



Arts Industry Council
(South Australia) Inc

Chair
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25 November 2005

The Hon Mike Rann
Premier, Minister for the Arts
GPO Box 2343
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Premier

Thank you for considering our budget submission for the financial year 2006-2007. The Arts Industry Council is a network of arts organisations and individuals, and is the only independent, sector wide representative arts body in the state. We have two major requests that we ask you to consider in this budget cycle: funding the Independent Makers Strategy *Innovation is Applied Creativity*; and funds for the refurbishment of the state's regional theatres.

Innovation is Applied Creativity: an investment of \$700,00

We attach, for your convenience, a copy of the Arts Industry Council's independent makers strategy *Innovation is Applied Creativity*, first circulated in October 2005. Independent artists play a vital role in maintaining an innovative and thriving arts sector in South Australia. However, as we have noted in previous budget submissions, their capacity to undertake new work and sustain their practice has been diminishing. The *Innovation is Applied Creativity* document outlines the issues affecting independent artists and their capacity to maintain their practice in South Australia. It also contains a series of actions which would substantially improve this situation. We suggest that with an investment of \$700,000 in additional recurrent funding to the Arts SA budget, the situation of independent artists would be substantially improved and their potential contribution to the sector and the State could be realised.

Regional theatres

For many years, we have been asking that significant additional funds be allocated for the refurbishment of the state's **regional theatres**. This issue has been addressed to some degree, with a \$500,000 allocation made in 2003-04, and an allocation made last year of \$500,000 per annum for four years, but this is minimal funding towards the work required. The Minister Assisting the Arts, John Hill, told this year's estimates committee that 'if there are additional things that are required after the expenditure of this sum, they will be considered through the budget process'. We maintain our position that the government must fully address the considerable capital work required to appropriately refurbish the four regional performing arts centres. **As the AIC has previously advised, a total of approximately \$8 million is required to fully refurbish these centres.**

Yours sincerely

Deidre Williams
Chair

cc: The Hon Kevin Foley, Treasurer; The Hon John Hill, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts