

9/10/2026

QUEENSLAND MUSEUM FINALIST 2026 GALLERY AND MUSEUM ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) was delighted to announce **Queensland Museum** as a Finalist in the **Projects: Organisations With 7+ FTE Paid Staff** category, for its ***Make a Scene: Fashioning Queer Identity and Club Culture in the 90s*** exhibition at the **2026 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)**, proudly hosted by **Ipswich Art Gallery** on Thursday 8 October.

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

Queensland Museum has been named a finalist in this category for *Make a Scene: Fashioning Queer Identity and Club Culture in the 90s*, a vibrant, community-led exhibition exploring the role of fashion, music and nightlife in shaping LGBTQIA+ identity, belonging and activism in Queensland during the early 1990s.

Developed to mark 35 years since the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Queensland, the exhibition brings together fashion, photography, oral histories and community collections to reveal an important and often overlooked chapter of the state's social history. Through personal stories, archival material and creative expression, *Make a Scene* celebrates the resilience, creativity and self-determination of Queensland's LGBTQIA+ communities.

Co-designed with more than 200 community contributors, the exhibition demonstrates the power of collaborative museum practice, ensuring these significant stories are preserved and shared for future generations. By fostering understanding, inclusion and pride, *Make a Scene* creates space for reflection on the social and cultural movements that have shaped contemporary Queensland.

Museums & Galleries Queensland Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, commended the Queensland Museum, saying "*Make a Scene* is a powerful example of how museums can work collaboratively with communities to preserve and share stories that are vital to our collective history. Through its community-led approach and celebration of creativity, resilience and self-expression, Queensland Museum has created an exhibition that honours the experiences of LGBTQIA+ Queenslanders while fostering understanding, inclusion and pride."

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 excellence across the sector.

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.

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**.

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