

9/10/2026

QUEENSLAND'S MUSEUM AND GALLERY EXCELLENCE CELEBRATED AT 2026 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Winners, Highly Commended recipients and Finalists of the **2026 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)** were proudly announced by **Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD)** on Thursday 8 October at a special awards presentation hosted by **Ipswich Art Gallery**.

Special guest, **Ipswich City Council Mayor Teresa Harding**, congratulated this year's recipients and presented winners with individually crafted trophies by acclaimed Queensland glass artist **Jarred Wright**.

Now in their twenty-second year, the Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA) are Queensland's premier awards program for the museum and gallery sector, recognising excellence, innovation and leadership across the State.

Museums & Galleries Queensland Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said, "The Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of Queensland's museums, galleries, and keeping places, as well as the individuals whose dedication and leadership continue to strengthen the sector."

"Queensland's museum and gallery sector comprises more than 400 museums and galleries, each playing an important role in sharing and preserving our state's arts and cultural heritage, fostering creativity, connecting communities and engaging visitors."

This year's awards attracted nominations from across the state, recognising excellence in exhibitions, public programs, collections management, First Nations and community engagement, leadership, innovation and volunteer contributions.

M&G QLD congratulates each of this year's Winners, Highly Commended recipients and Finalists. Their achievements exemplify the passion, creativity and commitment that continue to enrich Queensland's cultural landscape and inspire best practice within our industry.

2026 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards Recipients

PROJECTS: ORGANISATIONS WITH 1-6 FTE PAID STAFF

Winner:

Griffith University Art Museum, for *Craig & Karl: Double Vision*

Highly Commended:

Noosa Regional Gallery for *Gaza Skate Team*

RD Milns Antiquities Museum for *NOΣTOI | Homecomings: Stories of the Ionian Island Diaspora in Queensland*

Finalists:

QUT Art Museum for *Jemima Wyman: Deep Surface*

PROJECTS: ORGANISATIONS WITH 7+ FTE PAID STAFF

Winner:

HOTA Gallery, Home of the Arts for *Ken Done: No Rules*

Highly Commended:

City of Moreton Bay for *Fresh Eyes 2025*

Queensland Museum for *Croc! Lost Giants to Living Legends*

Finalists:

Ipswich Art Gallery for *Painting the Celestial*

Queensland Museum for *Make a Scene: Fashioning Queer Identity and Club Culture in the 90s*

State Library of Queensland for *Driven: every car has a story*

ENGAGEMENT: ORGANISATIONS WITH 1-6 FTE PAID STAFF

Winner:

Living Museum of Logan for *Hmong Journeys: Threads of Home*

Highly Commended:

Dogwood Crossing, Miles for *Wildflowering on the Western Downs*

Finalist:

Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton for *Creating legacy impacts through art*

ENGAGEMENT: ORGANISATIONS WITH 7+ FTE PAID STAFF

Winner:

UQ Art Museum for *Public art on campus: SUNA (Middle Ground)*

Highly Commended:

Queensland Museum for *Queensland Museum's First Nations Undergraduate Student Research Program*

Finalist:

Artspace Mackay for the *2025 Libris Awards Program*



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SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES: OPEN

Winner:

Sunshine Coast Council for *Revitalising Landsborough Museum*

Highly Commended:

Redlands Coast Museum for *Redlands Coast Museum Sustainability Transformation (2024–2026)*

FIRST NATIONS: OPEN

Winner:

State Library of Queensland for *The unbroken spirit of the Kalkadoons*

Highly Commended:

City of Moreton Bay & Munimba-ja Arts Centre for *Blak Creatives Exchange 2025*

Finalist:

Redland Art Gallery for *CREATE EXCHANGE*

VOLUNTEER MUSEUM / GALLERY OF THE YEAR

Winner:

The Low Isles Preservation Society

Highly Commended:

Roma on Bungil Gallery for *The Wealth: Portraits of Maranoa Locals*

INDIVIDUALS: PAID

Winner:

Karen Stephens – Exhibition Supervisor, Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton

Highly Commended:

Dr Jacqui Donegan – Director, Heritage & Archives, Mater Heritage & Archives Centre

INDIVIDUALS: VOLUNTEER

Winner:

Jessica Brown – Collections and Conservation Volunteer, Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Edith Cuffe – Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology, Caboolture

ABOUT MUSEUMS & GALLERIES QUEENSLAND

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) is the peak professional industry body for the public museum and gallery sector in Queensland.

Our purpose is to inspire and support excellence in Queensland museums, galleries and keeping places, fostering innovation, connection and cultural leadership.



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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2026 GAMAA SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

The 2026 GAMAA are proudly supported by the **Ipswich Art Gallery** and sponsored by **Public Galleries Queensland** and **Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland**.

The 2026 GAMAA trophies are generously supported by **Brian Tucker**.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Rebekah Butler

Executive Director

Museums & Galleries Queensland

Phone: 07 3059 9740 Freecall: 1800 866 101 Mobile: 0422 579 180

Email: rebekah.butler@magsq.com.au Website: www.magsq.com.au

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