

3E: International activities



lawn, co-produced by Dancenorth and Brisbane Powerhouse in association with Sasha Waltz and Guests, choreographed by Splintergroup and toured by Performing Lines. Photo: Tim Page

Since the Plan was released, Arts Queensland has invested \$1 003 743 in international activities, with funding allocated via Career Development Grants, Development and Presentation Grants, and Industry Development Initiatives. This is supplemented by investment of almost \$630 000 in national activities. Funding supported a range of activities including cultural profiling; international touring and exhibitions of Queensland artists and companies; exchanges and residencies between Queensland and international artists and arts organisations; and market development for export-ready of Queensland artists and product.

Investment in international activities has increased by \$189 942 or 86 per cent from 2006–07 to 2007–08. **Table 10** summarises trend data on Arts Queensland’s investment in international activities over four financial years from 2004–05 to 2007–08. It also includes year to date expenditure for 2008–09 as of 31 January 2009.

Table 10: Arts Queensland’s investment in international activities, 2004–05 to 2007–08					
	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09 YTD – 31.1.09
Total \$ and number of grants	\$191 667 51 grants	\$240 625 60 grants	\$222 140 55 grants	\$412 082 78 grants	\$369 521 43 grants
Career Development Grants (CDG) – total \$ & number of grants	\$53 530 21 grants	\$103 488 47 grants	\$98 790 46 grants	\$142 082 60 grants	\$87 054 31 grants
Development & Presentation Grants (DPG) – total \$ & number of grants	\$327 467 28 grants	\$128 147 10 grants	\$30 000 1 grant	\$105 000 4 grants	\$156 821 6 grants
Industry Development Initiatives (IDI) – total \$ & number of grants	\$10 000 2 grants	\$9 000 3 grants	\$93 350 8 grants	\$165 000 14 grants	\$125 646 6 grants
Notes on trends: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For CDG and IDI, the trend is for an increase in the total funds and number of grants over four financial years from 2004–05 to 2007–08. For CDG, the amount per grant has decreased from approximately \$2550 in 2004–05 to \$2370 in 2007–08. • For DPG, the trend is for a decrease in the total funds and number of grants over four financial years from 2004–05 to 2007–08. However, the amount per grant is increasing from about \$11 700 in 2004–05 to \$26 250 in 2007–08. 					

Analysis of investment in international activities by artform area from 2006–07 to 31 January 2009 shows that:

- \$393 700 or 39 per cent supported artists in Visual Arts, Craft and Design
- \$300 614 or 30 per cent supported artists in Theatre, Writing, New Media
- \$277 705 or 28 per cent supported artists in Dance and Music
- \$31 716 or 3 per cent supported artists in Creative Communities.

Artist-identified career opportunities

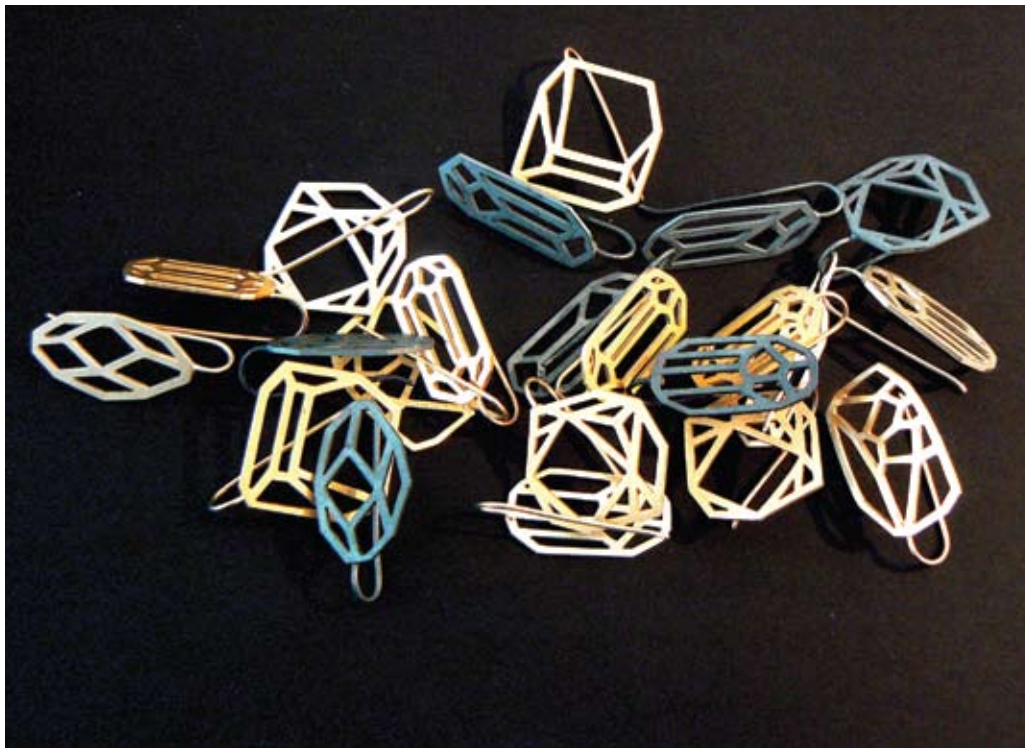
Career Development Grants of up to \$5000 assist artists and arts workers to pursue opportunities that hone their craft, advance their career, develop their practice and expand their horizons at national and international levels. In addition, fellowships and scholarships support artists to identify relevant professional and career development activities in Australia and overseas.

