan (VIC)

Currently the Next Wave festival's Artistic Director, Jeff is a curator, writer and arts administrator. Prior to this Jeff was communications manager at Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces. He has previously held positions at PICA and the John Curtin Gallery.

r e a (NSW)

r e a is an artist who works within a media arts practice that is focused across a number of traditional art forms and that incorporates technologies. She is a descendent of the Gamilaraay/Wailwan people.

Kate Richards (NSW)

Kate Richards is an artist working in NSW. Her most recent work *Wayfarer* which premiered at CarriageWorks earlier this year combines the exploration of space, live performance and new technologies. Kate also works as a multimedia producer and consultant for architects, museums and the tertiary sector.

Mitchell Whitelaw (ACT)

Mitchell Whitelaw is currently Program Director of the Bachelor of Communications (Media/Multimedia) degree at the University of Canberra. He has published internationally in the history, theory and criticism of creative practices in new media and sound. In 2004 his book *Metacreation: Art and Artificial Life* was published by the MIT Press.

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

Andrew Donovan	Director and meeting convenor
Ricardo Peach	Program Manager
Lia Kemp	Assistant Program Officer
Catherine Birrell	Section Co-ordinator
Tina Pupas	Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Cecelia Cmielewski	Project Manager, Community Partnerships
Victoria McClelland	Communication Officer
Miriam Williamson	Project Manager, Public Affairs and Governance



CONVENOR'S COMMENTS

I would like to start by thanking the Inter-Arts Assessment Panel for their time and commitment in assessing the RUN_WAY Young and Emerging Initiative and the Artist-Initiated and Banff International Artist Residency applications received to the 15 October 2007 closing date. This was the seventh assessment meeting convened for an Inter-Arts Assessment Panel, and as usual it was an honour to have a group of people with such a diverse range of expertise willing to share their knowledge about interdisciplinary and hybrid arts.

As part of the assessment process, Panel members noted some positive trends emerging in this round of applications. One observation made was the large number of artists engaging with public spaces outside the traditional gallery and museum framework. The Panel commended the innovative engagement with public space proposed by several of the artists.

The Panel was also encouraged to see artists proposing to travel to a range of international destinations outside the usual European trajectory. Successful RUN_WAY recipients from this round are heading off to explore new artistic practice in a range of countries including Brazil, Finland, India, Japan, Korea, Papa New Guinea, the UK and the USA.

The Panel also noted that the overall quality of the RUN_WAY applications was very high, and that some of these proposals would have been competitive in the Artist-Initiated Residency category.

Two applicants were short-listed by the Panel for final selection by the Banff Centre in Canada, where the successful artist will participate in the 'Making Artistic Inquiry Visible' thematic residency in 2008. This is the final year the Inter-Arts Office will be offering a specific Banff residency, however, artists will be able to nominate to attend Banff through the Artist-Initiated Residency category in 2008.

For further information on changes to Inter-Arts grants categories and closing dates please see the Initiatives and Partnerships section of this report.

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. This register is used to select people to sit on Inter-Arts Panels and ensure the Inter-Arts Office assessment meetings draw upon as diverse a pool of contemporary arts practitioners as possible (see Feedback section in this report).

On behalf of the Australia Council and the panel, I would like to thank all the artists and organisations that submitted applications to this round. There is a depth and range of new artistic projects emerging that I believe points to an exciting future for contemporary arts practice.

Please do not hesitate to contact Inter-Arts Office staff to discuss grants and new initiatives if you are interested in submitting an application.

Andrew Donovan
Director, Inter-Arts



OUTCOMES

Program Title	Application (Number)		Success %	Application (Amounts - \$)	
	Received	Approved		Requested	Approved
RUN_WAY	41	10	24.4%	\$188,930	\$49,448
Artist Initiated Residency	13	4	30.8%	\$240,244	\$80,000
Total	54	14	25.9%	\$429,174	\$129,448

Two artists have been short listed for the Banff International Residency. The final recipient of this grant will be announced following consultation with the Banff Centre.

In addition to grants and initiatives, the Inter-Arts Office currently funds the following organisations through its Key Organisations category:

Triennial Grants:

- The Performance Space, NSW.
- Open City (RealTime), NSW.



- Applicants are encouraged to use **plain english** and not over-emphasise the theoretical context of their work. Applicants should also address each **selection criteria** clearly in their application and ensure that there is a logical and natural flow to their argument.
 - Some of the applicants did not fully engage with a **national context** as part of background research for their projects. Applicants are advised to research the Australian field before applying for a project overseas, even if just to place their work within a national as well as international context.
 - Artists traveling internationally are encouraged to include an allocation for **travel insurance** in their budget. In addition, if traveling overseas, it is advised that all recipients visit the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) website for updates on the countries to which they are traveling.
 - Applicants should also outline a plan for what they are going to do when they get back to Australia, and indicate how the **field is going to benefit** from their research and experience on their return.
- **Support material** represents the project in the application and is the main opportunity to demonstrate the calibre of the artists proposed to participate in the project. The composition of the Panel is varied and all applicants should remember that not every Panel member will be familiar with their work. It is therefore important that applicants avoid submitting basic documentation and rather use their support material to **tell a story** about their work.
 - Applicants must clearly articulate their **role in the creation** of material submitted in support of their application. Too often the Panel was not able to identify exactly what an artist contributed to collaborative works presented as support material.
 - 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 the Australia Council website to fill in your details on-line.
 - Please be sure to check our new website at www.australiacouncil.gov.au for other **initiatives and partnerships** the Inter-Arts Office develops in 2008.



