

**[EMBARGOED until 6pm Saturday 17 November 2012]**

## **Museum of Brisbane wins prestigious State Award**

**Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ)** proudly announced the winners of the **2012 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)** at a gala event hosted by the Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology, Caboolture, on Saturday 17 November. Special guest, Hon Ros Bates, Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts congratulated this year's recipients and presented the winners with a specially commissioned trophy created by Queensland artist, Donna Marcus.

**Museum of Brisbane** was **recognised for its outstanding achievement** in the category of 'Organisations: Staff of 5 or more' for ***my own private neon oasis***.

Inspired by the dynamic histories and diverse cultures of Sunnybank, a suburb located 20 minutes south of Brisbane's CBD, *my own private neon oasis* was a contemporary art project that transformed ordinary spaces into extraordinary encounters for local residents, businesses, Asian communities, visitors from across Brisbane and the arts community. Timed to coincide with the Moon Festival, widely celebrated throughout Asian cultures, *my own private neon oasis* featured nine commissioned artworks by seven international, national and local artists and designers. Enlivening unexpected and public spaces such as suburban shopping precincts, pedestrian footbridges and rooftop carparks, many of the artworks and events focused on interactivity, inviting the community to participate in their creation.

In declaring Museum of Brisbane as the **Winner** in this category, the Judges recognised the Museum for its lead role in the delivery of an innovative, off-site project that developed new audiences for the Museum and also provided alternative reasons to visit a commercial suburban area such as Sunnybank to gain a better understanding of its cultural identity and narratives. The strong community outcomes of the project were evidence of the care that Museum of Brisbane took in the development of relationships and partnerships. The bilingual elements and the

targeted use of technology, print and marketing collateral provided increased access and profile for the project, and extended the Museum's influence and reach.

**Museum of Brisbane Director, Peter Denham, said**

'The Museum team faced considerable challenges developing and presenting this off-site project. The Award pays tribute not only to their hard work and innovation, but also to the wonderful relationships that were developed during the project - the artists, the many businesses throughout the precinct who got involved, and in particular the Sunnybank community. As the city-dedicated Museum we look forward to delivering new projects like this in the future and continuing our richly rewarding work with and for the community.'

Presented by **Museum and Gallery Services Queensland**, the GAMAA is a prestigious annual event designed to celebrate the outstanding achievements, professional excellence and innovation of Queensland's museums and galleries. The Awards recognise the valuable contribution our State's museums and galleries make to enriching their local and wider communities, and honour the extraordinary commitment and talents of paid professionals and volunteers working in the industry.

**The Executive Director of Museum and Gallery Services Queensland, Rebekah Butler, said today**

'It is with great pleasure that M&GSQ congratulates the winners of the 2012 GAMAA and commends all those who nominated for their remarkable achievements and contribution to the sector. This year's awards recognise a range of inspirational people and projects.'

For a full list of winners, go to the M&GSQ website at [www.magsq.com.au](http://www.magsq.com.au)

The 2012 GAMAA were proudly sponsored by the Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology, Brian Tucker Accountant, Brandi Projects, Archival Survival, Regional Galleries Association of Queensland and Museums Australia Queensland.

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