

Building Strong Arts Business NEWSLETTER

Issue 1
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IMAGE: *Jinani, Purukapali, Bima* - Carmelita Puantulura. Reproduced on page 1 of the *Building Strong Arts Business* brochure courtesy of the artist and Tiwi Design Aboriginal Corporation

The Northern Territory Indigenous Arts Strategy, **Building Strong Arts Business** was launched at the Garma Festival on 8 August 2003, fulfilling a commitment in Labor's Plan 2001 'Bringing out the Best: Arts in the Territory'.

Building Strong Arts Business includes \$3.21million in new Northern Territory Government funding over three years.

Building Strong Arts Business entails three strong pathways for future development:

Talking Arts Business: Negotiation and Partnerships

Doing Arts Business: Service Delivery

Sharing Arts Business: Showcasing Opportunities

To obtain a copy of the Strategy contact Arts NT on 08 8999 8981 or 1800 678 237 (toll free) or visit the web site at

<http://www.arts.nt.gov.au> and click on the **Building Strong Arts Business** link.

Hot news...

Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy funding for the Northern Territory

The Australian Government Minister for Arts and Sport, Senator Rod Kemp, and Hon Clare Martin MLA, NT Chief Minister and Minister for Arts and Museums, have announced funding for the Northern Territory under the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy. The announcement includes significant increases in joint Federal and NT support to NT Indigenous visual arts and crafts.

For details see over

UPDATES ...

Arts NT has developed an action plan for the Strategy and several key initiatives are already underway.

Indigenous Arts Reference Group

One key initiative for implementation in the first twelve months of the Strategy is the formation of an **Indigenous Arts Reference Group** to inform policy development.

Membership of this group has recently been finalised. The members are:

Priscilla Collins
Kim Hill
Gary Lee
Djambawa Marawili
Valerie Martin
Shellie Morris
Graham Smith

The first meeting of the Indigenous Arts Reference Group will take place in Darwin in February 2004.

Indigenous Arts Development Unit

Another key initiative is the establishment of an **Indigenous Arts Development Unit** within Arts NT. Recruitment is underway and it is hoped that the Manager of the unit will be on board by February 2004, with project staff in Darwin and Alice Springs to follow shortly after.

The Indigenous Arts Development Unit will ensure direct, proactive support to Indigenous artists. The Unit will work closely with the Indigenous Arts Reference Group and will provide secretariat support to this forum.

This Newsletter is also available as a text only email or from the Arts NT web site at <http://www.arts.nt.gov.au> (as a PDF file).

For more information contact Arts NT on 1800 678 237 (toll free)

INITIATIVES

Scoping the Future

Scoping the Future is the Indigenous Performing Arts Scoping project to research and provide recommendations for the future development of Indigenous performing arts in the Northern Territory.

Scoping the Future involves assessing the current and potential viability of the Indigenous performing arts industry in the NT, advising on new opportunities for growth and developing a detailed staged implementation strategy, including opportunities for training development, and business planning.

The outcomes of the Project will provide a 'staged blueprint' for the development of the Indigenous performing arts sector throughout the NT.

Expressions of Interest to carry out the consultancy were received in November 2003. A decision on the consultancy is expected very shortly.

Increased Indigenous representation on the NT Arts Grant Board

Ms Rosemary Plummer, an Indigenous writer from the Barkly Region, is one of two newly appointed Members of the Arts Grants Board.

Ms Plummer joins the two existing Indigenous members, Ms Heather Shearer and Mr Gary Lee. This increases Indigenous membership of the Board to three out of twelve.

The other newly appointed Member is film producer Ms Citty Williams from Alice Springs.

Hot news...continued

Under the joint Australian-Northern Territory funding package, ANKAAA and Desert will each receive an immediate increase in support of \$125,000 per annum under agreements negotiated with Arts NT as part of the **Building Strong Arts Business** Arts Centre Sustainability Action Plan.

Additionally the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Award will receive an increase of \$55,000 per annum from 2005-06 and the Desert Mob show will receive an increase of \$25,000 per year from 2005-06.



IMAGE: Pandanus baskets and woven mats - Susan Wanji Wanji. Reproduced on page 2 & 3 of the *Building Strong Arts Business* brochure courtesy of the artist and Munipi Arts and Crafts Association

Building Strong Arts Business is a Northern Territory Government initiative managed by Arts NT.

Sponsorship support to Indigenous visual and performing arts projects

In the recent October Round of the Arts Sponsorship Program an **Indigenous Music Local Touring Strategy** was announced offering subsidies of up to \$7,000 to tour contemporary Indigenous music to remote and regional communities throughout the Northern Territory. The total amount available under this initiative was \$25,000.

A total of 129 applications were received in the October Round including 51 Indigenous projects requesting \$535,953 or 45% of the total requested value of \$1,190,739.

Indigenous project applications range across all artforms: 18 visual arts/crafts, 12 music, 8 multi artform, 4 literature, 3 dance, 3 film/video, 2 new media and 1 theatre.

UPDATES...contd

Interdepartmental Committee

Another key initiative in progress is the establishment of a whole of government **Interdepartmental Committee** to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Strategy in partnership with the Indigenous Arts Reference Group.

The first meeting of this committee will take place in December 2003.

Key representatives from the Departments of: the Chief Minister (DCM), Business, Industry and Resource Development (DBIRD), Employment, Education and Training (DEET), Infrastructure, Planning and Environment (DIPE), Justice (DoJ), Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs (DCDSCA), the Northern Territory Tourist Commission (NTTC), and Treasury (NTT) have been invited to participate.

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