

Video Transcript

Undercover Artist Festival – Grants Announcement

**Leeanne Enoch, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts:**

Hello, my name is Leeanne Enoch, I am the Queensland Arts Minister.

Let me begin of course by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather, and pay my respects to all of our Elders past and present.

[Audio description] I identify as a fair-skinned Aboriginal woman, and today I am wearing a floral dress with my dark hair pinned back in a bun, and I am standing in front of a wooden panelled wall on level 32 of 1 William St.

The Palaszczuk Government supports Access Arts, which for more than three decades, has pioneered ways for people of all abilities to take part in and excel in the arts. Covid-19 has greatly impacted the arts sector, however the creativity and innovation of artists and arts workers continues to shine through.

A highlight for Access Arts is the Undercover Artist Festival which provides a platform for artists’ professional development and engagement. This festival is delivered in partnership with Queensland Theatre and supported by the Palaszczuk Government Queensland Arts Showcase Program.

Unfortunately, like many events, the Undercover Artist Festival could not go ahead this year. However, I’m thrilled to see that Access Arts are instead presenting the Undercover Artist Grants Program to ensure that artists can continue to develop their work and skills.

The Grants Program will fund eight separate projects with more than 37 Queensland artists involved. This Access Arts Grants Program will go far in helping to connect our artistic community and contribute to social recovery after the pandemic. Since the onset of Covid-19, the Palaszczuk Government has committed more than 42.5 million dollars in relief measures, including the 22.5 million dollar Arts and Cultural Recovery Package announced as part of Queensland’s plan for economic recovery. This investment will help our artists to continue to tell our stories, inspire, and uplift us. Congratulations to all of the grants recipients.

I can’t wait to see how these transformative grants will help artists to realise new work, which will be presented online later this year. Thank you.

**Madeleine Little, Festival Director:**

Hello, my name is Madeleine Little, Festival Director for Undercover Artist Festival.

[Audio description] I identify as a Caucasian woman in my mid-twenties. I am currently wearing a black shirt underneath a bright pink blazer, and my long red hair is in a bun.

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which I am presenting and Elders past, present and emerging.

Today I have the pleasure in announcing the recipients of the Undercover Artist INCUBATE and UNITE Grants Programs. Thank you to Arts Queensland and Queensland Theatre for their support of artists with disability, and to every artists and arts worker who submitted an application. We were overwhelmed by the volume of applications and the outstanding level of talent in Queensland.

The **$5000 INCUBATE** grant supports creative development of new and ongoing performing arts projects from Queensland performing artists with disability or who are D/deaf.

Congratulations Marissa Ker, for your work on *Denis and the Deets*, a satirical comedy about cinema managers who don’t screen movies with open captions.

Congratulations Alexandra Ellen for your work - *Conversations with My Walker*, which will explore themes of internalised ableism, shame and disability pride.

And finally, congratulations to AHA Ensemble, who will explore relationships, connectedness and inter-dependence in a collaborative dance-theatre work called *Yolk.*

I would also like to congratulate Jacqueline Marshall, David Waldie and Aspy Jones who will each receive a $2000 INCUBATE Grant to further their performing arts projects.

I am also honoured to announce the winners of the $2000 UNITE Program Grants which provide support for a mentor/mentee relationship for Queensland performing artists with disability or who are D/deaf.

Congratulations Isabel Stankiewicz. Isabel will be mentored in playwriting by Ladyfinger, and marketing with Harmonie Downes in support her new play, *Necklace.*

Congratulations Oliver Hetherington-Page.Oliver will be mentored by Matilda Award-winning producer Alex Woodward to support his new cabaret, *The No Bang Theory*.

While it’s unfortunate this year’s Undercover Artist Festival was postponed to 2021, we are delighted to invite you all to join us at the official Undercover Artist: Online showcase in December.

Stay up to date on our website and social media for more information, new creative projects and a sneak peek into next year’s festival.

I look forward to seeing you there!