

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Great Southern makes arts conference shortlist

A major national arts conference could be headed for the Great Southern in 2014.

A submission by the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) has put Albany on the shortlist for the Regional Arts Australia biennial national conference in 2014.

Country Arts WA is the host body for the 2014 conference and invited expressions of interest from Regional Development Commissions in Western Australia for the event.

The GSDC submission was one of three on the shortlist.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the Commission welcomed the opportunity to make a full bid for the conference.

"Hosting a national conference of this size would generate significant benefits for Albany and for the surrounding region," Mr Manning said.

"Regional arts conferences attract up to 800 delegates, providing an economic stimulus for the host city.

"The conference and associated activities would be a great opportunity for the local arts industry to network and keep in touch with national issues.

"The GSDC will put forward a strong case for Albany and the Great Southern to gain the benefits of the regional arts conference," Mr Manning said.

Western Australia last hosted the regional arts conference in Esperance in 2000.

A final proposal for the conference must be prepared by 24 February 2012 and the 2014 host will be announced at the national conference in Goolwa, South Australia in October 2012.

Issues to be covered by the proposal include community support, conference facilities and logistics, programming, and tourism options for delegates.

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