From 2006–07 to end January 2009, almost \$328 000 in career development funding supported artists to undertake international activities. Since the Plan was released, some of the artist-identified international market development activities and showcase initiatives to receive funding support include:

- Designer **Matthew Dwyer** received a \$5000 grant to exhibit his work in London’s Victoria and Albert Museum as part of the 2008 COLLECT International Art Fair, which attracted an audience of 15 000 people. Matthew sold artwork and established relationships and secured consignments with galleries in London and Europe.
- With \$2030 support, Murri poet and novelist **Herb Wharton** travelled to France to work with staff at Le Havre University on the translation of his novel *Yumba Days* from English to French.
- With \$3900 in funding support, **Ari Athans** attended the official launch of *Freestyle: New Australian Design for Living* in 2008 at the Design Museum in Milan, which featured her jewellery. In addition to selling her jewellery, Ari developed contacts and a better understanding of the international design market and key industry events.
- Graham Ashton — a band representative with record label Dew Process — received a \$4000 grant to support the costs for **Yves Klein Blue** to play the 2008 South by Southwest independent music festival in Austin, Texas, and further shows in Los Angeles, New York and London. Yves Klein Blue met with international agents and labels and secured the digital release of an EP in the UK. The band’s members each received funding support of \$1700.

Valued at \$20 000, the annual **Grant McLennan Fellowship** rewards a Queensland-based contemporary songwriter with a trip of up to two months to either London, Berlin or New York. The inaugural winner of the 2007 fellowship, Toowoomba songwriter **Greg Charles** visited New York and commented: ‘The Fellowship will have a huge impact on contemporary music in Queensland because the idea of songwriters being allowed to experience a different culture to stimulate creativity is a new concept.’

Winners of the 2008 fellowship are songwriting duo **John Busby and Chris Dale** of Brisbane band, Halfway. Co-writing partners for more than ten years, Busby and Dale visited London to continue work on their third album and capitalise on the critical acclaim and radio airplay they’ve already received in the UK.



Ari Athans, *Seven Crystal System*, 9K gold and silver. Photo: Ari Athans

Introduced in 2008, the annual **Billy Thorpe Scholarship** is valued at \$10 000 and provides a structured range of support for an emerging musician to establish their professional career through career planning and the opportunity to record with a local producer. Brisbane guitarist **Michael Gavriel** won the inaugural scholarship. Having playing in bands for some years, Michael plans to use the scholarship to further develop his technical skills by travelling to the United States to study guitar at Boston's Berklee College of Music.



Michael Gavriel, Winner of Billy Thorpe Scholarship 2008. Photo courtesy of the artist

Market development and showcase platforms

In 2007–08, the main focus areas of Arts Queensland's international market development activities were Indigenous visual arts and craft, contemporary music and design.

