

MEDIA RELEASE

Regional Arts Fund supports 18 new projects across NSW in 2021

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund (RAF) will provide \$408,395 to support 18 new projects in regional, rural and remote New South Wales in 2021.

The RANSW CEO, Elizabeth Rogers, commented,

“Once again, the calibre of these projects supported by the Regional Arts Fund in NSW showcases the creativity of our regional arts organisations from across the state, with exciting projects from Lismore to Bourke and Narrandera to Bega Valley. It’s wonderful to see a number of new applicants supported in this round and the interesting work that has been developed in response to the isolation experienced by COVID-19 restrictions and last summer’s bushfires. The continuing success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applications for this program is to be celebrated.”

Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, said that it was positive to see a diverse range of projects across NSW receiving funding.

“Through the Regional Arts Fund we are providing opportunities for communities across regional NSW to share their stories and connect with one another,” Minister Fletcher said.

“We recognise the challenges regional and remote communities have faced throughout 2020, and we are committed to supporting the work of artists and organisations, especially as they are recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 and last summer’s bushfires.

“We are supporting these organisations and individuals to develop important works and performances and engage with their local communities, which in turn provides long-term cultural, economic and social benefits.”

Examples of projects funded include:

- ***River Crossing: A community highwire event exploring place and identity – SeedArts Australia***
River Crossing will be a site-based performance spectacle to celebrate and bring to life the unbelievable story of Lismore-born Aboriginal circus performer, Con Colleano in a ‘death defying’ 85 metre long highwire crossing suspended over Lismore’s Wilson River. Featuring four emerging Aboriginal leaders and two professional wire artists, the event will be presented in August 2021, alongside Karla Dickens’ large-scale outdoor visual art tribute to Con Colleano featuring local emerging and professional Indigenous artists.
- ***Political Women: Overlaps and Divergences – The Cad Factory***
Political Women: Overlaps and Divergences brings together 14 artists from diverse cultural, generational, personal and artistic perspectives to illustrate and celebrate the complexity of contemporary feminist discourse and the art made within it. Each artist’s practice is entangled with politics, personal narrative and activism and aims to highlight the consequences of colonial and patriarchal power. The exhibition at Griffith Regional Art Gallery and corresponding public program places regional and urban women standing side by side, working towards reconciliation, accepting differences and creating a more just world through empathy and tolerance.

- ***From Bourke With Love – Fiona Smith***

Inspired by Allan Clarke, who left his remote NSW town of Bourke to become an award-winning journalist, young people in the community of Bourke will take part in a structured, staged cultural program which will encourage, mentor, teach and train them to interview, film and create stories of their town. These recordings will become a series of multimedia projects, expressing the young people's creativity and combining First People's oral traditions with multimedia storytelling.

- ***This is Your City – Albury Wodonga – HotHouse Theatre***

HotHouse Theatre will create *This is Your City – Albury Wodonga*, a multi-reality, locations-based game inspired by a 1980s legacy board game of the same name. Reimagined for our time, regional communities will play the game live through twin cities in a 1980s-style car rally. Combining live performance, geocaching and immersive theatre, participants will race through the cities, exploring spaces, hunting for clues, completing tasks and experiencing performances to complete the game. Developed by regional artists, this work will explore the changing faces of cities and grow the cultural capital of the region, increasing artistic engagement for locals and visitors.

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government program administered by Regional Arts Australia and Regional Arts NSW that supports sustainable, cultural development in regional and remote communities in Australia. The funding is targeted at activities that will have long term cultural, economic and social benefits for individuals and the community through the development of partnerships and cultural networks, by providing artists with professional development and employment opportunities, and by supporting arts and community development.

-END-

For more information about the Regional Arts Fund contact Lexie Reeves, Manager, Grants & Projects, Regional Arts NSW at funding@regionalartsnsw.com.au or (02) 9270 2502.

For all media enquiries contact Zoe Warden, C7EVEN. Email: communications@regionalartsnsw.com.au or mobile 0448 253 094.

A full list of successful Regional Arts Fund applicants is attached.