Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

***Make Your Mark* youth art project**

**Information for Councils**

The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery’s (TMAG) art education unit, AccessArt, is supporting local councils to run ‘ephemeral art' programs for youth in their local area through an initiative called *Make Your Mark*.

**Background information**

TMAG is offering up to five Councils support to deliver artist-led art-making programs for youth, aged 13-21 years, by March 2016.

Funding will be allocated on merit, informed by applications received in response to this call for program proposals.

The aims of *Mark Your Mark: Death* education initiative are to:

* deliver a supported experience where young people can explore the theme of death in a safe environment;
* empower young people to express themselves;
* develop creative thinking skills, artistic skill and professional awareness;
* deliver quality art education programs outside of classroom settings\*, supported by local communities;
* enhance local environments; and
* increase engagement of young people with TMAG and the State Collection.

\*Note: this program does not support school-based art classes. Partnerships with schools are welcome where engaging at-risk youth in extra-curricular activities. In this case, programs should be designed to facilitate experiences beyond the school environment.

**Make Your Mark: Death *is a youth initiative of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Cornerstone Youth Services Inc. and MI Fellowship delivered in partnership with local government. This activity has been funded by the Australian Government’s Better Access to Palliative Care in Tasmania Programme, through the Tasmanian Association for Hospice and Palliative Care ‘Networking End of Life Care’ Project.***

**Project coordinator**

Anna de Little, Project Coordinator, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

Email: anna.delittle@tmag.tas.gov.au

Phone: 0405 619 157

**Art Medium and Theme of *Make Your Mark***

In this *Make your Mark* we explore the potential of 'ephemeral art' to respond to the theme of 'death'.

Ephemeral art refers to works that are transitory in nature. The materials or compositions used are in some way impermanent. It is through the artwork's changing form over time, and its decay or demise, that ephemeral art conveys its message to the viewer. Forms of ephemeral art include (but are not limited to) environmental art, installation sculpture, electronic media, performance.

Ephemeral art is an exciting art form that is particularly suitable to youth as it emphasizes creative process over the final product. This medium fits well with the theme of death, as through the creative process, participants will contemplate loss through the ‘letting go’ of the artwork itself.

We are open to artists of any medium who are willing to engage the medium of ephemeral art to produce outcomes that can be shared with a public audience.

**Theme: 'Death'**

Each year *Make Your Mark* has a theme that the young participants can interpret and respond to in their own way. This year the theme is 'death'.

By exploring the theme of death and dying, this project acknowledges that death affects youth, just like the rest of us, and aims to deliver a supported experience that “promotes resilience and wellbeing in response to end of life issues” (see <http://www.thegroundswellproject.com/>).

Evidence indicates that one of the greatest barriers to improving the end-of-life experience in our community is simply the fact that “few people engage in end-of-life conversations with their families and friends” (see <http://www.mcmasterhealthforum.org>). Avoidance and denial of the topic of death can create fear and misconceptions, with potential mental and emotional implications. Through the exhibiting of works generated by *Make your Mark: Death*, this project aims to spark community dialogue around death and hopefully dispel some of the misapprehensions that surround this inescapable fact of life.

The *Make your Mark* program uses the creative process to facilitate an exploration of the theme of death under the guidance of an artist. Through art-making, youth are allowed to have genuine ownership over their ideas and responses to this theme, and through exhibiting, have their perspectives heard and validated by the community. In this way, youth are empowered to develop resilience in the face of life challenges such as bereavement, and ultimately to celebrate life.

**Special note:** While it is acknowledged that suicide is a topic relevant in this age-group, this project is not designed to specifically focus on this issue for which there are other specific services in the community.

Throughout the project, councils and artists will receive guidance from the project consultant, who is an experienced art therapist, on how to navigate this sometimes confronting and sensitive topic with young people. Referral pathways to relevant community mental health services will be outlined. Two mental health organisations, MI Fellowship and Cornerstone Youth Services, are partnering with this project to help support the wellbeing of all involved. Cornerstone's services will be available to youth participants who may require individual support.

Please contact Anna de Little, Project Coordinator, if you wish to know more about the support we are providing: anna.delittle@tmag.tas.gov.au or 0405 619 157.

