**First Night Showcase – Judith Wright Arts Centre Snapshot**

**October 2020**

**Introduction**

First Night Showcase Program – Judith Wright Arts Centre (JWAC) is a program within the Queensland Government’s $22.5 million Arts and Cultural Recovery Package. Its purpose is to fund independent artists, early career artists, and arts organisations, to activate the Judith Wright Arts Centre through development and presentation of new visual and performing arts works between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021.

Applicants could apply for up to $30 000 cash funding and in-kind venue support of up to $40 000. Applicants located more than 100kms from Brisbane could apply for up to an additional $7 000 to cover travel and accommodation costs.

Applications opened 11 August 2020 and closed on 8 September 2020.

**Outcomes**
11 successful applications (25% success rate) secured total funding of $295 332.
Public announcement of [successful grant recipients](https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/first-night-showcase-judith-wright-arts-centre) was made on 5 October 2020.

**General Feedback**

Successful applicants clearly demonstrated how their proposed activity responded to the First Night Showcase – JWAC fund’s objectives and the [published assessment criteria.](https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/first-night-showcase-judith-wright-arts-centre)

All applications were assessed and moderated by a panel of independent peer assessors. The panel provided the following general feedback for applicants. Successful applicants:

* Ensured the proposal aligned with the funding program outcomes and responded clearly to criteria.
* Provided strong evidence of engagement and collaboration with independent artists, and/or early career artists, and arts organisations.
* Demonstrated how the project is relevant to JWAC and provided information on how the project would engage new audiences for JWAC.
* Clearly evidenced the high calibre of the creative team involved in the proposed project and provided a clear project plan with a budget that was realistic for scale.
* Provided detail of how their project could support employment for Queensland artists and clearly defined the outcomes of the project for artists and audiences.
* Included support material relevant to the application.