



Media Release

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Robyn Archer to inspire WA local governments to embrace cultural leadership

She's known as an outstanding cultural leader and she has an international reputation as a performer and passionate arts advocate. Most recently she's taken on the role of Arts and Culture advisor to the Gold Coast in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games.

Now Robyn Archer is heading West to support CAN's new Cultural Leadership, Planning and Community Engagement skills development program, a suite of three courses which promote the pivotal role of culture and the value of creative communities.

"We are delighted to have the support of Robyn Archer who will deliver a keynote address to inspire leaders from community, business and government to consider the fundamental place of culture in the future planning of the South West region," said Ms Kasat.

A registered training organisation, CAN is piloting the three new culture-centred professional development courses with the Shires of Augusta-Margaret River, Nannup and the City of Busselton.

The new workshop based training promotes the value of genuine community engagement in the creation of a local vision and how to link it to community strategic planning.

CAN's Managing Director Pilar Kasat said a recent study revealed that 90% of those surveyed in local government said there needed to be more specific training and professional development in the areas of arts and cultural planning. The study also revealed that local governments spent \$155 million on arts and culture, however, only 13% of these authorities have an overarching cultural strategy or plan.

"CAN is proud to announce that we have been proactive, developing three courses that can be delivered across the state to harness the potential for effective cultural leadership within local government," said Ms Kasat.

Robyn Archer will support CAN's inaugural Culture-Centred Leadership course in Margaret River and then deliver a keynote address to the public at the Margaret River Arts and Culture Centre.



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The focus of her talk will be to inspire new ways of thinking about leadership that takes into account the culture of the community.

CAN is proud to be partnering with the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, Nannup and City of Busselton to present the new courses and Robyn Archer's visit to WA.

When: Keynote address – 5.00pm November 17, 2015. Margaret River Arts and Culture Centre.

About Robyn Archer

Robyn Archer AO is a singer, writer, artistic director and public advocate for the arts. She is currently Strategic Advisor, Arts and Culture, for the Gold Coast (Queensland) where the Commonwealth Games will take place in 2018, and Artistic Director of *The Light in Winter* which she created for Federation Square, Melbourne. Robyn was Creative Director of the *Centenary of Canberra* 2013. She is Deputy Chair of The Australia Council, a Member of the Council for Australia and Latin America Relations (COALAR), and has just been appointed Chair of NIDA's inaugural Master of Fine Arts in Cultural Leadership.

About Community Arts Network (CAN)

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

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

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