

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

The 2022 Australian Museums and Galleries (AMaGA) National Conference *HEAR.US.NOW: turning conversations into action* will take place from 14 to 17 June 2022 in Boorloo Perth at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre and cultural venues across Perth.

“HEAR. US. NOW” will address the global issues that are impacting the Arts in Australia and will connect WA and Australia to the Indian Ocean Rim communities. Delegates are being encouraged to *“amplify each other’s voice, dissect the status quo, and collaborate on new models of practice”*.

The four-day program includes a dedicated Regional, Remote & Community Day followed by three full conference days featuring over 100 speakers from WA, Australia and international. The AMaGA National conference has never been more accessible with virtual audiences able to stream interact with sessions live , network online with virtual and in-person delegates, and experience a virtual trade exhibition.

“AMaGA 2022: Hear. Us. Now will be my first physical conference as National Council President and I am eager to talk to people in person and engage with the wonderful program that our WA colleagues have put together for us all.” says Seb Chan, National President, Australian Museums and Galleries Association.

The opening address will be given by the Hon David Templeman Dip Tchg BED MLA, Minister for Culture, and the Arts; Sport and Recreation; International Education; Heritage.

The keynote addresses will be given by international guests attending in person including Dr. Gaye Sculthorpe (The British Museum, UK), Sabyasachi Mukherjee (CSMVS Mumbai, India), Dr Sabah Abdel Razeq, (Egyptian Museum, Egypt), and a virtual presentation by Sara Raza (Punk Orientalism, USA).

Further keynotes include leading Australian futurist, Kristin Alford (MOD, South Australia), James Boyd (Creative Partnerships Australia, WA) as well as Craig Ritchie (AIATSIS, ACT) who will join the international keynotes in a panel discussion about repatriation and restitution of cultural materials.

These inspiring and thought-provoking speakers will be exploring some of the key issues facing the cultural sector and representing Australia’s cultural connection with the world.

“We’re overwhelmed by the response to the program and cannot wait to welcome our peers back to WA, says Christen Bell, Chair of the AMaGA 2022 Conference Organising Committee. “It’s a once-in-a-decade opportunity to highlight WA’s unique venues and projects. Delegates will be welcomed at the AGWA Rooftop, enjoy dinner under Otto the Whale at Boola Bardip, visit cultural icons Fremantle Prison and Goolugatup Heathcote Cultural Precinct, and finish our week being hosted by WA Glambassador, Famous Sharron, at the MAGNA and MAPDA Awards Breakfast.”

Delegates will engage with critical issues that intersect and impact the arts including social inclusivity, digitisation, climate change, philanthropy, the role of cultural institutions in times of crisis, community engagement, storytelling and cultural safety.

The AMaGA 2022 conference is focussed on elevating diverse voices to chart a new direction for Australia’s cultural institutions at a time of disruption and change globally.

[>View Conference Program](#)

[> Visit AMaGA 2022 Conference website](#)

Details on keynote speakers below.

Images and interviews with speakers available upon request.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOS

Dr Gaye Sculthorpe is a Palawa woman from Tasmania and has been **Curator and Head of Oceania at The British Museum** since 2013. Before moving to London, Gaye worked in numerous curatorial positions in Australia, as well as being a Member of the National Native Title Tribunal. In 2015 she curated the exhibition 'Indigenous Australia: enduring civilisation' at the British Museum, after the idea originated from work done as part of a research project funded by the Australian Research Council, amongst others. She has been engaged in several other ARC projects working with Aboriginal communities and university colleagues. These recent and ongoing projects focus on uncovering and making known historic collections of Aboriginal cultural material in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Sabyasachi Mukherjee is **Director General of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS Museum), Mumbai**, and under his leadership the CSMVS has undergone extensive modernisation. This included the refurbishment of the museum's main building and the establishment of a conservation centre, a new Children's Museum, an institutional archive, new galleries, and educational initiatives. In 2015 the CSMVS launched The Museum on Wheels, a pioneering programme dedicated to museum outreach programmes.

Sabyasachi is also the Director of the Postgraduate (Diploma) Programme in Museology and Art Conservation at CSMVS Institute, University of Mumbai.

Dr Sabah Abdel Razek, General Director, Egyptian Museum, Cairo has more than thirty years' experience in museums and has been the General Director of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo since September 2016. Originally from the city of Aswan, Sabah graduated with a BA in history from Cairo University, Faculty of Arts in 1985, and has earned graduate diplomas in Egyptology and Museology, also from Cairo University.

She joined the Supreme Council of Antiquities in 1986 and since 1995 has been working at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. During this time, she has worked in various departments and continued her training and has also represented the Egyptian Museum and the Ministry of Antiquities on many occasions at events and conferences in Egypt and abroad.

Among her many achievements, she was part of the team that initiated and constructed the current museum database system.

During recent years Sabah has taken on wider duties and committees in the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, including, The Permanent Committee for Egyptian and Greco-Roman Antiquities, and the Museums Scenario's Committee.

Sara Raza is an award winning international **contemporary art curator and writer**. She is a specialist in contemporary global curatorial knowledge and 21st century museum collecting practices. Based in New York City, Sarah founded the global visual cultures curatorial studio Punk Orientalism, where she works on

exhibitions, education and publications in central Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

In 2021 Sara was selected to design and direct the Masters in Museum Studies in Central Asia by the Art and Culture Development Foundation under the Ministry of Culture of Uzbekistan.

Dr Kristin Alford is a globally recognised futurist and the inaugural Director of future-focused museum MOD. at the University of South Australia. Kristin set the vision for MOD. and now leads a team of science communicators and designers developing immersive experiences that showcase research and innovation to young adults. Exhibitions have received awards from the Asia-Pacific Network of Science Centres, The Design Institute of Australia and the Australian Museums and Galleries Association.

She is also the President of the Australia Science and Technology Engagement Network (ASTEN).

When **James Boyd, State Manager WA, Creative Partnerships Australia** was appointed Executive Manager Development of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra in 2004 he headed to the Pittsburg Symphony Orchestra to learn how to raise philanthropic support US style. On his return, he replicated the US model and success followed. Since then, James has worked for the Commonwealth Government's Australia Council for the Arts and Creative Partnerships Australia across the arts, philanthropy and business to encourage innovative cross-sector engagement through strategic partnerships, sponsorship and philanthropy. He has coached over 250 arts companies on strategic sustainability and fundraising.

James is the National Convenor of Collective Giving Australia, an organisation championing collaborative philanthropy. He co-founded Impact100 in 2012 and has since helped Impact100 groups form in several other Australian states. In 2017, he led the research *Collective Giving and its Role in Australian Philanthropy* to inform the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership. In 2021, in response to the challenges faced during COVID, he co-founded Arts Impact WA first large collective giving initiative supporting the arts.

Currently he is a 2020 Churchill Fellow with research looking at *new global responses offering arts companies alternatives to ethical private funding dilemmas*. He will visit the UK & USA later in 2022 and bring insights back to Australia to inform this growing challenge.

Craig Ritchie is an Aboriginal man of the Dhunghutti and Biripi nations and is the **CEO at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)**. Craig joined AIATSIS as Deputy CEO in April 2016, and formally appointed CEO in May 2017. Prior to this Craig has worked in other senior roles within the APS leading Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander higher education, higher education access & participation for people from low-SE backgrounds, and international student mobility. He was founding Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in ACT Government. Craig has extensive experience in the

community sector, including as CEO of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) - the peak advocacy body for Aboriginal community-controlled health services. Craig is also the Australian Government representative on, and Co-Chair of, UNESCO's Global Taskforce for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages