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## **QLD's galleries and museums recognised in State Awards**

Queensland's public galleries and museums were formally recognised at the **2016 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) at a gala event proudly presented by Museums & Galleries Queensland and hosted by Creative Arts Redlands – Redland Performing Arts Centre and Redland Art Gallery, on Tuesday 22 November 2016.

**Bundaberg Regional Galleries**, was **recognised as a Finalist** for its outstanding achievement in the category of 'Projects: Organisations with Paid Staff' for its exhibition ***Wide Bay – High Desert II***.

*Wide Bay – High Desert II* was more than an exhibition, it was also a cultural exchange between the Galleries and Unsettled Gallery in Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA, designed to strengthen arts and cultural connections between their respective regions. Following the success of a trial project in 2013, a second exchange was developed two years later bringing together six artists from the Bundaberg region and six from New Mexico and also incorporated local writers and songwriters. The project built skills in international exhibiting and deepened arts and cultural relationships between two different communities.

Presented by **Museums & Galleries Queensland** (M&G QLD), the GAMAA celebrate the outstanding achievements, professional excellence, and innovation of Queensland's museum and gallery sector. The awards also recognise the valuable contribution that our State's museums and galleries make in enriching their local and wider communities, and honours the extraordinary commitment and talents of paid professionals and volunteers working in the industry.

M&G QLD Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said the GAMAA continue to recognise and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our museums and galleries and are testament to the skill, ingenuity and professionalism of the sector.

"This year's GAMAA recipients reflect a diverse range of large and small organisations. M&G QLD extends its congratulations to all of the 2016 GAMAA winners, finalists and nominees. We also thank our 2016 judges, sponsors and partners in supporting this important industry event," Ms Butler said.

For a full list of 2016 GAMAA recipients go to the M&G QLD website at [www.magsq.com.au](http://www.magsq.com.au).

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