

**Development and Strategy Directorate
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Umbrella Policy Framework
FORUM**

**Monday 21 July 2008
Theatrette
Art Gallery of WA**

CREATIVE PEOPLE

The purpose of the forum was to give people the opportunity to share their ideas about CREATIVE PEOPLE and the role they should play in DSD's future policy.

Attendees: See attached list

Project team members: Marty Cunningham, Karin Burrill, Claire White, Dr Helen Grzyb.

Welcome and introduction: Colin Walker A/ ED Development and Strategy Directorate Department of Culture and the Arts

Guest speakers were:

- Matthew Lutton - Theatre-maker / Director
- Dot West - Writer / Film maker / Head of Productions, Goolarri Media
- Sam Fox - Director / Choreographer
- Reg Cribb - Playwright / Actor / Writer
- Marcus Westbury - Writer / Artistic Director / Commentator

They spoke in part in response to the following questions:

- Who is an artist?
- What support/s is/are important for artists?
- How can opportunities for people to engage in creative practice be improved?
- What role do you consider that the Development and Strategy Directorate should have in providing support to creative people?
- Anything else?

Details of the guest speakers' presentations can be seen at:
www.dca.wa.gov.au/umbrellaPolicy

Following the presentations, participants discussed the topic and produced a range of ideas which were posted onto the ideas board. These were:

Picture

“Opportunities to tour regional and remote and opportunities to tour regional remote arts.”

“I agree with most of what the speakers have said. BRAVO! What is now going to be done with this by DCA?”

“Young people and the arts to inspire YOUTH of the future.....”

“Why only one female panellist?”

“RISK – encourage risk
Accommodate failure
OK in mining industry in WA
WHY NOT IN ARTS???”

“Funding silos are archaic – Need opportunities to collaborate + create for a multitude of platforms.”

“DCA not connecting with local Aboriginal communities.”

“Not all aboriginal people live up north!”

“Risk takers always operate outside these agencies.”

“Local culture is richer than you can imagine!”

“Where are the novelists + poets? There seems a creative bias although I’m enjoying it.

What is in place to help artists to access the ‘shifting cultural ‘geography’?

Where has the lack of confidence in process come from?

What is in place to reach out to schools and encourage them to take advantage of theatre in Perth - ??? plays they are studying?”

“High quality art journal in WA

Micro models of risk

Time to make”

“What defines a ‘creative producer’?”

“Is digital content a misnomer.”

“The challenge of experiential art - stuff that needs you to be present and not necessarily be deliverable over the internet - doesn’t mean it’s not innovative or doesn’t use new technology eg locative media.”

“Indifference and isolation are not exclusive to WA. I’m a permanent import because this place is a fabulous blank canvas. You can get a gig here... thank god!”

“I am appalled by how little our artists know about ‘their’ city. Or want to know.”

“FILM = F+I+L+M
F= FINANCE
I=INNOVATION
L=LABOUR
M=MARKETING”

“Eg Brisbane post Bjelke-Peterson
Sydney/Melbourne post expat exodus of 50’s and 60’s.
Amsterdam/Belgium/Liverpool/Barcelona”

“In what way is WA truly different to other places? - ISOLATION
BUT

What similarities do we have with other places/people who have redefined themselves => How can we avoid reinventing the wheel?”

A vote of thanks was given by Marty Cunningham, Manager Research and Information, Development and Strategy Directorate at DCA, who also provided an overview of ‘where to from here’ for the policy development process.