

MEDIA RELEASE **6 FEBRUARY 2019**

New leadership approach headed for regional WA communities

This year Country Arts WA is pioneering a new way for regional WA communities to connect, collaborate and create together.

The Local Leadership Program will be launched in Margaret River and Broome this March, and aims to support the regional arts sector to build local teams, sharing local knowledge and driving local projects.

Participants will discover how to uncover and develop their own leadership skills by using Positive Psychology principles and Asset Based Community Development practices.

Country Arts WA Network Director Barb Howard supported and co-delivered Country Arts WA's Artful Leadership for Community Building program from 2015-2018 and will be facilitating the development of the participants in the new Local Leadership Program.

Ms Howard said the program will equip participants to use their community's strengths to create a meaningful impact.

"Leadership is not a position, it's a way of being that enables you to help others to shine.

"The program is for those committed to developing their leadership skill set. It is designed for people who work in teams and recognise the importance in working well with other people.

"The skills this program teaches will give these committed leaders the power to deliver their own ambitious projects in their community and create the connected, creative community they and their teams want."

In addition to three face-to-face workshops over 6 days, the participating local leaders will have professional one-on-one coaching to receive structure, guidance and support to develop their skills and project idea, as well as buddy coaching sessions with other participants in the program.

If you are interested in registering to be part of the Local Leadership Program visit www.countryartswa.asn.au/localleadership to find out more and sign up.

Registrations are on a first-come-first-serve basis, limited to only 20 people per program. Registrations close 1 March 2019.

The Local Leadership Program is supported by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, under the State Government's \$24 million Creative Regions investment into arts and culture across WA. The Kimberley program is also supported by Horizon Power.

End.

Media Contact – Country Arts WA

Weng-Si Cheang, Communications Director

P: (08) 9200 6202 | Regional Freecall: 1800 811 883 |

E: wcheang@countryartswa.asn.au

SUPPORT MATERIAL

About the Local Leadership Program

Dates and Locations

- Margaret River workshops: 15-16 March, 12-13 April, 17-18 May
- Broome workshops: 29-30 March, 3-4 May, 14-15 June

Costs

A contribution of \$700 plus GST paid in advance of program commencement (actual value ~ \$1,500). This fee includes the cost of all workshops and professional one-on-one coaching. This fee does not include travel, accommodation or per diems.

Registrations close 1 March 2019. For more information about the local leadership program go to www.countryartswa.asn.au/localleadership.

About the Facilitator

Country Arts WA Network Director Barb Howard co-delivered the Artful Leadership for Community Building Program in Perth in 2017 and 2018 and supported the delivery of the program in the Goldfields-Esperance Region in 2015. Barb has worked in a range of industries including in the corporate and small business sectors and education and health, developing the leadership capacity of others. She holds two undergraduate degrees from Murdoch University, is the chairperson for Haka for Life, is on the development team of two social enterprises and she mentors Indigenous leaders across Australia.

Barb lived in regional WA for 10 years and she recently completed the Australian Rural Leadership Program over 15 months with 32 people from around rural, regional and remote Australia. She is passionate about helping others make connections to creatively fulfil on ambitious projects while experiencing support to make a real and lasting difference.

About Country Arts WA

Country Arts WA is an independent not-for-profit organisation governed by regional membership. We are the only western Australian arts body with a purely regional focus. The organisation was established in 1994 and is supported by State and Federal Government funding. We build the creativity, connection and capacity of regional communities to further develop WA's regional arts sector around key outcomes of diversity, sustainability, relevance, and celebration.

Our services to the regional arts sector include investment and advice to produce and present projects; the development of programs and strategies to encourage growth; the communication of strong, positive storytelling; and the networking of regional hubs and leadership programs across the state.

www.countryartswa.asn.au