

REGIONAL ARTS NSW – REGIONAL ARTS FUND 2017 GUIDELINES

WHAT IS THE REGIONAL ARTS FUND?

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote Australia and meets the strategic priorities of supporting participation in, and access to, the arts and encouraging greater private sector support for the arts.

The Regional Arts Fund is designed to benefit regional and remote arts practitioners, arts workers, audiences and communities.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Fund are to support and promote participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture in regional and remote Australia by:

- Encouraging and supporting sustainable economic, social and cultural development in regional communities^a
- Developing partnerships and networks which leverage financial and/or in-kind support for specific projects and encourage ongoing collaboration
- Developing audiences and broadening community engagement with the arts
- Increasing employment and professional development opportunities for, and raise the profile of, regional and remote artists.

WHAT IT WILL FUND

The Regional Arts Fund will only fund arts or cultural heritage projects that are directed at achieving the objectives of the Program as specified in these guidelines.

The arts or cultural heritage focus of the project can include:

- Circus
- Crafts and textiles
- Cross art form
- Dance
- Digital media
- Film
- Literature
- Music
- Photography
- Puppetry
- Theatre
- Visual Arts

REGIONAL ARTS FUND (RAF) COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

RAF Community grants are intended to assist cultural development projects that meet the objectives and eligibility criteria of the Regional Arts Fund.

It is an annual grants program administered in NSW by Regional Arts NSW (RANSW) on behalf of the Australian Government and guided by the RAF objectives above.

^a A major city or metropolitan location is defined by the Department which currently uses the Modified Monash Model to determine the classification of the location. Under the Modified Monash Model, Regional Arts Fund funding cannot principally benefit a location classified as MMM Classification 1. This model is currently available at www.doctorconnect.gov.au.

Projects must be based or delivered in regional NSW. (See foot note)
Grants are available in three categories:

- New Initiatives
- Partnerships
- Small Regional Festivals Support NEW

New Initiatives or Partnerships applicants seeking more than \$20,000 in funding must be discussed with the Funding Manager at RANSW.

Applicants may apply for artists' or art workers' fees, on costs and project costs.

In exceptional circumstances RAF may support the entire cost of a project however, proposals with support (both cash and in-kind) from other sources are likely to be more successful.

Small Regional Festivals Support applications without other funding support will be ineligible. Applicants are encouraged to put a monetary value on all in-kind assistance for the project.

Multi-year funding

Funding is available for projects with a timeframe up to (but no longer than) 2 years. Projects requesting 2 year funding must demonstrate that longer-term or extended funding is necessary to consolidate previous development and achieve cultural sustainability. A plan and separate budget for each year must be provided.

Applicants must indicate on the application form the timeframe in which they expect the project to be completed and must commence between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017.

Approval for funding will be on an annual basis and 2 year projects will need to submit a satisfactory annual progress reports before funds for the subsequent year are released. They do not need to re-submit a formal application.

Applicants who wish to apply for 2 year funding need to discuss their project with staff at RANSW.

ELIGIBILITY - WHO CAN APPLY?

- A not for profit incorporated body
- A local government authority
- A collective with a nominated auspicing body (see FAQs below)

Who is not eligible to apply?

- Individuals
- Interstate organisations
- Metropolitan touring programs
- Groups/ensembles, unincorporated associations with no auspicing body
- Organisations that have applied for or received funding for the same activity
- Organisations that have overdue reports or acquittals for any funding programs administered by RANSW
- Educational institutions
- Organisations without Broadform Liability or 'Public Liability' Insurance

COMMUNITY GRANTS CATEGORIES

New Initiatives

This category assists groups to undertake projects that:

- Extends knowledge, participation and/or development of arts and culture within communities
- Addresses cultural themes or issues of significance in local communities;
- Is initiated by and with the community;
- Provides opportunities for collaboration and skills development of locally based arts workers.
- Meets the objectives of the RAF

Arts projects initiated by non-arts groups and organisations are encouraged. Applications must provide evidence of wider support for the proposed project.

Partnerships

This category assists groups to undertake projects that:

- Assists in the development of sustainable cultural networks
- Promotes partnerships that support community and cultural exchange
- Has long-term arts and community cultural development outcomes for communities
- Is initiated by and with the community.
- Meets the objectives of the RAF

Partnerships can be with the non-arts sectors and specific target groups either within communities, between towns, within regions or across the state.

Each partner must fulfil the eligibility criteria. It is expected that each partner will actively contribute to the project through skills, financial and/or in-kind assistance. Priority will be given to projects that identify and create new partnerships and projects in which the partnerships are important in promoting sustainability.

