

MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNTRY ARTS WA ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The state leader for regional arts and culture in Western Australia, Country Arts WA, is pleased to announce its new Board of Directors with its new Chair, Sue Middleton.

With skills across education, strategy development, legal, finance, marketing, governance, and community development, each new Board member brings a wealth of experience and expertise to guide Country Arts WA in its role in fostering diversity, celebration, sustainability and relevance in regional arts.

At its inaugural meeting in December 2017, the Board unanimously selected Sue Middleton as the new Chair. Ms Middleton brings exceptional experience across leadership, industry, and rural community development. Immediate past board roles include the National Chair of the Landcare Advisory Committee, Board Member of Landcorp and Chair of the WA Regional Development Trust overseeing the Royalties for Regions program.

The newly appointed Chair has a deep commitment to the growth of regional WA and looks forward to working with Country Arts WA and the regional arts sector.

“I am very honoured to be appointed Chair at an exciting time in Country Arts WA’s history. I am passionate about the future of regional and rural Western Australia; I know the arts play a pivotal role in creating opportunities for social impact and making local communities liveable, accessible, and diverse places to live.

“Country Arts WA is a highly reputable and dynamic not-for-profit organisation with a huge heart. I look forward to working with its passionate Board and staff to continue its great work in the regions.” Ms Middleton said.

Country Arts WA Executive Director Paul MacPhail says, “Last month’s meeting felt like a great beginning for our new Board and a validation of the organisation’s work over the past 18 months as we’ve undergone an internal review of our governance processes and program direction.”

“We thank the outgoing Board for their foresight, hard work, commitment and generosity and look forward to the next few years as we reinvigorate the regional arts sector. We will focus more on our

Statewide brief, base more of what we do on localised decision-making and improve and increase all the resources we provide to the regions.”

Country Arts WA also welcomes the following newly appointed Directors onto its Board; Debbie Carmody CEO of Tjuma Pulka in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Jahna Cedar strong Indigenous community leader in the Pilbara, John Lambrecht CEO of Regional Development Peel Inc., David Martin Co-founder and Director of Alex Hotel and Owner of Stormflower Vineyard in Margret River, Fiona Sinclair of Southern Forest Arts, Jan Stewart former CEO of Lotterywest, and Wendy Wise former General Manager of Perth International Arts Festival. They will join existing Board members Kellee Aberg and James Jarvis CEO of The Nintirri Centre in Tom Price.

For more information, visit **www.countryartswa.asn.au** or call regional freecall 1800 811 883.

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SUPPORTING MATERIALS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROFILES

Sue Middleton (Chair)

Sue Middleton has been actively involved in many leadership roles across industry, leadership, agriculture and rural community development. Past roles include National Chair of the Landcare Advisory Committee, Board Member of Landcorp, Chair of the WA Regional Development Trust which has oversight of the Royalties for Regions program, Chair of the West Midlands Group (Grower Group), National Rural Advisory Council, COAG Reform Council, WA Agricultural Produce Commissioner, National Regional Womens Advisory Council, Farmbis State Planning Group, Australian Research Council, and Regional Solutions Board. Sue is passionate about the future of regional and rural Western Australia. For her work, Sue has been awarded the Centenary Medal for Service to Regional Australia in 2002, and was awarded the 2010 RIRDC Rural Woman of the Year for Australia and Western Australia. Sue is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is a professional and skilled Director.

James Jarvis (Vice Chair)

James Jarvis grew up in regional Western Australia. After completing a Bachelor of Arts (Hons in Psychology) he regularly returned to the regions and has worked in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Murchison and Wheatbelt. He currently resides in Tom Price employed as the CEO of The Nintirri Centre Inc which is a shift to the not-for-profit sector after 21 years working for a variety of state government agencies in WA and the NT. James is currently Chair the Pilbara for Purpose Board, which is an association of Pilbara-based NGO's, he is Secretary of the Tom Price Men's Shed committee and the Pilbara Inland Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Board Member at Linkwest. James is excited about the organising role The Nintirri Centre holds in delivering the annual Karijini Experience in Karijini National Park.

David Martin (Treasurer)

David Martin was born in Moora and raised in the Wheatbelt town of Kalannie. He has travelled extensively in the south and north of WA and has been active in the community of Gracetown, near Margaret River, serving for 7 years as President of Gracetown Progress Association. David is a co-founder and director of the Alex Hotel in Perth, and owns Stormflower Vineyard in Margaret River. He was previously a co-founder and director of Little Creatures Brewery in Fremantle, and also held senior executive positions at international law firm Baker & McKenzie (Partner, Hong Kong and Singapore, and Head of Asian Aviation Practice) and Woodside Petroleum Ltd (General Counsel). David holds law degrees from the University of Western Australia, and a Diploma from the AICD's Company Director's Course. David has a keen interest in contemporary art, including indigenous art.

Kellee Aberg (Secretary)

As a young regional person, who has been on the current Country Arts WA's board for 2 years, Kellee Aberg brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding in both regional, metro and national arts industries. Kellee has studied a Bachelor of Arts (Contemporary Performance) and Bachelor of Education, whilst running a successful theatre company in the Peel Region. She also has directorial experience with Regional Development Australia Peel, looking at strategic planning in both industry, agriculture and arts, and is an active and well respected community member within her hometown of Mandurah and second hometown of Geraldton within both the arts, youth and education scenes.

