

## Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island

### Notes from Visual Arts Workshop

Thursday 30 March 2017

Kingscote Yacht Club

On Thursday 30 March 2017, the Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island hosted a workshop for visual artists on the island. Around 35 artists were in attendance from the KI arts community.

The workshop followed on from a survey that was conducted in February and March 2017 that was aimed at understanding the needs and opportunities for the island's visual arts community. It was determined that this section of the broader arts community would be focussed on as a 'pilot' before OCKI reached out to other arts sectors.

At the workshop, Project Manager Nick Hannaford gave an overview of both the method and the results of the survey. A series of recommendations were prepared by Nick Hannaford based on the findings of the survey.

#### Recommendations

1. Run workshops to better understand and identify the different personal goals and desires of artists
2. Educate and support young artists
3. Support off-island promotion and sales
4. Digital/on line sales assistance
5. An Island based arts facilitator position
6. Assist the FT artist to grow their arts business through one on one mentoring
7. Assist the PT and C arts groups to realise their arts potential
8. Arts supplies shop
9. Improved internet
10. Shared arts space (studios) or hub
11. Contemporary arts space or gallery for travelling exhibitions and local artists
12. Assist artists with an Open Studio program (ensuring that opportunities to build on the offerings existing businesses / organisations are considered)
13. Assist with state and interstate exhibitions and events for FT artists
14. Provide mentoring support to artists and existing local arts events organisers to maximise engagement and benefits to both parties
15. Undertake an audit of current resources and facilities and look at options for upgrading current facilities\*
16. 16. Investigate why there has been discontinued use of spaces or why past events have lacked support / feasibility.\*

*\*these additional recommendations were added to the list at the workshop.*

At the workshop, the recommendations were grouped into four themes:

- Resources

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- Infrastructure
- Promotion / Sales / Events
- Training / Professional Development

Resources	Infrastructure
5. An Island based arts facilitator position	11. Shared arts space (studios) or hub 12. Contemporary arts space or gallery for travelling exhibitions and local artists 15. Undertake an audit of current resources and facilities and look at options for upgrading current facilities 16. Investigate why there has been discontinued use of spaces or why past events have lacked support / feasibility.
Promotion / Sales / Events	Training / Development
3. Support off-island promotion and sales 4. Digital/on line sales assistance 12. Assist artists with an Open Studio program (ensuring that opportunities to build on the offerings existing businesses / organisations are considered) 13. Assist with state and interstate exhibitions and events for FT artists 14. Provide mentoring support to artists and existing local arts events organisers to maximise engagement and benefits to both parties	1. Run workshops to better understand and identify the different personal goals and desires of artists 2. Educate and support young artists 6. Assist the FT artist to grow their arts business through one on one mentoring 7. Assist the PT and C arts groups to realise their arts potential

The group discussed opportunities and issues related to the recommendations and themes, which is summarised below:

### Resources

- There is scope, subject to support from owner/manager of infrastructure, to increase the exhibition and inclusion of art and art products at key tourism sites such as the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre, new airport, and other developments to raise the profile of KI artists.
- Some current infrastructure needs improvement – by sourcing improved lighting, screens, plinths etc. This was considered to significantly improve the presentation of works.
- Kangaroo Island already has access to Country Arts Programs / Events – however artists feel that they don't have a 'voice' – to advocate, represent and promote art on the island.

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### Promotion / Sales / Events

- Need to look at past issues with arts events on the island. It was perceived there can be a disconnect between artists and event organisers/ committees.
- Importance of bringing the arts community together to support and benefit from events.
- Need to look at what could be learnt from past experiences where venues/ events have not been successful.
- Need to strengthen relationships between tour groups and agencies when visiting arts venues on the island as there are considerable (often limited) resources that go into these visits especially through volunteers.

### Infrastructure

- There is scope for improved use of existing infrastructure and currently gallery / arts spaces.
- Country arts have touring exhibitions but it was perceived that there isn't an appropriate space to exhibit.
- If a shared space was created – there might be the potential for artists to rent a workshop for a rental fee to recover the costs.
- Important to understand why some venues or events are not being supported
- Recognise there needs to be various options to meet needs and ensure accessibility of infrastructure.
- Look into possibility of accessing school facilities for creative purposes.
- Need to undertake and audit of current facilities / resources to identify gaps and opportunities.

### Training and Development - Youth

- Arts and Cultural Facilitator could assist with increasing the engagement of young people on the island with arts.
- There is currently a lack of exposure of arts to the younger generations, and there are opportunities to increase this by local artists coaching young artists, facilitating gallery visits in Adelaide, inviting artists to 'show and tell' in classrooms.
- A perception that the arts curriculum in school is not taken as seriously as it could be and other pursuits such as recreation/sport seem to get more resources/focus.
- Concern that there may be a perception that art is pursued by 'under achievers'.

