



Australia Council for the Arts  
372 Elizabeth St  
Surry Hills  
NSW

28 September 2018

Dear Assessors,

I am delighted to write in support of TNA's application to the October grant round of the Australia Council for the Arts to present the Australian Theatre Forum 2019 in Sydney next October. Performance Space is thrilled to work with TNA to present ATF 2019 as part of the Liveworks Festival. Liveworks takes place across the Carriageworks precinct in Redfern presenting provocative and ambitious new experimental art from Australia and the Asia Pacific region. 2019 will be the fifth year of the festival which now has an established a large and engaged audience and attracts industry experts from across Australia and Asia.

Since 2016 Liveworks has included a national delegate program for key figures in experimental practice from the Asia Pacific region, and has resulted in several key Australian works touring internationally, as well as new partnerships and co-commissions for Performance Space. In 2018 Performance Space, supported by The Australia Council, have expanded the program to include delegates from Europe and North America, as well as embarking on a national delegates program for the first time. Performance Space is excited to work with TNA and APAM to create a varied and exciting international delegates engagement program as part of Liveworks and ATF 2019.

We are excited to work closely with the ATF team to devise program sessions, and engage with the creative facilitated program to support the 2019 curators for the program. We're also excited to expand our relationship with Riverside Theatre in Parramatta and discuss programming options. ATF 2019 taking place in both Parramatta and Redfern is a great way for delegates to get a picture of the greater Sydney arts landscape.

ATF is an important gathering that allows for important discussion and networking with theatre and performance makers, producers and presenters across Australia. The inclusion of an international layer in 2019, is extremely exciting to open wider dialogue and expose new audiences to our festival and the Australian theatre sector. Performance Space puts artists at the centre of all that we do, which has a strong synthesis with ATF 2019 that continue to hold the strategy of more than 50% of delegates being artists.

We urge you to favourably consider TNA's application for funding from The Australia Council and we look forward to working closely with them to make a strong international artist focussed forum, which will open our festival and experimental practise to wider audiences from the theatre and performance sector nationally and internationally. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you need further information regarding Performance Space's support and interest in this funding application.

Kind regards,

Vanessa Lloyd  
General Manager

27 September 2018

Dear Theatre Panel

I write to confirm my support for TNA's application for funding for the Australian Theatre Forum 2019. Over the coming five years APAM and ATF will work closely together in a partnership model that is central to delivery of APAM under the new model of a year round office and delivery of international market development opportunities for Australian artists.

The new APAM model has moved away from delivery of a five-day biennial event, to a year round office, connecting and facilitating international engagement. APAM will run a series of tailored programs designed around existing festivals and events each year, including networking opportunities, meetings, conference activity and pitch sessions, as well as a biennial industry gathering.

We are thrilled that one of the first activities that the APAM office will undertake in this partnership model will be Sydney, in October 2019, alongside TNA's Australian Theatre Forum and Performance Space's Liveworks. The APAM program will run in parallel to the ATF and Liveworks programs, with targeted, integrated crossover sessions and many opportunities for informal networking.

APAM will work closely with the Performance Space and ATF teams, to bring out and host a targeted delegation of international presenters with appetite and capacity to engage in a range of diverse international engagement opportunities that include seeing full length works in context alongside works in development, insights into practice innovation and dialogues that explore the Australian cultural context. APAM and ATF will work closely to develop a forum that integrates local sector conversations within a global context and dialogue.

The partnership with TNA and ATF is one of the first being developed by the APAM office but will no doubt be central to the operating model across the next six years. I urge your support of the Australian Theatre Forum 2019 and the convergent opportunities it will offer the sector.

Best wishes



Catherine Jones  
Director, APAM office

1 October 2018



**Letter of Support to the Australia Council for the Arts**

Dear Members of the Theatre Panel,

I am writing to support Theatre Network Australia's application for funding for the 2019 Australian Theatre Forum (ATF) to be held in Sydney as part of the Liveworks Festival.

For over a decade, BlakDance has consistently delivered generative and transformative sector events and has contributed significantly to the development of the small to medium Indigenous dance sector.

BlakDance has worked collegiately with Theatre Network Australia (TNA) for many years, and commends TNA for its track record in pursuing self-determination for First Nations artists and arts workers in the performing arts sector. TNA's support of BlakDance as an organisation, and of our work as advocates in the broader arts industry, has been greatly appreciated.

BlakDance is excited to be in conversation with TNA, along with colleagues at APAM and Liveworks, to plan ways in which First Nations work can be profiled and supported within the new APAM model, and specifically around the 2019 ATF gathering. BlakDance plays a key role in the Global First Nations Exchange, and in 2018 this culminated in major focus at the Brisbane 2018 APAM event, including The Original People's Party, the BlakDance Presenters Series, and the First Nations exchange. It is clear that this enhanced attention to First Nations programming was a highlight of the event, and that it needs to be further embedded across the sector as we continue into the future.

