

APAM First Nations Framework

Introduction

The Australian Performing Arts Market (APAM) works year-round, and across Australia, to connect contemporary Australian theatre, dance, emerging and experimental art with international and national opportunities.

APAM is a strategic initiative of the Australia Council for the Arts. It is designed to showcase Australian and New Zealand contemporary dance, theatre, emerging and experimental arts nationally and internationally. APAM deepens relationships and creates new markets and pathways across the globe for contemporary performance. APAM works with artists and organisations that have strategic market development plans and engage professional artists.

The principles guiding all APAM's work are:

- First Nations as central
- Reciprocity
- Artist-centric
- Sustainable and equitable
- Experimental
- Asia-focused

APAM's three functions

A. An APAM Office, open year-round to facilitate visitors to Australia

Based in Melbourne with a national remit, a small, dedicated staff of advocates welcomes, hosts and connects international artists, presenters, and partners with contemporary Australian performance. From time to time, the APAM Office partners with festivals to support Platform events.

B. Hosting 1–2 annual APAM Gatherings at established festivals around Australia

Gatherings replace the previous biennial market events, increasing the number of APAM events and the diversity of contexts in which to visit performing arts communities around the country. Gatherings are more than just a showcase, providing all the elements of traditional performing arts markets, but with full-length public performances. Happening at established festivals across Australia, Gatherings build more opportunities for collaboration across the performing arts.

C. Market intelligence for contemporary Australian performance

APAM serves as an Australian-based hub of market intelligence that benefits contemporary Australian performance and its advocates internationally.

First Nations Focus

APAM's work with First Nations¹ artists, companies, programmers, curators, producers, presenters, venues and communities will focus on:

- Building and fostering cultural exchange and relationships with Traditional Owners and communities where APAM events are taking place.
- Creating economic and cultural opportunities for work.
- Creating opportunities to build profile and relationships.
- Supporting global connection, collaboration and exchange.
- Building skills, capacity and knowledge.
- Creating access to international opportunities.

First Nations Lead

APAM works with ILBIJERRI Theatre Company as First Nations Lead. ILBIJERRI is an internationally significant First Nations-run and led performing arts company, bringing extensive expertise and self-determined leadership to APAM.

Role of the First Nations Advisory Group

A central component of the First Nations Lead role is the APAM First Nations Advisory Group (Advisory Group) convened by ILBIJERRI, and comprised of performing arts sector leaders from across the country, engaged on a rotating membership basis in order to connect to community and specialised knowledge around Australia.

The Group's role across all APAM functions guides the work of the First Nations producing team employed by ILBIJERRI, who are based in the APAM Office. The Advisory Group has a role in decision-making, advice, engagement, guidance and support for the APAM Office. The APAM Office and ILBIJERRI Theatre Company have jointly developed Terms of Reference to outline the role of the Advisory Group and to create a common understanding between the partners and Group Members on how they will work together.

¹ A note on language: APAM uses the term First Nation/s in lieu of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Indigenous, or First Peoples. The term is used to refer to the first inhabitants of this continent and as a general reference to First Nations people worldwide. Where possible throughout our work, specific individuals are referred to by their preferred familial, language, land, or totemic affiliation, as a mark of respect for their unique cultural sovereignty.

