



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – FIRST NATIONS

Brisbane Powerhouse invites Expressions of Interest from First Nations-led organisations or collectives to form a partnership.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Yuggera and Turrbal people, the First Nation Traditional Owners of the land on which is home to the Brisbane Powerhouse. We pay respects to all Elders past and present and acknowledge the young leaders who are working beside our Elders in our cultural industries. We recognise all First Nation peoples as the original storytellers of these lands and acknowledge the important role they continue to play in our community.

First Nations Advisory Committee, Brisbane Powerhouse

Toni Janke (Board Director, FNAC Chair), Angelina Hurley, Jungaji Brady

Introduction

Over the past 12 months, Brisbane Powerhouse, in collaboration with diverse partners, has delivered a dynamic First Nations arts and culture program. Highlights include performances by Yothu Yindi; Aboriginal Comedy Allstars; *Tina: A Tropical Love Story* featuring Ben Graetz and friends; innovative new production *Meet Your Maker* by Blak Social; a citywide exhibition of work by Christian Thompson AO; exhibitions *The Dream Weaver* by Grace Lillian Lee and *Big Sculpture* by Cairns Indigenous Art Fair; First Nations film screenings as well as a First Nations CityCat to lead the inaugural River Pride Parade as part of Melt Festival of Queer Arts and Culture.

But we recognise that we need to do more to promote First Nations arts and culture. Brisbane Powerhouse, in consultation with its First Nations Advisory Committee, is deeply committed to embedding cultural respect, celebration, and engagement with First Nations communities into its organisation and programs.

Proposal

Brisbane Powerhouse seeks a partnership with a First Nations-led organisation or collective to develop a strategy for a sustainable and impactful First Nations program at Brisbane Powerhouse. This initiative will include a plan to attract funding for a dedicated First Nations Producer role, which will be shared between a First Nations-led organisation or collective and Brisbane Powerhouse.



Scope of the Project

The successful First Nations partner will collaborate closely with Brisbane Powerhouse and the First Nations Advisory Committee to:

1. **Develop a First Nations Program Strategy:** Co-create a strategic plan that articulates key goals, potential programming, themes, and partnerships aligned with Brisbane Powerhouse's values and cultural commitments and those of the First Nations-led company or collective.
2. **Identify Funding Opportunities:** Develop a compelling funding strategy to secure resources for a First Nations Producer role, as well as program delivery for both the First Nations-led organisation or collective and Brisbane Powerhouse. This includes applying for support from government, corporate, and philanthropic sources.
3. **Community and Cultural Engagement:** Work with the First Nations Advisory Committee to connect with local communities (including Traditional Owners), Elders, and artists, ensuring the program reflects and respects First Nations cultures and perspectives.
4. **Program Implementation Framework:** Establish a framework for the First Nations Producer, with the Advisory Committee's input, to deliver high-quality, culturally enriched programs that are meaningful and sustainable.

Why would I apply?

Becoming a partner with Brisbane Powerhouse provides a First Nations-led organisation or collective with the unique opportunity to achieve strategic objectives and projects that may otherwise be out of reach. This is an exciting opportunity to elevate and leverage First Nations voices to mainstream audiences with greater scale and potential to promote First Nations arts and culture.

The partnership offers access to shared resources, including office space and expertise, the opportunity to develop quality collaborative projects, connect with diverse new audiences, and utilise rehearsal and performance spaces. Furthermore, it creates opportunities to seek new funding for innovative, collaborative projects and initiatives that exemplify blak excellence.



Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The objectives of this partnership are to:

- **Deliver a Dedicated First Nations Program:** Develop a respected platform that highlights First Nations stories and artistry.
- **Support at least one First Nations Producer Role:** Create and sustain a First Nations Producer position, providing ongoing leadership and curation of this program.
- **Strengthen Cultural Connections and Representation:** Build a strong, respectful connection with First Nations artists and communities, guided by our First Nations Advisory Committee.
- **Promote Cultural Awareness and Appreciation:** Facilitate a deeper understanding and respect for First Nations cultures among Brisbane Powerhouse staff, audiences and stakeholders.

Expression of Interest Requirements

Brisbane Powerhouse invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from First Nations businesses, organisations and/or collectives that:

- Are majority First Nations owned and led.
- Share a commitment to cultural advocacy and artistic integrity.
- Have a history of developing community-focused, culturally respectful strategies.
- Can effectively engage with stakeholders, including the First Nations Advisory Committee, communities, artists, Elders and Traditional owner groups.

Interested parties should submit a proposal that includes:

1. **Organisation/Collective Background:** Describe your organisation or organisation's mission, history, and key achievements.
2. **Relevant Experience:** Outline your experience in cultural strategy, community engagement, and program development.
3. **Proposed Approach:** Describe your proposed approach to working with Brisbane Powerhouse and its First Nations Advisory Committee to develop a First Nations program strategy and funding plan. The Brisbane Powerhouse team is available to meet to discuss your proposed approach.
4. **Timeline:** Provide an estimated timeline for developing the initial strategy and funding plan.



Submission and Selection Process

Submissions should be sent to Brisbane Powerhouse by 20 January 2025. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present their proposal to the First Nations Advisory Committee and CEO/Artistic Director, Brisbane Powerhouse.

Contact

For further information, please contact Ang Kirkland, Executive Coordinator at Brisbane Powerhouse via email angk@brisbanepowerhouse.org or phone (07) 3358 8669.

Conclusion

This partnership represents a meaningful opportunity to establish a dynamic and dedicated First Nations program at Brisbane Powerhouse, guided by the insights and support of our First Nations Advisory Committee. Together, we aim to celebrate, elevate, and honour First Nations voices and artistry, creating a culturally rich experience for our audiences and community.

All First Nations businesses, organisations and/or collectives are encouraged to apply and will be given serious consideration.