**What is TMAG offering?**

TMAG has allocated up to $5,000 per program. This funding will pay a professional artist (experienced in program delivery) to lead workshops plus associated program planning up to a total of 80 hours.

TMAG will also provide:

1. a guided visit to the museum for your group (virtual or in person), with bus expenses covered; and
2. a major exhibition of the young people’s work at TMAG.

**What should the workshops produce?**

The *Mark Your Mark* workshops must produce youth art work/s responding to the theme of 'death’. This will be displayed in the *Mark Your Mark* group exhibition at TMAG (in March 2016), along with other materials from the program, for example group works, individual art works, photos, sketches, trials, design and planning material, and other ephemera from the learning process. TMAG has the final decision on all matters pertaining to the exhibition on its site.

Local, public celebration of youth expression is an important element of this project and Councils are required to build into their program an opportunity to share their outcomes with their community through a public site or event. Presentation opportunities may include a festival, street/public art site, or even the internet. While TMAG will provide support where possible, the Council is responsible for realising this local opportunity, obtaining all relevant permission and permits, and managing the physical execution of the work’s presentation.

**Finding your artist**

TMAG can help you find the right artist for your project. Please contact the TMAG Project Coordinator to discuss this further.

If you know the right artist to lead your program, you may nominate them as part of your Project Proposal. This artist must have a professional art practice in a relevant genre, some experience working with the community, and must undergo a National Police Check. Please have them fill out the Nomination form provided, and include this with your Project Proposal.

TMAG reserves the right not to fund nominated artists where the appropriate levels of skills or experience are not evident in their Nomination form. In this case, alternate workshop leaders will be suggested.

**Program Proposal**

Councils are invited to complete the proposal form, outlining the *Make Your Mark* program they wish to undertake with support from TMAG. It is understood that some aspects of the proposal (content, timing, number of sessions etc.) will need to be renegotiated once an artist is engaged. Within the parameters explained above, other aspects of the program are open to allow Councils to design a program that is relevant for youth in their area, and realistic with the resources available. Partnerships with community, businesses, sponsors etc. are encouraged.

Councils will be responsible for the logistics of their program, including:

* nominating a Council officer to oversee the program, support the artist and youth, and liaise with TMAG;
* arranging a suitable venue for workshops, covered by Council insurance;
* engaging and maintaining involvement of the youth participants;
* accessing and activating mental health support for participants throughout the project if required;
* designing and planning the workshop program (including timing, duration and frequency of workshops) in consultation with the contracted artist;
* working with TMAG to include one visit to the museum in Hobart as part of their program (in person or through a virtual tour);
* purchasing art materials and obtaining required equipment;
* managing any public presentation of the student work in the local area (e.g. exhibition, display, installation, festival event) including the associated processes, applications and costs; and
* transporting artwork to/from TMAG for the exhibition.

**Submitting your Program Proposal**

Complete the Program Proposal form and email with any relevant documents to anna.delittle@tmag.tas.gov.au by 9:00 am (Tasmanian time) Tuesday 15September 2015.

*Special note: If you would like some assistance with your proposal, please contact us*

**Selection process**

Councils have until **9:00 am (Tasmanian time) Tuesday 22 September 2015** to submit their Project Proposals. If they have an artist they wish to work with, they must have the artist complete a separate Artist’s Expression of Interest (EOI) form and include it with their submission.

Council EOIs will be assessed by a panel consisting of two staff from TMAG’s Centre for Learning and Discovery team and one external expert. Selection will be based on the following considerations:

* relevance of idea (to youth, your community, and this project’s aims/themes);
* resourcing behind proposal (appropriate resources are identified);
* the creative and/or innovative nature of the idea; and
* opportunity to showcase the youth artwork in the local area.

Where the Council’s proposal is successful but an appropriate artist has not been identified, TMAG will suggest an artist for the project and arrange a meeting between the parties. Once all parties are satisfied with the match, the finished proposal will form the basis of an MOU between TMAG and the Council and the artist will be contracted by TMAG to run the program.

All Councils will be advised of the outcome of this process by Tuesday 6 October 2015.