

Metro Arts

To Australia Council for the Arts
PO Box 788 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

4 February 2019

Dear colleagues,

RE: Letter of Support for People+Artist+Place (Marisa Georgiou and Jenna Green)

I write to offer strong support for the application of People+Artist+Place (PAP) to the Australia Council for funding to support Open Actions 2019.

Metro Arts is partnering, as Executive Producer, with PAP to deliver the 2019 Temporary Art Program (TAP) for the Brisbane City Council, of which Open Actions is a component. Metro Arts is proud to have a role in facilitating this groundbreaking project, whose unique, vibrant vision for public art brings exciting and tangible opportunities for artists, curators and audiences. The program is aligned with Metro's core goal and principle: to support experimental practice and practitioners that demonstrate exceptional artistic merit and potential.

I attended Open Actions 2018 with my two young children and can attest directly to its success in providing meaningful artistic encounters to a wide audience. In particular, the level of engagement was astonishing. We spent several hours exploring the works, which demonstrated the capacity for art and place to mutually inform and illuminate each other. In 2019 it is crucial that this element continues to include, and to emphasise, Indigenous perspectives and the many and varied meanings that a place has: past, present and future. The 2018 iteration was a great achievement, and a memorable and touching experience from both a personal and professional perspective. I look forward to the 2019 iteration.

In my role as Curator of Exhibitions at Metro Arts, I worked with Mandy Quadrio, one of the artists participating in Open Actions 2019, to mount a large-scale solo exhibition across both Metro Arts galleries last year. Mandy produced a vast body of work that reflected her professionalism and dedication to her emerging practice. The work received wide acclaim and is a complex experiment with materials and form that speaks to past and future, memory and erasure, place and dis-placement. Mandy's exhibition was a highlight in the 2018 Metro program.

As Mandy's professional practice develops, Open Actions, and its partnership with BlakLash, offers an opportunity to explore the challenges of public sites in an ideal and supportive context. The expansion of Indigenous participants in Open Actions 2019 is a particularly exciting element, and promises to further challenge and enrich the meanings of place that emerge from the project, and the public engagement with this.

I have confidence that PAP would use Australia Council funding effectively to provide significant outcomes for both artists and audiences and as such, offer my strong support for this application.

If you would like further information, or to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Kyle Weise

Curator (Exhibition Program)

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