

# Australian Government

## Australia Council for the Arts

Enriching Australia by supporting the practice and enjoyment of the arts.

### Broadband Arts Initiative - May 2012

#### Arts Organisations - assessment meeting report

#### Broadband Arts Initiative

##### Introduction from Tony Grybowski, Executive Director Arts Organisations

On behalf of the Australia Council, I am pleased to announce the artists who have been awarded Broadband Arts Initiative grants and to report on the assessment meetings. I would like to thank all the artists who put in expressions of interest and applications for this initiative, and the panel members who assessed proposals.

The Broadband Arts Initiative was a competitive grant program as part of the Australia Council's strategic priority to realise the benefits of the National Broadband Network for the Arts. The initiative was managed by the Arts Organisations Division in collaboration with the Inter-Arts Office. This initiative involved a two-stage process of expressions of interest and applications. The Australia Council received 119 EOIs and invited 7 full applications. There was also a pitch and Q&A session where applicants discussed their proposals with peers at the final assessment meeting via Skype.

The panel commended this extremely competitive initiative which demonstrated strong interest from artists and organisations to engage with the potential of next generation broadband. Proposals included many ideas for creating, presenting and distributing art via technologies enabled by high-capacity broadband, with a strong diversity of projects at different stages of development. There were also many expressions of interest which aimed to build sector capacity, enable service provision and host artworks via broadband infrastructure; and peers noted that while this was not the focus of the Broadband Arts Initiative, it will inform future planning and consultation. The panel commented that not all proposals integrated innovative applications of high capacity broadband, or considered how the NBN rollout may affect projects and audiences. Unsuccessful applicants may wish to consider other funding opportunities with the Australia Council artform boards, committees and the Inter-Arts Office.

Peers commended the high quality of applications received. They noted the strongest proposals explored how high capacity broadband can be a new creative tool for artists to extend form, rather than distributing existing content. Such projects could be ephemeral across broadband platforms and highly sensitive towards communities and audience interaction. Peers also commented that the artistic vision and technical details of process, expertise and partners could often be more clearly articulated.

The Australia Council encourages applicants to contact staff regarding their applications and to discuss other potential funding programs. Applicants are also encouraged to register on Council's [Register of Peers](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/about-us/artform-boards/the-register-of-peers) (<http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/about-us/artform-boards/the-register-of-peers>). This register is used to select people to sit on panels and ensure assessment meetings include a diverse range of arts practitioners.

#### Successful applicants

##### Broadband Arts Initiative

**Terrapin Puppet Theatre (TAS) \$100,000** – ‘Shadow Dreams’, a story for children performed simultaneously for audiences in two locations connected by high speed broadband. This digital puppetry project is in collaboration with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, to be staged in partnership with the Australian Academic Research Network ISP, University of Tasmania and Ten Days on the Island Festival.

**Keith Armstrong (QLD) \$64,000** – ‘Long Time, No See?’, an online and installation artwork where the public generates a vision for Australia’s long-term future. This project connects with various communities at early National Broadband Network release sites. In collaboration with Lubi Thomas, Gavin Sade, Roger Dean, Tony Fry and Linda Carroli, and partnership with the Queensland University of Technology.

**City of Whittlesea (VIC) \$100,000** – ‘Stay or Leave’, an online public artwork revealing the impact of natural disaster. This project harnesses the potential of the National Broadband Network to work with the community to create a sonic landscape which mirrors the rapidly changing circumstances of extreme events. In collaboration with lead artists Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey, and creative producer Martin White.

**Marcus Westbury (VIC/NT/NSW) \$86,000** – ‘Screen Portal Project’ for ISEA2013, with artist commissions for projects in Sydney and regional locations. This project will use high speed broadband networks to link artists and audiences in real-time interaction via high definition, life-size audiovisual screen portals in public spaces during ISEA (International Symposium on Electronic Arts) hosted in Sydney in 2012.

**Applications received:** 7

**Applications funded:** 4 (57% of invited applications, 0.03% of EOIs received)

**Amount requested:** \$686,846

**Amount approved:** \$350,000

**Expressions of interest received:** 119

**Applications invited:** 7 (0.06%)

**Amount requested:** \$10,492,512

#### **The following peers assessed the Broadband Arts Initiative**

**Paul Callaghan** is a freelance writer and independent game developer who has worked in the games industry since 1998 as a programmer, designer, writer, and teacher. He is the director of the [Freeplay Independent Games Festival](http://www.freeplay.net.au/) (<http://www.freeplay.net.au/>), an annual event that focuses on the creative side of games and the intersection between art, games, education, and the broader digital culture. Paul was on the board of the Game Developers Association of Australia from 2010 to 2011, and has written award-winning short-stories, short films, comics, articles and is currently working on a novel (VIC).

**Julian Knowles** is a musician, media artist and educator. In recent years his music and audio-visual work has been presented at ICMC2008 (Belfast), ICMC 2006 (New Orleans), the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Experimental Intermedia NYC, the Seoul International Performance Art Festival, What is Music?, Liquid Architecture, Australian Perspecta, and the Melbourne International Film Festival. Julian also has a background in the Australian and UK independent music scenes. Julian is a Professor in the Creative Industries Faculty and a member of the [Institute of Creative Industries and Innovation at Queensland University of Technology](http://www.staff.qut.edu.au/staff/knowledge/) (<http://www.staff.qut.edu.au/staff/knowledge/>) (QLD).

**Tess Dryza** has worked across the community, business and government sectors, having begun her career in community cultural development in Western Sydney. Experienced in the interplay between public policy and program delivery, she was the Executive Producer of the online capacity building community fuel4arts. Tess established [Ripe Online](http://tessdryza.wordpress.com/) (<http://tessdryza.wordpress.com/>), a consultancy providing strategy, program design and change facilitation to local and national organisations from the not-for-profit and commercial areas. She is on the board of the Alcorso Foundation, previously a peer of the Australia Council’s Digital Culture Fund and is a member of the Emerging Leaders for Social Change, and the international Social Innovation Exchange (SIX) Group (TAS).

**Katrina Sedgwick** is the Head of Arts at ABC Television, and was the founding Director and CEO of the biennial Adelaide Film Festival and the AFF Investment Fund (2002 - 2011). She has an extensive background as a performer, creative producer and festival director. Katrina co-founded the Sydney Fringe Festival, was a delegate to the Prime Minister's 2020 Summit, and was formerly Chair of the South Australian Youth Arts Board and Board member of the Australian Children's Television Foundation, the Art Gallery of SA and Chunky Moves (NSW).

#### **Technical advisors**

**Sabiene Heindl** (NBN Co, NSW) and **Paul McCarthy** (Australian Centre for Broadband Innovation, NSW).

#### **Australia Council staff and guests**

26 April Broadband Arts Initiative Applications assessment meeting: Staff present included Andrew Donovan, Director Inter-Arts (convener); Kevin du Preez, Program Manager Arts Organisations, Kathryn Gray, Program Officer Inter-Arts; Jackie Wilson, Section Co-ordinator; Emma Tuchin, Administration Officer. Guests at 7 March Expression of Interest Assessment meeting also include: Ricardo Peach, Program Manager Inter-Arts; and Paul Mason, Director Music.