



Museums & Galleries of NSW

ANNUAL REVIEW 2017

Museums & Galleries of NSW (M&G NSW) is a not-for-profit company funded by the NSW Government through Create NSW. We help small-to-medium museums, galleries and Aboriginal cultural centres create exciting experiences for visitors, and through this, thriving local NSW communities. We don't own or run these places, but we care about those who do, and who have the passion to inspire their audiences through art, artefacts, stories and ideas.

CEO + CHAIR REPORT

As part of our commitment to ongoing relevance and collaborative practice, partnerships continue to be a key strategy for M&G NSW to diversify our programs and support for the sector.

In 2017, M&G NSW partnered with Local Government NSW for two roundtable meetings with museum staff employed by local government. Additional partnerships with local government continued to grow with financial support provided for the Standards Review Program and the Museum Advisor Program enabling the programs to reach over 16 local government areas. The partnership with Museums & Galleries Queensland on the Standards Review Program, now in its 13th year, continued to strengthen the relationship between the two organisations.

On behalf of Create NSW, M&G NSW managed three devolved grant programs: Audience Development Fund, Mentorship, Fellowship and Volunteer Placements and Volunteer Museum grants.

The 2017 Professional Development Program was delivered, free or at low cost to participants, through a number of partnerships with Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Museums Australia NSW and Regional Public Galleries of NSW. M&G NSW ran and contributed to nine individual professional/skills development events attracting 418 participants. Topic areas included accessing grants and other funding, aboriginal cultural centre development, leadership for women in the arts, public gallery program and engagement strategy development, local government museum manager professional networking and program vision.

Other partnerships with regionally based and western Sydney cultural institutions, such as Campbelltown Arts Centre, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery and Museum, Murray Art Museum Albury and Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, continued in 2017. M&G NSW was a key partner in the Bayanihan Philippine Art Project collaboration, coordinated and presented by a range of public galleries Sydney wide.

Additionally, Sydney Living Museums, Australian Museum, Art Gallery of NSW, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences and NSW State Archives and Records continue to support and work with M&G NSW in the delivery of exhibitions, professional development programs, the provision of expertise and venues that in turn support the small to medium sector.



Michael Rolfe
CEO, M&G NSW



Dr Jennifer Barrett
Chair, M&G NSW

Cover image: The 2017 IMAGinE awards night held at the Australian Museum.

M&G NSW BOARD 2017

Phil Gordon was appointed to the Board, filling a vacancy following the 2016 resignation of Larissa Lavarch.

Dr Jennifer Barrett
Cr Paul Braybrooks
Ray Christison
Phil Gordon
Susi Muddiman
Rebecca Olejnik
Louise Silburn
Kevin Sumption
Frank Zaknich

M&G NSW STAFF 2017

Chief Executive Officer

Michael Rolfe

Administration and Finance

John Thompson

Gallery Programs and Touring Exhibitions

Rachel Arndt
Madeleine Brady (resigned 2017)
Imogen Dixon-Smith (appointed 2017)
Susan Wachter

Museum Programs and Collections

Tamara Lavrencic
Margot Stuart (resigned 2017)
Jordan Cavanough (appointed 2017)

Aboriginal Sector Programs

Steve Miller
Melissa Abraham

Communications

Jason Gee
Emily Phipps

Programs and Events (previously Professional Development)

Jane Gillespie
Kate Riley (temporary position)

Image: Members of the M&G NSW board at Minjungbal Aboriginal Cultural Centre. Left to right: Ray Christison, Rebecca Olejnik, Michael Rolfe, CEO M&G NSW, Nicole Rotamuah, Chair of the Tweed Aboriginal Housing Co op ltd and Frank Zaknich.



TOURING EXHIBITIONS PROGRAM

In 2017 M&G NSW toured eight visual arts exhibitions across Australia. Overall, these exhibitions travelled to 16 NSW venues including three in Western Sydney as well as 15 venues in five other states. They showcased the works of 52 living artists and included over 178 artworks and objects that were seen by more than 131,000 people.



