





City impresses conference tour

Planning for the 2014 National Regional Arts Conference to be held in Kalgoorlie-Boulder is well under way.

After a recent trip to the city to discuss planning, meet with the local engagement group and have a look around the town, Country Arts WA chief executive Jessica Machin said things were progressing as she expected.

"We are well on track at the moment. We have 80 per cent confirmed Government funding, now we will be coming out to the community talking to corporate partners," she said.

General planning for the \$1.5 million dollar event will be finalised at the end of March and the program will be announced in May next year.

Chief executives and directors from Regional Arts Australia and Country Arts also joined the tour.

Regional Arts Victoria director Esther Anatolitis said Kalgoorlie-Boulder was everything she had imagined.

"As a child I was told a thousand Kalgoorlie stories by my elderly neighbour, who'd grown up in Kalgoorlie but had left for the big city during the Great Depression," she said.

"I was astounded to find the city exactly the way I'd imagined it: wide main streets once trundling with trams; open skies contrasted by structures of consistent human scale; diverse indigenous communities; deep red earth beset with strong lone trees."

TEGAN GUTHRIE



Vision for conference: Regional Arts Australia executive director Jane Scott, Country Arts WA chief executive Jessica Machin, National Regional Arts Conference artistic director Ben Fox, Regional Arts Victoria director Esther Anatolitis, Country Arts SA chief executive Steve Saffell and Regional Arts NSW chief executive Elizabeth Rogers, Photo: MARY MILLS