Under *Backing Indigenous Arts*, the inaugural 2009 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and its associated performing arts program will lay the foundations to grow demand over time for Queensland Indigenous art in Australia and overseas. Arts Queensland continued to work closely with Trade Queensland and the Queensland Indigenous Arts Marketing and Export Agency to facilitate export opportunities in commercially viable areas such as Indigenous visual arts and contemporary music.

By providing artists with a platform from which to showcase their talents through national and international industry forums, the Plan and Arts Queensland's recently released contemporary music strategy, *Press Play 2009–13*, are building on Queensland's strong position as a leader in contemporary music. In late 2008, Trade Queensland also released the *Queensland Contemporary Music Export Strategy (QMEX)* to support and promote exporting of Queensland music industry talent. It aims to achieve exports of \$10 million over the period 2008 to 2011.



The Boat People, L-R: James O'Brien, Robin Waters, Charles Dugan and Tony Garrett. Photo: Sylvana Macarone

From 2007 to 2009, the following key initiatives provided market development support to contemporary musicians:

- Held annually in Brisbane since 2001, **Big Sound** is the fastest growing music industry event in the Asia–Pacific region. Delegates come from all corners of the industry and all parts of the world to discuss cutting-edge industry intelligence, network and do business. In October 2008, Big Sound hosted more than 400 contemporary music delegates and presented 40 showcases by artists and bands, including Queensland bands John Steel Singers, The Gin Club, Repeat Offender, The Boat People and Dan Parsons. Showcase performances are presented in venues in Fortitude Valley and are open to the public. They give Big Sound delegates an authentic taste of each band’s live show in front of their own audience, and also strengthen Brisbane’s reputation for great live music. The international delegation includes key tastemakers and talent buyers from the US and Asian markets. Big Sound receives funding support from Arts Queensland and Trade Queensland.
- A contribution of \$30 000 assisted three Queensland bands — The Red Paintings, The Gin Club and Small Mercies — to attend the prestigious and influential music industry conference **Musexpo 2008** in Los Angeles. The support provided the bands with the opportunity to perform in front of record producers and representatives from worldwide recording labels. Participation at Musexpo is securing US management representation, publishing and licensing contracts, media exposure, movie and television song placements, and touring for Queensland musicians and bands.
- An injection of \$20 000 funded the participation of Queensland musicians at **The Great Escape 2008** music market and festival in Brighton, United Kingdom. This important industry event provides an opening to the lucrative UK and European music markets. An additional \$5000 was contributed to develop a digital presentation kit to promote Queensland artists at music industry events.

The importance of design is well recognised globally, and governments are embracing design to increase economic prosperity, minimise impact on the environment, provide more efficient and effective public services, and improve the lives of their citizens. Companies that have previously considered design as an aesthetic commodity are now investing in design at a strategic level for its benefits to competitiveness and sustainability.



Matt Dwyer, *Curiouser, Curiouser!* Tea Set, sterling silver and ebony, 2005. Photo: Peter Wannay

Queensland has one of the fastest growing design sectors in Australia⁴ and an ever-increasing pool of Queensland architects and designers who are achieving national and international success. Public awareness and interest in creativity, design and innovation are on the rise, as is consumer demand for well designed products and services.

To support a robust design sector in Queensland, in May 2008, the Premier announced the \$3 million Designing Queensland program under the Smart State Strategy 2008–2012. Designing Queensland is being delivered jointly by Arts Queensland and the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation. The major program elements are:

- **Design Integration Program** to provide businesses with access to design expertise to improve their economic competitiveness
- **Asia–Pacific Design Triennial**, a new major design event in Queensland to promote design culture, encourage international business collaborations, provide a peak forum to explore design solutions to topical issues facing the Asia–Pacific region, and position Queensland as a design player in the Asia–Pacific region
- **Smithsonian Institution Design Museum Partnership** to enhance design education. The partnership provides an annual fellowship for a Queensland teacher to travel to New York to work with the award winning education department at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and to develop online learning resources for Queensland design educators with the State Library of Queensland
- support for the Smart State Designer of the Year Award and Brisbane InDesign to recognise design excellence and promote Queensland design in the national market.

