



ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



Inter-Arts Office

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
01 May 2007

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL 20 AUGUST 2007



ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report provides a context for the assessment of applications submitted to the Inter-Arts Office on 1 May 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 meetings held on 6 and 16 July 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 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 see *Inter-Arts Grants Seeker's Guide 2007* for further details).

ATTENDANCE

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 6 and 16 July 2007 assessment meeting consisted of the following peers:

Amanda Alderston (WA)

Amanda is a producer, artist, arts worker, web designer and lecturer and has exhibited at the Biennale of Electronic Arts, Perth 2002 (BEAP02), John Curtin Gallery, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA), Bandung Gallery, Indonesia, Gomboc Sculpture Gallery, the Moores Contemporary Arts Building and the Bakery Artrage Arts Complex.

Annette Downs (TAS)

Annette is a member of the Australia Council's Theatre Board and has worked as a university lecturer, performer, choreographer, artistic director and general manager. She is currently a member of the Playing Australia Committee and employed by Performing Lines as the Producer for Tasmania Performs, an Arts Tasmania initiative in partnership with the Australia Council for the Arts.

Alessio Cavallaro (VIC)

Alessio is Senior Curator at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne. He has been a leading figure in the development of electronic arts in Australia for over 25 years, primarily as a curator, producer, and publications editor in film, video, new media, radio and sound arts.



Rob Kelly (QLD)

Rob is an artist, curator and Director of Raw Space Galleries, Brisbane. Rob was also the 2006 SPARK mentor for Queensland artist Bree Jackson.

Sarah Last (NSW)

Sarah is an artist and independent curator based in regional NSW. In 2003, 2004 and 2006 she curated the Unsound experimental arts and sound festivals/residency projects for the Wagga Space Program.

Jill Orr (VIC)

Jill's work is image-based performance, which encompasses live performances for an audience and/or the camera. She works in the environmental and socio-political arenas where she searches for the humanity reflected in different sites and issues, which have a personal and universal relevance.

Michael Yuen (SA)

Michael is an Australian artist and curator based in Adelaide. Since 2003 he has been exhibiting regularly, facilitating master classes and workshops, guest lecturing at universities and curating/directing new media exhibitions such as Project 3 (2006 Adelaide Festival).

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

Andrew Donovan	Director and meeting convenor
Ricardo Peach	Program Manager
Nina Stromqvist	Program Officer
Catherine Birrell	Administrator
Lia Kemp	Administrative Assistant
Guests:	
Victoria McClelland	Communication Officer
Miriam Williamson	Project Manager, Public Affairs and Governance



DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

I would like to start by thanking the Inter-Arts Assessment Panel for their time and commitment in assessing the Inter-Arts Projects and Fellowship applications received to the 1 May 2007 closing date. This was the sixth assessment meeting convened for an Inter-Arts Assessment Panel and as usual, considering proposals that stretch our understanding of what constitutes art engendered some lively discussion.

The panel deliberated in some detail about whether they felt particular arts practices or processes identified in applications fitted within the concept of 'new artistic practice'. There was a lively debate about whether the panel was genuinely seeing practice boundaries pushed in research and development, experimentation and hybridity among the proposals, and whether certain applications met the funding guidelines of other artform boards.

This led the panel to focus their assessment of artistic merit strictly within the concept of 'new artistic practice'. The panel supported projects that in their assessment had "a capacity to make conceptual or practical leaps in our knowledge and perception of what constitutes art" and that were, "challenging, new and as yet unresolved in terms of their position within established artforms" (*Australia Council Grant Seekers Guide 2007: Inter-Arts*).

The panel applied a similar approach in their assessment of the Fellowship category. While there were a number of highly regarded artists seeking Fellowship support, the panel was not convinced any of the applicants made a strong case that their proposal and planned program of activity fell firmly within a context of new artistic practice and its development in Australia. The panel did not recommend an Inter-Arts Fellowship for funding in 2007.

The decisions in this round are indicative of a desire to ensure that the work Inter-Arts is supporting is framed clearly within the concept of 'new artistic practice' that falls outside of the funding guidelines of the other boards.

Articulating the conceptual basis for a proposed area of practice, research or experimentation is an important part of any project seeking funding through the Inter-Arts Office. To help address this, the Inter-Arts Office is pleased to announce a new initiative *Infuse* that offers artists the opportunity to develop further skills and knowledge in the critical area of concept development. *Infuse* will help artists by partnering them with mentors to develop robust and rigorous conceptual rationales for their work.

To further our commitment to support high quality, experimental work and research and development, the Inter-Arts Office is also pleased to announce a further iteration of its *ArtLab* initiative (see the Feedback section of this report).



Other grants and initiatives offered by the Inter-Arts Office in 2007 include:

- Synapse Art/Science ARC Linkage Partner Organisation proposals closing on 3 September 2007
- Banff International Artist Residency and Artist-Initiated Residencies closing on 15 October 2007
- RUN_WAY Young and Emerging Artists initiative closing on 15 October 2007.

We encourage you to contact any of the Inter-Arts Office staff to discuss these grants and initiatives if you are planning to submit a proposal.

To assist in the assessment of future applications to the Inter-Arts Office, the panel also 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 who took the time to submit an application to the Inter-Arts Office this round. It is always a privilege to glimpse the wide range of creative practices in which Australian artists are engaged and I encourage you to seek feedback on your application.

