

## Media Release

Friday, 29 July 2016

### Robyn Archer AO appointed chair of Arts Centre board

A strong national and international focus will be brought to the city's lead arts organisation with the appointment of Robyn Archer AO as the new Chair.

The appointment to The Arts Centre Gold Coast Board is a key part of a Transition Plan for the City's Cultural Precinct under construction at Evandale.

The plan, endorsed as part of the City's 2016 – 2017 Budget, will see the responsibilities of The Arts Centre Gold Coast (TACGC) supported to expand beyond its existing building 'footprint' at Evandale to take on future management of the entire precinct.

Ms Archer will succeed retiring Chairman Kerry Watson. The appointment complements her role as the City's Strategic Advisor for Arts and Culture.

The Board today also welcomed four other new directors Kate Brennan, Wesley Enoch, Michael Loebenstein and Airlie Maclachlan along with reappointed directors Steve Romer and Tomas Johnsson who will serve alongside Councillor Bob La Castra. These appointments follow the departure of retiring directors Deputy Chair Richard Munro, Patrick Corrigan AM, Christine Lohman and Patrick Mitchell who have all served the Board with distinction.

The Arts Centre company will be renamed to be consistent with the eventual Cultural Precinct brand.

Mayor Tom Tate said he was delighted to welcome the new Chair, Robyn Archer AO, who was already well known and respected in the city.

"Chairman Kerry Watson and his board have done an outstanding job guiding the centre to its current success. The organisation, under his board's leadership, is now well-positioned to grow to the next level," he said.

"Ms Archer will bring national and international expertise and focus to our city, the Precinct and our lead arts organisation, as it evolves."

The Arts Centre Gold Coast General Manager Destry Puia said: "The Arts Centre staff and I are looking forward to working with Ms Archer as the new Chair, together building a vibrant cultural and civic hub for the city.

"Robyn's worldwide expertise and experience is a tremendous asset to the city and company. With her guidance we look forward to leading the Gold Coast into a new era of cultural growth," he said.

"It has been a pleasure to work alongside Kerry Watson for the past eight years. Kerry has been an advocate and champion for arts and culture on the Coast and has overseen unprecedented growth in visitation to the Centre."

Ms Archer said: "The transitional phase from successful regional arts centre to 21<sup>st</sup> century cultural precinct will present a myriad of stimulating challenges over the next few years.

"I'm honoured that so many excellent people have agreed to come on to this new Board to lend experienced and distinguished hands to the task."

Mayor Tom Tate said Council has committed operating and capital development funding of \$5.16 million to The Arts Centre Gold Coast and set aside transitional funding of \$1 million to commence programming and build management and operating capacity in readiness for Stage 1 opening.

"We now have the opportunity to commission standout arts and cultural experiences to be presented when Stage 1 is complete in 2018. We can harness the interest and excitement building in the lead-up to 2018 and make sure we keep the spotlight on the Gold Coast post Commonwealth Games."