

Inter-Arts sector plan 2011-2012



The Wired Lab – Cootamundra, NSW, Allan Lamb, Sarah Last & Dave Burraston

1.1 New and emerging arts practices in Australia

Artists exploring new art forms are working within a constantly changing landscape. They not only strive to shift and evolve their own practice, but to challenge community perception of art and its place in our society. These artists develop work through a myriad of processes and forms some of which include:

- media arts, computer programming and writing
- sound and hybrid arts
- performance making and dramaturgy
- scientific and social research
- community collaboration and social media
- experimentation with technology,
- participatory, open-source and crowd-sourced platforms
- gaming and interactive experiences
- live art
- intercultural exchange and collaboration across regions and generations

Artists working in this field are used to taking risks and often make creative connections with partners in other sectors to realise projects. This might be from working with a technologist to use a piece of equipment in a previously unimagined way through to collaborating with scientists to learn techniques or skills associated with a discipline in order to realise an artwork.

Artists in this field are often concerned with developing and exploring cultures and subcultures within our society and how different groups interact across the broader community. Terms such as visual arts, theatre, dance and literature have no significant meaning to artists working in this field as they draw on a range of forms to realise projects and collaborations.

Little data exists outside of the Australia Council to give a clear picture of the practice in the field but you can see evidence of it in many festivals, multi-arts centres and their public programming, and in artist-run initiatives throughout Australia. There is also ongoing critical review of emergent arts practices in journals such as Realtime.

Internationally there are many forums that explore new relationships between artist, audience, social and physical spaces, and media. Some of these include the International Symposium of Electronic Arts (ISEA), Ars Electronica (Austria), ANTI Contemporary Art Festival

(Finland), Abandon Normal Devices (AND) festival (UK), InBetween Festival (UK), Spill Festival (UK), Transmediale (Germany), and 01SJ (US), and cellsbutton (Indonesia). In Australia such festivals include the national Liquid Architecture festival of sound art; Electrofringe, Tiny Stadiums, The Imperial Panda, TINA, Underbelly, Liveworks, Site Lab, SEAM and Now Now (NSW); Merge Festival (NT); Otherfilm, FreeRange, Exist-ence, On Edge and Under The Radar (QLD); Format (SA); ArtRage and Fringeworld (WA), Next Wave, Melbourne Fringe (VIC); and MONA FOMA (TAS). Each features emerging forms of practice and provide artists with the opportunity to explore, workshop and develop new works.

1.2 The Inter-Arts Sector and the Australia Council

The Inter-Arts Office focuses on research and development, creative development and experimentation. We provide funding for artists to explore new forms of artistic expression through collaborative processes and taking artistic risks.

