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AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Australian Cultural Foundation aims to provide to the People of the United States with a greater understanding and knowledge of Australia's Cultural Identity and diversity. The Foundation is an independent body and a non Governmental entity , funded and supported by private and corporate sponsorship. It's goal is to provide information and access to Australian cultural events and activities within the United States. The Foundation provides a platform to expose the richness and vitality of Australia's multi-cultural profile and the unique culture of its Indigenous People. The Foundation seeks to create opportunities for Australians to demonstrate their creativity within the United States and so foster closer ties between the citizens of the United States and Australia .

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AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION**OBJECTIVES**

To provide a permanent venue (s) in which Australian cultural activities can be exposed and act as a focus for the Foundation and its related activities

To provide an organisation where Americans and Australians can meet to further develop and understand Australia's cultural life through social interaction and so foster a closer link between our countries

To provide a focus for Australian excellence in the Arts and to enable people to become involved and share in these activities within the United States

To provide information on Australian Cultural activities in the United States to people interested and aware of Australia's cultural and artistic development

To offer advice and contacts for Australian artists, both individual and Arts organisations planning or already engaged in Artistic and Cultural activities in the United States.

To present to the American public and corporations the chance to become involved and engaged in promoting and broadening awareness of Australia's unique cultural identity.

To provide programmes on Australian Cultural life and activities and disseminate these programmes to educational and related organisations..

To work with Australian Consulates and other Australian Governmental agencies in order to support and encourage awareness of their programmes involving Australian Cultural activities.

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ART. Exhibitions of art , sculpture and graphic art will be scheduled throughout the year to ensure the Gallery exhibition space has a full time commitment to presenting the best in Australias visual arts culture. The exhibition programm will be drawn from both Institutional and commercial galleries in Australia. Most of the exhibitions will include catalogues and critical essays relating to the content of the exhibitions. The exhibition programm will allow for shows touring the USA to be shown in Chicago as part of there national schedule.

INDIGENOUS ART. The exhibiting center will be committed to exhibiting the Art of Australian Indigenous peoples. Exhibitions will seek to expose the vitality and diversity of this unique art form. Gallery talks and seminars will be used to educate and inform visitors of the deep cultural and mythical nature of this ancient art form. Exhibitions will be arranged and curated both for individual artists and Aboriginal Art Centers. A programm to present visits by Indigenous artists and elders will provide a distict opportunity for ethnic and racial minorities within the USA to meet and share their experiences and common grounds in a positive and enduring manner.

CRAFT. Australia has a rich resource in many of its practising Crafts People. The Foundation will be able to support exhibitions of Australian Crafts people who are already widely known in the USA. The foundation would actively seek opportunities for exchanges of crafts practisioners and teachers between the USA and Australia. Australian Crafts have been recognised in Chicago for many years through the annual SOFA Chicago craft fair. The Foundation would seek to link with this organisation and others in order to build the reputation of Australian Craft further .

FILM AND VIDEO. The Foundation is very committed to the promotion and understanding of Australia's film Culture. The close proximity of the Center to the Gene Siskel Film Center and Columbia College of Film and Video would enable the Foundation to build into these important Cultural Facillties programs demonstrating the immense talent of Australias filmmakers both in mainstream and independent cinema. The Foundation would work to present in conjunction with the above institutions Film events and seminars promoting a greater awareness of past and recent achievements in Australian cinema.

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ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN. The Foundation is very committed to presenting in exhibition format some of the most innovative and creative developments in Australian architecture. The wide climatic and geological differences in Australia have given birth to radical new ways in thinking about the built environment. In the past few years many new and important museums and buildings of international repute have been built in Australia and the Foundation is very interested in presenting Architectural exhibitions and seminars to expose these new developments and create a dialogue between architects in The USA and Australia through Architectural Schools and associated universities. Contemporary design is also now a major part of Australia's cultural identity. The opportunity to promote and feature the work of individual designers and companies will add a further dynamic and exciting element to the Foundation's program.

LITERATURE AND HUMANITIES. Australian writers and Academics have established an enviable name for themselves within the United States. The Foundation would seek to draw on this valuable resource to provide access to their talent, knowledge and expertise through seminars, meetings and book launches. The literature side of the Foundation would be enhanced by its Book Club and the opportunity to enable American and Australians to engage in social dialogue and understand more fully the subtle aspects of Australian Culture and life.

NEW MEDIA, I.T. AND INFO. TECH. Australia is at the forefront in many new breakthroughs in new media and I.T. The Foundation would look to offering the possibilities of demonstrating and presenting these technologies through workshops and connections with US and Australian based designers and artists/ technicians. Since much of the new media is related to visual perception and audio we would see this program of benefit and interest to a younger and artistic orientated audience.

PHOTOGRAPHY. The Foundation would look at presenting an exhibition program illustrating Australian Contemporary photography. The recent emergence of indigenous photography is very exciting and relevant to the sense of reconciliation now occurring in all levels of Australian life. To expose this new work is of crucial importance for obtaining a greater awareness of where Australia now stands on this important issue.