

Indigenous Arts and Culture

Queensland is unique as the home of two Indigenous cultures.

Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders have strong and diverse cultures, languages and traditions that are integral to their sense of identity and contribute to Queensland's unique identity nationally and internationally.

In the coming years, the Queensland Government will build on the recognition of traditional and contemporary Indigenous art and artists to provide opportunities for improved wellbeing, economic development and to support reconciliation.

The Queensland Government will:

- Develop a five-year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts and Cultural Reconciliation Strategy.
- Establish an Indigenous Arts and Cultural Marketing and Export Program led by the Department of State Development in partnership with Arts Queensland and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy to provide links between artists and buyers. The Premier as Minister for Trade will play a key role in promoting this program.
- Develop and implement a learning framework to assist Indigenous artists throughout Queensland to develop skills in industry development and marketing.

- Establish 31 Indigenous Knowledge Centres in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Councils in Cape York and the Torres Strait.



Southbank TAFE Indigenous art student Bronwyn Russell with her artwork from a State Library of Queensland artist-in-residency program.

Photo courtesy of the State Library of Queensland.

- Deliver training which links regional arts development to the promotion of Indigenous cultural product and supports Indigenous heritage tourism planning and development.
- Establish an Indigenous Centre at the Queensland Museum as a dedicated place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access exhibitions, storytelling, information services and a meeting place.
- Introduce the Indigenous Youth Arts Foundation to assist Indigenous high school students to develop career paths as professional artists.
- Continue the repatriation program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural artefacts.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Network

Presentation of Queensland's unique Indigenous cultures will be the driving force behind an Indigenous cultural network which will link a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural activity and new facilities in Brisbane. This network will provide opportunities to explore Indigenous cultures, contribute to reconciliation and present a wide range of Indigenous experiences to visitors to Brisbane and locals alike.

This network will provide links between the new Musgrave Park Cultural Centre, an Indigenous Centre at the Queensland Museum, an Indigenous Knowledge Centre at the State Library of Queensland, the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts and Indigenous programming at the Queensland Art Gallery, the new Queensland Gallery of Modern Art and the Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

Through the creation of this network, links with other Indigenous arts and cultural organisations, such as Kooemba Jdarra Indigenous Performing Arts, can be explored as well as outreach programs to regional, rural and remote areas of Queensland.

Children and Young People

The Queensland Government is committed to supporting children and young people as youth arts participants, as young artists, and as consumers of arts and cultural products and services.

Queensland's Cultural Policy for Young People has created new opportunities for young people to gain hands-on experience in arts and cultural activities. Successful programs like the Youth Arts Mentoring Program have used a mentoring approach to build and share skills and ideas.

The Government aims to build on the success of these and other youth arts initiatives by developing two clear pathways for children and young people in the arts – industry bridging and community building:

- Creating industry pathways will assist young people's transition from school to work. It includes mentoring, career support, industry-based learning and paid work experience for young artists.
- Developing community pathways will provide children and young people with opportunities to plan, manage and deliver their own cultural activities and events.

The Queensland Government will:

- Conduct a major research project to identify the social and educational impact of arts activity on children in the middle school years.
- Establish a Children's Art Centre through the Queensland Art Gallery

that will present exhibitions and interactive projects designed for children as well as continuing Kids APT as part of the Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art.

- Stage the Australian Children's Film Festival as part of the Brisbane International Film Festival featuring five quality films from around the world targeted at children aged nine to 12 years.
- Establish youth arts initiatives to assist young people interested in the arts to make the transition from school to work.

- Implement the arts education syllabus, encompassing music, visual arts, drama, dance and media.
- Conduct a poetry and short story competition in Queensland schools, with winning works to be displayed

on buses, to raise the profile of writing, provide innovative publishing opportunities for young people and present positive images of young people.

- Create sustainable opportunities for the involvement of young people in public art.



Hands on Art, September School Holiday Program, South Bank Beach 2001. Photo courtesy of Hands on Art.

