museums & galleries QUEENSLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

10/09/2025

Museum of Brisbane
Winner 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.

Museum of Brisbane was announced as the **Winner** in the category of **Engagement: Organisations with 7+ FTE Paid Staff** for its project, ***Micro Museum*.**

In March 2025, Museum of Brisbane (MoB) launched the *Creative Space*—an innovative, all-ages destination for hands-on exploration, creativity, and connection. As a permanent, free-entry space grounded in universal design principles, it reflects MoB's commitment to inclusive, informal learning and audience-first engagement.

The inaugural activation, *Micro Museum*, invites visitors to become curators of their own miniature exhibitions using thousands of tactile objects. Inspired by MoB's major exhibition *Precious*, it blends nostalgia, storytelling, and playful taxonomy to make museological concepts like collecting and categorising accessible through open-ended play. With magnetic walls, archival imagery, and minimal didactic instruction, the space fosters intergenerational discussion, storytelling and sensory-rich discovery.

Developed entirely in-house, *Micro Museum* exemplifies sustainable resource management, with objects sourced from staff, community donations, and low-cost acquisitions. A 3D-printing partnership with local architecture studios deepened ties with Brisbane's creative industries. Volunteers were embedded from the outset, enhancing visitor support and building community capacity.

Since opening, the *Creative Space* has welcomed over 53,000 visitors, with overwhelmingly positive feedback—particularly from neurodiverse families.

The judges applauded Museum of Brisbane's excellent initiative, observing that the activation has redefined the organisation's approach to cultural engagement, embedding creative learning into everyday museum experiences.

Micro Museum is not just an exhibition—it's a transformative model for participatory curation, inclusive design, and meaningful, hands-on engagement.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said "A deserving Winner in the Engagement category, Museum of Brisbane is congratulated for their outstanding creative and sustainable approach to hands-on, inclusive cultural engagement."

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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