

10/09/2025

Effie Skoufa-Klesnik Highly Commended at State Awards

The Winners, Highly Commended and Finalists of the **2025 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced by Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) on Tuesday 9 September, at a special awards presentation hosted by Museum of Brisbane. Special guest, **Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP, Minister for Education and the Arts**, congratulated this year's recipients and presented the winners with individually crafted trophies by artists Vanessa Cannon, Laurence Gibson, Gregory Salt, and Lorna Shuan, from the Yalanji Arts Collective, Kuku Yalanji Country, Mossman Gorge, Far North Queensland.

Effie Skoufa-Klesnik was recognised with a **Highly Commended** award in the category of **Individuals: Paid Staff** for her outstanding contribution to the GLAM sector over more than 30 years.

Effie currently serves as Registrar (Loans & Acquisitions) at UQ Art Museum, following significant roles at the State Library of Queensland and Queensland Arts Council. Her career is defined by excellence in registration practice, a deep commitment to collegiality, and a passion for mentoring the next generation of arts professionals.

Effie has delivered over 120 exhibitions, from grassroots artist-run initiatives to major national and international shows. Her leadership in coordinating the South-East Queensland Registrars Network (SEQRN) highlights her dedication to knowledge-sharing and community-building within the sector.

Through UQ Art Museum's career pathways program, Effie has trained and supported emerging registrars, providing them with valuable hands-on experiences, many of whom now hold key roles in major collecting organisations. Her approach combines rigorous professional standards with warmth, generosity, and a genuine investment in others' success.

Effie's academic and professional credentials—including a Diploma in Law and Collections Management (Distinction) from the UK's Institute of Art and Law—reflect her commitment to best practice. She has also contributed to industry conferences and served on the board of the Queensland Potters Association.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said "Effie Skoufa-Klesnik is a true champion of the GLAM sector and highly deserving of this recognition. Effie's legacy is one of excellence, generosity, and lasting influence. Her work has shaped careers, strengthened networks, and elevated standards across the sector."

Ms Butler continued, "This year, we undertook a comprehensive review of the award categories and introduced several new ones, which led to an unexpectedly high number of nominations. This response is a testament to the remarkable work being done by museums and galleries of all sizes throughout Queensland. It is a privilege to shine a spotlight on the achievements of so many deserving individuals and organisations."

Minister for the Arts, John-Paul Langbroek, said, "Queensland has more than 400 museums and galleries, all of which play an important role in sharing our stories, activating and connecting communities and attracting visitors to our regions."

"Congratulations to everyone who has taken part in this year's Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards, which celebrate individuals and organisations who support community and visitor engagement with arts and cultural experiences."

"The Crisafulli Government is proud to invest in Museums & Galleries Queensland through the Organisations Fund 2026-29, which supports delivery of our 10-year arts and culture strategy, *Queensland's Time to Shine* and its vision for a thriving creative sector supporting a statewide vibrant arts scene."

Now in its twenty-first year, the GAMAA were established by Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) to honour the achievements of our State's individuals and organisations in striving towards excellence.

The 2025 GAMAA are proudly supported by the **Museum of Brisbane** and sponsored by **Public Galleries Queensland** and **Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland**.

The 2025 GAMAA trophies are generously supported by **Brian Tucker**.

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