The combination of partners working together within Liveworks 2019 provides the sector with a chance to profile emerging First Nations artists working across and between disciplines. It also provides another opportunity for dialogue about the need for new language and frameworks surrounding experimental First Nations practice, and how we market this work nationally and internationally.

BlakDance looks forward to continuing to work with TNA and partners over the coming year and beyond, and we commend this funding application to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Merindah", written over a horizontal line.

Merindah Donnelly

Executive Producer

**BlakDance**

[merindah.donnelly@blakdance.org.au](mailto:merindah.donnelly@blakdance.org.au)

+61 414 804 104

Theatre Panel  
Australia Council for the Arts  
372 Elizabeth Street  
Surry Hills NSW 2010  
Australia

28th September 2018

Dear Members of the Theatre Panel,

I am writing to confirm that Riverside Theatres Parramatta is pleased to be able to support the 2019 Australian Theatre Forum, 22-24 October 2019, alongside Performance Space's Liveworks Festival of Experimental Art. Our sponsorship offers concessional charges (including waived rental) for our world class venues, studios and breakout spaces, bringing the national theatre sector to Sydney's geographic and demographic heart.

A combination of our three venues will be utilised for the plenaries and the various breakout sessions: the Riverside Theatre, capacity 761; the Lennox Theatre, capacity 213 and the intimate Rafferty's Theatre, capacity 88. We will also work with the ATF team to find small studios, nooks and crannies for the breakout sessions, and broker negotiations with neighbouring spaces if needed for other breakout sessions.

Our ongoing programming will continue in the evenings and we will ensure there is a smooth sharing of spaces through close liaison with the ATF team.

Located on the banks of the Parramatta River, Riverside Theatres is only a 26-minute train ride and 10 minute walk from Sydney Central Station, yet it offers the dynamic and rich environment of Western Sydney in all its glorious diversity. Riverside is also home to the National Theatre of Parramatta, putting the nation on stage, and providing capacity building and education programs for Western Sydney's most promising professional and emerging artists.

We are excited to be a part of the national creative conversation which the Australian Theatre Forum provides, and in particular we look forward to the potential that the new international stream will bring, along with TNA's continued focus on advancing leadership for First Nations people, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people with a disability.

We commend this application to you and we look forward to working with an excellent group of partners that TNA has pulled together for ATF2019.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Love  
Director

**RIVERSIDE**

**2nd October 2018**

**Letter of support for the Australian Theatre Forum Creative Facilitation Program**

Dear Australia Council Panel,

Theatre Network Australia's intention to develop the facilitation capacity of the performing arts sector is an impressive and important project that I fully support. In my experience as a facilitator it is rare to see an organisation placing such a clear focus on sharpening facilitation skills to improve the outcomes of an event. It is also fantastic to see an organisation with a vision to create a legacy project and six-year strategy to deepen and expand these skills for its members. This is an initiative that I am very energised by and I am keen to support. I have been asked to co-design a program that from the outset, will equip people from within the sector so that over time this capacity building can take place in a self sustaining way.

The sectors I work with include community, arts, start-up, social movement, public, higher education, technology and political organisations. Past clients include:

- Human Rights Commission
- Victorian Government - Department of Justice
- Native Title Services Victoria
- Big hART
- Next Wave Festival
- Playwriting Australia
- Melbourne University Indigenous-Settler Relations Collaboration (Faculty of Arts)

I am now Melbourne based after returning from living in the Northern Territory for twelve years and working across remote, regional and urban Australia. I have also undertaken this work in Timor Leste, Cambodia and New Zealand.

My approach to facilitation is strongly influenced by the Lewis Deep Democracy approach, which is used in over 20 countries, in boardrooms through to grassroots community action. It grew out of the turmoil of post-Apartheid South Africa and is designed to provide a road to navigate complexity and make it safer for minority views to be heard. I oversee the accreditation of Lewis Deep Democracy facilitators in over eight countries.

TNA and I have shared values regarding the importance of inclusion and having a multi-faceted practice that champions dynamic intercultural and intersectional working relationships. We also both see the value in investing in enabling and fostering critical and robust dialogue, interconnectedness and innovation.

My experience as a facilitator for over fifteen years has illustrated the range of benefits that individuals and organisations experience when they are able to have authentic conversations and say what needs to be said. Insights and innovations are voiced and heard that otherwise would have remained silent, there is greater engagement, tensions can be shifted and resolved, and genuine buy-in to decisions is more likely as people actually feel heard. I would be honoured to design and lead the Creative Facilitation Program for the ATF and support a diverse cohort of participants to become competent and confident creative facilitators for the upcoming ATF and for the sector more broadly.

Kind regards  
Pru Gell

**Facilitator + Learning Program Designer + Coach**

e. [prugell@gmail.com](mailto:prugell@gmail.com)

p. 0401 006 209

w. [www.prugell.com](http://www.prugell.com)