

**South Australian Museum and Adelaide Festival Centre announce Indigenous training program in partnership with Bridging the Gap Foundation**

The South Australian Museum and the Adelaide Festival Centre have announced that they will each be supporting school-based traineeships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students each year in 2021 and 2022, in partnership with Bridging the Gap Foundation.

These traineeships will provide an opportunity at each institution for two young Indigenous people to gain in-depth knowledge, hands-on experience, and an understanding of the organisations' operations and programs, in a nurturing and supportive environment. It is hoped that the traineeships will increase the transition of secondary students into ongoing study and employment as well as improving retention rates at school.

Both cultural institutions have a solid commitment to engaging with and supporting young Indigenous Australians, including through their Reconciliation Action Plans. Other partners in the project include Maxima as the Group Training Organisation, Skilling SA and the Australian Government.

Brian Oldman, Director of the South Australian Museum thanked the foundation and its Chair Richard Ryan AO and said, "A key action in the Museum's Reconciliation Action Plan is to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment outcomes within our workplace."

"We are grateful for the generosity of Bridging the Gap Foundation which will enable us to create opportunities for young people to work in the cultural sector and look forward to continuing our partnership to provide meaningful opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students."

Douglas Gautier AM, Artistic Director and CEO of the Adelaide Festival Centre commented that for many years the centre has supported the early careers of First Nations arts administrators through the Steel Ryan Fellowship.

"Now, through this partnership with Bridging the Gap Foundation and the South Australian Museum, we are proud to offer this opportunity for young secondary students to gain the experience and skills they will need to thrive in their future careers," said Gautier.

He added that the institutions themselves will also benefit from learning from the leaders of the future and that this would be a rewarding experience for all involved.

Dean Rioli, Deputy Chair of Bridging the Gap Founder said, "We are very pleased to work with the Adelaide Festival Centre, the South Australian Museum, Maxima and Skilling SA on this important initiative and would like to thank them for their invaluable support."

"Creating career opportunities and pathways for young Indigenous people is something I am very passionate about. This program will assist them in developing confidence, open doors and enhance their understanding of the role that these two cultural institutions play in the community."

The South Australian Minister of Education, John Gardner MP said, “I congratulate Bridging the Gap Foundation, the South Australian Museum and the Adelaide Festival Centre on this partnership that will provide significant opportunities for secondary students to pursue meaningful pathways to employment. This program will undoubtedly support more Aboriginal young people in developing the skills required to succeed in their future careers.”

The trainees will be announced ahead of the 2021 school year.

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### **Available for Interview**

Dean Rioli Bridging the Gap Foundation Deputy Chair

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### **About South Australian Museum**

The Museum cares for a wealth of treasures with national and international significance – it is admired for its world-class collections, which have been amassed over more than 150 years and encompass everything from fossils of the first known life on Earth to pieces of Martian meteorites. The Museum’s collections are still growing and used each day in scientific and cultural research.

### **About Adelaide Festival Centre**

Adelaide Festival Centre is South Australia’s principal performing arts venue and presenter of festivals, theatre, dance, music and exhibitions. The Festival Centre’s diverse program of events includes Adelaide Cabaret Festival, DreamBIG Children’s Festival, OzAsia Festival, Guitar Festival, and OUR MOB. Venues include Festival Theatre, Dunstan Playhouse, and Space Theatre in the riverbank precinct and Her Majesty’s Theatre on Grote Street. Adelaide Festival Centre is committed to bringing communities together and making arts accessible to all, welcoming audiences and team members of all ages, experience, and cultures.

[www.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au](http://www.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au)

### **About Bridging the Gap Foundation**

Bridging the Gap Foundation has been established by Charles Darwin University and Menzies School of Health Research to address one of Australia’s most important issues, the ten-year gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The foundation aims to improve health and education opportunities and outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

[www.btgfoundation.com.au](http://www.btgfoundation.com.au)

