

presents a discussion forum
in association with the launch of ...



You are invited to join the discussion with authors and arts strategists, Cathy Hunt (Aust) and Phyllida Shaw (UK).

Cathy and Phyllida will explore the future of the Arts and what it takes to create a sustainable sector.

5pm, Friday 1 February 2008

The Sapphire Lounge

39 - 40 Lake Street, Cairns

RSVP essential by Wednesday 30 January

Bookings email Arts Nexus at admin@artsnexus.com.au

or phone 4051 4433

Cost: Free (leave clear message and contact)

!Metro Arts



International experts focus on sustainability in the Arts

Arts Nexus is hosting the Cairns leg a four-city national tour for locals to hear from two experts on the question of sustainability in the arts with a free forum at the Sapphire Lounge in Lake Street Cairns at 5.00pm this Friday 1 February 2008.

Brisbane-based Cathy Hunt, Co-Director, Positive Solutions and UK-based Phyllida Shaw, arts researcher and facilitator have both worked as arts strategists in an international context.

The tour follows a lively discussion about sustainability in the arts held by Metro Arts in Brisbane in 2006 that has led to the two being published this month in the Platform Papers, a series available nationally through respected publisher, Currency House.

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Their quarterly essay, *Sustainability in the Arts: What will it take?*, aims to ignite national discussion and debate on the topic among the arts community and among policy makers, with media coverage last week in the *Australian Financial Review* and *The Australian* newspaper, among others.

“The current climate presents a unique opportunity to debate the future of the Arts: a new federal Government; Arts Queensland operating under a new sector plan; the Australia Council rolling out new policies such as ‘make it new’; and the potential to secure investment from the private sector at a time of considerable economic growth,” said Eve Stafford, Executive Officer of Arts Nexus in Cairns.

“In their essay, the authors analyse the last 10 years of arts policies and programs in Australia and the UK and propose what it will take to create a sustainable arts sector in Australia. Hunt and Shaw conclude that sustainability is about much more than money.”

Hunt explains, “Sustainability is about understanding the support required by artists, writers and performers, and the pathways for the public to engage with the arts, through education, as practitioners, as volunteers and as paying audiences”.

The essay claims all parties, including government, business and the arts sector, have a responsibility to ensure the three cornerstones of sustainability for an arts organisation - a stable income, a supportive infrastructure and vibrant creativity - are established and maintained.

Hunt and Shaw propose a range of measures which could be taken and suggest the potential to establish a Future Fund for the Arts, to increase levels of investment in those areas required for a sustainable future, namely innovation, risk and long term initiatives for change. To purchase the essay, visit www.currencyhouse.org.au

Although the Cairns forum is free, please register on 4051 4433 or via admin@artsnexus.com.au

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BIOGRAPHIES

Cathy Hunt is one of the founding directors of Positive Solutions, based in Brisbane, and has over 20 years experience working in the arts and creative industries in Australia, the UK and Asia Pacific. Her professional experience in the sector includes the management of UK art centres, touring performance companies and festivals. As a consultant, Cathy has worked extensively on arts and cultural policy and strategic planning for local, state and commonwealth government.

Phyllida Shaw has been an independent researcher, writer and facilitator, specialising in arts policy and management in the UK since 1988. Along with volunteering on numerous arts boards, she is an adviser to three grant-making trusts, an associate lecturer on the MA in Arts & Cultural Management at the University of Sussex and a research associate at the Cities Institute, London Metropolitan University.

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BRISBANE Wednesday 6 February 4pm Metro Arts, Studio 109 Edward Street, Brisbane
Speakers Cathy Hunt, Phyllida Shaw, Leigh Tabrett, John Baylis, Matt Tobin

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CAIRNS Friday 1 February 5pm The Sapphire Lounge, 39-40 Lake Street, Cairns
Speakers Cathy Hunt and Phyllida Shaw

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SYDNEY Saturday 9 February 3:30pm Belvoir Street Theatre, Surry Hills
Chaired by David Marr. Speakers include Cathy Hunt, Phyllida Shaw, John Baylis, Meryl Tankard

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MELBOURNE Monday 11 February 6pm School of Graduate Studies, University of Melbourne
Chaired by Rupert Myer, AM. Speakers include Cathy Hunt, Phyllida Shaw, Robyn Archer, AM, and Hilary Crampton