

**Media Release:**

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## **More Public Art for the Territory**

Public art grants that support the development or creation of artistic work in public spaces in the Northern Territory will close next Wednesday, 15 October 2008.

Director of Heritage and The Arts, Michael Wells said grants of up to \$6,000 are available to support the development stage of artistic work in public spaces, in addition to grants of up to \$10,000 to support the creation of small public art works.

“Public art is basically artistic work created in accessible public spaces that enhances the natural and built assets of its environment,” Mr Wells said.

The last funding round to support medium and major projects had three public arts proposals receive a total of \$230,000 in funding including:

- \$150,000 for the Alice Springs Town Council to create an environmental installation and space of interaction at the Alice Springs Civic Centre. The design of *The Gathering Garden* will encompass Indigenous heritage and showcase Aboriginal art and artists.
- \$46,760 for the Irrkerlantye Arts Centre to design and construct a large mosaic floor for the John Paul II Arrernte Chapel, Alice Springs. The project will involved up to 50 Arrernte community artists in the design and construction.
- \$34,000 to Toga Group for the Matt Huttleston sculptural panels that will be mounted along the Darwin Waterfront walkway.

Mr Wells said a recent public art forum held in Darwin presented by Arts NT and the Darwin City Council aimed at artists, developers, architects and anyone with an interest in public art attracted more than 40 people.

“The forum provided information on managing public art projects with the latest information on best practice, where to get assistance, detailed information concerning the Northern Territory Government’s Public Art Program and the local government perspective,” Mr Wells said.

“Local and interstate presenters at the forum included Felicity Green, Toga Public Art Manager, Talitha Kennedy, artist and Administrator of the Darwin Visual Arts Association, Jenny Kerr, Artsource, WA and Malcolm McGregor, WA artist and project coordinator.”

An Alice Springs forum presented in partnership with the Alice Springs Town Council is scheduled for 11 November 2008.

For more information on public art grants go to [www.arts.nt.gov.au](http://www.arts.nt.gov.au)

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Arts NT A/Program Manager Hania Radvan on 8999 7082**

**Image – Artist’s impression of *The Gathering Garden* installation for the Alice Springs Civic Centre.**

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Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport

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