In Development 2017

Arlo Mountford: Deep Revolt

Working across video, sculpture and drawing, Arlo Mountford's practice questions our individual and collective memories of the artistic canon. The show, curated by Gina Mobayed, Director of Goulburn Regional Art Gallery will feature selected video works tracing a gradual distillation of the artist's ideas and promises to offer an amusing and thought provoking journey through the annals of art history.

DAVID GRIGGS: BETWEEN NATURE AND SIN

Developed by Campbelltown Arts Centre, *BETWEEN NATURE AND SIN* is a major survey of Philippines based Australian artist, David Griggs. With funding through the Australia Council for the Arts' Contemporary Touring Initiative, M&G NSW will tour the exhibition to nine galleries nationwide from 2018.

Eugenia Lim: The Ambassador

This 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art and M&G NSW initiated touring project presents Eugenia's most recent body of work, *The Ambassador* series. In this three-part project, Eugenia takes on new roles in uncovering the Australian-Asian narrative—drilling down into racial politics, the social costs of manufacturing and the role of architecture in shaping society.

Void

Void explores the multiple ways in which artists visually articulate the unknown as space, time and landscape and brings together contemporary Aboriginal artistic practice from across the country. Curated by Emily McDaniel, the exhibition will feature existing works across a range of mediums by eminent artists.

Image: David Griggs, *BETWEEN NATURE AND SIN*, 2017, installation view, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney. Courtesy the artist.

Touring nationally in 2017

Angelica Mesiti: Relay League

Relay League represents the most ambitious exhibition to date by internationally renowned Australian artist Angelica Mesiti. *Relay League* was filmed during Mesiti's residency at the Centre National de la Danse in Paris and was created specifically for Artspace, Sydney.

Creative Accounting

Drawing from old currencies, banking archives and contemporary art, *Creative Accounting* scratches below the surface of our economic system to reveal money's enigmatic side. The exhibition was curated by Holly Williams in conjunction with Hawkesbury Regional Gallery.

Deborah Kelly: No Human Being is Illegal (In All Our Glory)

Created for the 19th Biennale of Sydney (2014), the work comprises 20 life-sized photographic portraits by Deborah Kelly, realised through ongoing discussion, exchange and art making between the artist, the subjects and public participants. This is a MAMA exhibition toured by M&G NSW.

Justene Williams: The Curtain Breathed Deeply

The Curtain Breathed Deeply presents an immersive collection of video and sculptural work by Western Sydney based artist Justene Williams. *The Curtain Breathed Deeply* was curated and developed by Artspace.

Moving Histories // Future Projections

Moving Histories // Future Projections brings together some of Australia's leading female contemporary artists working across screen based media including Kate Blackmore, Mikala Dwyer and Justene Williams, Amala Groom, Deborah Kelly, Joan Ross, Soda_Jerk and Angelica Mesiti. This is a dLux Media Arts exhibition curated by Kelly Doley and Diana Smith of Barbara Cleveland.

People Like Us

The national tour of *People Like Us* successfully concludes M&G NSW's National Touring Initiative, a four year Australian and State and Territory Government funded project. The exhibition, curated by Felicity Fenner, Director, UNSW Galleries is underpinned by a curatorial imperative to humanise new media technologies and ensure that a visit to the exhibition is an accessible, engaging and enriching experience.

Image: Tracey Moffatt and Gary Hillberg, *Montages: The Full Cut, 1999 – 2015*, 2016, installation view, Artspace, Sydney. Courtesy the artists, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney and Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York. Photo: Zan Wimberley.

Soft Core

Curated by Micheal Do, in conjunction with Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, *Soft Core* presents artistic practices that explore the many facets of 'softness'. The exhibition presents existing and newly commissioned works by a diversity of artists such as Patricia Piccinini, Louise Weaver, Tony Oursler, Kathy Temin, Michael Parekowhai and Todd Robinson who question the fluctuating meaning of what it means to be soft.

Tracey Moffatt and Gary Hillberg Montages: The Full Cut, 1999-2015

Montages: The Full Cut 1999–2015, curated and developed by Artspace, Sydney, presents the full suite of eight montage films by artist Tracey Moffatt and collaborator Gary Hillberg. The exhibition spans 16 years of the artist and editor's collaborative practice.



