

REVIVE

SUBMISSION FROM THE KIMBERLEY ARTS NETWORK (Broome)

KAN is a not-for-profit community Arts Organisation in the remote town of Broome, servicing the Kimberley region. KAN delivers projects and exhibitions that empower the professional arts sector, and delivers community-focussed programs that enhance wellbeing and personal expression.

KAN supports the principals of all 5 Pillars within the Revive Policy, but is responding with a focus on Pillar 4: Strong Cultural Infrastructure: Providing support across the spectrum of institutions which sustain our arts, culture and heritage.

The Kimberley is a vibrant region that has strong culture and heritage. 41% of the 35,000 population are Indigenous and skew younger than the national average. The 30 Indigenous language groups have a complex history with colonial settlement that is reflected by social disruption, disenfranchisement and poor health statistics. All residents of the remote region face additional challenges of higher costs of living, inadequate housing supply and lack of services and infrastructure. However, despite these challenges, the region is characterised by strong social connection, empowered native title holders, innovative enterprise, and vibrant arts and culture.

The Kimberley is renowned as the home of high profile Indigenous Art Centres and nationally significant artists. But, while practitioners thrive on talent, the Kimberley has no public arts infrastructure, limiting its ability to meet its full potential.

A Regional Gallery would:

- Raise the profile of Kimberley artists by providing an exhibition venue.
- Increase visitor awareness of Kimberley culture and heritage: visitors to the region have an interest in culture but lack of ability to access and engage with it. Cultural Tourism is characterised by higher spending and longer-staying visitors, delivering secondary benefits for industries such as hospitality and retail.
- Economic growth: Public infrastructure increases employment.
- Growth of regional knowledge sector: increase capacity by enhancing sector professionalism.
- Engage the broader community: Establishment of 'A class' cultural facilities increase community appreciation of arts and culture. Currently, no space can support a touring exhibition or even show the Shire of Broome's in-house art collection.
- "You can't be it if you can't see it": cultural activities open doors for the next generation. The Kimberley lacks opportunities for young people to engage with the arts.
- Diversification of regional economy through sales of arts, crafts or retail activity.

Other infrastructure that would benefit the region:

- **Working spaces for artists** (accessible studio rentals). The Kimberley has a high cost of living, limited housing and infrastructure access. Providing support for artists to use working spaces would increase viability of an arts career.
- **Support for artists in residence.** There are no well-supported artist in residence programs in the Kimberley. Collaboration with local organisations could establish innovative, rewarding and sought-after programs that deliver interactive community and cultural exchange.

In summary, support for cultural infrastructure is the bedrock for success of all five Revive pillars. It platforms First Nations First, establishes a place for every story and is all about the centrality of the

artist. Infrastructure sustains our culture, and responds to the needs of culture-hungry audiences outside major centres.