

## **AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM WOMEN'S ARTS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

### **OPEN CALL FOR COMMISSIONS**

#### **Background**

The Australian Muslim Women's Project (the project) is supported by the Community Arts and Culture Initiative with Muslim Australians (the Initiative), a partnership between the Australian Human Rights Commission (the Commission) and Australia Council for the Arts (the Council).

The Initiative provides support for projects that deliver in the areas of both human rights and the arts:

- (a) To build self-esteem and capacity in diverse Muslim groups and forge a sense of group culture as well as a sense of inclusion in wider Australian society.
- (b) To build social capital to help, through artistic/cultural expression, to build participation and inclusion, skills, confidence, mutual respect and understanding.

Both the Initiative, and this project draw on the findings of the Human Rights Commission's *Isma' Report* (2004), *Living Spirit Forum 2006* and the *Living Spirit II Workshop* held at Casula Powerhouse 2007.

#### **Summary**

Casula Powerhouse invites artistic proposals from Muslim women artists and artisans for its new national project. 8 to 10 artists will be commissioned to develop a project over the next twelve months. The resulting artworks will be exhibited at Casula Powerhouse in February 2012.

#### **About Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre**

Located on Tharawal country within the City of Liverpool, Casula Powerhouse is a multi-disciplinary arts centre that is responsive to its local and global communities. With over 150 languages spoken in the local area, Casula represents culturally diverse stories encouraging audiences to reflect on the contemporary world. As both a producer and presenter of work, Casula offers professionalism and expertise in the development of both contemporary art and community based practice.

#### **Aims of the Project**

The Australian Muslim Women's Arts project will support Australian Muslim women to engage local communities in the creation of an artwork and an exhibition. Supported by the Australian Government through an initiative between the Australian Human Rights Commission and The Australia Council for the Arts, the Australian Muslim Women's Arts project aims to:

1. Develop the artistic, leadership, and community and cultural development skills of Muslim women artists, artisans, curators, writers and cultural producers, from around Australia.
2. Establish, support and resource an ongoing active network of Muslim women artists, artisans, curators, writers and cultural producers.
3. Produce an exhibition of high quality new artworks created by Muslim women.

4. Engage Muslim and non-Muslim communities in dialogue, as participants in the creation of the artworks and/or as audiences.

### **What the Project is offering**

If your application is successful, you will be commissioned to create an artwork involving a community process. This may be a community that you are a part of – perhaps extended family, school community, or Islamic community group – or one you are not a part of perhaps – a soccer club, a dance school or an Indigenous Land Council.

The Australian Muslim Women's Arts project offers the following resources to successful applicants:

- Up to \$15,000 cash support to create your work;
- Dialogue with project Producer and Curator about the conceptual development and production of your work;
- Assistance with connecting with other professionals and/or organisations to support your project's development;
- Support with negotiating partnerships and other resources;
- Assistance with budgeting and project management skills;
- Travel and accommodation costs so you can participate in the two Laboratory Intensives (the first of which is in Sydney).

### **What you will need to do**

Successful applicants will be expected to realize their project in consultation with and support from project Producer and Curator including:

- Develop your project throughout the 12-month program, being open to peer feedback and support;
- Be resourceful in technically realizing your project;
- Participate in two 3-day Laboratory Intensives that will include workshops, field trips and group discussions running Friday, Saturday and Sunday;
- Participate in online discussions with the other artists and key personnel;
- Be available to install your work at Casual Powerhouse with the support of Powerhouse Curatorial and Technical staff;
- Participate in the Public Programs coinciding with the Laboratories and Exhibition.

### **Who is invited to apply and what are we looking for?**

The Australian Muslim Women's Arts project is open to:

- Australian Muslim Women artists, artisans and their collaborators – the key applicant artist/s must be Muslim women;
- Individual artists and small groups from around Australia;
- Proposals with a community development focus – all projects must name a community who will be involved in the research and/or creation of the work and state how they will be involved;
- Proposals across all artforms are welcome including: visual arts, sculpture, film, live performance, writing, sound and any combination of these.

## **How projects will be selected**

The Producer, Curator and Members of the Working Party will assess individual applications in relation to these selection criteria:

- Strength and clarity of the Project Idea;
- Demonstrated interest or experience in making art with communities;
- Sound community *engagement methodology and* process articulated;
- Demonstrated ability to manage and realise the project.