In February 2009, the Queensland Government launched the *Queensland Design Strategy 2020* (QDS). The QDS provides a whole-of-government framework to lead industry, the community and public sector in adopting and valuing design. The long-term vision and objectives of the QDS aim to position design at the heart of Queensland life, while making the state a hub for design excellence in the wider Asia–Pacific region. Arts Queensland is leading the implementation of the QDS in collaboration with the Department of Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation and other Queensland Government departments and agencies.

National and international recognition

Queensland artists and companies had a number of successes between 2007 and early 2009 and gained recognition in national and international contexts. Some key achievements include:

- **Peter Alwast** received a \$4950 Career Development Grant towards creating a new work that combines digital animation and 3-D computer modelling with video, photography and abstract painting. Peter's work, *Everything*, won the inaugural Premier of Queensland's National New Media Art Award, Australia's most significant prize for new media art. Nine artists were short-listed for the biennial acquisitive award, and their work was exhibited at the Gallery of Modern Art from November 2008 to February 2009.



Mirdidingkingathi Juwarnda, Sally Gabori, Dibirdibi Country, 2008. Synthetic polymer paint on linen 200 x 600 cm. Art work courtesy of the artist, Mornington Island Arts and Craft, Queensland, and Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Australia. Purchased 2008 with funds from Margaret Mittelheuser, AM, and Cathryn Mittelheuser, AM, through the Queensland Art Gallery Foundation. Collection: Queensland Art Gallery. Photo: Chris Groenhout

⁴ Growth rate is based on comparative annual growth rates in architecture and design employment in Australian states and territories during the periods 1996–2001 and 2001–06. Data provided by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation (Queensland University of Technology) in March 2008.

- In July 2008, Brisbane hosted the **World Dance Alliance Global Summit**, which attracted over 400 participants from 26 countries. Contributing to the richness and vibrancy of the Summit were 191 conference presenters, 12 international master teachers, two choreographic mentors and 17 guest Dance Dialogue speakers and provocateurs. The event was presented by Ausdance Queensland and World Dance Alliance Asia-Pacific in partnership with Queensland University of Technology Creative Industries, Queensland Performing Arts Centre and Ausdance National.
- A number of Queensland artists took out top honours at the **2008 national Deadly Awards**. Actor, director and artistic director of the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts, Leah Purcell, won the Best Actress Award. Brisbane-based country music artist, Adam James, won the Deadly for Most Promising New Talent in Music. Jodie Cockatoo-Creed won the APRA Indigenous Song of the Year for *Never Let You Go*, which she co-wrote with Andrew Farris (from INXS). Students from the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts also featured in the nationally televised Deadly Awards as back-up dancers for Jessica Mabuig's performance.
- **Vernon Ah Kee** received a \$25 866 Development and Presentation Grant in 2008-09 to produce a triple screen video installation about the Indigenous Waru Cricket Team in regional northern Queensland. This project is a continuation of the work that Vernon will exhibit at the Venice Biennale in June 2009.
- Three years ago, Bentinck Island artist **Sally Gabori** first took up a paintbrush at the Mornington Island Arts and Craft Centre. Since then her sell-out shows around Australia have made her one of the most sought after Indigenous artists in the country. In 2008, the octogenarian artist notched up another success with one of her works being accepted into the collection of the musee du quai Branly in Paris.

Over the past two years, a series of athletic, exciting and edgy contemporary dance works by artistic director, Gavin Webber, and his team of creative collaborators have seen Dancenorth in demand for regional, national and international touring.

The Townsville-based company's major works have been developed in a successful partnership with the Brisbane Powerhouse. Highlights include an international tour of *lawn* to Germany in 2007; a regional tour of *underground* in 2007 followed by a national tour in 2008; and a regional tour of *roadkill* in 2007 along with a Brisbane season at the Powerhouse and a London season at the Barbican in 2008.

Following Dancenorth's spotlight at the Australian Performing Arts Market in Adelaide 2008, further tours are planned for Melbourne, Sydney and Perth 2009.

The company's profile has also been raised through nominations for a number of prestigious national dance awards, including two Helpmann Award nominations in 2007 for *lawn*; three Helpmann Award nominations in 2008 for *roadkill*; and two Australian Dance Awards in 2008 for *roadkill*.



Alice Hinde and Hsin-Ju Chiu, *Remember Me*, Dancenorth. Photo: Fiona Melder