

MEDIA RELEASE

12 November 2020

Creative Leadership Program kicks off in the Pilbara

Regional Arts WA, through the Regional Arts Network initiative, is excited to deliver the dynamic, career developing Creative Leadership Program across regional WA, starting in the Pilbara.

The Junction Co. will be the first organisation from the Regional Arts Network to host the program before it is delivered across the state next year.

The Creative Leadership Program is created in response to feedback from the regional arts sector showing consistent demand for leadership development in regional communities. Regional Arts WA has collaborated with registered psychologist Dr Shona Erskine, to design a program which promotes self-led, collaborative leadership and community-led contribution.

Regional Arts WA Network Coordinator Gemma Robins says this new leadership program is uniquely focused on delivering a creative methodology of leadership.

“This program was designed with the regional arts sector in mind but is adaptable to all individuals and their local community needs: From local government employees to the mining industry, the program will be beneficial for every individual.”

Dr Erskine explains that the program has its foundations in existing neuroscience literature on the topic of creativity.

“This expansive body of research provides a robust framework through which to enact creative practice, facilitate creative enterprises, and demonstrate leadership in the creative industries.

“Already, within a few pilot workshops, we’ve seen significant growth in the capacity of individuals to practice effective leadership – these skills will become a significant resource for the wider regional arts sector.”

The Creative Leadership Program kicks off in the Pilbara next month, with a 2-day session in Port Hedland, or a 1-day intensive in Tom Price.

- Port Hedland: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 & Wednesday 2 December 2020, 9am – 4pm each day. [Further details and bookings here.](#)
- Tom Price: Thursday 4 December 2020, 1pm – 5pm & Friday 5 December 2020, 8am - 12pm. [Further details and bookings here.](#)

For more information on the Creative Leadership Program and the Regional Arts Network head to www.regionalartswa.org.au

End.

Media Contact

Weng-Si Cheang – Regional Arts WA Program Manager

P: 08 9200 6202 | Regional Freecall 1800 811 883 | E: wcheang@regionalartswa.org.au



Australian Government
Regional Arts Fund



SUPPORT MATERIAL

About Regional Arts WA

Established in 1994, Regional Arts WA (formerly Country Arts WA) is the state's only multi-arts organisation with a purely regional focus. As an independent, membership-based, not-for-profit organisation our purpose is to celebrate and strengthen a powerful regional arts sector to contribute to connected and creative regional communities. www.regionalartswa.org.au

About the Regional Arts Network

The Creative Leadership program is part of the [Regional Arts Network](#) - proudly supported by the Minderoo Foundation and The Ian Potter Foundation, and with funding from the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund.

Looking to change the way the regional arts sector talk to each other, Regional Arts WA has partnered with strategically aligned local organisations to become a network of Hubs across the state. The Hubs themselves engage and respond directly to their local communities by providing on-ground support for their needs. Their role is to increase local decision making, strengthening relationships with local governments and stakeholders, whilst seeking development opportunities for artists and arts workers within their communities.

About Dr Shona Erskine

Dr Shona Erskine is a registered psychologist in private practice. She is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts and retrained as a psychologist through Deakin University and The University of Melbourne following an extensive career as a contemporary dancer.

Shona has expertise in delivering psychology for performing artists through professional companies, universities, and in private practice. Dr Erskine has developed curriculum in areas of mental wellbeing and creativity with interest in disseminating best practice models to performing artist, teachers, and directors.

Shona has dedicated her work as an organisational psychologist to understanding creativity and innovation. She leads workshops on the neuropsychology of creative practice and runs facilitation processes that attend to complexity and perspective. In particular, she coaches artists and directors in thinking processes for their artistic endeavours.

About Regional Arts Fund

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote communities. This program is managed by Regional Arts Australia and, in Western Australia, by Regional Arts WA. The program provides funding for grants, including quick response and community grants for arts projects, professional development for artists and arts workers, and community capacity building projects.

www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/regional-arts-fund

About Minderoo Foundation

The Minderoo Foundation is a modern philanthropic organisation that takes on tough, persistent issues with the potential to drive massive change. Minderoo is independent, forward thinking and seeks effective, scalable solutions. The Foundation is proudly Australian, and one of Asia's largest philanthropies, with AUD \$1.5 billion committed to a range of global initiatives. Our team comprises over 75 employees across seven locations.

www.minderoo.com.au/

About The Ian Potter Foundation

The Ian Potter Foundation is one of Australia's major philanthropic foundations. The Foundation makes grants nationally to support charitable organisations working to benefit the community across a wide range of sectors including the arts, environment, science, medical research, health, education and community wellbeing. The Ian Potter Foundation aims to support and promote a vibrant, healthy, fair and sustainable Australia.

www.ianpotter.org.au/