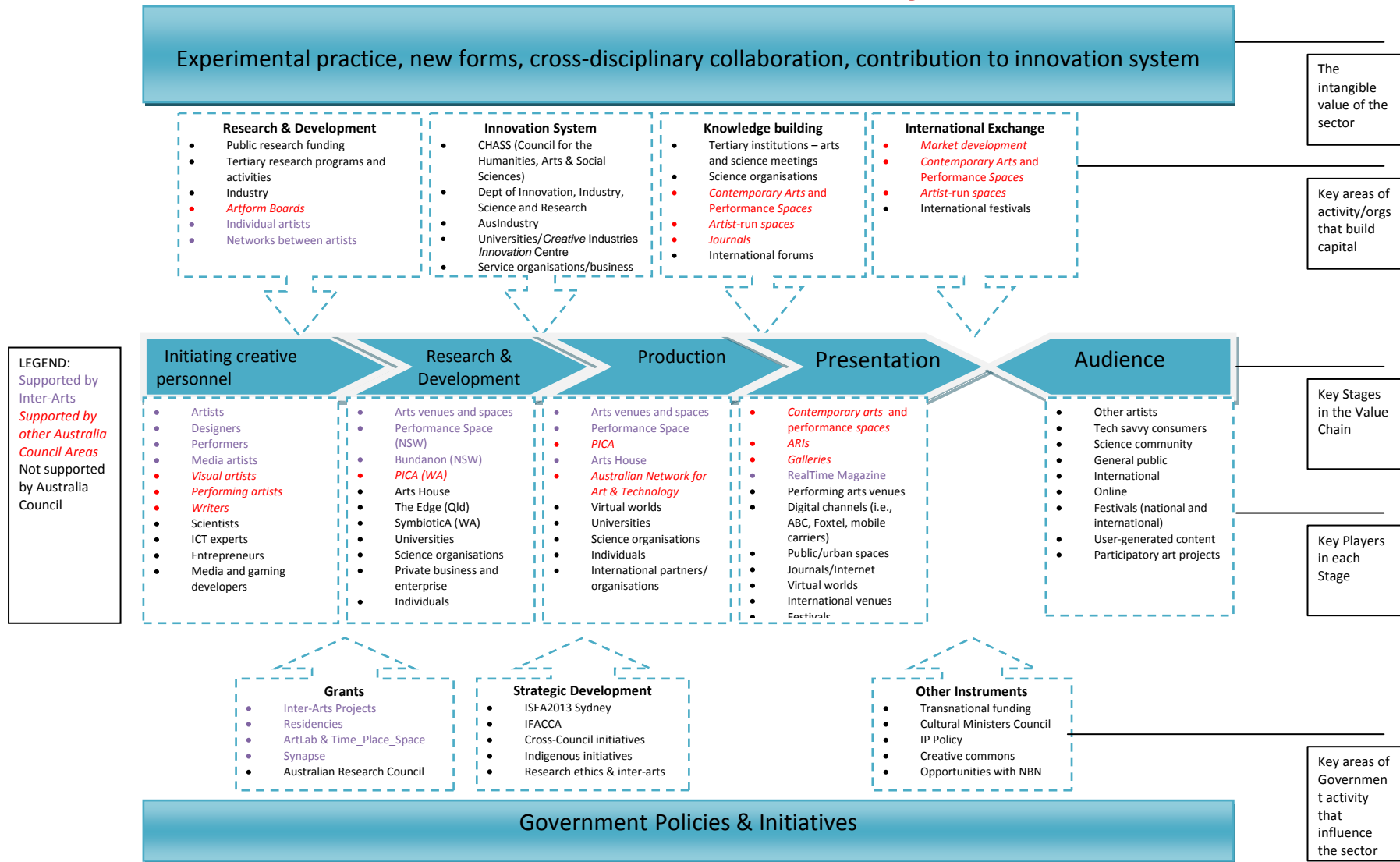
Recent Inter-Arts initiatives have explored artists' engagement with virtual worlds, locative media and augmented reality. In partnership with the Theatre and Visual Arts boards and with the Market Development section, artists working with live art practices and new forms of audience interaction have been supported through laboratory, presentation and touring initiatives. We offer the Allosphere Residency in partnership with the Music Board, and support artists to initiate residencies at cutting edge facilities in Australia and overseas.

The Inter-Arts Office significantly supports artists to work with professionals from other disciplines, primarily through innovative art/science research collaborations as part of the Synapse initiative. Synapse provides funding to projects as a partner organisation for successful applications to the Australian Research Council. Also as part of Synapse, the Inter-Arts Office supports a residency program for artists to spend significant periods of time in scientific organisations and institutions to develop work in collaboration with scientists.

Artists working in this field build their own contacts and networks to develop work in their particular interest area, and to collaborate with others. There is an increasingly active network of institutions and festivals supporting emerging art practices. Artists often have good connections with practice-based research programs in universities, as well as strong international links. Australian artists working in this field are generally well regarded by their peers around the world.

The Inter-Arts Office supports two key organisations, The Performance Space and Open City/Realtime, and we partner with the Australian Network for Art & Technology on the Synapse initiative. Inter-Arts collaborates across the Australia Council with other artform boards and with sections including Arts Development for touring programs; the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Board for Indigenous Media and Hybrid Arts initiatives; with Arts Organisations for the Digital Culture Fund; and consults with the Major Performing Arts Board, ArtStart and Art Support.

