

ARTS QUEENSLAND

CREATIVE PRODUCTION HUB SCOPING STUDY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

March 2008

INTRODUCTION

Arts Queensland is undertaking a study to scope the development of a Creative Production Hub to support small and mid scale performing arts in Queensland. This study will scope new mechanisms to strengthen and enrich small and mid scale performing arts, increase reach across the state and grow audiences. Two AQ officers (Chris Bowen and Tina Hill) are leading this project over a 4 month period from March to June 2008.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the study is to scope the concept of the Creative Production Hub, undertake research and consultation, assess viability and potential, identify policy, program and governance issues and make and provide options, plans and recommendations for implementation and management.

WHAT WILL THE HUB BE?

This is yet to be determined. However it is *likely* the hub will be:

- a small group of specialist producers and support people
- working with small groups of performing artists selected through a curatorial process
- an organisation focusing on production of small and mid scale performing arts
- a legal entity or working within a legal entity
- a network based organisation with strong partnerships and collaborations
- working with experienced professional performing artists
- based in Brisbane with another linked hub in north or far north Queensland

WHAT WON'T THE HUB BE?

This is yet to be determined. However it is *unlikely* the hub will be:

- A dedicated facility (although it will probably be based at an arts facility)
- A service, referral or development agency
- A tour booking agency
- A general resource for independent artists

WHY DO THIS?

There is a need in Queensland, and Australia, to strengthen professional support for independent dance, theatre and music artists and small scale organisations. This need has been identified in the *National Small to Medium Performing Arts Sector Report*, the *National Dance Analysis*, the work of the *Australia Council Artform Boards*, and in Arts Queensland's *Queensland Arts Industry Sector Development Plans (QAISDP)*. This sector is a vital contributor to innovation in the arts, the main source of new work, it provides important access and employment, is a key regional and diversity contributor, an important collaborator, and is vital to sector career and professional development.

THE IDEA

The idea for the Hub is to enable and broker increased sector activity, quality and productivity. It could provide:

- an interface between creators and presenters
- a flexible and responsive support structure to assist performing artists,
- targeted access to skilled producers, touring, administration, marketing, rehearsal, production and performance facilities.

This support can:

- reduce the relative isolation in which many artists work
- provide more resources to develop and extend creative work
- enable artists and practitioners to focus more energies on creative activity
- stimulate and invigorate development of quality original performance work
- foster collaborations and partnerships and develop and enrich networks
- achieve economies through sharing business skills, resources and overheads
- develop markets, strengthen touring, grow audiences and artist employment

WHAT WILL THE STUDY DO?

This study will:

- identify potential locations for the Hub
- take into account the needs and potential to effectively serve regional artists, audiences and interests
- examine the potential for the Arts Queensland operated arts centres the Centre of Contemporary Arts, Cairns and the Judith Wright Centre for Contemporary Arts to host and actively participate in the work of the Hub as part of their future positioning and development
- look at the potential for the Hub to operate in other Queensland locations and develop further organisational and venue partnerships
- pay particular attention to developing innovative approaches to operational, management and governance activities
- identify appropriate curatorial policies
- identify the optimum role for the Hub within the broader performing arts sector
- consider relationship with other service providers, producers and presenters
- consider the potential for administering government investments in creative development, commissioning, presenting and touring the performing arts

HOW WILL IT ROLL OUT?

- Chris Bowen and Tina Hill will establish a **Project Office** at Arts Queensland offices in Brisbane
- **Research** will be conducted to inform the project
- A **Discussion Paper** will be prepared and made available for government and industry review to stimulate comment and inform consultation
- **Consultation** will be undertaken with key stakeholders throughout Queensland
- A **Draft Report** for government will be prepared with research and consultation findings and options to determine the preferred direction
- A **Final Report** comprising Strategic Plan with Vision, Goals and Strategies, rationale and business case, and a three year, costed Operational Plan with viable options for successful staged implementation and management.
- A **Research Paper** for publication on new Performing Arts Contexts will also be prepared. This will be a joint project with the Queensland Conservatorium Research Centre, Griffith University
- There are four phases to the project: research, consultation, development and reporting.

INFORMATION

For further information please contact:

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HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

1. Register your details via the website (www.arts.qld.gov.au) or via email to prodhubs@arts.qld.gov.au so that you can be placed on the circulation list for this project.
2. Look for the Discussion Paper to be posted on the Arts Queensland website in early April 2008.
3. Check the Arts Queensland website regularly for updates on the project.