



Propel Youth Arts WA Media Release

Propelling youth arts into the future

Since its humble beginnings in 2003, there have been many key changes for Propel Youth Arts WA, the peak body for youth arts dedicated to creating opportunities for young West Australians to engage in the Arts.

Over the years, staff, volunteers and members of the local art community have contributed towards building a youth arts body that connects, supports and promotes youth arts in Western Australia.

Reflective of this journey in developing a collective voice dedicated towards youth arts in Western Australia, in 2008 Propelarts Inc. re-branded to Propel Youth Arts WA, a new sense of direction and purpose born. Encapsulating this journey, Propel's new website, launching live on Tuesday 7th June 2009 provides a visual symbol and celebration of the organisation's recent achievements.

In 2008 Propel Youth Arts WA received a \$190,000 grant from Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) to map the Western Australian youth arts community through the *ArtsMAP* initiative and to further Propel's ability to support creative young people.

Sonja Basic, General Manager says "2008 was an exciting year for Propel Youth Arts WA. From the results of *ArtsMAP*, we were able to pinpoint how we can help young people across Western Australia engage and participate in the world of art and contribute to their cultural community".

"The result was a fresh new direction for Propel, out with the old and in with the new! Fuelled by such a positive response, the past year has seen Propel busy turning the creative visions and needs of young people into a reality".

The FYA grant, dispersed over a three year period is helping Propel deliver the outcomes developed from the *ArtsMAP* initiative, with the development of two new projects, *ArtsCAMP* – a week long art intensive experience for 15 – 17 year olds and *Amplifier* – a business workshop and forum program for 18 – 25 year olds.

Coinciding with these new programs and direction, Propel Youth Arts WA new website will be launched live on Tuesday 7th June 2009. The website serves to create an online community and sense of involvement, especially for creative young people in remote areas of Western Australia. The unique design will allow creative communities from across Western Australia the ability to promote cultural happenings, news and people in their area.

Another new and developing initiative from Propel will create an opportunity for regional young people to be the voice of their cultural scene, bridging the gap between metropolitan and country art communities.

The website will also be an information portal for members of the arts community providing practical tools, information, advice and referrals to develop arts ideas and practises through arts grants and resources, training, mentoring and volunteering opportunities.

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