



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Office for the Arts

Visions of Australia round 37 **Contemporary Touring Initiative round 9** **Visual Arts and Cultural Heritage Subpanel** **Assessment Feedback Report**

The Visual Arts and Cultural Heritage (VACH) Subpanel of the Regional and Touring Arts Programs Expert Assessment Panel met in Canberra on 21 November 2011 to assess round 37 of Visions of Australia and round nine of the Contemporary Touring Initiative (CTI). The VACH Subpanel has superseded the former Visions of Australia Committee and undertakes the assessment of applications to the Visions and CTI programs and provides recommendations for funding to the Minister for the Arts.

Twenty-three Visions applications sought a total of \$1,950,155, while the two CTI applications sought a total of \$180,725. Ten Visions applications sought support for exhibition development costs and 13 sought support for touring exhibition costs; both CTI applications were for touring support.

The VACH Subpanel was pleased to note cases where applicants had demonstrated evidence of consulting with Indigenous communities that were relevant to exhibitions and the objects within those exhibitions. The Subpanel would however like to see increased attention given to developing community partnerships and further consultation with venues on touring itineraries.

It would be beneficial to see more comprehensive support material being provided in applications, beyond the provision of exhibition catalogues. This may include images of exhibition objects and installation, letters of support for the proposal, evidence of consultation with relevant communities, and concept plans for education and public programs that will support the exhibition.

The Subpanel commends applicants who provided comprehensive details of their planning and presentation of public education programs as part of exhibition development or touring. Applicants may wish to provide greater explanation of the curatorial rationale included within future applications in order to be more competitive in the context of the round.

The Subpanel noted the small number of touring itineraries incorporating travel to venues in the Northern Territory. It was noted that it would be beneficial for regional and remote communities to have access to a wider variety of both visual arts and cultural heritage

touring exhibitions and this will be an increasing focus of the program. The Subpanel commended the number of regional organisations applying to the Visions program to extend their outreach activities.

Applicants who were clearly developing tours in a logical, efficient manner to minimise freight costs were favourably viewed by the Subpanel, as well as explanations where the most efficient routes were not presented. This is particularly important in the context of unmet demand and the availability of program funds.

New Visions and CTI application documents, including budget spreadsheets, will be introduced for use in the next funding round. The Subpanel will be seeking comprehensive notes to the budget to enable greater scrutiny and parity of individual costs, proposed expenditure, in-kind support and the budget bottom line.

Overall, the Subpanel was pleased with the quality and diversity of applications to the Visions of Australia and Contemporary Touring Initiative programs and congratulates those organisations who have secured funding in the context of a very competitive round. Applicants are encouraged to seek further feedback on their applications from the Office for the Arts.

Adam Worrall
Chair
Visual Arts and Cultural Heritage Subpanel