

Arts Tasmania News

Assistance to Organisations 2014

September 2013

The Acting Minister for the Arts, Bryan Green, has announced more than \$2 million of grants through Arts Tasmania's Assistance to Organisations Program 2014. The funding is made up of \$849 800 existing multi-year funding agreements and \$1 356 805 of new grants and initiatives.

I. FROM THE ASSESSMENT PANEL

The State Government is committed to responsible financial management, and in the current challenging budget climate has asked all government agencies including Arts Tasmania to implement budget savings. Accordingly, total funding available through the Assistance to Organisations Program 2014 has been reduced from \$2 249 778 available for 2013 to \$2 206 605.

The panel had the difficult task of making recommendations for funding in light of the current budget savings measures and challenging fiscal environment. The panel recognised that more organisations with creative, innovative and worthwhile programs and projects applied for funding than could be supported. However, members of the panel felt that those organisations awarded funding clearly demonstrated excellent ideas, excellent management and strong artistic outcomes.

The panel also noted that the current economic climate is also having an impact on ticket sales for performing arts and the ability of organisations to gain sponsorship and support from business and the community, making this a particularly challenging time for arts organisations.

In response to these fiscal challenges, Arts Tasmania has been working with the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board and its peer assessment panels to explore new forms of support for artists and arts organisations in the future. Arts Tasmania hopes to announce revised arts investment programs in late 2013 for applicants applying in 2014 for activities in 2015.

Assessment

Panel members noted that this year generally the budgets submitted with applications were much improved. The panel encouraged applicants to use the Arts Tasmania budget templates where possible. The panel reminded organisations that all application budgets (whatever the format) should clearly identify what the Arts Tasmania grant will be spent on.

The panel discouraged applicants from submitting excessive pages of information in their applications. The panel encouraged applicants to use the Arts Tasmania business plan template. Where an organisation uses its own business planning template, it should be clear and concise. The panel has recommended that Arts Tasmania consider imposing strict page limits in the future.

2. ASSISTANCE TO ORGANISATIONS GRANTS 2014

Community arts and cultural activities

BIG hART Inc

\$74 600

BIG hART Inc., one of Australia's leading arts and social change companies, was awarded a grant for Invisible Stories. BIG hART will capture the stories of outsiders and their invisibility in the community and bring them into the mainstream through a performance/music based program. BIG hART will also work to build community desire on Tasmania's North West Coast for involvement in cultural activity through the use of unusual promotional approaches, creative locations and workshop strategies. The organisation also plans to increase the export potential of BIG hART's multi-arts outputs and artists through a program of research and development of emerging product and mentoring and employment of artists from North West Coast.

Kickstart Arts Inc

\$75 000

Kickstart Arts is a leading arts and community cultural development company which aims to create bold and challenging art in and with communities to improve the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians. Kickstart Arts has been awarded a grant towards its annual program. The grant will assist Kickstart Arts to produce five contemporary arts projects including a mix of community focused work, artist development opportunities for professional artists, workshops, masterclasses, creative developments, exhibitions, and performances.

Queenstown Heritage & Arts Festival Inc

\$39 075

The biennial Queenstown Heritage & Arts Festival is an emerging cultural event which aims to generate significant economic and social benefits to regional western Tasmania through the delivery of a high-end cultural program. The organisation has been awarded funding towards professional staffing costs and contracting five early career artists to be exposed to the Lake Margaret site and oral histories of the people who lived and worked there. These artists will create site specific works to be located within the power station industrial precinct.

Performing arts

Blue Cow Theatre Inc

\$98 766

Now in its fifth year of operation, Blue Cow aims to satisfy the hunger of Hobart audiences for locally-made, high-quality, sophisticated, accessible, contemporary adult theatre. In 2014 funding will help Blue Cow premiere a major new play about Tasmanian society and politics by satirist Jonathan Biggins, revive a Tasmanian classic, encourage the development of emerging Tasmanian directors, undertake creative developments for future original works and run a development program for new and existing Tasmanian playwrights.

Burnie City Council (Burnie Arts & Function Centre)

\$20 000

The Burnie Arts & Function Centre has been awarded a grant towards its fifth Performing Arts Subscription Season. The centre plans to present at least 16 productions at an affordable rate, including innovative productions to develop audience for the arts. Funding has been provided to bring four interstate productions to the centre, including two that target a youth audience.

Mature Artists Dance Experience Inc (MADE)

\$35 000

MADE creates and produces unique and inspiring dance-theatre for mature adults. In 2014 MADE will focus on the growth of the company and strengthening its artistic brand. MADE has been awarded funding to present two new contemporary dance theatre works and undertake an international tour of the productions BIRDS and PANE.

Tasdance Ltd

\$300 000 per annum, 2014 and 2015

Tasdance aims to collaborate to create new, dynamic and diverse contemporary dance, nurture young and emerging dance artists and inspire the community to participate in and develop a passion for dance particularly in regional Australia. Tasdance has been awarded funding towards its annual program, which includes focus on creating new Australian contemporary dance work; sector and artist development; local, national and international collaboration and exchange; audience development and securing a sustainable business model and increasing investment in regional Tasmania.

