



Warlayirti Artists Aboriginal Corporation

Position and Title: Studio Technician & Field Officer

Location: Balgo Community, regular travel to Mulan and Billiluna

Reporting to: Manager, Warlayirti Artists

Supervision of Staff: Arts workers

Classification: Full time (38hr week)

Start date: February 2023



Background

Warlayirti Artists Aboriginal Corporation (WAAC) is in Wirrimanu (Balgo) WA, a dry community 860kms northwest of Alice Springs along the Tanami Track and 270kms south of Halls Creek. Warlayirti Artists supports the art and culture of Indigenous people in the Kutjungka region (Wirrimanu, Kururrungku and Mulan), generating social and economic benefits that flow from the production and sale of their art.

'Balgo Art' is an important brand in the national and international art market. Over the last 30 years WAAC has developed into a nationally and internationally acclaimed centre for Aboriginal art that provides opportunity for many local artists to produce and sell fine art that is highly valued in the art market.

Warlayirti Artists operates from a community development framework implementing community development principles and processes to maximise the participation of the Aboriginal staff, Board of Directors and artists in the organisation. It is a 100% Aboriginal-owned corporation, incorporated under the Corporations Act (*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander* 2010).

Warlayirti Artists is a significant and dynamic remote arts business, which demands a commitment to the aims of the organisation:

- Promote, preserve and enrich cultures in the region
- Provide appropriate economic opportunities for community members
- Nurture and develop artistic and commercial excellence
- Diversify creative learning opportunities for community members

This is a unique and exciting opportunity for an arts worker who would like to experience life in a remote Aboriginal community. They will need to be highly motivated, have sound technical and practical skills, a strong work ethic, motivation and highly developed listening and communication skills. Respect and understanding of cross-cultural environments is essential, knowledge of contemporary Aboriginal art is desirable. Previous experience in a similar role will be highly regarded.

Studio Technician & Field Officer: duties and responsibilities

a) Arts development and studio

- Oversee the day-to-day operation of the Warlayirti Artist studio for use by artists of multiple age and experience
- Coordinate the arts development program for Warlayirti Artists and organise related workshops and training
- Support artists to produce, market and sell high quality work
- Work with artists one-on-one and in groups to ensure completion of works for exhibitions and events
- Supervise Arts Worker team
 - Skills development
 - Career progression
- Advise artists and arts workers on best practice use of quality art materials
- Travel with artists as required to attend exhibition, events and bush trips
- Coordinate the supply of artist materials
- Photograph and catalogue artworks, collate artwork stories, capture artists bios
- Maintain the SAM database and related stock management
- Ensure safe work practices are observed always

b) General

- Work with the Manager to plan annual exhibition program, art awards and art fair/industry events that support established and emerging artists
- Provide administration assistance to the manager as required
- Assist with other day-to-day operational tasks at the art centre when required (assist with gallery display, cataloguing, pack and freight, tour groups and visitors, general administration, driving etc)
- Support sales and marketing to local buyers and tourists when required
- Participate in meetings and report to the manager and Board of Directors as required

Essential Selection Criteria

- Demonstrated understanding and respect for Aboriginal cultures, with the ability to work in a cross-cultural environment and live in a dry remote area
- Experience in arts studio practice, fine arts teaching, gallery technician or similar
- A highly developed aesthetic sense and ability to constructively assess art
- Strong organisational skills with experience in coordination and delivery of multiple projects with demonstrated ability to work to strict deadlines
- Ability to work independently in a remote, isolated setting
- Experience working in a team environment, supervision and the delegation of tasks
- Ability to self-care and maintain strong boundaries
- Experience in the use of digital technology including digital SLR photography, Adobe Lightroom and multi-media
- Current driver's license, experience in remote area travel and the ability to travel widely in support of Warlayirti Artists activities
- Valid Police clearance check

Highly Desirable

- Knowledge and experience with the Aboriginal Arts Industry and/or the broader contemporary Australian arts industry
- Experience working within Aboriginal communities or organisations.
- Experience living in a remote area
- Ability to speak Kukatja or similar Western Desert language

We strongly encourage First Nations applications. If you meet many but not all Essential Criteria, we would still like to see your application.

For more information about the position, please contact Poppy Lever on 0407 123 478 or director@balgoart.org.au

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please send ONE PDF document which includes the following:

- Cover letter
- A current CV
- Document which addresses the Selection Criteria in the Position Description
- Names and current contact details of 3 recent work-related Referees upon request

Please email your application to director@balgoart.org.au

Applications due by COB Monday 24 October 2022. The acceptance of late applications will be at the discretion of the art centre manager.