



Speech By  
**Jonty Bush**


**MEMBER FOR COOPER**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Arts Sector**

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (7.28 pm): Unlike some of the members here, I am so fortunate I get to live so close to where we work. Every night I get to go home and hang out in my own electorate and try to activate functions and events in my electorate. That is something I really do take advantage of.

Last night I hosted a function just a few kilometres from here in the iconic Hands on Art substation in Paddington. It is a local heritage-listed and iconic venue that celebrates Brisbane's thriving arts scene, and what an arts scene we have here in Brisbane! The evening was one I initiated. I wanted to bring together the arts community in my electorate of Cooper for two really important reasons. Firstly, I wanted them to connect with each other, with their peers. I think we would all agree that the arts sector is one that is often under-utilised and quite isolated and lonely. Often they are people who are underemployed in that sector who want to connect and come up with ideas of how they can leverage their time. I thought it was a really great opportunity to bring them together.

Secondly, I wanted them to hear about what current and prospective funding opportunities the Queensland government has on offer. Notably, the Queensland Arts Showcase Program funding is available now with applications closing later this month. The funding program supports vibrant and accessible arts and cultural experiences for Queensland by individuals, organisations or collectives. There is up to \$30,000 in grants funding for sole operators and \$60,000 in joint funding collaborations or co-funding.

This funding is particularly aimed at emerging artists—trying to get them up and into economic employment. We are trying to make sure that people in regional Queensland and here in Brisbane not only have access to our arts community but also have economic opportunities that go beyond one-off events.

The arts sector is an important sector to Queensland. Members may not know that each year the arts and cultural sector injects around \$8.5 billion into the state's economy and supports more than 92,000 jobs throughout Queensland. As I said last night, I think there is a real opportunity for the arts sector to tell the story of what is going on here and globally with COVID. Also, there is real commercial opportunity for artists at the moment as people are not travelling but are looking for other ways to invest. That represents a great opportunity.

I put the call out. I was not sure what I was going to get. I knew that the electorate of Cooper has a really vibrant arts scene. We all host events and think we might get five or 10 people to attend. With relatively short notice, we had about 50 people turn up last night to hear from Arts Queensland about the funding that is available. I acknowledge Minister Enoch. We have the \$22.5 million Arts and Cultural Recovery Package for the arts sector right now here in Queensland. It is so important.

I thank Clare, Hamish and Tyler from my office, who brought the evening together. I particularly acknowledge how helpful the officers from Arts Queensland were. Arts Queensland development officer Carly Nering attended after hours. She has a two-year-old who was unwell at the time, but she came

after hours and spent all night speaking to people. I am really excited to see what our local arts sector delivers. I encourage all members to connect with Arts Queensland and deliver the same program and activity in their electorates.