

Art Gallery Name: [REDACTED] Art Gallery.

Location: [REDACTED] remote Community.

[REDACTED] Gallery, meaning “[REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] language, is a community-led cultural and creative hub supporting Martu artists to preserve and share their stories, traditions, and connection to Country through art. Located in a restored heritage-listed building on [REDACTED] Street, the gallery has become an important cultural asset for the [REDACTED] community and showcases artworks created by the [REDACTED] people, a clan of [REDACTED] people from the region. The gallery currently supports approximately 40 active artists ranging in age from 25 to 75 years old, representing both emerging and senior cultural knowledge holders within the community.

The gallery workshop provides artists with access to professional art materials, dedicated creative space, and ongoing support from Artworkers. Through painting and storytelling, artists record and preserve cultural knowledge, Dream Time stories, personal histories, and traditional practices that can be passed on to future generations. Artwork is deeply connected to the landscapes surrounding the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Highway, including clay pans, rock holes such as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] native bush foods, and seasonal wildflowers.

[REDACTED] Gallery also plays a significant role in strengthening community wellbeing. The art centre provides a safe, quiet, and welcoming environment where artists can gather, support one another, and participate in meaningful creative activities. The space encourages positive social connection, cultural pride, and a strong sense of belonging within the community. Income earned through artwork sales empowers artists to support themselves and their families while building confidence and independence.

The gallery encourages development across a range of creative mediums, not only painting, while supporting artists through workshops, mentoring, and upskilling opportunities. Senior artists provide leadership and cultural guidance to younger generations, encouraging the continuation of [REDACTED] knowledge, creativity, and community values.

Despite its importance, [REDACTED] Gallery faces ongoing challenges due to its remote location. Limited access to training, professional development, and industry knowledge creates barriers for both artists and arts workers. Additional support is needed across many operational areas including exhibition development, copyright, licensing, arts administration, and artist mentoring. Remoteness also impacts access to resources, specialist services, infrastructure development, and maintenance, often resulting in significant delays and increased operational costs.

To strengthen the sustainability and future growth of the art centre, increased operational support would provide professional development opportunities, improve access to industry support services, and strengthen artist support programs. An increase in IVAIS operational funding would assist in creating paid opportunities and incentives for artists participating in workshops, cultural education programs, and on-Country activities. Recognising and remunerating artists for sharing their time, knowledge, and cultural practices through paid participation would encourage stronger community engagement, support economic independence, and create additional employment pathways.

'First Nations First' is the foundational pillar of the Australian Government's National Cultural Policy, Revive, which aims to prioritise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creative control, self-determination, and integration of Indigenous stories at the heart of the nation's culture. Art Centres are crucial to realising these outcomes. ██████ Gallery upholds essential cultural infrastructure, but its current building requires further support. Additional funding would expand and improve gallery facilities and increase creative and exhibition spaces. This investment would enable ██████ Gallery to produce and display quality exhibitions, increase sales, and provide further professional development opportunities onsite for artists and arts workers.

Investment in ██████ Gallery directly contributes to the preservation of ██████ culture, the empowerment of local artists, and the growth of a significant Aboriginal-led cultural space. Continued support will ensure the gallery can remain a place of creativity, cultural exchange, learning, and community wellbeing for future generations.