

NEW ARTS AND CULTURAL ACCORD LAUNCHED

Arts Minister Virginia Judge today (30/11/10) signed a three-year accord with the Local Government and Shires Associations to ensure continued growth of the arts and cultural sector across the State.

“The Government has pledged \$330,000 for a Fourth Cultural Accord to deliver outcomes from Arts NSW and the Associations,” Ms Judge said.

“Since 1997 the NSW Government and Associations have developed and implemented three accords to facilitate arts and cultural growth.

“This recognises that both tiers of government are committed to increasing access and participation in the arts and cultural activity.

Arts NSW and representatives from the Associations will develop a plan for use of the NSW Government funding on projects and programs to deliver the objectives of the accord.

“In particular, there is an emphasis on involvement by those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal people, young people, regional communities and people with a disability.

“The Keneally Government recognises that arts and culture plays a vital role in social and economic development, including tourism to NSW.” President of the Shires Association of NSW Cr Bruce Miller said councils play a vital role in supporting and developing arts and cultural activities in local communities.

“We’re delighted to sign this cultural accord and look forward to working on local arts and cultural initiatives and exploring how we can use existing infrastructure to meet our future needs,” Mr Miller said. “This accord will also strengthen Aboriginal arts and culture.”

President of the Local Government Association of NSW (LGA) Cr Keith Rhoades said the accord allows the LGA to continue building its relationship with Arts NSW and encourage direct communication with Minister Judge on key issues.

“We’re proud that NSW is the only state with this type of cultural accord and such a strong relationship between two levels of government and local communities,” Mr Rhoades said.

Arts NSW and the Associations will report annually to the Arts Minister and the Association Presidents on progress towards achieving the Accord’s objectives.

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CULTURAL ACCORD 4

The Fourth Cultural Accord will operate for a period of three years, commencing on 1 January 2011 and concluding on 31 December 2013.

This accord will further develop the working partnership between NSW State and Local Government.

Arts NSW and the Local Government Associations of NSW and Shires Associations of NSW (the Associations) commit to working together to progress this Accord. Arts NSW and the Associations will also collaborate with peak arts bodies and other government and non-government agencies when appropriate.

The Fourth Cultural Accord recognises the significant commitment both Local and State Government has towards arts and culture. The following principles underpin this commitment.

- Cultural vitality and local distinctiveness are integral components of communities and arts and culture play an important role in social and economic development, including tourism.
- Local and State Government are committed to increasing access and participation in the arts and cultural activity.
- Priority areas for increasing access to and participation in arts and cultural activity include people from a cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds, young people, people with a disability and people in regional and rural areas and Aboriginal people.
- Local and State Government are complementary partners in the development of arts and culture at local level, and Local Government has primary responsibility for the planning, development and operation of cultural facilities at the local level.
- Local and State Government acknowledge the importance of providing up-to-date, easy to use and accessible public library and information services for their communities.

This Accord will contribute to the delivery of the following State Plan priorities and targets:

- Grow cities and centres as functional and attractive places to live, work and visit.
- Increase volunteering.
- Increase participation in the arts and cultural activity.

This Accord will contribute to the following Local Government policy directions:

- Local Government recognises creating liveable communities is fundamental to Australia's social well being, long-term ecological sustainability, and economic prosperity.
- Local Government understands that local creative practice and pursuits by artists and others in communities is central to cultural policy making.

- Local Government recognises strategic cultural planning is a key initiative enabling local communities to respond to changing social, environmental and economic needs, and to address the increasing demand for cultural resources.

Specifically over the next three years, Arts NSW and the Associations commit to working to:

- Provide Aboriginal people with greater opportunities to participate in, share and strengthen their culture through arts practice, and develop careers and businesses in the arts and cultural sector.
- Encourage the incorporation of provisions for local arts and cultural development into councils' Community Strategic Plans.
- Gain a better understanding of existing arts and cultural infrastructure across NSW and approaches to meeting future needs, including possible principles for future development of arts and cultural infrastructure.
- Encourage councils to explore local initiatives to provide artists studios and residency programs, develop creative enterprise hubs and support local creative industries.
- Engage with councils and other organisations to encourage the development of local capacity, and councils' facilitation of connections between local arts and cultural groups.

Arts NSW and the Associations will form an implementation steering committee. This committee will prepare an implementation plan for the Accord and report annually on the progress to the Minister and the Presidents of the Associations.

(signed)

The Hon Virginia Judge, MP
NSW Minister for Fair Trading and Minister for the Arts

Cr Keith Rhoades
President, *Local Government Association of NSW*

Cr Bruce Miller
President, *Shires Association of NSW*

30 November 2010