ENGAGING ART INITIATIVE

In 2017 M&G NSW launched *Engaging Art*, a two-year audience engagement initiative designed to develop capacity and skills, and to support the delivery of pilot initiatives in audience development and public programming. The program is aligned with two of our touring exhibitions, *Montages: The Full Cut 1999-2015* and *Soft Core* and kicked off with an intensive two day workshop involving four regional host galleries, exhibition curators and industry professionals in audience development, PR and youth engagement. Programs developed from this workshop were rolled out in 2017 and into 2018.

During 2017 two venues, Wanneroo Library and Cultural Centre in WA and Bathurst Regional Art Gallery in NSW, delivered new workshops targeted to young people by engaging them in masterclasses with Gary Hillberg, and local filmmakers. The resulting films were then exhibited in the galleries and outcomes for participants included; deeper understanding of art and differing art forms, development of new skills, a sense of confidence, pride, self-efficacy, esteem and insight into their own potential, and increased positive relationships between both galleries and local young people and their families.

In consultation with the sector two resources, *How to promote an upcoming exhibition* and *How to engage with young people*, were developed to support audience engagement activities as part of a suite of resources to be released over the two-year initiative. They are available for free from the M&G NSW website.



Image: A visitor interacts with Michael Parekowhai's *Cosmo McMurtry*, 2006 in *Soft Core* at Bathurst Regional Art Gallery.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Access to Funding

This all day workshop focused on how to access funding for museum and cultural heritage projects. The workshop included presentations by funding body representatives and provided museum volunteers and staff with a chance to talk about projects face to face with funding representatives. Access to Funding 2017 was held in Bathurst, with participants drawn from the Blue Mountains and Central West Regions.

ArtChat

In the fifth of this annual series, ArtChat featured a line-up of seven established and emerging independent curators working with contemporary practice across the visual arts, craft and design, time-based and experimental arts. The event provided a snapshot of exciting curatorial projects to regional gallery staff and directors and offers programming and networking opportunities. ArtChat 2017 was held in partnership with Regional and Public Galleries of NSW.

Women, Leadership & The Arts: Moving through the marzipan

In conjunction with Transforming Partnerships, M&G NSW presented a one day career management workshop for women working in the arts and cultural sector. This sold out workshop was aimed at women working in the middle management roles that are sometimes known as the 'marzipan layer', the sticky middle slice of management where many women experience a career stall.

**“Thanks very much, really enjoyed the day.
I feel galvanised for success!”**

Delegate feedback, Women, Leadership & The Arts workshop 2017



Image: Access to Funding workshop held at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre.

DEVOLVED AND PROGRAMING FUNDING

Audience Development Fund

In its second year the Audience Development Fund grant program devolved \$45,000 across five regional galleries in NSW including one metropolitan and one Western Sydney gallery. This program provided assistance to regional galleries to trial new models for engaging audiences, creating innovative public programs that engage artists and the community, increasing access and participation.

Audience Development Fund recipients:

- Fairfield City Museum and Gallery
- Wadjar Regional Indigenous Gallery (Gurehlgam Corporation Limited - Yarrowarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre)
- Newcastle Art Gallery
- The Lock-Up (Newcastle Historic Reserve Trust)
- Verge Gallery

Dobell Exhibition Grant

The Dobell Exhibition Grant, funded by the Sir William Dobell Art Foundation, was awarded to Lismore Regional Gallery for the exhibition *From Here to There: Australian Art and Walking* to be presented in 2018.

Supported by the 2016 Dobell Exhibition Grant, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery presented *The Unflinching Gaze: photo media and the male figure* from 14 October to 3 December 2017. Curated by Richard Perram OAM this major exhibition included over 200 photographs and video works by 62 artists dealing with how the male figure has been represented in photo media over the past 140 years.

