

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Aboriginal art centre to relocate

Aboriginal artists in the Great Southern will gain fresh marketing opportunities as the Mungart Boodja art centre takes a new direction.

Mungart Boodja is moving from Katanning, its home for the past eight years, to a new location in Albany.

The Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) supported the centre as it undertook a review in August 2011, which recommended the relocation to Albany.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the review enabled Mungart Boodja to develop a clear plan for the future promotion of its members' art to a broader market.

"Mungart Boodja supports about 35 active artists in the Great Southern," Mr Manning said.

"It is the only Aboriginal art centre in the South West corner of Western Australia and has an important role to play in building the capacity and marketing of Aboriginal artists.

"Albany offers a bigger resident population and access to a sizable tourist market, including cruise ship visitors.

"Many of Mungart Boodja's members, supporters and related organisations are in the south of the Great Southern and they will gain better access to the centre when it operates from Albany," Mr Manning said.

Mungart Boodja has not yet selected its new premises but has catalogued and stored its artworks in Albany in preparation.

An interim manager was appointed to oversee the relocation and the centre will make a long-term appointment when the move is complete.

The move is also supported by the Aboriginal Arts Centre Hub WA and the Department of Indigenous Affairs.



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Mungart Boodja has strong connections to the Carrolup art school story, and has hosted international visits in connection with the saga of the loss and rediscovery of the Carrolup works.

The centre will continue to support Noongar arts development in the whole Great Southern.

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