

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEXT LEVEL ARTS

There's only a week left for visual and performing arts practitioners around South Australia to get their submissions in to take part in Country Arts SA's two brand new development programs in 2016.

PUSH and Road Trip 2016 have been specially curated to take performing and visual arts practitioners working in community and cultural development practices to the next level. Country Arts SA hopes to increase the number of artists and arts workers with the skills to work in a deeply engaged way with communities through these programs, thereby enabling more great art to take place in regional South Australia.

Tailored to meet the needs of the successful applicants, both PUSH and Road Trip 2016 will consist of professional development activities, networking opportunities, forums and arts events.

These programs come off the back of another professional development program for visual artists last year, which led to networks cultivated around the state and ongoing professional opportunities.

PUSH will be held over 3 intensive days in Adelaide during the 2016 Fringe to take full advantage of the huge selection of performing arts opportunities available at that time, something coordinator Country Arts SA's Creative Producer Steve Mayhew was keen to include;

"Adelaide at Fringe time is perfect to hold an opportunity like PUSH as artists and producers from around the world congregate to perform, present, network and make deals," he said.

"The lively atmosphere of the Fringe will add to the whole PUSH experience creating something resembling an 'Extreme Arts Camp', it will be fun but definitely informative and illuminating as participants get exclusive access to artists and producers they wouldn't otherwise."

Road Trip will focus on visual artists who work collaboratively with and within communities towards artistic outcomes. Running in mid-April, the program will offer participants the opportunity to travel with other practitioners on 3-day excursion culminating in the opening of the Burra Ephemeral Art Trail. Country Arts SA's Arts and Cultural Development Manager Marilyn de Nys said Road Trip will empower artists to work in their communities;

"The positive impact on the wellbeing and vibrancy of communities who are able to participate in a deep and meaningful way in the creation of artwork that is special to them is well documented," she said.

"We hope that by increasing the pool of artists who are willing and able to work in this way, more regional communities will reap the benefits."

Application forms for Road Trip and PUSH can be found at www.countryarts.org.au. Expressions of interest close Thursday, January 21. All applicants will be advised of the outcome in early February.

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