



Australian Government



**April 2006**

## **Community Partnerships Scoping Study**

**Dear colleague**

### **Community Partnerships Scoping Study - Update**

This new document has been developed towards the end of the Scoping Study Reference Group's national consultation process. It complements the papers released in February, the *Future Directions Paper*, and in March, *Preliminary Creative Communities Strategy*.

The document sets out the current thinking regarding the potential work for the Community Partnerships Section.

### **National Consultations**

The national consultations process is now almost complete. We will be in Cairns after Easter as this consultation meeting was deferred due to Cyclone Larry. We are grateful to Andy Farrant for continuing with the meetings in Geraldton as we were unable to go as planned due to unexpected family commitments. We have incorporated the feedback from that area into this report.

Since the release of the *Preliminary Creative Communities Strategy* in March, consultations have been held in Canberra, Alice Springs, Darwin, Brisbane, Perth and Melbourne. Again, we want to again thank everyone for their valuable time and input to date. The feedback and comments made throughout the consultation process have resulted in this further update.

### **Timelines**

The Reference Group remains confident of delivering the Scoping Study close to the planned schedule.

Due to the lateness of this report being released, we have extended the cut-off date for further written responses to issues raised in the Scoping Study's

documentation until 24 April. The Scoping Study Reference Group will hold its final meeting on 28 April.

During April and May the Reference Group will be consulting internally within Council and with the Community Partnerships Committee, and finalising the Creative Communities Strategy for consideration by Council at its June meeting. Please note that this is the last document the Scoping Study Reference Group will release publicly until Council publishes the final report.

### **Final Report**

The final report of the Scoping Study Reference Group will be presented formally to the governing body of the Australia Council for the Arts in June. This report will set out the broad framework for the Creative Communities Strategy.

The Australia Council's response, together with the Creative Communities Strategy will be made public as soon as possible.

The detailed implementation strategy and timeline for the Creative Communities Strategy will be developed between June and August 2006, once the Australia Council's response is known.

We will then work with the sector to implement the new directions.

This document can be found on the Australia Council website at [http://www.ozco.gov.au/news\\_and\\_hot\\_topics/hot\\_topics/community\\_partnerships\\_scoping\\_study\\_public\\_consultations/](http://www.ozco.gov.au/news_and_hot_topics/hot_topics/community_partnerships_scoping_study_public_consultations/). Other documents relating to the Scoping Study can also be found at this address.

Copies of all the Scoping Study documents can be emailed or posted to you. Please contact Elizabeth Tupper at [cpstudy@ozco.gov.au](mailto:cpstudy@ozco.gov.au) or 02 9215 9078.

Thanks again for your input, advice and support to date. Please feel free to contact the other members of the Reference Group at any time to discuss issues or clarify proposals.

Yours sincerely

**Anne**

# **FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN COMMUNITIES**



## **Community Partnerships Scoping Study - Update April 2006**

**This paper should be read in conjunction with the Future  
Directions Paper and the draft Creative Communities  
Strategy.**

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS SCOPING STUDY – UPDATE APRIL 2006**

The Reference Group is proposing that the work of the Community Partnerships Committee and Section be characterised by seven broad areas of work.

1. Implement major initiatives of the Council
2. Strategic priorities of Community Partnerships
3. Partnerships projects
4. Community arts and culture grants
5. Key producers
6. Partnerships and community support organisations
7. Leadership development

### **1. Implement major initiatives of the Council**

The Community Partnerships Committee and Section will be responsible for implementing the major priority initiatives as determined by the governing body of the Australia Council for the Arts. These initiatives may be cross-Council projects and should be focused on systemic change.

As set out in the draft Creative Communities Strategy, the Scoping Study Reference Group is proposing that the Council's Creative Communities Strategies' major initiatives be implemented through a Partnership Director Model. This approach is based on the concept of an artistic director of a festival, whereby the Partnership Director would be given an outline of what is to be achieved and, within a brief, can commission, be responsive and has the capacity to establish partnerships to achieve that brief. It is an action-based strategy. The Partnership Director would be supported by a Community Partnerships staff member with expertise in the focus area.

A Partnership Director would be a short-term appointment (1-2 years) to drive the partnership development and achievement of the brief.

The Scoping Study Reference Group would be proposing that the Australia Council consider the following topics for initial major initiatives:

- Health and wellbeing
- Community harmony
- Education and the arts

### **2. Strategic priorities of Community Partnerships**

The Community Partnerships Section will be responsible for strategic directions for the Australia Council's work across the following areas:

- Regional areas
- Disability access
- Youth arts
- Local government
- Arts and cultural diversity

- Emerging communities
- Remote and Indigenous communities

The Reference Group is proposing that the Community Partnerships Committee and Section would take a focused, strategic approach to one or more of these areas for a period of three to five years to allow for systemic change and the exploration of a vision and additional funding.

### **3. Partnerships projects**

The Community Partnerships Committee and Section will provide support and assistance for partnership projects of significance. This support may take the form of professional advice, assistance with brokering partnerships, some financial contribution and support with resource and documentation. It would also include building partnerships across the Australia Council.

It is proposed that projects seeking funding support for a 'partnerships project' would need to be fully developed, have significant partners already in place, and its outcome would need to have a long-term impact on the community or area of focus.

### **4. Community arts and culture grants**

The Community Partnerships Committee will be responsible for delivering a range of community arts and culture grants. These grants are to ensure that communities and artists, working in and with communities, have access to funds for specific projects.

