

Aņanguku Arts Media Release

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For immediate release

Aņanguku Arts and Cultural Aboriginal Corporation appoints new Chief Executive Officer



Following a national recruitment process with assistance from the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC), the Board of Aņanguku Arts and Cultural Aboriginal Corporation (Aņanguku Arts) is pleased to announce the appointment of Marie Falcinella as the organisation's new Chief Executive Officer.

Aņanguku Arts is the peak advocacy and support agency for Indigenous artists and art centres of the Aņangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) communities, as well as delivering support to Indigenous artists across the state of South Australia through Statewide Indigenous Community Artists Development (SICAD) programs.

Aņanguku Arts is an Aboriginal owned and governed visual arts organisation that was originally established in 1998 by art centres of the APY Lands. Aņanguku Arts delivers programs supporting artists' professional development, art worker training, art centre startup and business development, marketing, and advocacy for ethical dealing with Indigenous artists.

Aņanguku Arts' mission is to work with Aboriginal art centres and artists in South Australia to deliver services to realise their aspirations - Nganana kunpu kanyinma arts munu culture nganampa tjitji nganampa tjutaku (*Keeping our art centres strong, and our culture strong for our children*).

Paul Andy, Chairperson Ananguku Arts, says “Anangu are happy that Marie will start in the CEO job for Ku Arts. It is an important time for Ku Arts, with lots of change, and building strong relationships with APY Art Centres. Ku Arts was started by APY Artists, but now it helps artists across the whole State. Ku Arts keeps getting stronger, and helping all Indigenous artists.”

Speaking about her new appointment, Marie says, “Ananguku Arts’ history of artist and art centre support spans almost two decades, established by artists of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands and broadening to become the peak body for Indigenous artists Statewide. It is with great respect that I acknowledge the Elders and artists past and present for their incredible legacy, and the art centre managers and arts workers who have supported and continue to support their vision, *arts kunpu, tjukurpa kunpu, waltja tjuta kunpu.*”

The Australian Indigenous arts sector has changed significantly over this time, and Ananguku Arts has recognised the need to be responsive to the evolving needs of its members whilst continuing to uphold its core values of keeping art, culture and communities strong. It is a privilege to be appointed in the role of Chief Executive Officer to work closely with the Board of Directors, member art centres and artists across the State to promote and support their aspirations during what is right now an important and exciting time for Indigenous art in South Australia, as well as nationally and globally.”

Marie has worked as an independent consultant, curator and project facilitator, most recently with Indigenous art centres including Elcho Island Arts (Galiwin'ku), Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre (Yirrkala) and Merrepen Arts (Nauiyu). She has curated exhibitions and coordinated visual art projects including the Elcho Island Arts and Koskela collaboration for the *Rigg Design Prize 2015*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, *Indigenous Textile Design Residency 2016* with Merrepen Arts and Publisher Textiles, Sydney, and co-curated the exhibition *Middle Distance* for Hanging Valley, Adelaide. Marie has previously held the position of Gallery Manager and Senior Curator, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne. She was awarded the position of Venue Attendant, Australian Pavilion / 55th Venice Biennale, Italy in 2013 and is currently a Peer Assessor (Visual Arts) for Australia Council for the Arts.

The Board of Ananguku Arts looks forward to working with Marie to build stronger capacity for South Australian Indigenous artists, culture and communities and to further the mission and goals of Ananguku Arts.

Marie will begin in the position on 30 January 2017.

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