

Case study

BARI Festival 2014

Details

What:

The Brisbane Artist Run Initiatives (BARI) Festival is a biennial event that promotes and provides fresh creative platforms and audiences for Brisbane based ARIs (Artist Run Initiatives).

The BARI Festival 2014 featured work from 95 artists/curators. The diversity of Brisbane's ARIs was showcased with a variety of events, from exhibitions of sculpture to video to music festival and live art competitions.

Exhibitions took place in unconventional venues around Brisbane, from a vacant office floor to a brewery. This attracted attendees who may not typically visit a gallery and encouraged audiences to view parts of Brisbane in a new and different way.

When:

August – October 2014

Where:

Brisbane



Leena Riethmuller and Callum Galletly 'When we first met' (2013) CTRL+SHIFT+SPACE presented by Inhouse ARI as part of the BARI festival. Image: Michelle Eskola.

Key stats:

- 13 activities
- 550 attendees
- 95 participants

Arts Queensland contribution:

\$10,000 – Projects and Programs Fund

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Links:

BARI Festival [Facebook](#)

Outcomes

- **Built relationships between ARIs and artists**

The festival provided an opportunity for ARIs and artists to engage with each other's work, share knowledge and experience, and initiate a critical dialogue between their peers. A great example of this occurred when Jugglers Art Space facilitated The Wandering Rooms group exhibition. The exhibition, which was part of an international project, involved the collaboration of more than 60 participants, including many members of other participating ARIs.

- **Successful use of non-traditional venues**

In 2014, participants were encouraged to repurpose unusual spaces. Exhibitions took place in a vacant CBD office floor, a residential garage, a brewery and under the stairs of an office foyer. The unconventional spaces provided a point of access for audiences who may not have engaged with art in a gallery environment.

- **Partnerships and Collaborations**

Jugglers are exploring opportunities for collaboration, such as a collaborative BARI between Toowoomba and Brisbane in 2016, and involvement with a digital heritage project about Brisbane based ARIs in the 80s and 90s.



Compulsion Loop presented by Boxcopy as part of the BARI Festival. Image courtesy of Boxcopy.

Learnings and reflections

The 2014 BARI festival successfully showcased an eclectic range of events. To ensure participating artists could '*do what they do best*', artists were requested to organize the same type of events that they would usually include in their program. BARI festival had the following reflection on their role in this process and the outcome:

Our role was to help facilitate and promote these events as a part of the BARI program. We offered to find spaces for those that needed them, and mentioned that we were interested in the concept of non-traditional spaces and the way in which ARIs used them.

This autonomous approach resulted in ARIs producing really strong and unique shows. Operations ran quite smoothly for the majority of events, and I believe this is because the ARIs took complete ownership of their own events, while they were part of the BARI program and enabled by the festival, there was a real sense of each ARI showcasing their best effort.

Jugglers also had the following reflections on sponsorship and support:

Another big learning point was in gaining sponsors and support. A lesson I've taken is that if one form of support is knocked back, another might work out. For example, Newstead Brewing were unable to provide product sponsorship, but were more than happy to act as a venue for an exhibition. We were redirected to several corporate real estate agents over the period of a few months, before we landed with one who could and would provide us with office space for the Inhouse exhibition. A fluid approach and persistence really paid off.