As a group, they will consider the cultural diversity of Muslim women artists, the range of artform practices on offer and the geographic spread of the projects.

## **Timeline and key dates**

November 8, 2010	PROJECT APPLICATIONS OPEN
December 17, 2010	PROJECT APPLICATIONS CLOSE
January 10, 2011	ALL APPLICANTS NOTIFIED
April 2011	SYDNEY LABORATORY (LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED)
September 2011	LABORATORY (LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED)
February 2012	EXHIBITION AT CASULA POWERHOUSE ARTS CENTRE

For all enquiries about the Australian Muslim Women's Arts project please contact Khaled Sabsabi, Creative Producer, Community Cultural Engagement on [Sabsabi@casulapowerhouse.com](mailto:Sabsabi@casulapowerhouse.com) or phone 02 9824 1121

We look forward to receiving your application.

## **What to include in your Project application**

### **1. A PROJECT DESCRIPTION (no more than 2 pages)**

What is your Vision and idea for the project?

Process: What is your intended approach and methodology (i.e.) How you will go about the project

Project outputs: What you will create/ exhibit at the end of this programme? What media will you use? (i.e) visual arts, sculpture, film, live performance, writing, sound and any combination of these

Are you applying as an individual artist/ practitioner or as a group of practitioners?

Who is the community you intend to work with to create your project?

Do you have an existing relationship with them? If not, how will you access them? Why do you want to do this project?

What (resources) will you need to do it?

## 2. SUPPORT MATERIAL

Please include with your application some relevant support material showing us your previous work. Please supply only one or two of the following:

- Up to 12 digital images of your previous artwork on CD;
- Up to 12 printed photographs of your previous artwork;
- Up to 10 minutes of DVD footage of your previous artwork;
- Up to 10 minutes or audio content on a CD of your previous artwork;
- Up to 10 pages of your original writing (if that is your previous artwork).

Please mark your material clearly with your address for return. If your application is successful, we will keep your support material for reference only. If your application is not successful, we will return your support material within one month of the decision being made.

## 3. A BIOGRAPHY FOR EACH ARTIST IN YOUR PROJECT

Maximum 1 page per person (Include only what is relevant to the application.)

## 4. TIMELINE

Outline the key stages in the development of your work, thinking about the different processes involved in realising your idea. The timeline should span twelve months.

## 5. BUDGET

What is the total amount you are requesting from and how do you propose to spend the money? What are the costs associated with developing your project? What other sources of support are there for this project?

*Please note that income and expense totals should be equal.*

- Income may include: grants, sponsors, in-kind contributions, and your contribution.
- Expenses may include: studio and equipment hire, materials, fees for artists – both yourself and any collaborating artists or technicians (ie. editor, writer, sound artist, lighting designer etc)

The Australian Muslim Women's Arts project is supported by the Australian Government through an initiative between the Australian Human Rights Commission and The Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body, through its Community Partnerships Section.



**CASULA  
POWERHOUSE  
ARTS CENTRE**



## APPLICATION FORM

Are you applying as a GROUP [ ] or an INDIVIDUAL [ ]?

If GROUP, what is the group's name? \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT [or contact person for group]

Title\_\_\_\_\_ First Name\_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth\_\_\_\_\_

Mobile\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

State\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_

Website\_\_\_\_\_

Art form\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Muslim Woman? [ ] YES [ ] NO

Can you commit to attend the two laboratories in [INSERT DATES]? [ ] YES [ ] NO

The Community you propose to collaborate with \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about (INSERT TITLE)?

## CHECKLIST

HAVE YOU INCLUDED:

1. A Project Description [ ]
2. Support Material [ ]
3. A CV for each artist [ ]
4. A Timeline [ ]
5. A Budget [ ]

## ATTACH THIS FORM AS A COVER SHEET & POST A HARDCOPY TO:

Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, C/o Khaled Sabsabi  
Locked Bag 7064, Liverpool BC NSW 1871

OR EMAIL TO: [sabsabi@casulapowerhouse.com](mailto:sabsabi@casulapowerhouse.com)

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY December 17, 2010.  
Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants will be notified of the result by January 10, 2011.