



BUKU-LARR|GAY MULKA CENTRE

Yirrkala NT 0880 Australia - phone (08) 8987 1701 - fax (08) 8987 2701
art@yirrkala.com - www.yirrkala.com - abn: 66988958476

To Whom it may concern

Garma Festival of Traditional Culture

We write in support of an application for assistance by the Yothu Yindi Foundation for the Garma Festival.

We do so from the position as one of the major art centres in the country and a participant in all Garma Festivals since the inception of the event.

We are also the biggest generator of earned income for indigenous people within the region.

Last year from sales of \$2.6 million we were able to transfer \$1.6 million to indigenous artists within North East Arnhem.

Whilst Garma has many positive outcomes culturally and nationally it would be a mistake to ignore the positive impact it has on this figure.

We would not have reached this positive outcome without our involvement with Garma. In terms of direct sales during the event there is an obvious benefit to Yolngu artists. But the incalculable flow on of promotional value we receive in word of mouth from each successive year of successful staging of this Festival is no doubt a key to our steadily improving bottom line.

There have been opportunities to present groundbreaking exhibitions and participate in historic forums before an audience of national opinion leaders in country that could not be duplicated in any other way.

These opportunities have created pathways that generations of artists who are only now coming to full strength will be able to benefit from well into the future.

In all our experience the imagination, dash and competence of the Festival initiators sets it apart as a national cultural jewel which should not be viewed as being in the same category as the common or garden "Chuck some tents in a field and see who turns up" variety.

It is true to is rhetoric. This is not so much a Festival as a ceremony and the Yothu Yindi Foundation is not principally a festival promoter but a pillar of community development in a neglected region. We value their support of the arist communities of Northeast Arnhem and proudly stand by them in their mission to enrich the lives of all Australians through sharing Yolngu philosophy and art.

This is actually a unique event which does the impossible- brings two culturally separated communities together over an intellectual knife edge in a logistical black hole. If it had not achieved total success annually for the last two decades it would be hard to imagine how it could work.

Yours Sincerely,

Will Stubbs
Co-ordinator
9.12.16