1.3 The Australian Inter-Arts Sector Ecosystem



Sector issues of concern for the Inter-Arts Office

- **Developing capacity for artists and organisations to respond creatively and rapidly to the opportunities presented by the National Broadband Network.**
- **Raising the profile of artists working in this field and its benefits for the broader community.**
- **Establishing the case for the innovation benefits of cross-disciplinary, hybrid, media arts and new form practice.**
- **Increased participation, collaboration and exchange between artists exploring new form, festivals and artistic labs nationally and internationally.**
- **Developing curatorial, producing, dramaturgical and arts writing skills to support artists working in this field in their early careers.**
- **Increased support for new work/research grants for individual artists exploring emerging art forms.**
- **Support for practice-based artistic research involving artists through the Australian Research Council.**
- **New avenues of support for interesting collaborations between artists and professionals in other (non arts) sectors including opportunities for development, creation and allied employment.**
- **Developing audiences for interdisciplinary arts and incentivising institutions to present new form and cutting edge practice.**
- **Identifying effective and productive links from this field into the design sector.**

1.4: Inter-Arts Office Goals

Support artists to take creative risks and explore new forms of artistic expression

- Highest quality interdisciplinary arts applications supported through Inter-Arts Projects category.
- Residencies that focus on the creative development of work for artists in cross-disciplinary settings.
- Provide key organisation grants for the creation, presentation, dissemination and critical analysis of interdisciplinary arts practice.
- Offer Infuse program to promote critical discussion and strengthen conceptual development in the field for interdisciplinary and hybrid practice.

Support new approaches to developing, creating and presenting art through innovative partnerships

- Offer new grant program that provides assistance for the development and implementation of innovative partnerships in the creation and presentation of new art
- Offer significant opportunities for artists to work in research and development through ArtLab.
- Continue to encourage artist participation in interdisciplinary research teams in the fields of arts/science through Synapse initiative.
- Continue Live Art strategy that fosters development of this practice in Australia through partnerships with key stakeholders
- Support Mobile States Initiative with Theatre and Dance.

Support artists to explore new audience relationships in the creation and experience of art and culture

- Develop Live Art directions paper to foster the development of this practice in consultation with the field and with Artform Boards.
- Offer new grant program that provides assistance for the development and implementation of innovative projects that explore the interaction of art and broader cultural activity
- Implement Splendid, a young and emerging artists project that explores interdisciplinary practice and new technologies.

Enable collaboration across the Council and the cultural sector that enhances opportunities for Australian emerging arts practice

- Support Mobile States Initiative with Theatre and Dance boards
- Research and development project to develop strategies for the participation of Indigenous artists in cross-disciplinary collaborations.
- Work with ATSIAB to support Indigenous hybrid and media arts practices
- Work with MPAB to explore opportunities for artist residencies and projects with major performing arts organisations and venues
- Provide support for cross-artform residencies and other multi-arts activities of the Arts Funding Division – Bundanon artists residency, Kultour multicultural arts touring program.
- Work with other sections of Council to develop key projects within the CEF that support professional development and the presentation of culturally diverse works to Australian audiences.

- Work with Arts Development through their International Buyers initiative to support international opportunities as part of a Live Art strategy.
- Work with other sections of Council to develop key projects within the CEF that support professional development and the presentation of culturally diverse works to Australian audiences.
- Consult with arts practitioners and organisations, with other cultural stakeholders and across the Australia Council, to scope opportunities and emerging trends for artists and audiences

1.5 Inter-Arts Office Work Plan 2010-2011

Key Projects 2010/11

- Support and participate in a **Splendid** industry roundtable to further develop the capacity for new commissioned work by artists to be included in a range of festivals
- Continued development of **Indigenous strategy** for artists in this field
- Further development of national strategy for **Live Art** through state and territory stakeholders
- Implementation of **Hopscotch Live Art** touring grants initiative (through Market Development)
- Development of **Creative Australia** grants initiative
- Development of **roundtable panels** to discuss and develop policy on particular issues – finding a way of ensuring that other boards are using our panel members as peers at their meetings – getting a cross-over of knowledge and experience.
- **Splendid Young and Emerging Artists** initiative (to 2012-2013)
- **Synapse** Art/Science Initiative (on-going)
- **Hybrid Performance Residency** initiative
- **AlloSphere Artist Residency** at the University of California Santa Barbara in partnership with the Music Board
- **Infuse** initiative (ongoing)
- **ArtLab** initiative (ongoing)

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