The consultation process has also brought forward the issue that partners for projects often take time. Therefore, the Scoping Study is considering criteria for the grants that include:

- the acknowledgement that some projects may have artists without communities and communities without artists
- support for partnership development and planning
- projects with an arts outcome
- the goal of the projects is artists, communities and other organisations working together

The funding would cover grant categories such as new work, presentation and promotion, skills and arts development.

In the context of community building, funds in this focus area would include:

- Grants to annually funded organisations
- Grants to community groups
- Grants to artists working in and with communities in the context of community building

The community arts and culture grants will have criteria and will be funded through a peer assessment process. However, it is recognised that method of assessment and allocation of these grants needs greater flexibility. Therefore,

the Reference Group is considering whether some of these grants could be delivered in partnership with States and Territories. Throughout the consultation process the response to this proposal has been mixed, with some particularly supportive; others have expressed concerns. Anne Dunn and Jennifer Bott will be meeting with the States and Territories to discuss this proposal further prior to any recommendations being prepared for Council.

## **5. Key producers**

There is a need for a number of community cultural development flagship companies. These are organisations that have demonstrated that they are leaders in providing communities access to sustained arts and cultural development.

In the documents, the *Future Directions Paper* and the *Draft Creative Communities Strategy*, the Reference Group proposed having key producing organisations and access organisations. On feedback during the consultation process, the Reference Group is no longer making this distinction and acknowledges that producing organisations must provide access to communities and that access organisations can also produce excellent work.

The criteria for the Key Producers would include:

- Spread and coverage of the Community Partnerships strategic priorities
- Peer assessment of excellence
- Inclusive of outstanding access to marginalised communities
- Capacity to provide leadership to the field
- Geographic spread (national and regional reach)

The following is a summary of the potential outcomes anticipated from the key organisations:

- Art-making with communities with excellent outcomes
- Be recognised nationally for the arts and culture outcomes generated with communities
- Be recognised as leaders in the field of community arts and culture
- Provide critical leadership and open debate around issues for the sector
- Undertake and publish research into best practice in the field of community arts and culture
- Provide career pathways, mentoring and opportunities for artists
- Assist in brokering partnerships with and between artists and communities
- Develop and promote work by diverse artists working in and with communities
- Proactively and innovatively engaged with cultural diversity within and of communities

- Be engaged in an international program and/or international debate
- Provide access to a particular cultural focus or community group
- Provide access to heritage and new art
- Support sustained art making for groups in their own strategic context

It is proposed that every five years applications will be called for all key producers grants to allow for evolution of organisations and the field. It is proposed that this process commence in 2007, for implementation in 2008. All existing contracts will be honoured.

## **6. Partnerships and community support organisations**

A network of Partnerships and Community Support organisations across Australia is being proposed to ensure grass roots support for artists, organisations and communities, and for supporting and promoting art and cultural development in communities.

The criteria for the Partnerships And Community Support organisations would include:

- Ability to provide services to the diverse communities in the geographic area
- Ability to initiate partnerships

The services will include:

- Provide information on funding opportunities for artists and community groups
- Provide professional and project development support for artists and arts organisations
- Broker relationships with all spheres of government
- Broker partnerships with and between local government, philanthropic organisations, community groups, communities and artists
- Play a role in stimulating debate over policy and practice issues
- Promote Community Partnerships and Australia Council programs
- Provide critical information to the Australia Council about their area and the needs of artists and communities

The services will be directly contracted by Council and staff of the Community Partnerships Section would actively manage the network of Partnerships And Community Support organisations.

In an initial (up to 3 year) period, to transition to this arrangement, Community Partnerships will negotiate with existing organisations that provide information and support services to communities around arts and culture projects and programs (eg Regional Arts Australia member organisations, CANs, CDN and Arts Nexus). After the initial period the Australia Council will call for Expressions of Interest to deliver these services

It is proposed that this network of service providers would meet regularly with the Community Partnerships Committee to ensure an effective dialogue between communities and the Committee.

Partnerships and Community Support organisations would not normally be a Key Producer. A Partnerships and Community Support organisation could apply for project grants, particularly to demonstrate new practice.

## **7. Leadership development**

There is a need for enhanced leadership in the area of community arts and culture. As a result, the Scoping Study Reference Group is proposing that Community Partnerships has a leadership development stream to its work.

Leadership development would encompass support for the following:

- The Ros Bower Award
- Fellowships for the field, which should be targeted to the Community Partnerships strategic priorities
- Research and development
  - it is critical to establish information systems to support the outputs and achievements of the sector
  - support Key Producers to undertake research; to write conference papers; to publish, etc.
- Support for the training of artists through:
  - Providing information on the website
  - Providing links with ourcommunity.com
  - Providing links with Regional Arts Australia its programs
- Engage with Regional Arts Australia in the development of training packages for partnership brokerage
- Requesting Artsupport and AbaF to target programs aimed at the community arts and culture sector for increased funding support
- Support the production of a biennial publication to:
  - Critique and review community cultural development practice
  - Encourage the critique of practice by professional arts critics
- Develop and support a community arts and culture website to provide:
  - Updated information on activities and events
  - Information on current research and statistics
  - Gateway to information through a list serve that scans the world
  - Stimulus to debate through links to relevant sites and current discussions
  - Commission forums
  - Act as a portal
  - Provide marketing and audience development information
  - Provide a connection to leading practice through articles, case studies, etc.

- Fund a national organisation to:
  - Contribute to leadership in the community arts and culture sector
  - Develop relationships within and outside the sector to foster the debate and development of ideas and practice
  - Support and promote community cultural development, artists and their practice
  - Provide advice on key community arts and culture policy through regular communication with politicians, government agencies, and key sector organisations and individuals that are both national and state-based.