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INDUSTRY-FOCUSED ARTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME PROMOTES STRONG INDIGENOUS LEADERS

Torres Strait Islander arts workers are improving their skills through the National Gallery of Australia (NGA) Indigenous Arts Leadership Programme.

The TSRA's Gab Titui Cultural Centre Gallery Officer, Mr Aven Noah Jr, is the latest participant in the 10-day leadership programme which took place from 16 to 27 November 2015.

Aven was selected as one of ten participants from across Australia for the industry-focussed programme, designed to inspire, build knowledge and create lasting networks.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said the TSRA values and supports the professional development of all artists from the region and it was very pleasing to have one of our own staff selected for this programme.

"The TSRA is committed to supporting its Indigenous workforce into leadership positions," Mr Elu said.

"From on the job experience and knowledge transfer, to harnessing opportunities outside the region, it is important for the future of our organisation and our communities that Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal staff members are developing the skills to lead the way in the future."

Aven is the third Gab Titui Cultural Centre staff member to participate in the leadership programme, following in the footsteps of the former communications officer, Ms Emma Loban and the retail officer, Ms Thelma Savage.

"The Gab Titui Cultural Centre's exhibition and retail team is staffed almost exclusively by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people from the region," Mr Elu said.

"In the arts sector in particular, which plays such a big role in the Australian export market, it is important that we are represented by strong, Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal leaders and decision makers."

The NGA Indigenous Arts Leadership Programme takes participants behind the scenes to demonstrate the different types of jobs, roles and careers that are available within the visual arts sector.

The programme also offers an opportunity for participants, who come from a diversity of backgrounds, to learn from each other as well as from industry professionals.

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Image: Gab Titui Cultural Centre Gallery Officer, Aven Noah Jr.



Image: Gab Titui Cultural Centre Gallery Officer, Aven Noah Jr installing *Naga Mawa* by Yessie Mosby, as part of the 2015 exhibition *Evolution: Torres Strait Masks* in the Gab Titui Ephraim Bani Gallery.