Mentoring Pays Off

Arts Queensland's Youth Arts Mentoring Program, managed by Youth Arts Queensland, has produced a number of outstanding young professionals.

Annette Turner is one of them. She was selected for the 2000 program as an arts administration mentoree, and took up a placement at the Caloundra Regional Gallery.

Annette worked under the guidance of mentor Glen Lempert to develop her business administration skills. She researched and developed a "user-friendly" strategic planning model template suitable for all regional galleries and similar organisations in Queensland.

She went on to secure an appointment as the Visual Arts Program Coordinator at the Logan Art Gallery - all by the age of 26. Annette is now one of the youngest Gallery Directors in Queensland.

Regional Communities

Queensland is the most decentralised mainland state in Australia with more than 35 per cent of its 3.5 million population living in regional, rural and remote centres. Each of these centres differs in its needs, capacities and resources. Each one adds texture to the rich cultural life of Queensland.

Improved access to networking and marketing opportunities, a sustainable network of festivals and cultural tourism can make a significant contribution to regional regeneration and translate into jobs.

The Queensland Government is committed to supporting communities in the development of their unique cultural assets.

The Queensland Government will:

- Implement online training programs and outreach training services through the redeveloped State Library of Queensland to provide access to regional, rural and remote communities.
- Improve access to information about arts funding programs through statewide information sessions and appropriate formats for people with a disability or groups that represent the disability sector.
- Distribute and promote adaptive technologies to Queensland public libraries to support computer and Internet access by people with a disability, children and older people.



The opening celebration of the Queensland Biennial Festival of Music (QBFM) 2001 at Barcaldine: Anumadutchi and Aly N'Diaye Rose. Photo courtesy of QBFM. Photo Greg Horn.

- Continue to encourage a sustainable statewide network of festivals.
- Implement the first Arts Queensland-Local Government Cultural Protocol to improve communication, planning, and policy development and to enhance partnership opportunities between the Government and local government authorities.

- Deliver a skills development program in partnership with the Australia Council to assist arts and cultural workers and organisations in promoting their product to the broader community through the media.
- Support local councils through the Regional Arts Development Fund to conduct an annual *Living Treasure* award to acknowledge the significant contribution of an arts and cultural worker.
- Assist local councils to build a film-friendly reputation and attract film production through a film protocol developed in partnership with the South-East Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (SEQROC).
- Market cultural tourism destinations in regional Queensland through the Drive Tourism Program.

Preserving Queensland Memories

The State Library of Queensland's Queensland Memories program will provide access to the significant cultural resources held in the State Library for regional, rural and remote Queensland communities.

The program involves the interpretation and presentation of this significant cultural content in a variety of formats including exhibitions, educational resources and publications.

A Digital Outreach Service will also be provided in which staff from the State Library travel throughout Queensland to support local history societies, Indigenous communities, multicultural groups and public libraries in the preservation, arrangement and digitisation of their original Queensland materials.

Jobs and Training

New ways of working and the rise of knowledge-based industries, is opening up new pathways to employment.

To create the jobs of the future in the arts, cultural and creative industries, it will be vital to ensure that vocational education and training responds to the demands of the knowledge economy.

An important plank in the Government's commitment to align formal training with jobs in the arts and cultural sector is the development of a partnership, *The Smart State – Investing in Cultural Enterprises*, between Arts Queensland and the Department of Employment and Training.

This new partnership has already delivered new training opportunities and will continue to deliver on a number of strategic training priorities.

The Queensland Government will:

- Provide training in a range of areas, including:
 - business, marketing and project management skills for established artists with a particular emphasis on export, public art projects and major cultural and sporting events.
 - galleries, museums, sporting and cultural events and community radio for volunteers.
 - training for established artists which assists them to contribute to and promote festivals and events.
 - programs designed to provide skills in the area of technology in creative arts, animation, digital arts and film and video production.

- business and marketing, copyright and intellectual property, script development and project management.

