Fact sheet

Maningrida Arts & Culture – **Facts about our business and important information for artists**

Maningrida Arts & Culture is Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation's most enduring enterprise. It has survived 50 years, supported thousands of artists in our region and will not be beaten by Covid-19.

Maningrida Arts and Culture incorporates the Bábbarra Women's Centre, The Djomi Museum, The Culture Office and Arts and Cultural tourism. We employ 20 staff. Our operations are overseen by a group of important senior people representing eight language groups.

Fact file - how we purchase art

- We rely solely on income from art sales to buy art work
- Half the money from selling artwork has to pay for buying new artwork. The other half pays for rent on three buidings to the NLC, rates to the shire, pay power, water, computers, phones, vehicle maintenance and fuel, plus more
- The government does not give the art centre money to buy art work
- Money to pay staff salaries comes from separate government grant money that cannot be spent on buying artwork
- Centrelink does not give the art centre money to buy artwork
- Our limited space at the art centre means we can only hold 10 artworks per artist
- Four years ago the art centre almost had to close because it had too much artwork and no money
- Art centre staff can't pay full price for every piece of work artists bring in because there are hundreds of artists
- The terrible bushfires around Australia in December and January meant our after Christmas sales were very low, so we have already been telling our artists that the Art Centre and Bábbarra Designs money story has not been good.

Fact file - how COVID-19 affects Maningrida Arts & Culture

- National and international museums and galleries that exhibit our art work are closing because of COVID-19, so people won't see our work.
- Art fairs where the art centre and Bábbarra Designs sell a lot of work have been canceled
- Tours to Maningrida have been canceled. This means we have lost $500,000 in tourism income
- The art centre has no control over the impact of COVID-19 on the art market so we can't protect our income
- The art centre is still distributing copyright, resale royalties, print sales and coordinating public art tenders, cast works, and commissions.

Important information for artists

The art centre **cannot afford to pay artists up front** until this COVID-19 risk has passed. Artists will need to wait until the art centre sells their artwork and is paid and then the art centre can pay.

Artists **WILL get paid AFTER** the artwork sells. This is the way most art centres work.

Artists should bring art to the art centre and it will be catalogued, but the art centre **cannot pay you until it is sold** and the art centre receives the money. **You will get paid, you just need to wait like the art centre has to wait.**

What are we doing to help?

- Art centre staff are working hard to secure donations and support, to make sales on the website and through Instagram and work on new ideas and projects
- Maningrida Arts & Culture staff are in contact with government, peak bodies and Aboriginal arts leaders to find ways to get support during the next three months.

How can Maningrida residents help?

- You could buy some art to brighten up your homes and offices. You could also purchase vouchers for friends and family as gifts. #weareallinthistogether
- You can donate a cleaning pack / soaps and paper towel / hamper of food that we can pass onto artists and / or deliver to outstations.

Art centre access during voluntary lock-down

The art centre building is **closed to the general public from 31 March** to protect artists, especially older artists visiting from homelands. Staff want to maintain best practice hygiene at the art centre to stop people getting sick. We are open to artists on Thursday but please use social distancing and no more than three in the art centre at a time

To agencies in Maningrida: for an appointment to meet or to view artwork please email maningridaarts@bawinanga.com message us on Facebook or Instagram or call 08 8979 6100