Also supported by the 2016 Dobell Exhibition Grant, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery presented *Board*, from 9 December 2017 to 4 February 2018, celebrating work by artists who mine board-based subcultures (specifically surfing and skateboarding) for their dynamic imagery and performance potential as well as metaphysical and narrative associations. The powerful line-up of artists included Vernon Ah Kee, Shaun Gladwell, Nancy Kilgour, Brett McMahon, Tracey Moffatt, Nell, John Turier, Gerry Wedd, Jud Wimbush, John Witzig and Anne Zahalka.

Image: Art Activation, Sat 28 Oct 2017 - *Unsung Heroes of Still Life*, at the launch of the new Lismore Regional Gallery. A collaboration with 100 Wonder Place and artist Rene Bolten as part of The Art Keepers program, supported by the 2016 Audience Development Fund. Photo Kate Holmes.

Building Improvement Grants

The Office of Environment and Heritage again supported the Building Improvement grants to fund building and energy efficiency assessments and capital works projects. Seventeen applications were received and seven were successful.

Building assessment reports were produced for the following four organisations:

- Hawkesbury Regional Museum
- Walcha Pioneer Cottage
- Woodford Academy
- Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre

Three building repairs were funded for:

- Calala Cottage, Tamworth
- Grossman House
- Woolpack Inn Museum





Placement Programs

The Mentorship, Fellowship and Volunteer Placement programs provide professional development opportunities to paid museum or gallery staff and museum volunteers by offering placements within a range of institutions.

In 2017 \$20,000 was devolved to support two fellowships, and three mentorships to paid museum and gallery staff, and two museum volunteer placements, from across the State.

2017 Placement Program recipients:

- Andrew Moritz, Transport Heritage NSW
Fellowship: B&O Railroad Museum, Baltimore, USA
- Mikala Tai, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art
Fellowship: Lee Ufan Museum, Japan
- Kerrie Goodwin, Murray Art Museum Albury
Mentorship: Biennale of Sydney
- Blake Griffiths, Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery
Mentorship: Art Gallery of New South Wales
- Rilka Oakley, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
Mentorship: Museum of Contemporary Art
- Robyn Bunton, Frank Partridge V.C. Military Museum
Volunteer Placement: State Archives & Records of NSW
- Julie Coleman, Braidwood Museum
Volunteer Placement: State Archives & Records of NSW

“The experience of this Fellowship for both myself and the organisation has been incredibly important facilitating stronger supportive networks in Japan and Korea to help achieve future work... It was an incredible opportunity that I would not have been able to experience without the M&G NSW Fellowship.”

Mikala Tai, 2017 Fellowship recipient

Image: Blake Griffiths, mentorship recipient, running an artist experience tour with high school students at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Volunteer Museum Grant Program

In 2017, 41 applications to the Volunteer Museum Grant Program were granted and the total amount of funds awarded was \$81,123. In order to support the maximum number of programs some applications were only partly funded.

Project Development Grants

The Project Development Grants promote viable long-term outcomes and enable museums to grow by focusing on either more strategic or larger scale projects. Seven applications for Project Development Grant funding were successful.

Skills Development Grants

Skills Development Grants provide funding to volunteer museums and museum networks for regional or state focused skill development training and networking events. Five applications for Skills Development Grants were received and approved.