- Increase transitional support programs for young people to assist them to move from study to work, for example, mentoring, industry induction and management skills training.
- Expand industry-based accredited training, assessment and recognition of current competencies.
- Establish a community training centre in the redeveloped State Library of Queensland to provide Internet and information literacy training to groups including unemployed people, business people, seniors and Indigenous people.

- Provide funding to support the professional development of artists through seminars, workshops, conferences and exchanges.
- Generate professional job opportunities for Queensland artists through the Art Built-in public art program.



Curatorial trainee Holly Arden. Photo courtesy of the Department of Employment and Training.

Traineeships Help Bring Gallery Exhibition to Life

With \$280,000 in funding from the Department of Employment and Training, the Queensland Art Gallery is employing 10 Indigenous trainees over two years to work on the first major exhibition to focus on the Indigenous art of Cape York.

This project will provide the trainees with the opportunity to learn the skills required to pursue a career in the arts industry and to further promote their culture. The traineeships started in January 2002 with five trainees employed to complete one year of on-the-job training and a Certificate 2 in Arts Administration through TAFE.

Two trainees are based at the Queensland Art Gallery in Brisbane and one each at the Cairns Regional Gallery, Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE and Hopevale Community Learning Centre. With the assistance of a dedicated supervisor, they are gaining experience and understanding of working in an art gallery, including researching, curating, exhibitions design and installation.

The exhibition, a historical survey of Cape York's Indigenous communities, will showcase artworks collected since the end of the 19th century through to contemporary works. It will run from June to September 2003 before touring to north Queensland.

Creative Enterprise

Industries that thrive on creativity, new ideas and knowledge will generate jobs and economic growth for the future.

Creative industries which focus on enterprises with strong potential for wealth and job creation are at the heart of the *Smart State* and represent an important priority for the Government.

Alongside investment in projects such as the new Creative Industries Precinct at Kelvin Grove, the Government is preparing Queensland's first Creative Industries Strategy led by the Department of State Development. This strategy will foster greater enterprise in the State's cultural industries and help deliver the economic goals of the Queensland Government Cultural Policy.

The Queensland Government will:

- Establish a business start-up program, including skills development, for new businesses in the cultural sector where a strong business case can be demonstrated.
- Implement the Creative Industries Strategy, led by the Department of State Development, to establish nationally and internationally competitive Queensland firms and products, including a new web portal that will provide information on creative industry markets, promote products and services and help broker global business relationships.
- Develop a Cultural Export Policy which will build partnerships between Arts Queensland, the Department of State Development and the Department of

the Premier and Cabinet to take Queensland art and cultural products to world markets.

- Introduce an arts and cultural component to the Business Skills Development Program targeting export-ready companies and ventures.
- Provide access to grants to support cutting-edge ideas and experimental works.
- Promote the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards to recognise the success of Queensland's cultural industries.
- Work with inbound and outbound trade missions to provide a link between the arts and cultural sectors and trade and investment opportunities.

- Increase promotion of Queensland crew, cast, facilities, locations and film incentives in Europe, South-East Asia and the United States to attract more film production and post-production to the State.



Crew at work on the set of feature film *The Real McCaw* being shot on location in South-East Queensland. Photo courtesy of the Pacific Film and Television Commission.

New Creative Industries Precinct

Australia's first Creative Industries precinct, bringing together creativity, technology and business, will open in Kelvin Grove, Brisbane in 2004.

The \$60 million precinct will stimulate new research, products and businesses in the creative industries such as games development, web broadcasting, design, fashion, and publishing.

A home to the Queensland University of Technology's Creative Industries Faculty and Creative Industries Research and Applications Centre (CIRAC), the precinct will provide new exhibition and production spaces and an Enterprise Centre offering contemporary workspace for start-up businesses.

The precinct will also be the new home of La Boite Theatre and its 400-seat performance space.

QUT is developing the precinct in partnership with the Department of State Development and the Commonwealth Government.