**First Night Showcase Program – Bulmba-ja**

**Guidelines for Expressions of Interest**

**Introduction**

In June 2020, the Queensland Government announced an Arts and Culture Recovery Package of $22.5 million over two years to stabilise Queensland’s arts companies, secure employment for artists and arts workers and deliver COVID-safe cultural experiences for Queensland audiences.

The *First Night Showcase Program* is part of a suite of initiatives that recognise the significant impact of COVID-19 on artists, organisations and the temporary closure of many facilities including Bulmba-ja due to restrictions.

Bulmba-ja, based in Cairns, is an arts centre housing four arts organisations, Arts Queensland’s Far North Queensland office, a theatre, galleries and studio spaces. The name Bulmba-ja has a shared meaning of house or place in Yidinji and Yirrganydji languages.

Bulmba-ja is owned and operated by the Queensland Government and managed by Arts Queensland, and it plays a vital role in the thriving Far North Queensland creative scene, with a focus on supporting the development and presentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts.

**What is the First Night Showcase Program?**

Arts Queensland invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the First Night Showcase Program, which works to support independent artists and organisations, with a focus on First Nations Peoples, to activate the Bulmba-ja through development and presentation of new visual and performing arts works between 1 September 2020 and 30 June 2021.

*First Night Showcase Program* at Bulmba-ja aims to:

* champion the development and presentation of Queensland artists and arts organisations, with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures
* support the arts and cultural sector to activate and shape Bulmba-ja spaces and programs
* provide a safe, inclusive centre for community members to meet, collaborate and share Queensland stories.

**Queensland Government commitments**

Arts Queensland is committed to realising the ambitions of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Economic Participation Framework, the Queensland Cultural Diversity Policy, the Queensland Multicultural Policy, the Queensland Youth Strategy and the National Arts and Disability Strategy.

Applications that include the following target groups as creators, participants or audiences will strengthen the implementation of Queensland Government commitments:

* older people (over 55 years old);
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples;
* Australian South Sea Islander peoples;
* people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background ;
* children and young people (0-25 years old); and
* people with disability\*.

*\*funding recipients are expected to meet legal obligations in relation to accessibility including access to web content.*

Applicants are encouraged to explore how they might direct their activities to these specific target groups as well as to regional Queenslanders where appropriate.

**What can you apply for?**

Individuals, groups and organisations can apply for up to $30 000 cash funding and in-kind venue support of up to $40 000. Applicants who are located more than 100kms from Cairns can apply for up to an additional $7 000 to cover travel and accommodation costs.

Applicants can use funding to activate Bulmba-ja for:

* creative development projects with a short presentation season;
* a short season of stage-ready work;
* a program of workshops or masterclasses;
* regular events, such as a performance series;
* a residency with public presentation outcomes;
* festivals or one off events;
* new digital works using the Bulmba-ja LED façade;
* installation or exhibition of works in Bulmba-ja spaces;
* staging of livestreaming or recorded works;
* educational activities or events.

**Who is eligible?**

To be eligible, all applicants must:

* have an active Australian Business Number (ABN);
* be over 18 years of age;
* have satisfied the reporting requirements of any previous Arts Queensland funding;
* be based in Queensland;
* show evidence of venue availability at Bulmba-ja, including in-kind support and hard costs in the project budget;
* be able to present proposed activity at Bulmba-ja between 1 September 2020 and 30 June 2021;
* not be a current employee of a state government agency;
* not be a current or former Arts Queensland employee who ceased employment less than six months before applying.

EOIs will be deemed ineligible if:

* the EOI is incomplete;
* the EOI is received by Arts Queensland after the closing deadline;
* the EOI requests 100 per cent of project costs;
* the EOI does not provide quote/s for in-kind support and hard costs or provide evidence of Bulmba-ja space/s availability;
* funding is proposed to be used for:
* planning for or maintenance of infrastructure;
* capital or equipment purchase;
* fundraising activities, awards, competitions, eisteddfods or prizes
* costs associated with conferences, research or core business activities, including business start-up costs, administrative and other organisational costs not directly associated with the project or program. For assistance with business costs, visit the Queensland Government’s Business and Industry Portal;
* training, private tuition or study, or will contribute to course assessment.
* touring costs;
* filmmaking including the development and production of screen projects and interactive media. Filmmaking applications should be directed to Screen Queensland or Screen Australia
* any activities that are the responsibility of another specialist funding body.

Applicants who are recipients of core and/or administered funding through Arts Queensland must demonstrate how the activity differs from what the organisation is currently funded to deliver.

Applicants who have received funding from other Government sources must evidence these within their budget.

Tertiary educational institutions are eligible to apply, however an authorising officer of the institution must provide a statement to confirm the activity is outside of core business and does not receive direct financial support from the tertiary institution.

**EOI Submission Process**

The *First Night Showcase Program* at Bulmba-ja EOIs open on 6 July 2020 and close at 4pm AEST 3 August 2020.

***Step 1***

All applicants should make contact with Centre Management by no later than 20 July 2020, on telephone (07) 4047 4905 or email Bulmba-ja@arts.qld.gov.au to confirm venue availability and obtain quotes for in-kind support and hard costs for their project budget. The final date for clarifications is 27 July 2020.

***Step 2***

Submit your EOI online at: <https://artsqueensland.smartygrants.com.au/FirstNightShowcase-Bulmba-ja>

by 4pm AEST 3 August 2020. Arts Queensland will check the EOI for eligibility. If it deems your EOI as ineligible, Arts Queensland will provide feedback on how to develop a more competitive submission.

***Step 3***

An external peer assessment panel will assess your EOI against the four assessment criteria below and make funding recommendations to the Minister for the Arts.

***Step 4***

The Minister for the Arts will consider the recommendations and make a final decision. Applicants will be notified by 1 September 2020.

**Assessment Criteria**

First Nights Showcase Program Assessment criteria ensure all applications are judged consistently and fairly through an independent panel assessment, and are as follows:

***Quality***

* demonstrated artistic achievement of key creatives and their capacity to contribute to a vibrant and accessible arts and cultural sector in Queensland;
* engages high calibre artists and arts workers, prioritising First Nations projects, and ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners are in key creative roles.

***Engagement***

* provides access to, participation in and positive experiences of arts and culture for Queensland communities;
* responds to demand and has capacity to connect with and grow new audiences for Bulmba-ja

***Impact***

* creates employment and professional development opportunities for Queensland based artists and arts workers;
* fosters local cultural and community benefits and brings value to the Queensland arts industry from utilising Bulmba-ja spaces and facilities.

***Viability***

* a viable, value-for-money proposal that is realistic for scale and impact of activities;
* demonstrated good planning and evaluation, including provision of evidence of cultural permission, where appropriate, for use of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community-owned contents, stories and forms.

**How to manage a successful application**

**If you are approved for funding, for the purposes of delivery and acquittal of your activity, the Funding Agreement will be made up of;**

* + 1. The Guidelines pertaining to the grant fund as specified in the application
    2. The application, Letter of Offer and any schedules or attachment
    3. The Terms of Funding (Version 7) as found [here](https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/info-arts-funding-applicants/resource/ee0fd828-2464-4209-bc19-113dbd7474e5).

**Additional Information**

Applicants can find FAQs (frequently asked questions) about the EOI process [https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/ aq-funding/first-nights-showcase](https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/play-local)

If you have questions about the EOI process or need technical assistance lodging your submission you can contact us:

Bulmba-ja Centre Management

Phone: (07) 4047 4905

Email: Bulmba-ja@arts.qld.gov.au

Arts Queensland

Phone: (07) 3034 4016 or toll free 1800 175 531