

2/11/2017

[EMBARGOED UNTIL 9PM THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2017]

LAPUNYAH ART GALLERY INC.**Recognised at State Awards**

The strength, ingenuity and talents of Queensland's public galleries and museums were triumphantly demonstrated tonight with the announcement of the winners of the **2017 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) at a gala presentation event, proudly hosted by Old Government House, QUT.

Lapunya Art Gallery Inc. was **recognised as a Finalist** for its outstanding achievement in the category of 'Projects: Organisations Volunteer Run' for its nomination ***Exhibition Facilitators – In House Traineeship***.

Lapunya Art Gallery is located in Chinchilla in Queensland's Western Downs region. As part of the Gallery's commitment to giving its volunteer staff greater understanding of the Gallery's operational procedures, they developed the Exhibition Facilitators In-House Traineeship Program. It is designed as a 12-month mentoring program which develops skills in working with exhibitors; preparing for and installing exhibitions; promotion and marketing of exhibitions and processing sold artworks. Trainees are also given a space within the gallery for which they have full curatorial responsibility.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Being recognised as a Finalist in this category is testament to Lapunya Art Gallery's commitment to build its operational capacity and to provide training opportunities for its team of volunteer staff."

The In-House Traineeship Program has allowed Lapunya Art Gallery to increase its number of exhibitions per year, and has significantly developed their relationships with local artists. The trainees have become an integral part of succession planning for the Gallery.

Ms Butler said, "This year's winners and finalists stood out from an exceptional group of nominations. These accolades embody outstanding examples of our sector's achievements, professional excellence, and innovation. They also highlight the valuable contribution and achievements of professionals and volunteers working in our industry."

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.

Winners of the 2017 GAMAA received an exquisite trophy crafted by Queensland artist, Lincoln Austin. Commissioned by M&G QLD, the trophies are generously sponsored by our long-standing Awards supporter, Brian Tucker Accounting.

For media enquiries or images, please contact:

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Museum & Gallery Services Queensland Ltd trading as Museums & Galleries Queensland – ABN 32 109 874 811 is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and is assisted by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.