Changes to closing dates in 2008

To help artists and arts organisations with planning we are advising of some changes to closing dates for Inter-Arts grants categories in 2008.

In the last two years there has been a significant gap between artists and organisations finding out about their grant result and the next available closing dates of the other Australia Council artform boards. To address this we will move the Inter-Arts projects closing date later in 2008.

This means that artists and organisations whose applications are deemed more suitable for application to other artform boards by the Inter-Arts assessment panel will only have to wait a short period before resubmitting to the appropriate grants category - currently some artists cannot reapply for up to twelve months.

The new closing date for Inter-Arts projects will be 1 December 2008.

The closing date for Artist-Initiated residencies will move to 1 May 2008.

The new Inter-Arts closing dates will mean artists and organisations can better plan their funding applications to all areas of the Australia Council.

The Inter-Arts Office is planning a funding program to cover the transition period. Further information on this initiative will be available on the Australia Council website in the new year.

InFuse

InFuse aims to provide opportunities for critical debate and discussion of interdisciplinary practice by supporting forums, workshops or masterclasses for artists.

InFuse connects leading artists with early career artists in an exchange of ideas and skills to strengthen conceptual rigour in the development and creation of interdisciplinary arts.

Please contact Inter-Arts Office staff or visit our website early in 2008 if you would like to find out more about *InFuse*

Join our email list

To keep up to date with the latest news from the Inter-Arts Office please subscribe to our email news alerts at www.australiacouncil.gov.au/inter-arts



STEPS IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

BEFORE THE MEETING

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 *).

AT THE MEETING

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 OF DECISION

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.

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, 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
Artist-Initiated Residencies
Round Id: 15690 Closing Date: 15-OCT-2007

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Mauro-Flude, Nancy	Developing an art work using custom built interfaces and game art technology at WORM in Rotterdam, Netherlands	TAS	\$20,000.00
Coutts, Martyn	Research and development phase of a new game art work, Game City, with PVI Collective at CIA Studios, Perth, WA	VIC	\$20,000.00
Sweeney, Jason	Developing a performance and web-based sound art project investigating virtual social networking at CIA Studios, Perth, WA	VIC	\$20,000.00
Thompson, Christian	Residency at DasArts Advanced Studies for Performing Arts in Amsterdam, Netherlands	VIC	\$20,000.00
Grants this Round: 4		Amount Approved:	\$80,000.00



GRANTS LIST

Inter-Arts Office

RUN_WAY

Round Id: 15691 Closing Date: 15-OCT-2007

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Blair, Ulanda	Researching contemporary, inter-disciplinary Asian art at the Gwangju, Shanghai, Singapore and Yokohama Biennales	VIC	\$5,000.00
Hilli, Lisa	Undertaking a residency at the University of Goroka, Papua New Guinea, to research cross-cultural Papuan arts practices, including media arts, <i>bilas</i> (body arts) and performance	VIC	\$5,000.00
Hunt, Alana	Attending a residency at the Center for the Study of Developing Societies and the Cybermohalla Project in Sarai, India to develop art examining urban space	NSW	\$5,000.00
Kat Barron	Attending an international artist residency at Raumars, Finland and Ars Electronica Festival, Austria	NSW	\$4,888.00
De Souza, Keg	Working with the Contra File art collective in Sao Paulo, Brazil to examine the impact of urbanisation on notions of community and place	NSW	\$5,000.00
King, Alicia	Undertaking a research residency at SymbioticA, WA to develop a new artwork	TAS	\$5,000.00
Lim, Eugenia	Creating a new interdisciplinary art work using historical analog video technology, custom built machines and contemporary digital technology in New York, US	VIC	\$4,560.00
McCrea, Christian	Curatorial engagement and investigation of creative interactive digital arts practice in Newport, Manchester and London, UK	VIC	\$5,000.00
Wholohan, Raymond	Curating an exhibition featuring works from six regional inter-media artists from the Riverina region in NSW, and presenting the exhibition at Next Wave festival, VIC in 2008	NSW	\$5,000.00
Thoms, Lara	Attending an international artist residency at Raumars, Finland and FEIRCE Festival, UK	NSW	\$5,000.00
Grants this Round: 10		Amount Approved:	\$49,448.00
Total Grants: 14		Total Amount Approved:	\$129,448

