

MEDIA RELEASE

17th July 2017

Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair set to represent showcase over 60 of Australia's most remote Aboriginal & Torres Strait Art Centres thanks to the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation.

The Tim Fairfax Family Foundation (TFFF) has committed to a four-year funding partnership with the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation to assist with travel costs and professional development for some of the most remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Centres across the country, particularly in the Northern Territory and Queensland.

TFFF's support will enable the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation to:

- Provide travel assistance to enable Arts Workers and their Art Centres to participate at the annual Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair.
- Provide Indigenous Arts Workers with training and guidelines around the best practice and operation of their exhibition booths.
- Deliver a curating program which connects Arts Workers with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander curators from public institutions across Australia and focuses on building skills in exhibition development for Arts Workers.

The 11th Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (DAAF) is set to take place from the 11-13 August 2017 at the Darwin Convention Centre. In 2017, 65 Art Centres from across Australia will be represented at the event. TFFF's support will ensure that more Indigenous Art Workers will be able to attend the event in 2017 to interact with visitors and the arts industry! As Art Coordinator of Tangentyere Artists, Ruth McMillan says,

"Terazita Turner Young started here at the end of last year and has participated in professional development with us and with Desert ...and everyone who we have worked with in the Indigenous Visual Arts world has remarked on her potential. Thank you for this opportunity for Terazita in particular".

In 2016 DAAF generated over \$2.038 million for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art sector and ensured that 100% of all the sales returned to support the communities where the Art Centres are from. TFFF has ensured that DAAFF can continue to support Art Centres in this way.

The 2017 event is set to see more than 10,000 visitors enter the fair and ancillary events such as the *From Country to Couture* fashion show, film gala at Darwin's Deckchair Cinema, and a panel discussion. For full DAAF program visit www.darwinaboriginalartfair.com.au.

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Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation

The Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation Ltd (DAAFF) is owned and operated by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Centres it represents. It is a not-for-profit organisation.

Each August, the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation Ltd (DAAFF) runs and operates the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (DAAF) which showcases the work of emerging and established artists from more than 60 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community Art Centres from across Australia. These Art Centres collectively represent over 2,000 artists, meaning that DAAF showcases a greater diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, and generates more than four times the sales volume than that of any other art fair in Australia.

Nowhere else in the world offers an opportunity for visitors to genuinely interact and engage with the artists themselves. As a result, DAAF has secured a reputation as one of the country's most significant and internationally recognised arts events.

The mission of the foundation is to encourage the production of Aboriginal arts and assist with its promotion in an ethical and sustainable business environment. DAAF is committed to professional development opportunities for artists and Arts Workers, and to continually contribute to the cultural aspirations of the Art Centres. **DAAF does not take a commission from art works sold, allowing for all profits to support the artists, Art Centres and communities from where they come.**