WHAT IS THE REGIONAL ARTS FUND?

The Australian Government’s Regional Arts Fund supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote communities in Australia. The program is managed by Regional Arts Australia and, in NSW, by Regional Arts NSW. 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.
- 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 projects that are directed at achieving the objectives of the Program as specified in these guidelines. The arts or cultural focus of the project can include:

- Circus
- Crafts and textiles
- Cross artform
- Dance
- Digital media
REGIONAL ARTS FUND (RAF) QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS

The Quick Response Grants program is a small grants program for regional artists, arts organisations and communities to respond to unique arts opportunities that present themselves at very short notice.

Grants of up to $1500 are available to support:
- Professional development opportunities for artists and artworkers involved in community programs that will increase their knowledge, skills and experience;
- Skills and/ or arts development for individuals and groups in regional communities through the employment of arts and cultural workers to conduct workshops, seminars and forums.

Funding is primarily available for artist fees and associated costs.

There is no deadline or closing date however there is a limited number of grants of up to $1,500 available annually. The funds are allocated quarterly and once each quarter’s allocation is expended, funds will not be available until the following quarter. All applications must be submitted in SmartyGrants on the RANSW Quick Response Grant Application Form and successful applicants cannot re-apply within 12 months of a successful grant. A maximum of $2500 can be allocated per applicant during any four-year period.

All applicants need to speak to Regional Arts NSW prior to submitting their application.

ELIGIBILITY - WHO CAN APPLY?

- Not-for-profit, incorporated community group or local government authority with an ABN, based in regional NSW;
- A regionally-based individual artist or arts worker with an ABN, based in regional NSW, with demonstrated experience delivering community programs / projects;
• Individual applicants or unincorporated groups with a nominated auspicing body that meets the above requirements.

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

• Applicants with outstanding acquittals from previous grants from the Regional Arts Fund, Quick Response Grant or any other funding programs administered by Regional Arts NSW;
• Applicants who have already received a Quick Response Grant in the last 12 months.

WHAT WON’T THE GRANT PROGRAM SUPPORT?

• Funds to overcome lack of planning or to supplement project income;
• Attendance at events, conferences or residencies that occur on a regular basis (e.g. annual, biennial, biannual etc.) for which you could have planned or for which there are other funding programs available;
• Any projects that you may initiate (e.g. application to speak at a conference, residency for which you made an application, a good idea that may arise out of discussions);
• Anything that does not have to happen now or an opportunity that will still exist if not taken now;
• Projects which do not align with the objectives of the Regional Arts Fund;
• An activity principally benefiting a major city or metropolitan location.
• Projects that will commence or be completed before funding is approved;
• Activities that are also funded by other programs administered by the Australian Government or other State and local government agencies;
• Marketing/promotion of artwork or exhibition expenses;
• Ongoing core administration or infrastructure costs of the applicant organisation;
• Heritage activities such as 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;
• Performance or public entertainment;
• Competitions, prizes, awards or fundraising events.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Proposals must demonstrate:

• Evidence of increased professional and / or skills development;
• Identified benefits and outcomes for the community;
• Evidence of consultation and support from the community;
• Evidence of the applicant’s ability to manage the project;
• Evidence that the project is urgent or a unique arts opportunity that has arisen at short notice.
PROCESS
Contact Regional Arts NSW (RANSW) to discuss your proposed request for funding. This will save you time and trouble filling in an application if your project is not eligible under the Quick Response Program or if this quarter’s funds have been expended. Once you have contacted the RANSW office we will provide you with a unique reference number and link to fill in your application online through SmartyGrants.

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 application using SmartyGrants before, you can use your existing log in. You should save your application form on a regular basis. Applications will be assessed by RANSW staff.

Allow up to 10 workings days for your application to be processed.

CHECKLIST
The following support material must accompany the application:

- Relevant CVs of artist/s involved in the project;
- Letter of invitation, if invited to a symposium/conference or similar;
- Relevant letters of support from artists involved in the project;
- Evidence of support where other groups or organisations are involved.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
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.
**What is regional?**

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](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au).

**PRIVACY**

All applicants to the Regional Arts Fund are required to sign the following privacy statement at the time of submitting an application:

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.

**CONTACT**

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