Andrew Donovan
Director Inter-Arts



OUTCOMES

Program Title	Application (Number)		Success %	Application (Amounts - \$)	
	Received	Approved		Requested	Approved
INTER-ARTS PROJECTS	70	8	11.4%	\$1,579,008	\$219,476
Inter-Arts Fellowships	5	0	0.0%	\$450,000	\$0
Total	75	8		\$2,029,008	\$219,476

In addition to the Inter-Arts Projects and Fellowship, 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. Theory can be referenced, but it does not need to be articulated extensively in the application. This especially applies to Fellowship applications.
 - Many of the applicants should have articulated a **clearer rationale** for the collaborative elements in their projects, in particular addressing the relationship between collaborating artists and what benefits there are to gain from the collaboration.
 - There was a noticeable **lack of co-funding** sought by many of the applicants. The panel would like to encourage all applicants to seek co-funding, especially for larger projects.
 - The panel noted that very few applications addressed **public liability issues**. Submissions should clearly integrate public liability issues into the budget of each project.
 - 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 www.ozco.gov.au to download a form.
- The composition of the assessment panel is varied and all applicants should remember that each panel member may not be familiar with their work. It is therefore important that applicants avoid submitting basic documentation of their previous work and rather use their support material to **tell a story** about their work.
 - **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. As some peers only obtain a sense of the work through support material, applicants are encouraged to submit support material of the highest possible viewing quality. For guidance on preparing digital support material in particular, go to: http://www.ozco.gov.au/arts_resources/other/how_to_prepare_digital_support_material/
 - Please be sure to check our website www.ozco.gov.au for further details and read the Initiatives and Partnerships section of this report.



Inter-Arts Office Residency Opportunities **Closing Date: 15 October 2007**

Artist-Initiated Residencies

Artists may propose residencies with a host of their choice to the value of \$20,000 per residency. Residencies of three months or more will be considered for funding by the Inter-Arts Office.

Residencies longer than three months can be negotiated at the discretion of the artist and host within the funding constraints of the program.

Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, Canada

The Inter-Arts Office will support an artist to participate in the Media and Visual Arts Thematic Residency Program at the **Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, Canada**. The residency will take place in 2007.

For further information please visit: www.ozco.gov.au/residencies or contact Ricardo Peach on 02 9215 9132 or email r.peach@ozco.gov.au

RUN_WAY

Closing Date: 15 October 2007

The Inter-Arts Office is pleased to announce that **RUN_WAY** will be offered again this year with a 15 October 2007 closing date.

RUN_WAY is a program designed to extend and enliven artists experience and understanding of new artistic and hybrid art practice. Applicants can determine and implement a unique professional development scenario, suitable to their own individual needs.

The initiative provides opportunities for young and emerging artists/artworkers under the age of 30.

For further information go to: www.ozco.gov.au/run_way or contact Nina Stromqvist on 02 9215 9132 or email n.stromqvist@ozco.gov.au

Synapse

Closing Date: 3 September 2007

Synapse is an initiative managed by the Inter-Arts Office, which aims to encourage creative and experimental collaborations between scientists and artists. Through **Synapse** the Australia Council aims to maximise and promote the benefits of these creative collaborations.

The Inter-Arts Office will be offering, through **Synapse**, a further round of Australian Research Council Industry Partner Linkage Grants in 2007. For further details on this program please visit: www.ozco.gov.au/synapse

Proposals are due on **3 September 2007**. For further information email synapse@ozco.gov.au or call Andrew Donovan on 02 9215 9214

Infuse Mentorship Program

The Inter-Arts Office will offer a unique, self-initiated mentorship program for emerging artists in early 2008.

More information on the Infuse Mentorship Program will be available on the Australia Council website in September 2007.

ArtLab

After the success of the 2007 pilot program, ArtLab will be offered again for projects starting in 2008. The ArtLab program aims to foster experimentation and collaboration between artists from multiple disciplines to explore new artistic practice.

It aims to establish an environment that encourages genre-crossing collaborations and the creation of original cross-media arts projects with emphasis placed upon **innovation, risk, artistic integrity** and the **creation of new ideas**.

More information on ArtLab will be on the Australia Council website in September 2007.



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
 INTER-ARTS PROJECTS
 Round Id: 15408 Closing Date: 01-MAY-2007

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Davies, Alexander	Research and development project to explore audience interaction & behaviour in mixed reality spaces	NSW	\$19,200.00
Dimensional Research Inc.	Illuminating Exchanges - 4 interactive collaborations combining music & performance/sonic/visual art	QLD	\$24,400.00
Harry Nankin Images	Visual artists, dancers & scientists collaborate to create a vast mosaic of translucent film images	VIC	\$20,000.00
Jeffrey Stein	R&D hybrid movement work with performer, choreographer, dramaturg, sound artist & lighting designer	NSW	\$26,272.00
Matthew Gardiner and The Border Project	Develop interactive technology allowing audiences to control aspects of visual & performing artworks	SA	\$21,500.00
PVI Collective	consume - performance exploring participatory, interactive audience experiences in public space	WA	\$49,979.00
Rosie Dennis	No Entry- performance installation combining spoken word, confined space, vocalised sound & movement	NSW	\$8,125.00
Stalker Stilt Theatre Inc	Cinematographer, writer, director explore relationship between narrative, live performance & film	NSW	\$50,000.00
Grants this Round: 8		Amount Approved:	\$219,476.00
Total Grants: 8		Total Amount Approved:	\$219,476.00

