*In reply please quote:*

# Our ref: acs20111027

# Contact: Kirsty Baird, 9205 5038

27th October 2011

Australia Council for the Arts

PO Box 788  
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

To whom it concern

**Letter of Support for Cymbeline Buhler for the Emerging Leaders Development Program 2013**

I am delighted to support Cymbeline Buhler’s application to the Australia Council for the Emerging Leaders Development Program. I have known Cymbeline personally and professionally for about four years. During that time I have been impressed by her energy, commitment and by the consistency of her approach to her work. Cymbeline applies the same approach to all those around her; to her colleagues, to those who participate and perform and to the supporters of the projects that she drives.

Prior to taking up my current position as the Community Arts Officer at the City of Yarra I worked in many different community based arts contexts, with a number of different individuals and organisations and communities. I was fortunate enough to work with Cymbeline and at Western Edge Youth Arts where she is the Artistic Director.

My work with Cymbeline included freelance grant writing and a project management role on the *On the Radar* project. *On the Radar* is an innovative program that aims to create a constructive dialogue between police and youth from newly arrived backgrounds in the western suburbs of Melbourne. I was quickly able to embrace the project, to understand the parameters and to then take a clearly defined and active role.

Cymbeline has such a broad range of theatrical and creative interests all of which are linked to her innate commitment to social justice, to her belief in a better future and to her love of people, performance and engagement. Cymbeline is always testing herself, pushing her own boundaries and striving for excellence. Her desire to improve her already substantial leadership credentials is testament to this.

I believe that Australia’s artistic and community based arts culture can only be enriched by the continued involvement of workers such as Cymbeline. It is fantastic that the Australia Council is providing opportunities for artists to extend themselves and Cymbeline is a fantastic candidate. She will make a great contribution to the program and use what she learns to contribute to a more equitable and lively Australian culture.

Please feel free to contact me on 9205 5038 if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Baird

Arts and Cultural Officer, Community Arts