

18-21 OCTOBER
GOOLWA 2012

Regional Arts Australia
National Conference

Part conference, part festival – all art



CONFERENCE FRAMEWORK

Nominations to present are due Tuesday 28 February 2012.
Conference registrations open Friday 1 June 2012.

There is no doubt about it; regional communities are confronting rapid, complex and multifaceted change.

Goolwa, the site of the 2012 Regional Arts Australia National Conference is no exception. A quiet little coastal and riverside town, it is part of the Murray Darling Basin and sits at the mouth of the mighty Murray, a place where you can witness the evidence, if you ever needed it, of the importance of sound environmental policy. It is the home and the land of the Ramindjeri people of the Ngarrindjeri Nation. It is also where Colin Thiele's 'Storm Boy' grew up and befriended Mr Percival.

Over the past couple of years people have become interested in the idea of resilience. Like it or not it is often used to describe regional communities and people. Resilience is a quality; a way of describing, identifying or thinking about why some people, organisations or communities seem to ride the waves of change, survive and even thrive whilst others struggle.

Resilience is contextual and dynamic; we know it involves impact, response and outcomes. What does resilience look like in your context?

The roll out of the National Broadband Network (NBN) is a prime example of the kind of multifaceted change that has huge implications for regional centres. It is both a challenge and an opportunity. It exemplifies how within this impact there is threat, yet is itself the kernel of new and creative responses. What does resilience look like with the NBN?

This raises the question; where do arts and cultural practices feature in terms of this theme of resilience? Is it simply about adaptation and response or is it about cultural leadership, us taking the reins and redefining the nature of community, the environment and the organisational policies we work within? Who are the people exploring this complexity?

By exploring all of these questions and drawing on the wealth of experience in regional Australia we will be imagining new and different futures in 2012. We will grow our understanding of where creativity and art can play a role in the many different forms of resilience by featuring the most innovative examples taking place across the national regional landscape.

Looking through the lenses of cultural leadership and emerging digital cultures we invite you to participate around one or more of the following themes;

Resilient People, Strong Communities

Our Responsibility, Environmental Sustainability

Organisations, Policies, Partnerships and Models for the Future.

We encourage you to take these questions in the framework as a guide for you to tell us something we don't know!

Resilient People, Strong Communities

What is it about particular people, groups, communities and places that enables them to be resilient?

What's the relationship between resilience and sustainability?

CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

As artists, local governments and communities, what are the important qualities of cultural leadership and resilience that we need to practice and take with us?

DIGITAL CULTURES

What are the ways that emerging digital cultures are assisting to build resilient people and strong communities?

Our Responsibility, Environmental Sustainability

What is an environmentally sustainable arts practice and how can local governments, communities and artists work together to achieve this?

What new models and partnerships assist you to maintain environmentally sustainable arts and cultural practice?

CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

What cultural leadership is forging new thinking around environmental responsibilities and sustainability?

DIGITAL CULTURES

Give us an understanding of the ways that digital cultures/platforms are supporting you to reduce your carbon footprint.

Organisations, Policies, Partnerships and Futures Models

What could we all be doing and thinking about differently?

Help us understand the nature and variety of impacts that affect or support your creativity and art making.

CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

Tell us what's working. Consider what is not working, your failures, and your learnings. As a cultural leader how do you deal with uncertainty?

DIGITAL CULTURES

Give us an understanding of where and what digital cultures are emerging.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Choose one of the following ways to participate and then follow the instructions on the linked forms to submit your proposal.

Panels and Presentations

Throughout the conference there will be panels and discussions around the themes and the two lenses of cultural leadership and digital culture. Nominate yourself to be a panellist. Nominate your small group to present a topical panel session or suggest a topic you would like to present based on a combination of lenses and themes. All sessions will be curated.

Video Wrx

This is an open call for video works and/or documented projects of up to five minutes long that will be displayed on various screens placed around the conference (e.g. for bus journeys to and from the conference or at a venue's foyer). Make it as entertaining or informative as you can! Video Wrx is designed to inspire others and seed new ideas. Send us a synopsis of your video work along with the URL for your film or examples of your work. We will select, collate and compile the films to present around Goolwa during the conference.

20/360

20/360 presentations uncover the unexpected; unexpected talent, unexpected ideas. They can be great stories about a project, incredibly personal, incredibly funny, but all are very different making each presentation unique. Present 20 slides in 360 seconds (6 minutes). It's a format that keeps presentations concise and moving at a rapid pace.

Let's Do

For the more tactile or adventurous, when the head is full of theory and muffled with words. Entertaining and exciting introductions to artists, ideas and projects, where the festival and conference lines are blurred and participation just has to happen. It can be a skills workshop, a sharing session, a craft circle, even a impromptu pop up theatre show! All activities must be one hour to two hours in length and not involve too much discussion – this is the place where you do!

Nominations close 5pm Tuesday 28 February 2012

Conference registrations will open Friday 1 June 2012

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION

ONLINE www.artsalexandrina.org.au

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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