Tasmanian Theatre Company

\$46 822

The Tasmanian Theatre Company aims to produce and facilitate exceptional theatre experiences. The company has been awarded a grant towards the World Premiere of *Born From Animals* - a triptych of three short plays by Tasmanian playwrights Tom Holloway, Finegan Kruckemeyer and Sean Munro, to be directed by Aidan Fennessy. The three plays all explore the role of masculinity in society.

Theatre North

\$147 500 in 2014, \$150 858 in 2015

Theatre North has been awarded funding to present an annual program of professional performing arts in Launceston, performances which northern audiences would not otherwise have access to. Theatre North was established in 1995 to increase the quantity and quality of professional adult theatre presentations in the North of the State and to assist the development of professional artists living in the region.

Theatre Royal Management Board

\$147 500 in 2014, \$180 000 in 2015

The Theatre Royal Management Board runs a multi-faceted performing arts presenting organisation, presenting in the order of 150 performances of around 50 productions each year. The organisation has been awarded a grant to support its annual season, which includes works carrying significant entrepreneurial risk in the theatre's education, dance, drama, music, and children/family genres. The Theatre Royal Management Board has been awarded additional funding for 2015 to further develop its program and audiences in preparation for the new studio performing space to be built as part of Academy of Creative Industries and Performing Arts in 2016.

Music

The Chamber Music Society of Tasmania Inc. (Musica Viva Tasmania)

\$10 000

The Chamber Music Society of Tasmania (Musica Viva Tasmania) was established in 1999 and presents, promotes and supports chamber music of international quality in Tasmania. The organisation has been awarded a grant to present an annual six-concert subscription season of international chamber music in Hobart in 2014. The grant will assist the organisation with artist fees and enabling the organisation to take financial risk across the season.

Hobart City Band

\$3 000

With the help of the grant The Hobart Wind Symphony, conducted by Simon Reade, will present a special program featuring piano concertos by two Tasmanian composers, Don Kay and Simon Barber, and performed by internationally acclaimed pianist Michael Kieran Harvey. The performances will take place in February 2014 at the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music.

Music Tasmania

\$56 423

Music Tasmania has operated as Tasmania's peak contemporary music body since April 2010 and has established itself as a key organisation for the sector. The organisation exists to develop and sustain emerging original Tasmanian musicians and industry workers. In 2014 the grant will help Music Tasmania focus on promoting Tasmanian music and musicians to local and national markets, provide tangible benefits to members including networking, access to resources and skills training and develop mutually beneficial partnerships with corporate and philanthropic organisations.

Visual arts

Plimsoll Gallery (University of Tasmania)

\$19 990

The Plimsoll Gallery has been awarded a grant towards the first of a two-phase art project called The Plimsoll Inquiry. It is a pilot program of activated artistic events that will be presented to the public periodically from the Plimsoll Gallery at the Tasmanian College of the Arts. It will deliver the events throughout a seven-week period, alongside a weekly series of 'evenings' with music and food within the Hunter St precinct. The Plimsoll Inquiry will use the gallery space as a 'think tank' or 'lab' to develop a program that seeks to activate and stimulate a more inclusive gallery environment, whilst providing accessible entertainment for the wider community. Its purpose is to rethink and repurpose a public gallery for the 21st Century.

Sawtooth ARI Inc

\$48 129

Sawtooth ARI aims to promote and support a culture of creativity and experimentation in the field of contemporary art, and to particularly support emerging and mid-career artists. Sawtooth ARI has been awarded a grant to present an artistic program of local, state and national reputation in Northern Tasmania while promoting contemporary arts practice from this region.

Writing

Island Magazine Inc

\$60 000

Island is one of Australia's leading literary magazines, tracing the contours of national and international culture, while still retaining a uniquely Tasmanian perspective. In 2014 annual funding will help *Island* open its pages and website blog to Tasmania's arts organisations to provide a creative space to promote and discuss all cultural artforms. *Island* will also focus on providing a point of entry into the national publishing ecology for professional emerging Tasmanian writers. The organisation is focused on increasing circulation to transition away from historical over-dependence on government funding to a position of relative self-sufficiency.

Tasmanian Writers Centre

\$100 000 per annum 2014–2015

Guarantee against loss of up to \$10 000 for the 2015 Tasmanian Writers Festival

The Tasmanian Writers Centre aims to inspire, promote and celebrate writing in all its forms, to build new audiences and a sustainable and renewable culture for writing and reading in Tasmania. Annual funding will help the organisation offer a suite of programs to encourage a dynamic and inclusive literary culture in Tasmania, and to present high-profile flagship events such as the 2015 Tasmanian Writers Festival.

Pre-existing multi-year funding agreements

The following organisations have been awarded multi-year funding in previous years and will be funded in 2014 to continue their programs of activity.

Contemporary Art Tasmania (formerly Contemporary Art Services Tasmania)

\$157 000.00

Design Tasmania (formerly Design Forum Tasmania Limited)

\$61 500.00

Huon Folk Inc

\$5 300.00

Mudlark Theatre Inc

\$61 500.00

Performing Lines Limited

\$200 000.00

Salamanca Arts Centre Ltd

\$80 000.00

Stompin

\$81 500.00

Tasmanian Poetry Festival Inc

\$6 000.00

Terrapin Puppet Theatre Limited

\$147 000.00

The Australian Script Centre

\$50 000.00