



## **Media Release**

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### ***Creating Australia and the Cultural Development Network Announce Merge***

Creating Australia (CA) Executive Chairman Sue-Anne Wallace and Chair of the Cultural Development Network (CDN) Paul Holton today announced merge plans for the two organisations. The announcement was made following the signing of a Deed of Merger in Melbourne today which confirms a completion date in late January 2016.

“This merge will enable CA to continue to realise its vision by reducing running costs, developing new philanthropic partnerships and delivering programs with CDN,” Dr Wallace said. “It is an exciting partnership which will enhance the work of CDN with the local government sector and CA’s work with community artists and arts practitioners.”

“In developing plans for the merge, CA and CDN have focused on their shared goals of building the evidence base for the impacts of cultural practice, in partnership with the philanthropic and local government sectors,” Mr Holton said. “The synergies between CA and CDN in terms of pilot project development and delivery, combined with thoughtful and rigorous evaluation, will enable both organisations to create a wealth of new learnings for artists and local government working with communities.”

Creating Australia was established in 2013 as a cross-sector organisation for the Australian community arts and cultural development (CACD) sector providing communication, collaboration, national discussions on CACD practice and much-needed advocacy.

“Creating Australia has developed a national network for CACD artists and arts practitioners, including linking major performing arts organisations with artists in communities,” Dr Wallace said. “We have provided a CACD voice to government and listened to those artists who wanted further discussions about their arts practice. Our achievements have included a webinar series, the recent presentation of the Rights of Culture forum at Parliament House in Canberra and the Griffith Review publication ‘Cultural Solutions’.”

Both parties envisage this merge will create new opportunities for artists, particularly in regional locations, to work within a local government context, to demonstrate the value of culturally rich communities.

Under the merge plan, both entities will continue. Creating Australia Deputy Chair Lindy Allen will join the CDN Board, and this Board will provide governance for Creating Australia. “CDN welcomes Lindy onto the CDN Board and apart from her considerable experience, Lindy will provide a means of maintaining the values of CA into the future growth of CA into a valuable research platform,” Mr Holton said.

Creating Australia’s Sydney office will close at the end of January 2016 and relocate to CDN’s Melbourne premises.

<http://www.creatingaustralia.com.au>  
<http://www.culturaldevelopment.net.au>

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