

23/11/2023

## **MUSEUM OF BRISBANE**

### **Winner at State Awards**

The Winners and Finalists of the **2023 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced by Museums & Galleries Queensland on Wednesday 22 November, at a special awards presentation proudly hosted by Logan City Council at the Kingston Butter Factory Cultural Precinct, Kingston.

**Museum of Brisbane** was announced as **Winner** for its outstanding achievement in the category of Project: Organisations with Paid Staff for its project for ***Play Moves***.

Applying universal design principles and learnings from ongoing consultations with community groups, disability advocates and organisations, the Museum of Brisbane transformed their exhibition galleries into a place of wonder and exploration, creating an immersive, safe interactive space for visitors of all abilities to have fun, share experiences and moments of joy.

*Play Moves* featured six large-scale installations designed to reignite our sense of play and to challenge the traditional 'look, don't touch' gallery visitor experience.

The exhibition's content and design encouraged inter-generational learning and access for all abilities. Significantly, it enabled visitors to choose how they experienced, explored and interacted with the artworks.

The outcomes of this project were numerous. From 10 December 2022 – 16 April 2023, *Play Moves* attracted more than 83,000 visitors, received 198 media mentions reaching an audience of 17.1 million people; and engaged over 1,400 students from traditional and non-traditional school groups including home school, English as second language and special education.

*Play Moves* built the capacity of the Museum of Brisbane through:

- providing staff with valuable learnings around how to tailor visitor experiences and engage diverse audiences;
- a paid internship program – three of these interns became paid employees in 2023;
- community and stakeholder engagement; and
- expanding their digital capabilities.



**Museums & Galleries Queensland** (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "The Museum of Brisbane is recognised as Winner in this category for its ambitious, highly successful, participatory exhibition *Play Moves*. This exhibition provided visitors with choices in how they experienced, explored and interacted with the artworks on display, and encouraged inter-generational learning and access for all abilities."

Ms Butler continued, "The Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards are a celebration of the professional excellence, innovation and leadership within Queensland's arts and cultural heritage sector. We extend our congratulations to this year's worthy Winners and Finalists."

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 2023 Winners received an exquisite trophy by Queensland artist, **Nicole Jakins**, commissioned by M&G QLD. Nicole's works explore environmental concerns, drawing on the beauty and fragility of nature.

The 2023 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards are proudly supported by **Logan City Council** and sponsored by **Public Galleries Queensland** and **Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland**.

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