



QUEENSLAND MUSEUM NETWORK

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INNOVATE RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ART COMMISSION BRIEFING PACKAGE

BACKGROUND

Queensland Museum Network (QMN) exists to celebrate the cultural, social and natural heritage of Queensland. We aspire to be a world-class museum network: where everyone is welcome to discover Queensland and share authentic, inspiring stories.

Established in 1862, QMN is one of Queensland's oldest and most iconic institutions. We are custodian of the State Collection: a magnificent assemblage of 15.2 million cultural objects, natural history specimens and geological treasures documenting Queensland's past, present and future.

We breathe life into these collections through ground-breaking research and compelling experiences delivered from four award-winning museums:

- Queensland Museum at South Bank, Brisbane
- The Workshops Rail Museum in Ipswich
- Cobb+Co Museum in Toowoomba
- Museum of Tropical Queensland in Townsville.

Our education loans program – one of the largest in the world – shares object and inquiry-based learning with community groups, schools and knowledge institutions across Queensland. Our virtual museum, digital learning platform, major events and best-selling popular publications engage diverse, global audiences. Our museum development program provides best practice museum support to arts, cultural and collecting organisations and Indigenous Keeping Places across the state.

OUR RECONCILIATION JOURNEY

QMN recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first scientists, storytellers, traders and diplomats of Queensland.

We have engaged with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities since our inception in 1862. We recognise that these interactions were not always positive. In 2019 we made a public apology for past practices, as the central component of our very first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Today, QMN leads repatriation activities on behalf of Queensland Government and is recognised by the Australian Government as the peak body for repatriation in Queensland.

This includes:

- caring for ancestral remains and secret sacred objects in a safe and appropriate place on behalf of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- facilitating community access to those wanting to visit and pay respect to their ancestors.

- establishing provenance of ancestral remains and secret sacred objects in our care.
- building capacity by assisting Traditional Owners to repatriate ancestral remains and secret sacred objects to community in accordance with their cultural protocols.

The cultural and spiritual benefits of bringing Ancestors home should not be underestimated. Over the past 30 years, QMN has made more than 200 repatriations, returning ancestors back to Country. QMN continues to care for several hundred ancestral remains, burial goods and secret and sacred objects on behalf of communities, in a secured facility with restricted access.

Our long-term goal is to safely and respectfully repatriate the ancestral remains and secret sacred objects in our care back to Country. This will be the work of generations.

QMN also cares for more than 23,000 items of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander material culture including:

- traditional rainforest shields, spear throwers and ceremonial items.
- Moving Stone Story, a ceremonial sculpture crafted by celebrated Aboriginal artist Trevor Bowenda that tells the story of a powerful stone found south of Cape Keerweer that is sacred to the Apelech people of Aurukun in far northern Queensland.
- the Queensland Native Mounted Police Research Database, a comprehensive relational database that comprehensively presents all elements of frontier conflict across the state.
- Headdresses created by celebrated Torres Strait Islander artist and choreographer James Eseli whose iconic aeroplane dance recalls his personal experience of World War II planes taking off from Nurupai (Horn Island) on their way to Japanese targets in New Guinea.

Our custodianship of Queensland First Nations material culture is temporary. QMN recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of their cultural heritage, and they maintain agency of these objects whilst in our care. This trust and responsibility we take seriously.

QMN is continuing our reconciliation journey with an *Innovate* RAP. The activities in our *Innovate* RAP will celebrate the vibrant living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; acknowledge past injustices; tell hidden histories; and embed First Nations voices as a vital, continuing thread in our organisational fabric.

ART COMMISSION BRIEF

QMN seeks expressions of interest from individual Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to create a wholly original artwork for our *Innovate* RAP that celebrates the vibrant living cultures of Queensland's First Peoples; inspires reconciliation and reflects QMN and all that we do.

Technical specifications are as follows:

- your own unique and original work
- full-colour, visually appealing
- easily translatable to a printed document and motifs
- 2D work on paper or canvas or digitally produced
- minimum size of 55cm x 75cm and maximum size of 90cm x 120cm.
- accompanied by an artist photo, short biography and statement (200 words) that explains the artwork (together, 'associated items').

TIMELINE

Expressions of interest open	9am, Friday 15 July 2022
Expressions of interest close	5pm, Friday 5 August 2022
Successful artist notified	5pm, Friday 12 August 2022
Artwork delivered	5pm, Friday 9 September 2022

BUDGET

QMN will pay the successful artist a one-off fee of \$10,000 + GST (if applicable) inclusive of:

- Artist fee
- Materials and freight
- Artist attendance at the launch of the *Innovate* RAP (excluding travel and accommodation).
- Loan of the artwork for public display at any campus of QMN for a period of up to 12 months.
- Exclusive, three-year, non-commercial licence to reproduce the artwork and associated items whole or in part, or use the artwork as inspiration for design, motifs and watermarks for the *Innovate* RAP and/or promotional material for QMN 'at large'.

JUDGING PANEL

Expressions of interest will be assessed by a panel comprised of:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Representative of Queensland Museum Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee
- Executive Director, Collections Research and Exhibitions
- Senior Manager, Community Engagement
- Senior Project Officer, RAP

REQUIREMENTS

To express your interest in this opportunity, please provide the following by 5pm, Friday August 2022:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Artist statement (no more than 200 words) describing your practice and experience
- Response (no more than 300 words) advising how the proposed artwork:
 - celebrates the vibrant living cultures of Queensland's First Peoples
 - inspires reconciliation
 - reflects QMN and all that we do
- A preliminary sketch/design of the proposed artwork
- At least four images of relevant examples of recent work (JPEG/PNG format)
- Nominate (or provide written reference from) an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander person who can attest to your knowledge, skills or experience to demonstrate cultural capabilities as required. This person may be a community member, supervisor or work colleague.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Submit your expression of interest online [here](#).

You will receive a system-generated acknowledgement.

If you are unable to apply online please contact QMN by telephone 07 3153 7845 to discuss alternative arrangements.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

For more information on this project, please contact:

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