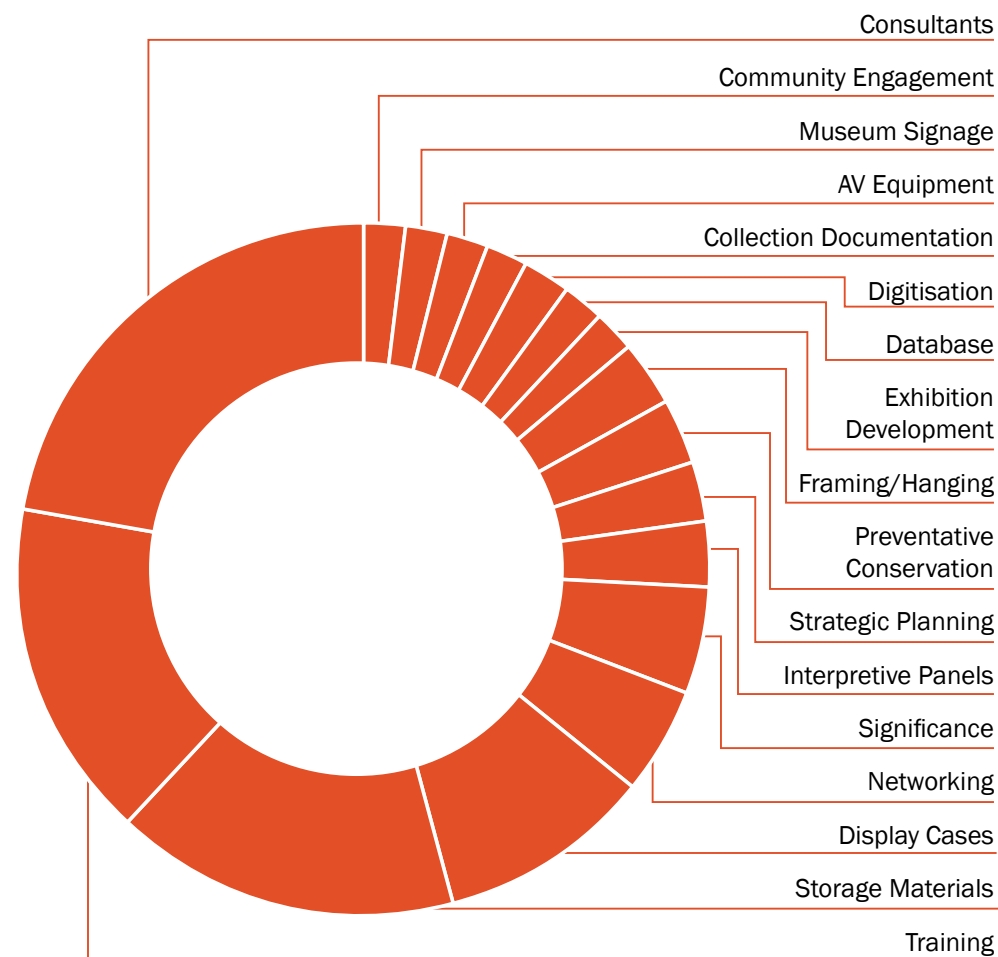
Small Grants

The 2017 Small Grants show a continuation of the popularity of engaging external consultants and projects, which include the purchase of conservation materials, collection management and exhibition showcases. Twenty three applications for Small Grants were successful.

Leg Up Grants

In 2017, Leg Up Grants were used to fund training and skill development activities. Seven applications for Leg Up Grants were received and approved. As this is a matched funded grant, an equal amount was invested in the program by the museums.

Successful Grants by Category



“Museums & Galleries of NSW's Grant Program provides small community museums such as ours with the opportunity to access funds for key programs and resources. Thank you for the financial support and advice. We couldn't do it without you (or it would be so much harder at least!).”

Australian Golf Heritage Museum, 2017 small grant recipient

Standards Review Program

The Standards Review Program ran as a non-regional model for the second year, working with six museums/galleries, in partnership with Shoalhaven Council, the National Trust of Australia (NSW), Gurehlgam Corporation Limited and the Royal Australian Navy, to strengthen participating organisations' practices and sustainability.

The program engaged nine paid staff and over 30 volunteers and was delivered to six organisations:

- Fleet Air Arm Museum
- Jervis Bay Maritime Museum
- Miss Porter's House, Newcastle
- Saumarez Homestead
- Shoalhaven Regional Gallery, Nowra
- Wadjar Regional Aboriginal Gallery at the Yarrawarra Cultural Centre

Regional Museum Advisors Program

Supporting 70 museums the Regional Museum Advisors program continued to assist the work of over 700 volunteers through the provision of advice and specialist skills. In 2017 the program ran in the following local government areas:

- Albury/Greater Hume
- Bega Valley
- Bland Shire
- Blue Mountains
- Broken Hill
- Clarence Valley
- Lachlan Shire
- Lithgow
- Lockhart
- Narrandera
- Tenterfield
- Tumut
- Wollongong

Significant outcomes from the 2017 program include a number of collection interpretation projects, capital works, an augmented reality project, the "Talking Machines" collaborative museum video project, and the reopening of the Condobolin Trike and Railway Museum. There was also a focus on organisational management including the development or revision of strategic plans, disaster and emergency response plans, collection management policies, and collection documentation and digitisation procedures.

