



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR ARTS AND MUSEUMS

16 January 2006

PUBLIC ART: AN ANCIENT TERRITORY TRADITION

Minister for Arts Marion Scrymgour today announced the Territory's first Public Art Policy, which will see \$300 000 allocated for public art projects in the Territory, including a major \$20,000 sculpture prize.

"Public art—from rock painting to ceramic murals—is an integral part of the fabric of the Territory environment," Ms Scrymgour said.

"And it is the work of painters, mosaic artists, sculptors and many others who enhance and add meaning to our built and natural environment.

"The NT Government is committed to supporting the creation and management of imaginative public art, and acknowledges the social and economic benefits that arts and culture bring to communities.

"Public art is not only an opportunity to develop the skills of Territory artists, but to provide employment opportunities to those artists."

She said some of the Policy Objectives include:

- acquiring and managing high quality, imaginative public artworks that enhance local identity and enrich the cultural life of the community;
- creative use and interpretation of public spaces through public art;
- commissioning significant public art works for design, production and installation at identified sites,
- providing economic and marketing opportunities for the construction sector to value add to projects in a structured and professional manner;
- increasing awareness of public art and promoting opportunities for Territory artists to showcase their work in public places.

"The NT Government is adopting a whole-of-government approach to public art to ensure public art is an integral part of all public buildings and to support and nurture both established and emerging artists.

"We are already working with the consortia to incorporate public art into the Waterfront Development.

"But we are also looking to private enterprise and private institutions to embrace public art within their projects.

Ms Scrymgour said \$300 000 will be available for public art projects in the Territory.

She said the Arts Grant Board will allocate the funding into three grants of \$50 000 for major projects, four grants of \$20 000, and five grants of \$10 000 for smaller projects that may be incorporated in new buildings.

“The \$20,000 Declan Aputimi-J Bird Memorial Sculpture Award instigated through the Public Art Policy will be an opportunity for both artists and the community, “Ms Scrymgour said.

Expressions of Interest for the Public Art Projects and the Declan Aputimi-J Bird Memorial Sculpture Award are anticipated to be advertised in the next month.

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