



Public Galleries Queensland

Minutes of the PGQ Directors Forum held at Outer Space ARI, 170 Montague Road, South Brisbane, on 6 December 2019 at 11am.

1. **Opening of the meeting:** The meeting opened at 11:05am by Claire Sourgnès (President of PGQ and Chair of the PGQ Directors Forum).

Present:

Bianca Acimovic	Rockhampton Art Gallery
Karika Ashworth	Membership Officer, PGQ & AMaGAQ
Emma Bain	Redland Art Gallery
Sarah Barron	Invited guest/QUT Art Museum
Joanne Braddy	Invited guest/Speaker/Artist
Courtney Coombs	Outer Space ARI
Terry Dean	QAGOMA
Karina Devine	Warwick Art Gallery
Joanne Duke	Caloundra Regional gallery
Joolie Gibbs	Gympie Regional Gallery
Renai Grace	Museum of Brisbane
Tracey Heathwood	Artspace Mackay/PGQ Board member
Anita Holtzclaw	Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery
Adam Jefford	State Library Queensland
Kath Kerswell	Invited guest/Speaker/Independent consultant
Madeleine King	Invited guest/Speaker/IMA
Stephanie Lindquist	Art From The Margins
Wonnie Luk	Redcliffe Art Society
Naomi Marsh	Toowoomba Regional Gallery
Bonnie Melrose	M&G QLD
Janice Reiger	Invited guest/Speaker/QUT
Nina Shadforth	Independent consultant/PGQ Board member
Ross Sealer	Invited guest/Speaker/Independent consultant
Lynne Seear	Arts-in-Health
Cara Simpson	Hervey Bay Regional Gallery
Claire Sourgnès	Artisan: idea:skill:product/PGQ President
Michael Wardell	Logan Art Gallery
Leisha Walker	M&G QLD
Diana Warnes	Home of the Arts
Amy Wockner	Moreton Bay Regional Galleries

2. **Apologies:**

Michael Beckman	Ipswich Art Gallery
Debra Beattie	Museums & Galleries QLD
Justin Bishop	KickArts Contemporary Arts
Michael Brennan	Noosa Regional Gallery
Rebekah Butler	Museums & Galleries QLD

Mary Findlay	Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery
Tracy Cooper-Lavery	HOTA
Anna Thurgood	State Library Queensland
Lone Keast	State Library Queensland
Maxine Stewart	Texas Regional Art Gallery
Pam Swell	Access Arts
Dr Jim Thompson	Queensland Museum
Kellie Williams	Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts

3. **Travel & Research: Documenta and the Venice Biennale: PGQ Professional Bursary recipient.** PGQ bursary recipient, Madeleine King (Assistant Director, [Institute of Modern Art](#)) gave an informative presentation on her Europe study tour to Documenta and the Venice Biennale in 2017.
4. **Panel Discussion “Deaccession is not a dirty word”**
Chair: Tracey Heathwood, Director, [Artspace Mackay](#).
Panellist: Kath Kerswell, Registrar and Collections Management.
Panellist: Ross Searle, Consultant, Heritage Museums Galleries.
Panellist: Diana Warnes, Head of Curatorial Projects, [HOTA](#).
5. **Panel Discussion “Art + Access”**
Chair: Claire Sourgnès, CEO [Artisan](#).
Panellist: Joanne Braddy, artist.
Panellist: Janice Rieger, Senior Lecturer, Creative Industries, QUT.
Panellist: Lynne Sear, Manager, *Arts In Health*.
6. **Tips & Lesson for funding new gallery.** Bianca Acimovic, Director, [Rockhampton Art Gallery](#), gave a presentation on how the funding for the new Rockhampton Art Gallery was initiated and realised.
7. **Lunch & Networking.** This was an opportunity to see the current exhibitions on at Outer Space ARI: Debbie Taylor’s [Whispering Walls; Herstory Recalled, Recounted, Retold](#) and Rachel King’s [Rage](#). And also to network with other industry professionals in attendance.
8. **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Questions were posed by The Chair to get the discussion started:

1. There has been a trend across the country in the past decade of removing specialist directors and curators from regional galleries, often replaced by librarians and cultural managers. A professional, well-run regional gallery acts a powerful force for social cohesion and economic activity. How have you advocated for the professionalism of the arts and arts workers in your local council? Have you had challenges? Successes? Strategies? What help might you need? A lively discussion ensued.
2. The recent report from A New Approach suggests that local councils, more than ever, are carrying the costs of arts programming. Have you seen an evident increase in budget for collections, programming and correct remuneration of staff? This question ended up being rolled into Q1 e.g. if we are valued, we need budgets to pay staff and artists appropriately etc.
3. What could PGQ could do more for members? The main area of interest here was for PGQ to conduct/facilitate/advocate for a significant piece of research and benchmarking for Qld public galleries. Some points were:

- a. An identified need for qualitative and quantitative data, improved data sets, solid benchmarking that could be used for advocacy. Perhaps a State-wide study about the state of regional art galleries – identifying and benchmarking capital/staffing needs, new capital projects, levels of philanthropic support, current infrastructure costs – staff, building repairs, collection management... (basically an audit).
 - b. Creation of a suite of tools that galleries can use to stay 'on message' about the value of the arts in their communities.
- 9. Close of formal part of the meeting.** Thank you to everyone who attended.
- 10. ARI Gallery Tour.** We visited the following local ARIs: [Boxcopy](#), [House Conspiracy](#) and [Vacant Assembly](#). Thank you to these ARIs for hosting us. A special thanks to Vacant Assembly for hosting drinks and nibbles, and to Artisan for donating the wine.
- 11. Opening of “Water” at [QAGOMA](#).** To those who were able to attend, QAGOMA kindly organised invitations to the opening for PGQ Forum attendees. A big thank you to Simon Wright, Assistant Director, Learning & Public Engagement.

Please, if there are specific topics you would like to see covered please get in touch. You can email Karike Ashworth directly on: membership@magsq.com.au, or call 07 3059 9745.