Image: Still from *Talking Machines*. Photo Annemarie Bolduc.



IMAGInE AWARDS

The 10th annual IMAGInE Awards were presented in November 2017. Seventy six nominations were received from organisations in NSW, with 13 awards announced across the four categories of Exhibition Projects, Engagement Programs, Capacity Building, Capital & Sustainability Programs and Individual Achievement. An additional award was given to recognise the lifetime contribution of Jeanette Crew (Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation) to Aboriginal culture in NSW. A further nine projects were highly commended by the judges. The IMAGInE awards are presented in partnership with Regional Public Galleries Association of NSW and Museums Australia (NSW).

2017 IMAGInE awards winners:

- The Lock-Up
- Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre
- Campbelltown Arts Centre
- Fairfield City Museum & Gallery
- Museum of the Riverina
- Australian Museum
- Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest and Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences
- Museums Discovery Centre
- Tamworth Powerstation Museum
- Bathurst Regional Art Gallery
- Art Gallery of New South Wales
- Debbie Sommers, Port Macquarie Museum
- Richard Perram, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery



Image: Jeanette Crew, Chair of Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre with Jennifer Barrett, Chair, M&G NSW and Craig Limkin, Executive Director, Cultural Infrastructure Management Program Office. Photo: Mimi Kelly.

COMMUNICATIONS

Website

The M&G NSW website continues to deliver highly valued information, opportunities and resources to the sector.

In 2017, there were 252,242 visits to the website; with 172,150 unique visitors and 512,672 page views. The overall website traffic grew by 33% on the previous year, with visitors from NSW making up 58% of all traffic.

The website maintained a listing of 472 museums, galleries and Aboriginal cultural centres across NSW and in many cases is the only web presence for the organisation; this is particularly true of the small volunteer-run organisations. The organisation listings received 109,295 page views and of those 23% were return visitors.

Publishing

Through 2017 M&G NSW continued to publish Alert, our fortnightly e-newsletter. It features sector news articles, jobs, resources, grant information and professional development opportunities.

Sector news articles had 31,453 page views in 2017, a 24% increase from the previous year.

ALERT!	2017	2016
Number of subscribers	2,757	2,319
Number published	22	22
Open rate	43.9%	43.1%
Click through rate	22.1%	22.8%

Social Media

Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
2,610 fans	4,401 followers	1280 followers
358 new fans	216 new followers	account established 2017

Online Resources

In 2017, M&G NSW developed a range of digital resources including 20 video stories and interviews, 146 articles and 17 new sector resources. Our online resources received 74,043 page views, an increase of 22,895 from the previous year.



Image: Technological historians from the West Darling Machinery Preservation Society assessing objects for the collection. Photo Lynn Collins.

ABORIGINAL PROGRAMS

In 2017, M&G NSW continued its Aboriginal Reconciliation Action Plan by engaging staff with relevant issues during fortnightly staff meetings. Staff also attended NAIDOC Week events.

M&G NSW continued its secretariat support for the NSW Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts Association (ACHAA), including continued co-ordination of ACHAA's first exhibition *From Our Place: an exhibition from NSW Aboriginal Cultural Centres*. The exhibition toured to four venues in NSW in 2017. At each venue, it was enhanced with workshops, floor talks and tours, teacher's notes and free exhibition booklet.

From Our Place concluded its tour when presented as part of the Living Centres Living Cultures conference held at Muru Mittigar in Rouse Hill.

The following venues hosted the exhibition in 2017:

- Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre (Deniliquin)
- Temora Rural Museum
- Yarrowarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre (Corindi Beach)
- Muru Mittigar (Rouse Hill)

RESEARCH

Create NSW commissioned the development of our *Living Centres Living Cultures 2* research report which provides a status snapshot of NSW Aboriginal cultural centres. The report identified 43 current Aboriginal operated NSW cultural venues referencing their location, building and surrounding grounds, income sources, governance, staffing, collection management and engagement. A two-day *Living Centres for Living Cultures* conference was held at Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural Centre in November 2017.

