

Creative Community Plan

As a practicing artist (25 years) and an Art Instructor I find the availability for artists to exhibit and sell their works in Geraldton almost nonexistent. This opinion has been expressed to me by other artists in the region. Yes I know we have the Geraldton Regional Gallery, ACDC and Yamatji Art but being able to exhibit there has its limitations and restrictions.

Currently I have been an instructor at the QEII Centre, teaching art for the past 10 years and during this time the only opportunity students had to exhibit their works was at the Australia Day Festivities over the past 3 years, for this I thank the City of Greater Geraldton for their support. However this has presented with its problems the primary one being the heat and people don't really expect to see an art exhibition there either. I do feel however that although limiting it does give students an opportunity to show some of their works.

I am also the present President of the Geraldton Art Society operating out of the Bill Sewell Complex, however, with the Cultural Trust's plans for this area we have been asked to vacate the premises we now occupy and will be without a studio thus placing a further impost on members.

I have inquired into hiring the Queen's Park Theatre foyer for an exhibition but the costing of that makes it impracticable for amateur artists (I was quoted \$1500.00 for a weekend), as my students and members of the Geraldton Art Society are amateurs being able to exhibit at the Regional Gallery is also out of the question although the Geraldton Art Society used to hold its annual exhibition there. As for ACDC as an exhibition outlet they are so booked in advance that it is almost impossible to hold an exhibition there.

I feel that what we need is a large building in which artists can paint, hold workshops in and also teach, at the same time also having facilities where they can exhibit their works to the public and also be able to sell their art, that this be run under governance by a group or committee for the visual arts and practicing artists.

I applaud the City of Geraldton for its support of the Midwest Art Awards but am disappointed that there is not more support for local artists in it. I feel that we should be given a priority over other entrants as is the case in a number of other exhibitions around the state and that size regulations on items be instituted so that a fairer playing field can be established. In my 25 years as an artist I have come across very few Award exhibitions that have the restrictions placed on entrants that we do here in Geraldton. In the 3 years that this Art Award has been in operation I have not once been able to exhibit and I have won other awards at other competitions. I am not the only artist either who has won awards and been rejected.

I trust that this will help in guiding Council and show some of the problems faced by practicing artists in Geraldton. I also thank the City of Greater Geraldton for allowing community input to be expressed in the creation of this plan.

Sincerely yours,

James H Evans



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Our Ref: D-13-29454
Your Ref: Chris Budhan
File Ref:
Enquiries: 9965 6665

24 April 2013

James Evans

Dear Mr Evans

SUBMISSION ON THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY PLAN

Thank you for your submission on the Creative Community Plan. The City recognises the need for further development of exhibition spaces and professional opportunities for local artists. This is addressed by several initiatives in the Creative Community Plan, including:

- **Initiative 1.3:** Provide and support live performances, exhibitions and other arts opportunities.
- **Initiative 2.2:** Develop a cultural facilities plan.
- **Initiative 2.10:** Create an inventory of available cultural spaces and an interactive website to promote access to the information and enable "matchmaking" between artists and locations.
- **Initiative 2.15:** Support the temporary use of disused buildings as artistic work and performance spaces.
- **Initiative 7.2.:** Assist artists and creative individuals with the development of arts, performance and exhibition spaces in locations outside of Geraldton.
- **Initiative 7.9:** Use existing gallery and performance space for local arts exhibitions and productions.

The Midwest Art Prize is a state-wide art competition that is presented in partnership with Art Gallery WA. I will forward your comments to the Director of the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery, James Davies, for his consideration.

The Queens Park Theatre offers a range of hire options, several of which are aligned with the requirements and financial capacity of art exhibitions. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss these options.



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Your submission, along with this response, will be presented to Council on 28 May 2013. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further comments or questions on 9965 6665 or chrisbu@cgg.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Chris Budhan
MANAGER ARTS, CULTURE & EVENTS