### General Comments / Feedback

There is an opportunity to create increased community support for the arts and an understanding of the importance arts can have on strengthening the social fabric of the island, in addition to the contribution arts can have to the visitor economy.

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There needs to be improved understanding and recognition of the intellectual copyright of artists on the island – where artists' works are used on promotional materials without permissions being sought.

### Top Priorities:

The workshop participants identified from the four themes emerging from the survey that the top priorities were:

1. the appointment of an Arts and Cultural Facilitator; and,
2. the provision of arts infrastructure (shared spaces etc).

Participants were split into small groups to brainstorm key considerations for each of these priorities. The findings are summarised below.

### Arts and Cultural Facilitator

Potential roles for an Arts and Cultural Facilitator, identified by participants were as follows:

- Provide support for training / development.
- Promote sales and events - Commitment to supporting arts groups and commercial galleries that are already existing.
- Provide access to and information on grants relevant to the arts community.
- Assist with state and interstate exhibitions and events for full time artists.
- Advocate for arts on the island
- Assist with travelling exhibitions of KI artists in facilitation capacity
- Advocate for strong support and information provision across all artists
- Liaise with tourism and related groups
- Create an arts website for better coordination / promotion
- Establish an Art Trail – booklet, facebook, website, promotion, media
- Coordinate workshops to support skills development / capacity building
- Engage in genuine artist development and encouragement (through discussion)
- Encourage and enable personal critique for artists to assist their development
- Network with artists and councils / regional galleries on mainland to gather information about how to manage ongoing funding.
- Conduct an audit of current resources and facilities available on the island for artists.
- Liaise with youth to support the development of the younger artists on the island.

Participants proposed that the appointee should only hold a limited tenure to ensure refreshing / new idea generation and connection across whole arts community.

The group also thought it would be beneficial for the appointee to:

- Have an understanding and some experience in the arts
- Have no conflicting interests
- Be a good communicator – media savvy

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- Be Island based
- Excellent skills in coordination
- Aware of art events and exhibitions that KI artists could engage with.
- Have access to good arts networks both metropolitan and regional
- Have a good understanding of available grant monies
- Be able to delegate

### Arts Infrastructure (Bricks and Mortar)

- Identify potential purpose focused multi use facility – exhibitions (on + off + permanent collection), retail, facilities, workshops, studio, flow visitors, to develop.
- Consider other models, income generating / philanthropic eg sharing space (co-rentals) or and multiple sites
- Investigate use of existing underutilised premises e.g. Penneshaw Town Hall, Wharf (Kingscote), American River, Parndana, Silos LG – Public installation and studios.
  - Equipment
  - Lighting / hanging
  - Staffing
  - Insurance
  - Costs
  - Security of Art collections / exhibitions
- Full audit of infrastructure, equipment and resources
- Develop KI collection – incorporate exhibition spaces, rolling exhibition at new airport / and at other major developments?
- Look at philanthropic sponsorship opportunities
- Pop ups – community use temporary display, lighting, plinths
- Identify potential reasons for lack support to existing group facilities – why people have pulled out? What could be improved for the future?
- Look at funding and grant opportunities for shared creative space or exhibition space
- **Shortterm** - Light Weight Fit for Purpose screens and lighting
- **Longterm**
  - Big and Iconic infrastructure – such as multi-purpose exhibition / workshop space – not necessarily new infrastructure but upgrading of potential infrastructure might be appropriate
  - Leverage on potential interest from major developments and increased tourism
  - Jam factory model might be worth consideration for KI
- Improve cooperation and support with the KI Council and local Media
- Lift the profile of KI artist and improve promotion of works / exhibitions / events
- Respect intellectual / artistic property
- Support committed visits by tour companies i.e. Sealink.
- Potential creative hubs around the island
  - Penneshaw

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- Baudin Beach
- American River
- Airport
- Kingscote
- Parndana
- Emu Bay
- Vivonne Bay
- Seal Bay
- Flinders Chase

### Outcomes

1. OCKI will work with the Council to seek support for the preparation of an application to fund the appointment of an Arts and Cultural Facilitator. OCKI will work with Council to look at funding solutions and the operational considerations of such an appointment.
2. OCKI will form a small committee to further work on the survey contents and assist in identifying actions, for consultation, related to some of the other priorities / issues. This will help in establishing timeframes, resources and action plans to progress the opportunities identified for consultation.

It was agreed that representation on this short term committee would be sought from:

- SALA
- KI arts society
- Arts Collective
- Community gallery
- Commercial gallery
- Tourism KI
- Artists, full time, part time, casual
- KI Council
- Country arts
- Nick Hannaford – in his role as arts rep on KIIBA.
- Arts festival or Easter arts / arts events.

OCKI will ask for nominations when the results of survey are distributed.

3. Further consultation will occur on the work of the Committee and OCKI will provide administrative support to the Committee and matters related to organising the further consultation.