

13/12/2022

MUSEUM OF BRISBANE

Finalist at State Awards

The Winners and Finalists of the **2022 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)** were proudly announced by Museums & Galleries Queensland on Monday 12 December, at a special awards presentation held at the Queensland State Archives, Runcorn, Brisbane, and live-streamed across the State.

Museum of Brisbane was recognised as a **Finalist** for its outstanding achievement in the category of Engagement: Organisations with Paid Staff for its project ***MoB Learn Assist: improving Access to Museum Learning.***

Museum of Brisbane (MoB) is a social history museum located in Brisbane's CBD that invests in Brisbane artists, designers, writers and local businesses to create innovative design-led exhibitions that tell the stories of Brisbane.

Revitalised in 2021 and 2022, the *MoB Learn Assist* program has made a tangible contribution to its community by providing free learning opportunities for children, young people and educators from low socio-economic backgrounds in Brisbane and Greater Brisbane. The program was funded through a fundraising campaign and philanthropic support. These curriculum-linked educational programs in the arts, social history and civic citizenship, support the delivery of child and youth-focused, highly engaging arts and cultural experiences. MoB was able to provide transport to and from the Museum, free educational experiences and free morning/afternoon tea to eligible schools and community groups. Significantly, this program removed the financial barriers for children to visit the museum located in the city centre.

MoB Learn Assist supported children, young people, and their educators from eight schools plus two community organisations. Overall, MoB welcomed 1,242 students and 155 teachers/educational support staff who accessed 32 individual 'Learn' programs, workshops and tours. *MoB Learn Assist* developed two new partnerships in 2021: Little Dreamers, an organisation supporting young carers; and Smith Family, supporting educationally disadvantaged young people. By linking up with community based, non-profits who are already targeting disadvantaged children, and who are doing this targeting very well, they were able to reach the most marginalised communities of under-resourced and excluded children and young people.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Museum of Brisbane is to be congratulated for its excellent work to reduce economic, social and other barriers that can prevent young people from engaging in arts and culture. This initiative and MoB's firmly held belief that people of any age can make important contributions to the city of Brisbane's cultural life and wellbeing is commendable."

Ms Butler continued, "The 2022 Winners and Finalists were selected from a strong field of nominations received from organisations, large and small, across Queensland. It is an honour to be shining a spotlight on the outstanding work of so many worthy individuals and organisations."

The GAMAA were established by Museums & Galleries Queensland in 2004 to honour the achievements of our State's individuals and organisations in striving towards excellence.

The 2022 Winners received an exquisite trophy by Queensland artist, **Donna Davis**, commissioned by M&G QLD. Inspired by science and the natural world, her work examines human and non-human relationships with respect to ecological health. The 2022 GAMAA are generously sponsored by Public Galleries Queensland and Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland.

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