SNAPSHOT

Arts in the Barkly Region

The *Creative Barkly* research maps a broad range of art forms and creative practices, including commercial, amateur, and subsidised, representing the Barkly Region's multicultural population (both First Nations' and non-Indigenous). The team conducted face-to-face **surveys with 120 artists in communities across the Barkly Region**, as well as sector **interviews with 36 key stakeholders and organisations.**

Top 10 Art Forms

Out of 120 artists surveyed, these are the top 10 art forms people are engaged in, with **85.8% of people practising multiple art forms.** Artists in the Barkly are involved in many more arts activities than those listed, including ceramics, carving, blogging, event management, and video production.

The Arts Sector Ecology

Our research found that the arts and creative sector in the Barkly involves arts organisations and artists, as well as non-arts organisations such as health and human services, and education and employment services, for whom arts and creativity is not core business, but valued for what it can contribute. **We found the cross-sector collaboration and partnerships undertaken by these organisations are a key strength of the region.**

Working Artists in the Barkly

Creative Barkly

ABS Census 2016

Occupation (Barkly LGA)	
Arts Professionals nfd	3
Painter (Visual Arts)	5

8

Creative Barkly 2017 - 2018

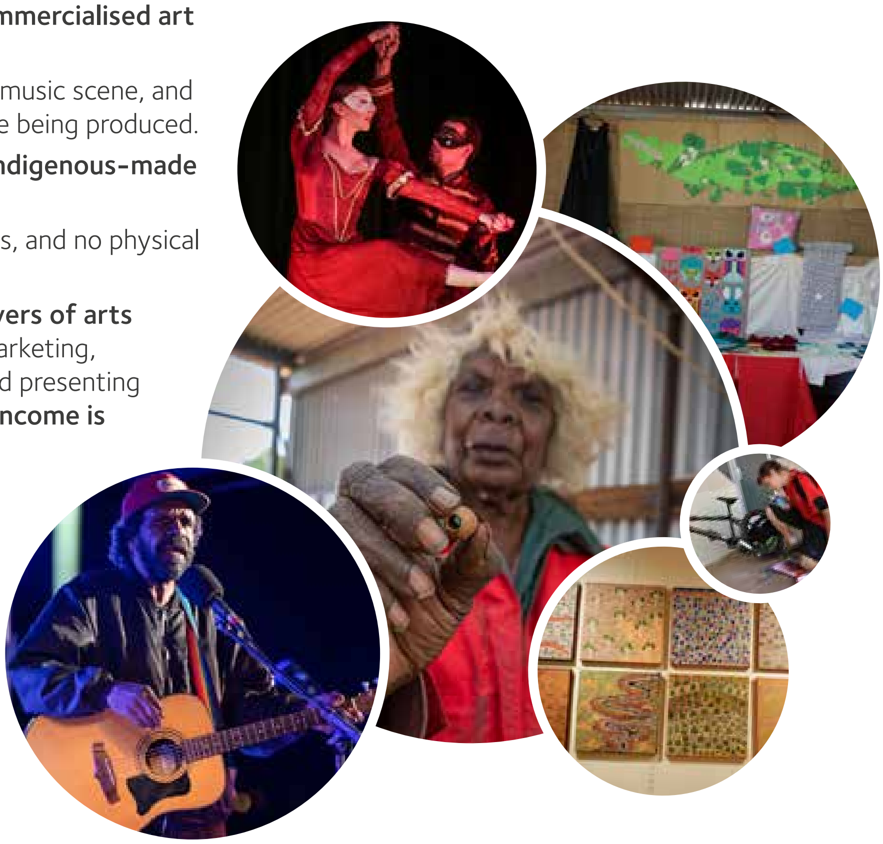
150+

Barkly Art Centres/ Organisations (BRA, Nyinkka Nyunyu, Arlpwe, Ampilatwatja)	
Number of artists registered	550
Number of artists employed (permanent f/t)	12
Number of artists employed (permanent p/t)	18
Number of artists employed (fixed term f/t)	4
Survey Respondents	
Number of artists/ creatives	120
Artists/creatives who generate income (non-CDP)	79
Artists/ creatives with art as main source of income (non-CDP)	27

With 75.7% of respondents making an income from their practice, and over half of those citing this as their primary source of income, **the sector is playing an important role in the livelihoods of Barkly artists.** The Community Development Program (CDP) is an important element of the sector ecology, featuring in the working lives of 21.8% of survey respondents. **There are nearly 20 times more artists working in the Barkly than the number captured in the census.** The study found that voluntary labour is an important factor in sustaining the sector, with **58.6% of artists and creatives in the Barkly giving their time through volunteering** (a much higher figure than the national average of 19.0%). Based on our survey figures, we estimate the economic contribution of volunteering to the region at $360k annually.

Arts Business and Enterprise

- **Painting by Indigenous artists is the most commercialised art form in the Barkly.**
- The Barkly is also home to a thriving Indigenous music scene, and a broad array of other artworks and merchandise being produced.
- There are **far fewer visible instances of non-Indigenous-made artworks being distributed or sold.**
- There are only four for-profit creative businesses, and no physical commercial galleries in the Barkly.
- **Art centres or organisations are the main drivers of arts business and enterprise** through promotion, marketing, sales and distribution, and through producing and presenting performances; however, **the majority of their income is derived from government funding.**
- The Barkly is also home to some smaller arts and creative enterprises, as well as individuals undertaking their own marketing and sales independently of art centres or organisations.
- Artists and organisations are keen to develop tourism opportunities for business, enterprise, and cultural transmission. **Integrating art and tourism requires capacity building and investment in "soft infrastructure" such as training and professional development.**



For further information, visit: creativebarkly.org

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