Small Regional Festivals Support **NEW**

This category assists small regional festivals to transition from a solely volunteer run event to a more professional footing through the employment of a professional arts worker to assist to program and coordinate the event.

Funding of up to \$10,000 per annum for a maximum of two years is available.

Applications must demonstrate that the festival has:

- Been delivered for a minimum of three consecutive periods.
- Evidence of audience growth and community support
- Demonstrated success in obtaining funding, sponsorship and/or philanthropy as well as in-kind support
- No paid administrative staff
- Support of your local council
- Meets the objectives of the RAF

RAF will not fund

- A project principally benefitting a major city or metropolitan location.^b
- Projects that will commence before funding is approved.
- Components of projects that are also funded by other programs administered by the Australian Government or other state and local government agencies.
- Projects which do not substantially align with and further the objectives of the Regional Arts Fund.
- Ongoing core administration costs of the applicant organisation
- Infrastructure projects (eg building purchase, renovation or maintenance) and projects involving purchase of significant assets (eg computers)
- Heritage activities (eg conservation of or signage at heritage buildings or sites)
- Collecting institutions except for creative arts projects that meet the program objectives.
- Touring projects from major urban centres to regional communities
- International travel costs
- Competitions, prizes, awards or fundraising events

CLOSING DATE

Application close 3.00pm AEST Monday 8 August, 2016 for projects commencing after 1 January 2017 and completed by 31 December 2017.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Each application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Development of arts and cultural activities in regional communities
- Skills development opportunities for individuals and organisations in regional Australia
- Promoting networks and/or partnerships that support community and cultural exchange and activities
- Increasing employment and professional development opportunities for regional artists / artswomen / cultural workers
- Economic and/or social development benefits within regional communities
- Engagement with Aboriginal, isolated or disadvantaged communities
- Evidence of adequate planning (achievable and realistic)
- Capacity to manage the project (financially viable, sufficient resources, history of project management)
- Evidence of local consultation to meet a need for the project in this particular community/communities
- Aims to achieve high quality artistic output (if project related to specific artistic practice)
- Has long-term benefit or capacity to leverage sustainable activity

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PROCESS

To apply to the 2017 RAF round you need to complete and submit an application form by following the links provided on the RANSW website. Applications are managed through Regional Arts Australia's secure online grants system – SmartyGrants. If you are new to SmartyGrants, you will be required to create a SmartyGrants account before you can proceed with your application. If you have submitted an applications using SmartyGrants before, you can use your existing log in. You should save your application form on a regular basis and allow plenty of time to review your application before submission.

All applications must be submitted on the **RANSW Regional Arts Fund (RAF) 2017 Application** in SmartyGrants by **3.00pm AEST Monday 8 August 2016**. Applications will not be able to be submitted after that time.

Once your application is received and has been deemed eligible, it will be assessed, rated and prioritised by the RANSW Regional Arts Fund Assessment Panel. The panel's recommendations are then forwarded to the Department of Communications and the Arts to be submitted to the Minister for the Arts who will announce the successful grant recipients.

CHECK LIST

- All support material must be relevant to your project and submitted with your application form.
- All applicants (or their auspicing body) are required to provide the most recent financial reports for your organisation, preferably the latest audited financial statements
- Applications must have a current certificate of currency for Broadform Liability or 'Public Liability' Insurance
- Confirmation letters from all artists involved in the project are required.
- If your project involves working with children and young people participants must supply a current Working With Children Check Number.
- Applications with creative content and/or stated intended outcomes relating to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artists, communities or their activities must provide letters of support from relevant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artists and/or communities.
- Applicants should consider the accessibility of their events, organisations or information to people with a disability
- Applicants to the Festivals category must have a letter confirming support from their local council

What is an auspicing body?

If your group is not incorporated, you can still apply for a grant if you have an auspicing body. An auspicing body is a legally constituted organisation that will take legal and financial responsibility for a grant if awarded. A signed letter from the auspicing body will be required. If a grant is awarded, the auspicing body must also sign the Conditions for Payment of Grant form and is responsible for reporting on the grant within three months of the project's completion. All correspondence and monies will be directed to the auspicing body. It is recommended that grant applicants enter into a written agreement with their nominated auspicing body highlighting respective rights and responsibilities.



PRIVACY

Regional Arts Australia and RANSW must deal with personal information in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988*. Regional Arts Australia is also required to ensure that necessary permissions are obtained to allow funding to be announced publicly by the Australian Government (including the Minister and the Department), Members of Parliament, Regional Arts Australia and RANSW, including by way of publication on the internet by any of those persons. This will include, but may not be limited to, the applicant's name/organisation name, funded project description, funded amount, state/territory, location and electorate. This information may also be used for reporting purposes.