

## SKILLS BASED BOARD | POSITION DESCRIPTION

### MURRAY ARTS Inc. BACKGROUND

Murray Arts was established in 1996 and believes in telling regional stories and sharing them. We believe our community has the capacity to produce great arts events, exhibitions and experiences. We work at a grass roots level using community cultural development principles to collaborate with communities and artists to develop projects and ideas which support the identity and growth of our regional communities. We employ artists to work on our projects, giving them creative opportunities to develop their practice and share their arts practice. We are always looking for new ways to build audiences, be creative and connect with our community. Murray Arts works directly with individuals, artists, communities and local government to help them develop the arts and cultural life of their communities.

Murray Arts is one of 14 Regional Arts Development Organisations (RADO) in the Regional Arts NSW network. We service the Border and North East Region and partner with six local government areas; AlburyCity, Greater Hume and Federation in NSW and City of Wodonga, Indigo and Towong in North East Victoria.

Murray Arts is a not-for-profit, incorporated organisation under the NSW Act and previously have been governed by a board based on a representative model. Moving forward, we are shifting to a skills based board made of up to 7 to 9 board members. We are primarily funded through the NSW State government via Create NSW and our local government funding partners.

### **We Value**

- Artistic Endeavour, creativity and integrity.
- The arts as a medium to challenge us and explore our humanity.
- The opportunity to participate and express ourselves.
- Community wellbeing, connection and lifelong learning.

### **2016 -2018 Strategic Plan Identifies Five Goals which will underpin the operations of Murray Arts.**

**Goal One:** To be the central point of information and communication for the arts across the region.

**Goal Two:** To forge strong partnerships with local government and other arts organisations.

**Goal Three:** To build the capacity of artists and communities in the arts.

**Goal Four:** To develop strategic projects of regional significance.

**Goal Five:** To ensure the ongoing sustainability of Murray Arts.

### **Core Service Delivery**

One of Murray Arts key roles in the community is to support artists, communities and local government to develop arts and culture in their communities. This role takes on many forms, from business advice, marketing advice and providing expert advice to local government. In addition, Murray Arts provides advice to local, state and federal government peak bodies, a valuable link between government and the community.

### **Murray Arts Team**

Murray Arts enjoys a high profile within the arts community, driven by skilled and well-respected staff. Our team currently consists of Executive Director Alyce Fisher (full time), Communications Officer Caz Doyle (part-time), Bethany Thornber Aboriginal Arts Curator (part-time), subcontracted bookkeeper (4 hours + a fortnight), school based trainee (1 day a week) and we are presently recruiting for an Aboriginal Arts Officer (part-time).

### **Aboriginal Arts Development**

Murray Arts has a reputation as the 'go to' organisation for all enquiries regarding local Aboriginal Arts Development. Aboriginal Arts Development is a key priority for Murray Arts and the organisation continues to be at the forefront in this sector with a commitment to the employment of an Aboriginal Arts Officer and the creation of a new position for an Aboriginal Arts Curator. Murray Arts connects local Aboriginal artists, through an extensive and well respected Aboriginal Artists Network, with local government and community organisations, proudly supporting Aboriginal artists on their journey.

### **burraja gallery**

Using a social enterprise model, burraja gallery offers a genuine, authentic connection to local Aboriginal Artists. On Wednesday 1 June 2016 Murray Arts launched the Our Stories Our Voices publication, in conjunction with the opening of burraja gallery, in the shop front of our Gateway Village Office.

For more information regarding our past projects such as the Yarn Bombing of the Holbrook Submarine and our annual Art & Science program, please visit our website [www.murrayarts.org.au](http://www.murrayarts.org.au)

### **The key role of Board includes:**

- Appointing the Executive Director and reviewing their performance annually against the strategic plan
- Setting broad strategic parameters as part of the tri-annual planning process
- Establishing and delegating authority to Board Subcommittees as required
- Approving the annual artistic program and operating budgets
- Ensuring legal compliance and government funding body requirements
- Monitoring implementation against the strategic plan and annual program plan
- Advocating on behalf of the organisation
- Attending and actively contributing at 4 board meetings per year
- With the Chair, candidly reviewing individual performance and the Board's performance annually

### **Key selection criteria:**

- Relevant experience on a board, committee or related capacity and/or preparedness and capacity to learn
- Ability to apply strategic thought to key issues
- Prepared to question, challenge and critique
- Willingness to understand and commit to the highest standards of governance
- Proven or emerging community and or business leadership qualities
- Interest in the arts and or the role that the arts can play in regional communities
- Strong community and or business networks

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

We are passionate about our region and are seeking to have a cross section of representation from our six local government areas (AlburyCity, Greater Hume, Federation, Wodonga City, Indigo and Towong). Strong ties to local and regional communities and businesses will be highly regarded. Murray Arts will be seeking Board Members with skills and capacity in one or more of the following areas:

- Retail management
- Legal
- Passionate about the arts
- Financial Management
- Community Leadership & Engagement
- Members of our Aboriginal Community

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

- A selection panel consisting of the Chair, one other Board Member and the Executive Director who will shortlist and interview potential candidates for the position of Board member
- Recommendations from this process will be made to the Board for consideration and appointment
- Appointments will be made based on skills, experience and capacity

### **CONDITIONS**

The Board positions are voluntary. The appointment is for an initial three-year term. The board of Murray Arts meets on four occasions within the calendar year. The schedule of which is negotiated annually with the whole Board.

### **APPLICATIONS**

Applications with a covering letter addressing the key selection criteria and including a brief Resume should be addressed to the Chair of Murray Arts Tahni Froudish and emailed to: [info@murrayarts.org.au](mailto:info@murrayarts.org.au)

For any enquiries please contact Alyce Fisher, Executive Director of Murray Arts on (02) 6021 5034 or [afisher@murrayarts.org.au](mailto:afisher@murrayarts.org.au)

Murray Arts acknowledges that we live and work on Aboriginal land, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and future.