

4 June 2018

Australia Council for the Arts  
PO Box 788  
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

To Whom It May Concern

**Support letter for *Interact***

I am writing in my capacity as Director of the Australian Network for Art & Technology (ANAT), a position that affords me access to some of the most ground-breaking creative work being realised here in Australia, and beyond.

I first got to know Urban Screens' work when I was Chair of the Organising Committee for ISEA2013. As part of a comprehensive public program, we produced *The Portals*, an experimental public art project that relied on high-speed broadband to link two geographically distant sites in real time through public screens.

With the screens located in Chatswood's The Concourse in Sydney and galleries in Casuarina and downtown Darwin in the NT, *The Portals* presented a program of five works that encouraged audiences to be co-creators through the use of visual art, sound art, interactive performance, augmented and virtual reality, and social media.

It has been fascinating following Urban Screens work in the time since ISEA2013, and in particular how they have built upon the successes (and failures!) of *The Portals* to realise a new distributed international platform for interactive creative content with its base here in Australia.

Having done the long hard work of building and testing the platform, Urban Screens is now seeking to make it available to Australian artists wanting to experiment with new and exciting ways of engaging audiences – whether they be local and physically present, or distant and virtual, or indeed both.

With its track-record of introducing technologies with the potential to inform, and at times transform, artistic practice, ANAT is keenly aware of the challenges this type of work brings. It is clear from their proposal that Urban Screens also has a deep understanding of this, with their choice to draw on the expertise of lead artist, Georgie Pinn, evidence of the value they place on guiding, teaching and mentoring the participating artists.

ANAT is very excited by the way that *Interact* seeks to build artistic expertise in the creation of impactful public art experiences for audiences here in Australia and further afield. We look forward to identifying with Urban Screens the best ways that we might contribute to supporting the project to ensure its success.

With best regards



Vicki Sowry  
Director

PO Box 8029, Station Arcade  
Adelaide SA 5000  
T + 61 (0)8 8231 9037  
E anat@anat.org.au  
www.anat.org.au