Debbie Carmody

Debbie Carmody is the CEO of Tjuma Pulka Original Nations Media Corporation in Kalgoorlie-Boulder - managing three programs, Radio 96.3FM, Gravel Road Music Studio and Karlkurla Art, Culture and Music. Debbie is the Creative Director of NAIDOC Art and Culture Festival and Sound on the Saltlake which will be held on 10 March 2018. Debbie is an artist, and film writer/director. She has A Class Honors in Communication. Debbie works within the community and all programs are community generated. Debbie will bring to the Board knowledge of Community Development and Cultural Knowledge. Debbie also has an understanding of how to develop art and culture programs within the regions and how to work with remote communities.

Jahna Cedar

Jahna Cedar is a Nyiyaparli/Yindjibarndi woman from the Pilbara region of Western Australia and is recognised as a strong Indigenous community leader. She has worked for over 18 years advocating for equal rights and reconciliation of Indigenous people. She has represented her people at the United Nations in New York. As well as having obtained a Bachelor of Business, Jahna Cedar has Cert IV's in Training and Assessing, Indigenous Leadership, Career Development and Employability Services. Jahna is a current board member of Pilbara Aboriginal Corporations and Enterprises (PACE), Forum for Directors of Indigenous Organisations (FDIO) and the Curtin University Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee. She is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and Leadership WA and a member of Australian Institute of Company Directors and Governance Institute WA. Jahna was awarded 2016 AIM WA Emerging Leader award and was recently awarded "first amongst equals" in the Business News 40 under 40 awards for 2017 and was the youngest person to be elected into the West Australian International Women's Day Hall of Fame in 2012.

John Lambrecht

John Lambrecht is currently the CEO of Regional Development Australia Peel Inc (RDA) based in Mandurah. In this role, he has overseen development and implementation of the Peel Region Arts

and Culture Strategy 2015-2020, elevating the status of arts and its important contribution to the economy and social fabric of the region. John also has relevant experience working in areas of current public interest including digital technology, communications, STEM and is a strong advocate to the Australian and State Governments on the special needs of regional communities. He maintains close working relationships with leaders and key stakeholders in the Peel region across the community sector and the three tiers of Government, including the current State Minister, working collaboratively with them to develop sustainable solutions to current and emerging issues.

Fiona Sinclair

Fiona is a practicing professional artist, with a 20 year career specialising in public art and community engagement. Fiona has served as Secretary to arts organisations in her home-town of Northcliffe since 2000. With the support of a great team, Fiona coordinated the establishment of the Understory Art & Nature Trail in Northcliffe 11 years ago – a mighty vision that is still unfolding. She manages (volunteers) this nationally unique cultural tourism attraction and the adjacent Painted Tree Gallery. She is currently coordinating *Connect to the Creative Grid*, derived from the Regional Arts Partnership Program which is state-wide capacity-building project for the regional arts sector that puts her into direct connection with over 50 arts organisations across the state.

Jan Stewart

Jan has held many voluntary board positions in a wide range of different kinds of organizations, locally, nationally and internationally including that of Senior Vice President on the Executive Committee of the World Lottery Association for more than eight years. She was the inaugural President of the Asia Pacific Lottery Association from 1999 to 2004 and a member of the Executive Committee of the Asia Pacific Lottery Association from 2012 until 2014. She previously served on the boards of Hale School (13 years) and Save the Children Australia (5 years). Since her retirement in 2015 from the role she held for 22 years as CEO of Lotterywest and prior to that, Director of Grants and Community Development at Lotterywest, Jan now serves of the boards of MercyCare, the Perkins Medical Research Institute, St Bartholomew's House, WA Opera and is a trustee of a small grant making entity - the Feilman Foundation. She chairs the advisory committee of the University of Western Australia's Centre for Social Impact and will shortly take up the position of Chair of the Raine Medical Research Study. Jan has a life time interest in all forms of the arts. During her time at Lotterywest she established a range of grants programs to support the community arts sector including in regional Western Australia. In 2016 she served for 6 months as General Manager of West Australian Ballet. As a social worker by profession, serving as Chief Social Worker at Princess Margaret Hospital for 10 years, she believes strongly in arts and culture as one of the most significant elements of community building. Jan holds a BA and MSW from the University of Western Australia and was awarded an honorary degree in 2016 by the University for

her services to the community and to the Arts. She is graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Wendy Wise

Wendy has many years experience in large-scale event management including 5 years as General Manager of the Perth International Arts Festival. She worked for the State Government for 10 years managing arts grants programmes finishing her time as Director of ArtsWA. Prior to this, Wendy worked in the arts industry as a project manager and musician. She has served on several boards and management committees including Healthway, Community Cultural Development Board of the Australia Council, Deckchair Theatre Company, Independent Living Centre and was Chair of the Department for the Arts Touring Panel 1988-89 and Community Arts Panel 1987-88, Interim Chair for the newly formed Arts Industry Training Council 1989-90, founding President of the Ethnic Music Centre of WA 1985-88 and was the inaugural Chair of Co3, the State's premier contemporary dance company. While in Northcliffe she contributed to the Northcliffe community as Secretary/Treasurer of the Northcliffe Bush Fire Brigade, Secretary of the Northcliffe Visitor Centre Inc. and prepared business plans and funding submissions for the Karri Cup MTB Challenge. Wendy was awarded the Chancellors Medal for her contribution to The University of Western Australia.

ABOUT COUNTRY ARTS WA

Country Arts WA is an independent not-for-profit organisation governed by our regional membership as the only arts body with a state-wide arts and cultural brief driven by the needs of all regional communities in Western Australia. We build the creativity, connection and capacity of these regional communities to further develop WA's regional arts sector to be even more diverse, sustainable, relevant, and celebrated.

Our services are aimed at coordinating and linking the regional arts sector in a state-wide network of upskilled and resourced artists and organisations sharing their collective and individual success to lead WA's narrative.

www.countryartswa.asn.au