

Australia Council for the Arts
PO Box 576
Pyrmont NSW 2009

Friday, July 28, 2023

To whom it may concern,

Re: Contemporary Art Tasmania

I write in support of Contemporary Art Tasmania's (CAT) application to the Australia Council's Four Year Investment for Organisations Program.

I have developed a strong affiliation with CAT over recent years from being involved in various collaborative projects and initiatives between CAT and the Aboriginal Arts community; including a CAT board mentorship and through employment with Walantanaliny Palingina, a Tasmanian Aboriginal multi-arts initiative, hosted in the CAT offices.

I acknowledge CAT's leadership and the exemplary nurturing and support they provide for Aboriginal artists and cultural practitioners. Their good relationship with our creative community is a result of cultural competencies in working on Aboriginal-led projects and initiatives. I cannot speak highly enough of CAT's commitment, investment and ongoing championing of Aboriginal-led practice in Tasmania. From working with Lola Greeno's 1999 touring exhibition to partnering on the significant *Walantanaliny Palingina: Multi Arts* project (since 2016), CAT have steadily grown strong and positive relations with local Aboriginal artists and cultural practitioners. This has been extremely beneficial and enabling to our community, allowing us to draw on their breadth of expertise and professionalism from which we can then learn and develop as we continue forward in our individual and collective futures.

I commend the organisation, their work, and their significant contributions to the contemporary art community and the creative industries. It is further evidence of CAT's standing that start-up organisations across the country, including Walantanaliny Palingina, model themselves on the outstanding template that CAT is.

Ongoing funding support to CAT will make an important and valuable investment that extends beyond the organisation to individual artistic careers and artistic communities, the arts industry and the identity of our island. It will ensure the liveliness of contemporary art in Tasmania as well as continue nurturing and growing the establishment and participation of the Tasmanian Aboriginal arts and cultural practitioner community within the creative industries in Tasmania.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Maynard

Art – Design – Culture - Healing