

19 February 2026

Re: Support for Nupiri-ti Palawa Art Festival

To the Creative Australia Grants Assessment Panel,

We, the undersigned representatives of the Lutruwita / Tasmanian art gallery sector, are writing to express our collective support for the development phase of the Nupiri-ti Palawa Art Festival.

This initiative represents a significant and necessary step toward strengthening the visibility, recognition and professional presence of Tasmanian Aboriginal artists across our state.

Guided by cultural advisors Theresa Sainty, Cheryl Mundy, and Jeanette James, the project is grounded in Palawa cultural leadership. Cultural direction and key decisions rest with those who hold deep knowledge of making practices and the significance of objects and artworks produced.

The Nupiri-ti Palawa delivery model is innovative, bringing together a statewide network of galleries - including commercial spaces, not-for-profits, artist-run initiatives, and local councils - seeking to create a powerful platform for Tasmanian Aboriginal artists to share their stories and showcase their work, enriching the cultural fabric of our state.

Through statewide cooperation, this initiative aims to enhance career opportunities and provide supported career development and presentation opportunities through the Tasmanian professional art sector. This project is unique in its scale and signals a shared commitment across public and commercial galleries to offer a significant opportunity to bring attention to local Palawa artists under a festival model.

Importantly, this initiative also responds to a clear structural need. Aboriginal artists in Tasmania often encounter challenges in gaining exposure and accessing resources essential for advancing their careers. In working closely with experienced project coordinators and gallery professionals, participating artists will gain valuable skills and insights and will also build essential networks within the arts sector. The Nupiri-ti Palawa Art Festival will provide a welcome pathway for these artists to elevate the awareness of their practices with local audiences and for cultural visitors.

We are confident the initiative will elevate artistic voices from Tasmania's Aboriginal community and offer a framework for ongoing professional growth.



We endorse the Nupiri-ti Palawa Art Festival and recognise its potential to reshape how Palawa art is platformed across the state and to establish a foundation for long-term professional growth and cultural visibility.

Sincerely,



Steve Harris
Manager of City Culture
City of Clarence
Rosny Farm



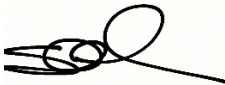
Emma Bett
Co-Director
Bett Gallery



Michael Edwards
Director
Contemporary Arts Tasmania



Jacob Leary
Good Grief ARI



Sonia Penny
Director
Penny Contemporary



Jonny Scholes
Director
Vibrance



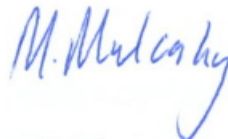
Rebecca Holmes
Acting Creative Communities Coordinator
Moonah Art Centre



Birgitta Magnusson-Reid
Visual Arts Co-ordinator
Devonport Regional Gallery



Zara Sully
Director
Sawtooth Gallery



Mary Mulcahy
Director
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

