

# RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

## Promoting Diversity of Cultural Expression in the Arts

Professor Ien Ang and Dr Phillip Mar of the Institute for Culture and Society are examining the success of promoting diverse cultural expression in art works. This project is funded by the Australia Council for the Arts through its Inter-Arts Grants Initiative, in partnership with UNESCO Bangkok.

'In 2009 Australia signed the *UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*,' explains Professor Ang. 'The Convention distinguishes cultural products that have accumulated value and significance in particular countries from other tradeable commodities. It affirms the right of nation states and other cultural custodians to act to protect and promote cultural diversity. In affirming these rights, the Convention does not prescribe *how* cultural practices or policies should be developed to promote diverse cultural expressions. Instead, it explicitly leaves it up to member nations and other custodians such as artists and arts bodies to interpret and develop best practice. This research will identify potential for enhanced creative outcomes, cross-cultural exchanges, innovative collaborative processes, and interdisciplinary and cross-art form work. This will then help to guide artists and arts organisations in ways to implement the Convention both in Australia and in the Asia Pacific region.'

The team will evaluate eight arts projects and programs supported by participating Boards of the Australia Council and selected as best practice examples. Research interviews will determine multiple stakeholder perspectives on the ways in which creative projects have engaged with audiences and other participants on many cultural levels.



The Australia Council for the Arts has a long history of supporting cultural diversity through the *Arts for a Multicultural Australia* policy and the *Community Engagement Framework*. This study will be a means to showcase and further develop models of excellence in fostering art that resonates with diverse cultural circumstances while extending inclusiveness and building capacities for groups beyond the cultural mainstream.

**Project Title:** Promoting the Diversity of Cultural Expression (DICE) in the Arts in Australia  
**Funding has been set at:** \$45,000  
**Contact Details:** p.mar@uws.edu.au  
<http://www.uws.edu.au/ics>  
**August 2013**

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.