

APPLICATION FROM THE EXPERIMENTAL ART FOUNDATION FOR FUNDING
OF ALTERNATIVE ART SPACES CONFERENCE, MAY 24-26, HOBART

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1. SUMMARY OF PROJECT

A three-day conference of representatives from alternative art spaces, both funded and independent, and artist-run collectives.

Venue: Hobart, to coincide with ANZART

Dates: May 24,25,26

General Aim: to set up better communications with each other; to talk about past experience and try to solve common problems of administration, policy and funding; to exchange ideas on future directions.

Organiser: Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide

2. Rationale for the Event

With the emergence recently of several new artist-run spaces in Australia the need has arisen for a meeting of their instigators and people from the longer-established spaces. Limited mobility has meant that a great deal of expertise is

not passed on to those setting up new spaces, and that people from the older spaces rarely get the chance to share ideas for mutually beneficial programmes.

For some time various spaces have felt that it is important that a proper 'networking' system be set up so that each space can take advantage of what others are doing, so avoiding waste and duplication.

There is a great deal to be gained from an exchange of ideas such as the proposed conference. The event itself with its formal paper-giving will require 'stocktaking' on the part of each space and the crystallising of policies, a valuable exercise both for spaces which have many years of operation and those which have just started up. Moreover the incentive of a thorough scrutiny of philosophical aims is best created in the 'live' situation of a conference.

Papers will be printed and circulated before the conference and material emerging after each day will be written up, so that representatives will go away with a full record of what was discussed.

The advantages of the proposed date and venue is that it is likely that several of the people who work in alternate spaces will be attending ANZART anyway; thus there will be a saving of travel expenses. Secondly many of the visiting artists will find the open sessions relevant and interesting to them, especially as the ANZART event has a definite bias towards alternative/experimental forms, and there will be small information-based installations by each of the spaces on view at ANZART.

3. Rationale for Funding

Summary:

Future benefits to funding bodies in increased awareness by spaces of issues and possible problems.

Future benefits to all spaces and Australian artists in general in improved communication between art spaces, therefore more efficient use of funding.

Conference will contribute to success of ANZART event and vice versa.

4. Programme

Notes re organisation.

7 open sessions

3 closed sessions, which will be run on the 'search' system.

Preliminary reading to be sent out three weeks in advance.

Chairperson to be invited for sessions other than 'search' sessions. 'Search' leader to be employed for three sessions.

TUESDAY MAY 24

9-11 Session 1 Open to the public

Each space represented to give an overview of its operations

-historical

-structure

-current aims and activities

-support (funding)

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11 am Break

11.30 - 1.00 Session 2 Open

Continue session 1

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Lunch

2.00 - 4.00 Session 3 Open

Panel of 3 speakers

Each a 20-minute outline of role of alternative art spaces in 1983

Discussion 1 hour.

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4.00 Break

4.30 - 6.00 Session 4 Open

Discussion of needs of artists from Alternative art spaces

WEDNESDAY MAY 25

9.00 - 11.00 Session 1 Open

Funding : panel of three speakers to cover

- a) direction of funding
- b) schemes, grants etc that are available from funding authorities
- c) how to generate income by marketing, in-house production etc

Discussion

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11.00 Break

11.30 - 1.00 Session 2 Open

Formalising Networking

- a) three proposals (10 mins each) for a network structure
- b) discussion
- c) recommendations

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Lunch

2.00 Session 3 Closed

Search process 1st session

Desirable scenarios/ directions

Group leader working with group made up of all representatives from alternative visual art spaces

THURSDAY MAY 26

9.00 - 11.00 Session 1 Closed

Search process continued

Restrictions to desirable directions

(group leader working with full group)

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11.00 Break

11.30 - 1.00 Session 2 Closed

Search process continued

Working parties form to look at the major areas of discussion and write up a report of the most feasible scenarios and a list of recommendations to be taken to the plenary session

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Lunch

2.00 Plenary Session

Basis of Actions adopted, including

- a) action between spaces
- b) recommendations to funding authorities
- c) report of conference for publication

5. PARTICIPANTS

The following organisations have been notified about the conference and invited to attend. This list may be expanded as other names come to hand.

SYDNEY

Artspace
Australian Centre for Photography
Art Unit
Art Network
Alpha-space
Beta-space

MELBOURNE

George Paton Gallery
Roar
Clifton Hill Music Centre

ADELAIDE

Experimental Art Foundation
Women's Art Movement
South Australian Workshop
Roundspace

BRISBANE

One Flat Exhibit
Institute of Modern Art

PERTH

Praxis
Media-Space

CANBERRA

Bitumen River

HOBART

Chameleon

*New Zealand
A Centre*

For the purposes of funding we wish to ensure travel costs are covered for the following spaces:

Artspace
Australian Centre for Photography
Art Network
George Paton
another Melbourne space to be confirmed

Experimental Art Foundation
Women's Art Movement
One Flat Exhibit
Institute of Modern Art
Praxis
Bitumen River