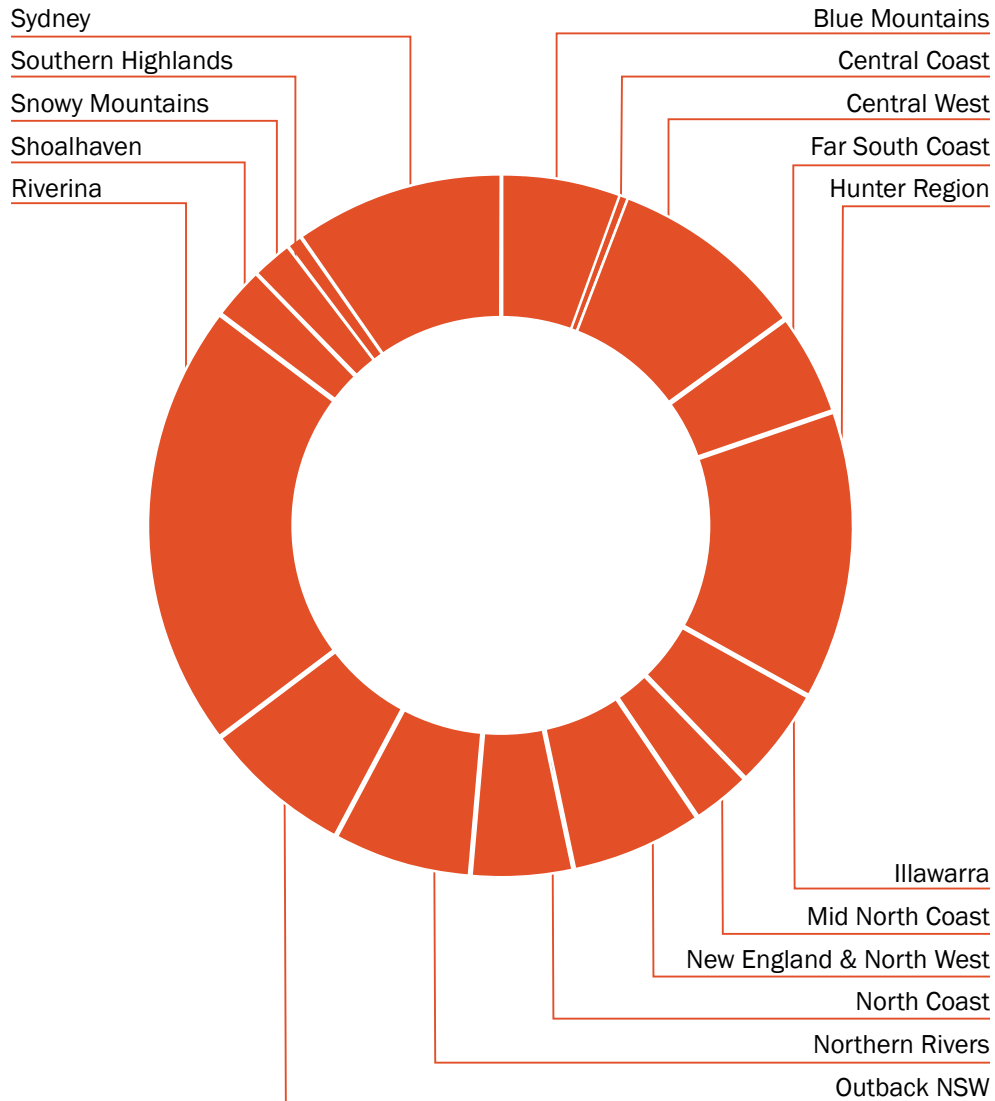
Filling the Gap, a research project supported by the Cruthers Art Foundation continued in 2017. Dr Juliette Peers is leading the research which aims to identify women artists in NSW regional collections written out of the historical narratives of Australian art, making them and their stories available to future generations.

