

MEDIA RELEASE
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**2019 WESFARMERS AND NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA
INDIGENOUS ARTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts professionals from across Australia have been chosen to take part in the National Gallery of Australia's 2019 Indigenous Arts Leadership and Fellowship program, which celebrates 10 years of providing professional development for Indigenous art workers.

This year's 10 participants are:

Shaun Angeles – NT
Angelina Boona – WA
Simon Carmichael – Qld
Troy Casey – Qld
Dave Gough – Tas
Aidan Hartshorn – ACT
Juanita Kelly-Mundine – NSW
Georgia MacGuire – Vic
Stacie Piper – Vic
Michelle Woody - NT

Supported by Wesfarmers Arts, the immersive leadership program provides emerging and mid-career Indigenous arts workers an opportunity to develop their leadership potential, deepen their understanding of the sector and build networks during a 10-day program at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra.

“Wesfarmers Arts is proud to have worked together with the National Gallery of Australia over the past 10 years to support the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander professionals working in the visual arts,” said Helen Carroll, Manager of Wesfarmers Arts.

“Indigenous culture sits at the very heart of what it means to be Australian – we are pleased to be able to support those who work within our communities to help share the dynamic and inspiring stories of our First Nations People.”

Nick Mitzevich, Director of the National Gallery of Australia, said the 2019 intake would take the number of alumni from the Leadership and Fellowship programs to more than 100 people.

“This is a remarkable achievement – these curators, managers and other arts professionals are instrumental to the telling of important Australian stories about our unique Indigenous culture that has been connected to the creation of art for 75,000 years,” he said.

“We are grateful to have the support and commitment of Wesfarmers Arts to build Indigenous leadership in the arts across Australia.”

Mr Mitzevich said the Gallery was thrilled to expand its commitment to Indigenous leadership with the appointment of Bruce Johnson McLean as its first Assistant Director, Indigenous Engagement.

Mr McLean is a member of the Wierdi people of the Birri Gubba nation of Wribpid (Central Queensland) and is currently a Curator with the Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, where he has been responsible for driving change in Indigenous policy and engagement.

The creation of the new role was made possible due to a bequest by Barbara Jean Humphreys.

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