



## **2022 INDIGENOUS ARTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **What is the Indigenous Arts Leadership Program (the Program), supported by Wesfarmers Arts?**

The National Gallery of Australia's Indigenous Arts Leadership Program, supported by Wesfarmers Arts is a professional development opportunity, which brings together a mixed cohort of national First Nations arts workers who are ready to reflect on their skills, capabilities and what leadership means to them individually.

The Program supports First Nations arts workers to deepen their understanding of the creative sector and build their network of support. This unique opportunity aims to nurture individuals as their careers progress.

The Program is run by the National Gallery and is supported by Wesfarmers Arts as part of their commitment to First Nations leadership in the arts.

#### **Link to Short Documentary of the Program**

Youtube link: [https://youtu.be/I\\_Ske2YpB3A](https://youtu.be/I_Ske2YpB3A)

Vimeo Link: <https://vimeo.com/658483523>

#### **2022 Applications**

Applications for the National Gallery of Australia's 2022 Indigenous Arts Leadership Program are now open. If you are a First Nations person who is passionate about learning and developing a meaningful and fulfilling career in the arts, we encourage you to apply for the Program.

Applications close Monday 28 February 2022 at 11.59pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

## **Key dates of the 2022 Indigenous Arts Leadership Program**

Applications Close: Monday 28 February 2022 at 11.59pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

Residential One: in Wiradjuri Country at Wagga Wagga (NSW) Thursday 31 March – Wednesday 6 April 2022.

Residential Two: in Ngunnawal/Ngambri Country at Canberra (ACT) Thursday 26 May – Thursday 2 June 2022.

Graduation: Evening of Thursday 2 June 2022.

## **Who is the Indigenous Arts Leadership Program for?**

First Nations arts workers who are at various stages of their careers. The Program attracts learners who are open to new ideas, able to learn in a group situation and willing to share knowledge and insights with others, and participants who understand their leadership responsibilities and want to learn more about themselves and their communities.

## **What is a Residential?**

A Residential is a six- to seven-day intensive experience that may take place in-person, online or hybrid, depending on COVID-19 restrictions at the time of the Residential.

The Program is designed and led by the Wesfarmers Indigenous Arts Leadership Program Coordinator and guided by the Elder-in-Residence, responding to the needs of the cohort.

Each Residential provides a time and space for the group to connect, collaborate, listen, and hear from Elders, community, key guest speakers, Alumni and National Gallery staff.

## **How much does the Indigenous Arts Leadership Program cost?**

Wesfarmers Arts and the National Gallery of Australia support participants to undertake the Program.

All costs are covered by the Program, except the cost of getting you to and from your home to airport.

We'll look after everything else for you, including On Country learning, facilitation and guest speakers, your accommodation, ground transport, program resources and all meals for the duration of the Residentials.

## **Do I have to pay for accommodation or food at the Residentials?**

The Program will cover these costs for all participants. We will accommodate you for the length of the Residential and will cover the cost of your breakfast, lunch, and dinner during this time. Additional extras (such as espresso coffee and mini-bar items) are at your own expense.

## **Quotes from the 2021 Program**

**Juanita Kelly-Mundine, 2019 Alumni and 2021 Program Mentor:**



*'There's something so deeply valuable and nourishing about being in a community. I think as Indigenous people, there's few things more valuable than hearing stories from our old people and there's something very grounding about starting the Program in a way that allows us all to become comfortable ... the Wiradjuri Elders on Country have done such an exceptional job at holding that space for us.'*

**Aunty Cheryl Penrith, Wiradjuri Elder:**



*'I would like to congratulate and say thank you for the respect – Yindyamarra shown to the Elders here in Wagga Wagga and for the foresight to bring the Leadership Program artists and creatives out on Country for Residential One. Thank you for coming, for bringing hope for the future, for the creativity and opening our eyes to what is possible. I loved the reciprocity and the possibilities this exchange has*

*brought and walking forward in an uncertain world and time in history.'*

**Charlie Nelson, 2021 Participant:**



*'When you're on Country, you get a sense of having a personal, cultural and spiritual empowerment and learn about how to be a leader in that sense of life. Being at the Gallery, you get to have a sense of what it takes of leadership in the workplace and these institutions where most of us work.*

*I think there's a good balance of personal, cultural and spiritual compared to professional development in how you lead.'*

**Uncle Paul Girrawah House, Ngambri/Ngunnawal Traditional Custodian:**



*'The Program was focused on the importance of sharing and solidarity. Participants showed unity and respect. Residential Two continued focusing on Yindyamarra which underpinned the Program. The highlight was being out on Country, developing relationships with people. Our culture is based on relationships with people, plants, Country and each other. We were fed, we were worked, we learnt and we still had time to reflect.'*

**Elder-in-Residence of the Indigenous Arts Leadership Program Aunty Mary:**



*“Being the Elder in Residence for Residential One in Wagga Wagga (Wiradjuri) and Residential Two in ACT (Ngunnawal) – I took on this role with great respect. It was amazing to be available to offer a very warm and welcoming environment on the lands of my people, with my connection to both Countries and communities.*

*From the Residential One to the Graduation in Residential Two, I witnessed participants learning and saw huge transformation and growth in all of them. The community in Wiradjuri Country, Wagga Wagga are looking forward to the return of this Program soon.”*

## Any Question Contact

**Ian RT Colless, Dharabuladh (Therabluat) clan of the Gundungurra people**



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