Image: Some of the delegates at the *Living Centres for Living Cultures* Conference at Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

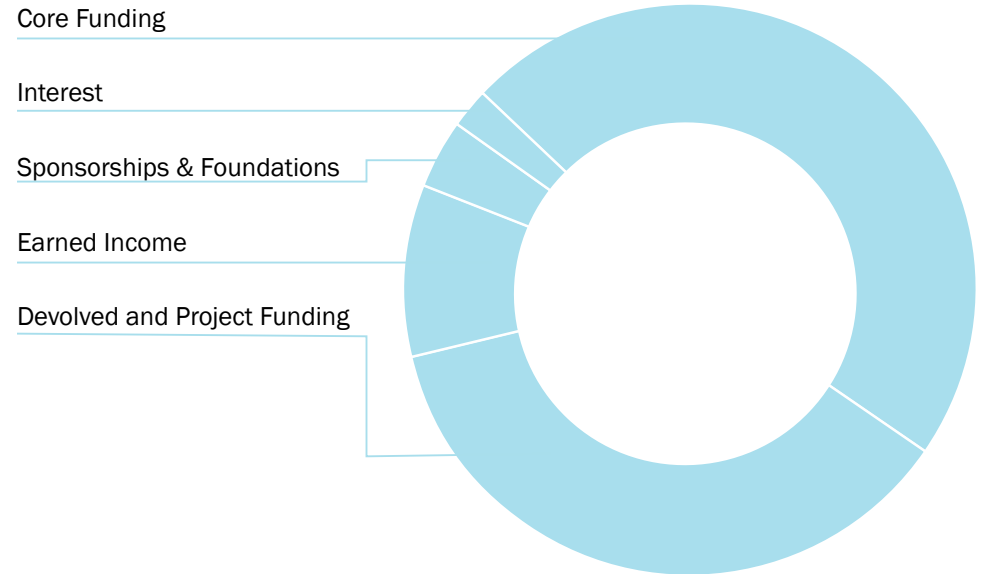


FINANCES

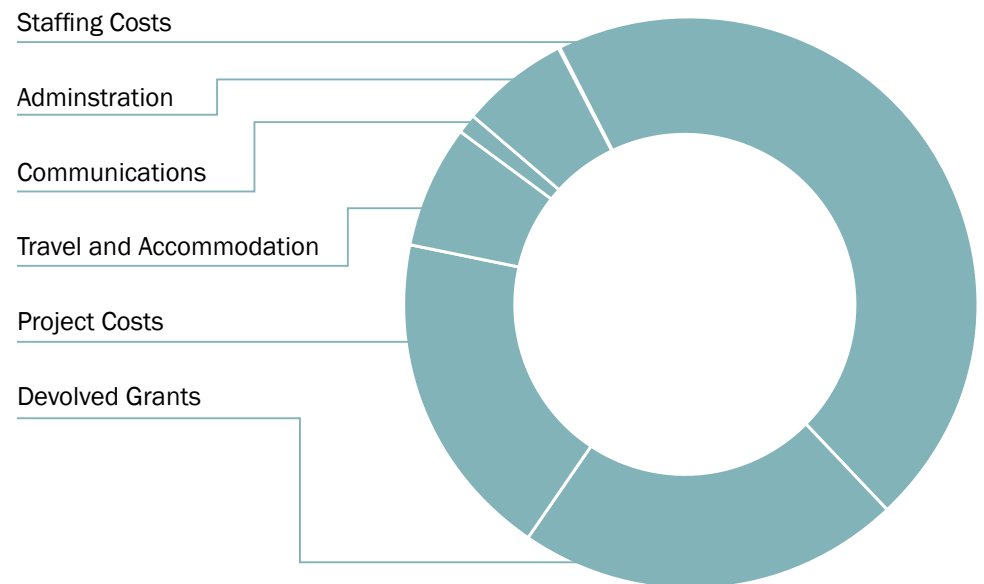
Devolved Funding by Region



Income



Expenses





Museums & Galleries of NSW

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