

For immediate release: 25 March 2015

CAN WA's Plan to Boost Skills Development for Local Government

New research has found that 90% of people surveyed in local government believe there needs to be more specific training and professional development in the areas of arts and cultural planning and creative community engagement.

A report into Arts and Culture in WA Local Government produced by CAN WA and the Chamber of Arts and Culture WA also found that 90% of respondents believe that arts and culture plays a significant role in the community, however, only 13% of councils have an overarching strategy or plan for arts and culture.

CAN WA is responding to the findings by reviewing its long term training program for local governments to ensure that the sector's arts and cultural professional development needs are met.

"Our research found that local governments recognised the need for more training in the areas of creative community engagement, arts and cultural planning and design and delivery of arts and cultural activities," said Monica Kane, Acting Managing Director of CAN WA.

"Therefore, CAN WA is developing training modules specifically targeting these skills which will be rolled out in the second half of 2015," Ms Kane said.

Through a recent Local Government focus group facilitated by CAN WA, it was discussed that the current Strategic Community Plans are being managed by corporate, planning and finance departments, leading to a potential loss of arts and cultural input.

"We know people place great value on arts and culture and they strongly believe it makes their communities more vibrant. Strategic Community Plans offer an opportunity to bring culture to the fore,

HEAD OFFICE

King Street Arts Centre
Ground Floor 357-365 Murray Street
Perth Western Australia 6000
PO Box 7514 Cloisters Square WA 6850

T 08 9226 2422
Tollfree 1800 681 021
F 08 9226 2230
E admin@canwa.com.au

KELLERBERRIN

8 Ripper Street
Kellerberrin WA 6410
T 08 9045 4766
F 08 9045 4070

NARROGIN

Corner Garfield & Doney Streets
Narrogin WA 6312
T 08 9881 5400
F 08 9881 5411

www.canwa.com.au

ABN 72 106 364 407



Government of Western Australia
Department of Culture and the Arts



which could really strengthen community identity and assist with legislative community engagement requirements for the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework,” she said.

Statistics show that WA Local Governments spend more than a \$155 million a year on culture and the arts, however, the research also indicated that due to competing priorities and increased pressure on resources planning for arts and culture suffer.

CAN WA’s new training programs will be a suite of courses that responds to the sectors needs and supports a strategic and focused investment in long and medium term planning in arts and culture.

About Community Arts Network WA

CAN WA is an exciting and dynamic organisation working towards positive social change through community arts and cultural development practice.

Over the last thirty years CAN WA has been inspiring and mobilising WA communities who experience social disadvantage, to creatively express their unique stories through a diversity of art mediums.

ENDS

Michelle White | Media and PR
CAN WA

PO Box 7514 Cloisters Square WA 6850
P | 08 9226 2422 | 0410 845885
F | 08 9226 2230
Direct line | 08 6144 5611
Toll free | 1800 681 021
E | michelle@canwa.com.au

www.canwa.com.au

HEAD OFFICE

King Street Arts Centre
Ground Floor 357-365 Murray Street
Perth Western Australia 6000
PO Box 7514 Cloisters Square WA 6850

T 08 9226 2422
Tollfree 1800 681 021
F 08 9226 2230
E admin@canwa.com.au

KELLERBERRIN

8 Ripper Street
Kellerberrin WA 6410
T 08 9045 4766
F 08 9045 4070

NARROGIN

Corner Garfield & Doney Streets
Narrogin WA 6312
T 08 9881 5400
F 08 9881 5411

www.canwa.com.au

ABN 72 106 364 407



Government of Western Australia
Department of Culture and the Arts

