

OUTCOMES SUMMARY 2012 NATIONAL INDIGENOUS THEATRE FORUM

The 2012 National Indigenous Theatre Forum - a significant gathering of key individuals, representing the national interests of Australia's Indigenous theatre community, convened in Cairns, on Yidindji Gimuy Walubara Country, to coincide with the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair. For the first time, the forum included dance practitioners in addition to theatre practitioners. They were joined by representatives from presenting and service organisations engaged with Indigenous theatre and dance.

Three working groups collaborated throughout the weekend to identify issues and develop strategies and actions for the sector. The three groups were: Dance, Strategy and Practice. The outcomes from each group are listed below.

PRACTICE WORKING GROUP (34 votes)

Networking and Advocacy

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
MEAA: encourage Indigenous members to tick box and opt in to possible network	Paula & Tamika
MEAA: National advocacy in addition to state x state representation	Fred Copperwaite (National); Kyle Morrison (WA); Lisa Maza (Vic); Kyle Morrison/Ben Graetz (NT); Paula (Qld); Fred Copperwaite (NSW)
Increase national industry dialogue through Social Networking, Arts Hub, Google Docs, facebook	Lily Shearer
Contract clauses developed for and shared by AWG	Rhoda Roberts to follow up Terry Janke
Research viability / structure of peak advocacy body	Jane Harrison to approach potential University partner

Develop the Ecology (24 votes)

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
Local investigation of spaces for incubation & hot housing	Kyle Morrison (WA), Paula, Tamika, Stephen Champion & Tamara (Qld)
Alternatives to current practice, models and spaces	Jane Harrison & Tamara
Black Mama	Rachael Maza
Develop a 'mentor bank', people willing to be rung for help, advice and support	Everyone

DANCE WORKING GROUP

Protocols/Cultural Practices - Extend existing protocols and embed them in everyday practice for artists, producers, presenters, funders, training institutions etc. (18 votes)

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
Using language around devised dance with multiple influences – develop 10 case studies exploring diverse cultural processes	BlakDance
Raise issue at next Dance Massive and do vox pops at the event	BlakDance
Investigate other artforms for examples and lessons learnt	Dalisa Pigrum
Ensure Blaklines contracts contain a cultural protocol clause	Blaklines
Talk with APACA, Dance Massive and the Australian Theatre Forum about protocol clause in contracts	BlakDance & Blaklines

Review, Understanding and Presence – build dialogue and understanding about reviewing, recording and presence of Indigenous dance

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
Lobby for expanding Indigenous content in National Dance Archive	Vicki Van Hout, Rebecca ? & BlakDance
Commit to seeing each others' work	All & promoted by BlakDance
Write a review of <i>BlakDance 2012</i> for RealTime	Marilyn Miller
Encourage dance artists to plan for recording and documenting their work	BlakDance

Develop audience understanding of diversity of ATSI dance (12 votes)

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
Build showcases of diverse Indigenous dance	BlakDance
Create and share a pilot materials around audience development strategies	Blaklines
Talk to venues and state touring organisations about programming Indigenous dance	BlakDance & Rebecca
Write to Dance Australia about representation in online and print publication	Vicki Van Hout & BlakDance
Mobilise Ausdance and Indigenous dance community to lobby Dance Australia	BlakDance
Pilot personal relationships in marketing Indigenous dance	Lydia F?
Create a range of marketing tools to promote diverse Indigenous dance	BlakDance

Skills and Careers: maintain and develop skills and networks to enhance longevity of dance careers (22 votes)

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
Develop 'bignote yourself' recruitment strategy	BlakDance
'Transition Process' working with partner orgs (NAISDA,	BlakDance &

ACPA etc) to learn producing/life skills/practice	Blaklines
Encourage the practice of holding auditions for projects	Vicki Van Hout & BlakDance
Build on Alvin Ailey case studies on training and maintenance of skills	Blaklines

STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

Educational Organisations Networks/Links (14 votes)

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
Set up alliance of institutions and co-ordinate a meeting in Sydney during Yellamundie	Rob ACPA to co-ordinate & David Milroy to contact WAAPA

Mapping the Landscape and Activating Communication by ensuring the continuation of NITF (23 votes)

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
Send previous NITF findings/research to organisations	Jenn Arts Qld.
Delegates to create a statement outlining importance of NITF to funders and industry	David Milroy & Fiona Winning
Get permission to distribute delegate contact list	Tim Jones to follow up Arts Qld.
Investigate possibility of the event becoming broader to be First Nations Performing Arts Forum (FNPAF)	Josh Bond

Honouring Senior Artists (17 votes)

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
Make Ilbjerri's VIPA awards national	Brad Spolding
Each State Award body is approached to include senior Indigenous artists in Honour Roll/Lifetime Achievement Award and to encourage greater representation of Indigenous artists	Rob Qld; Louana NSW; Brad Spolding Vic; Josh Bond NT; David Milroy WA; Jim Tasmania; Merindah & Leanne SA; Merindah & Brendan APACA Drovers.

Mechanisms for working with non-Indigenous Companies (20 votes)

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
ATSIA to explore how Indigenous performing arts protocols and accreditation can adhere to funding across Council	Merindah Donnelly
Performing Lines to ensure all Blaklines projects and members commit to best practice (see Dance Strategy)	Tim Jones & Fenn Gordon