



Attention: News Editor/Chief of Staff

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PUBLIC INVITED TO HELP SET LONG-TERM WA ARTS AGENDA

A discussion paper inviting public feedback on the priorities to deliver a vibrant and sustainable arts and cultural sector in Western Australia was released today.

'Towards a Strategic Directions Framework 2015-2030' is part of the work of the Arts Leadership Group, which was formed in response to a 2013 structural examination of the Culture and Arts Portfolio calling for a long-term strategic plan for the arts in WA.

Department of Culture and the Arts Director General and Chair of the Arts Leadership Group, Duncan Ord said the discussion paper was a step towards setting a strategic framework for the arts, and ensuring a strong collaboration between the arts industry, government and other stakeholders.

"The goal is to set a long-term strategic direction for the culture and arts sector from 2015–2030, in line with the State Planning Strategy 2050," Mr Ord said.

He said the discussion paper was designed to begin a conversation about what was required to grow and maintain a world-class arts and cultural sector in Western Australia.

"A number of key themes that emerged during the development of the paper included valuing and sustaining Aboriginal arts and culture, technological innovation, enhancing access to collections, international opportunities, infrastructure, education, and arts funding and philanthropy."

"The challenges in Western Australia are many, given our size, the diversity of our population, rapid growth, isolation, and how technology is changing the delivery of traditional culture and art content."

"The arts play a major role in our lives, yet it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain existing services and meet the demand from the community for more opportunities to participate in cultural and arts activities."

Mr Ord said that long-term planning for culture and arts allowed for a planning process that was consultative, and able to recognise the different needs and interests of communities.

"The ability to plan ahead is vital in the formation of partnerships between the three tiers of Government, the non-government arts sector and the private sector, encouraging philanthropy in a more secure and informed environment," he said.

To ensure all challenges and opportunities are considered in the final plan, arts organisations, Government departments and the public are now provided with the chance to become involved through online consultation or via formal submission.

Feedback is open until 22 May, 2015 with a view to compiling the results and publishing the final Strategic Directions Framework later in the year.

The discussion paper is available at www.dca.wa.gov.au/alg

About the Arts Leadership Group

The role of the Arts Leadership Group is to set a long-term strategic direction for the arts in Western Australia, and set the infrastructure, policy and funding priorities for consideration by successive State Governments.

Chaired by Mr Ord, the group includes chief executives and directors general from key State Government departments, industry and arts organisations, including the Departments of Culture and the Arts, and Sport and Recreation; Tourism WA; Lotterywest; Perth International Arts Festival; Chamber of Arts and Culture WA; Committee for Perth: Western Australian Local Government Association; Chamber of Commerce and Industry of WA; State Library of WA; Art Gallery of WA; ScreenWest; WA Museum and Perth Theatre Trust.

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