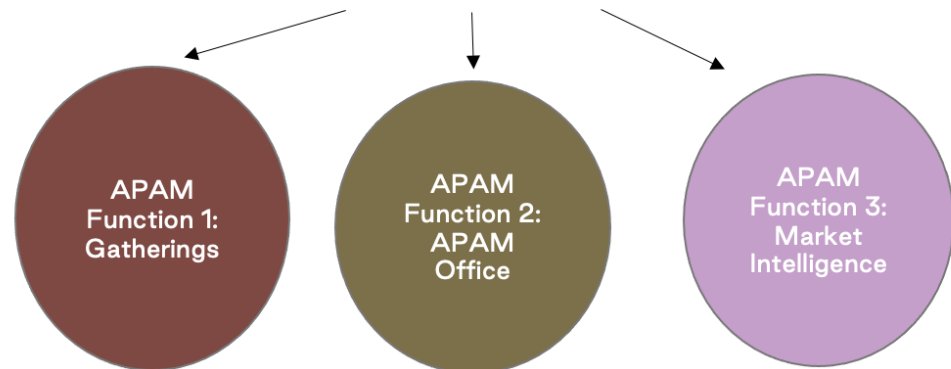
ILBIJERRI – First Nations Lead

- + Convene First Nations Advisory Group, ensuring a diversity of First Nations experiences & perspectives are reflected in artistic & cultural decisions
- + Engage, support & develop First Nations Lead producers
- + Ensure a rigorous First Nations Framework is applied to APAM's First Nations program
- + Provide extensive national & international networks & expertise
- + Cultural protocols & cultural safety for First Nations Lead arrangement
- + Help engage the First Nations community in APAM



First Nations Advisory Group

- + Policies
- + Strategies
- + Cultural protocols & cultural safety for program
- + Guidance & support to First Nations Lead Producers
- + Connections
- + Continuous improvement
- + Risk management



+ Programming

+ Alignment with other self-determined activities

<p>Outcomes for First Nations artists, producers & companies</p>	<p>Profile Mobility Relationships Access & pathways Knowledge & connections Cultural exchange</p>
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Processes

The Advisory Group oversees the development of policies and processes linked to this Framework, including cultural protocols, local engagement and cultural safety.

Programming

APAM Gatherings are programmed in a dispersed curatorial model that supports APAM's guiding principles and promotes inclusivity. With APAM's commitment to a self-determined First Nations program (see below), ILBIJERRI and the First Nations Advisory Group are a key voice in guiding the First Nations Lead Producers in programming for Gatherings.

Strategy

Under the guidance of the Advisory Group, APAM supports global efforts in self-determined First Nations market development. The Advisory Group advises and supports the development of specific strategies and pathways that engage First Nations artists, curators, and producers in each of APAM's functions. APAM proactively builds networks with artists to assist in understanding the opportunities available to present across multiple platforms, tour, be in residence, or exchange with internationals.

FOUNDATIONS OF APAM'S FIRST NATIONS FRAMEWORK

These foundational principles are informed by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Australia Council for the Arts' Protocols for Producing Indigenous Performing Arts, and the Victorian Government's Aboriginal Advancement Framework. They are further put into action through APAM's internal policies and procedures.

APAM's First Nations program is self-determined.

This is put into action via the First Nations Lead arrangement with ILBIJERRI Theatre Company, as a fully self-determined organisation: program design and/or oversight by the First Nations Advisory Group convened by ILBIJERRI; program produced by the Associate Producer First Nations Lead with the support of the Senior Producer, or by other First Nations practitioners engaged for specific projects. APAM ensures that there are feedback loops to the First Nations Advisory Group from all key elements of programming and strategy across Gatherings, APAM Office and market intelligence functions, through providing intensive briefings and discussions about ideas and possibilities across all matters relating to APAM.

APAM's First Nations Advisory Group reflects a diversity of First Nations perspectives.

The First Nations Advisory Group is made up of First Nations practitioners from around Australia who have significant international market development experience. The membership of the group shifts over time to include members local to forthcoming Gathering locations and to bring diverse perspectives to APAM's program.

APAM involves and honours Elders and Traditional Owners.

In accordance with the principle of free, prior & informed consent, APAM consults with Elders and Traditional Owners of Country where forthcoming Gatherings will occur. In the early stages of the lead up to each event, the First Nations Lead producers, with assistance from the First Nations Advisory Group, discuss protocol and what outcomes Traditional Owners would like from the Gathering for local people. APAM then collaborates on and delivers on these outcomes for the Gathering, and other program elements that meet the Traditional Owners' vision and aspirations.

The APAM Office is based on Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung lands for the period 2019–24. APAM will develop pathways and build capacity of Kulin artists and producers, and connect Kulin artists nationally and internationally through its commitment to cultural exchange