

REGIONAL ARTS FUND

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund (RAF) is managed by Country Arts SA. The Regional Arts Fund is designed to benefit regional and remote arts practitioners, arts workers, audiences and communities.

The guidelines are to assist applicants in applying for support under the scheme. Please read them carefully and discuss your application with your local Arts and Cultural Facilitator.

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 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 broaden community engagement with the arts;
- Increasing employment and professional development opportunities for, and raise the profile of regional and remote artists.

Making an Application

It is strongly recommended that all applicants discuss proposals with a Country Arts SA, Arts and Cultural Facilitator at least four weeks before a closing date and prior to lodging their application. This will offer the best chance of success from drawing on their vast knowledge and experience in this area.

Staff are located within various communities around South Australia and are happy to discuss how Country Arts SA can support projects or help emerging and professional artists to take the next step in their career.

Arts and Cultural Facilitator can:

- provide you with more detailed information about funding programs most appropriate for your project;
- assist with project development and coordination advice;
- provide advice about appropriate artists;

To locate your nearest staff member visit www.countryarts.org.au or phone: 08 8444 0400.

Please note, applications must now be submitted online; visit www.countryarts.org.au/support-funding/

Step Up

Program Guidelines

Up to \$5,000

The Regional Arts Fund Step Up Grant is to support artists, organisations and community groups to undertake **small cultural projects**, or to **develop a project** leading to a larger cultural project or for individual artists to undertake **professional development** opportunities.

Those who have never applied to Country Arts SA or never undertaken an arts project are encouraged to apply to this category.

Applications for assistance with professional artist fees, travel, accommodation and **some** project costs may be supported.

Closing Dates

- o **March 15** (for projects commencing from July 1)
- o **August 15** (for projects commencing from January 1 the following year)

Applicants

Individuals, community groups or organisations who reside in regional South Australia are eligible to apply.

Projects should:

- o Provide an opportunity for groups/organisations who have not applied to the fund before to actively participate in the planning, management and implementation of an arts project;
- o Involve a professional artist (where appropriate) whose practice is suitable for the project and community;
- o Increase employment opportunities for experienced professional artists, as well as opportunities for 'emerging' regional artists to gain more experience. Applicants are encouraged to engage with and employ South Australian artists as a priority, or explain why a non-South Australian artist is more appropriate for the project;
- o Provide opportunities for the development of skills of locally based artists, arts workers or community groups;
- o Include funding from other sources (Country Arts SA will not fund the whole project); and
- o Ongoing or repeated funding will only be provided where longer term or further funding fulfils a compelling need to consolidate previous development and a time frame for the achievement of cultural sustainability has been identified. Such funding can be provided for a maximum of three years.

Applicants applying for professional development should:

- Detail how the opportunity will benefit their professional career;
- Provide evidence that negotiations have taken place with their chosen mentor or collaborating agency to satisfy the assessment panel the applicant is able to complete the project in the manner proposed;
- Provide evidence of the applicants' relevant experience. This could include manuscripts, slides of previous exhibitions or work, reviews and publications, video or audio of performances and other material. Writers should have already developed work that has been preferably published, critiqued, appeared in journals, anthologies or other publications.

Your application will be assessed according to the degree to which you:

- Aim to achieve high quality arts outcomes;
- Promote excellence and innovation in arts and cultural activity;
- Aim to develop and expand community participation in and/or audiences for cultural activity;
- Show evidence of adequate planning and capacity to manage the project;
- Provide evidence of consultation with, and support from the community;
- Demonstrate that contributions, either in-kind or cash, have been sought from a source other than the Australian Government;
- Demonstrate how the project may result in long-term benefits;
- Demonstrate an engagement between artists and project partners or participants.

Support Material

Supportive material must include 1-2 page (max) curriculum vitae of the artist(s) to be employed, and evidence of wide community support (letters of support).

Applications relating to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artists, communities or culture must provide letters of support from relevant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artists and/or communities.

Applications that include creative content and/or stated outcomes for culturally and linguistically diverse communities must provide letters of support from these communities.

Budget Criteria

The fund will not cover the entire cost of the project. Applicants are required to contribute or source cash and or in-kind support from others. Artists must be paid appropriately. Applications should demonstrate sound project planning with an appropriately detailed and realistic budget to ensure the success of the project.

How is your application assessed?

Applications for assistance are assessed by the Grants Assessment Panel made up of peers from regional South Australia. They assess all applications against the detailed criteria for each program. Applications are assessed in a competitive environment and applicants should address the relevant criteria.

The panel meets approximately six weeks after the closing date to assess the applications. The successful projects are then sent to the Ministry for the Arts. It is not until the successful projects are announced by the Federal Minister that Country Arts SA is able to notify applicants of the assessment outcomes.

Personal Information

Personal information collected through the Regional Arts Fund is protected by the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth).

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 Regional Program Administrators, 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 and promotional purposes. By signing a Regional Arts Fund grant application you are also providing permission for this personal information to be used in this manner.

Acquitting Your Project

Country Arts SA requires information regarding the outcomes and financials of the project. We recommend that applicants build an evaluation plan into the project. High quality digital photographs (minimum 300 dpi or ~ 1MB) or equivalent documentation of the project is required for acquittals to be accepted.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible to apply to the Regional Arts Fund, Country Arts SA if you meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate that you are a permanent resident of regional or remote South Australia;
- Applicants need only be a group of people with a common interest;
- Groups should either be legally incorporated or have an auspicing body prepared to administer the grant on their behalf. An auspicing body is a separate organisation that has an ABN that administers and receives funding on your behalf;
- Individual artists are eligible to apply for funding under the Regional Arts Fund program;
- Individuals who apply to the Regional Arts Fund program **MUST** have an ABN **or** be auspiced by an organisation that has an ABN. An auspicing body is a separate organisation that administers and receives funding on your behalf;
- South Australian Metropolitan Arts Organisations are eligible to apply if they propose to work cross regionally in collaboration with local communities to assist the development of key arts and cultural opportunities;
- Schools may only apply if they propose to facilitate the involvement of the wider community as direct participants in an arts project. Proposals should be developmental, involve an artist or artists of professional standard and should not be part of the school curriculum or school focused extra curricula activities;
- Applicants should note that festivals or festival/event organisations in receipt of, or applying to another fund administered by the Australian Government will only be eligible to apply to the Regional Arts Fund for a different project within the same festival/event;
- Ongoing or repeated funding for particular organisations or festivals will only be provided where longer term or further funding fulfils a compelling need to consolidate previous development and a time frame for the achievement of cultural sustainability has been identified. Such funding can be provided for a maximum of three years.

The following activities are not eligible for funding:

- Limited and Propriety Limited companies which are for-profit organisations are not eligible to apply;
- Administration and marketing costs of an organisation associated with a project (e.g. the administrative costs of a community grantee);
- Infrastructure projects involving the purchase of assets (e.g. building purchase, renovation or maintenance, purchase of computers);
- Heritage activities (such as conservation of, or signage at, heritage buildings or sites). Arts projects located at heritage buildings or sites are eligible;
- Ongoing activities of collecting institutions for collection development, maintenance, conservation and interpretation. Collecting institutions and heritage organisations may, however, apply for creative arts projects which are not collection based that fall within the program guidelines;
- A project or element of a project that is also receiving funding for the same costs from another funding program administered by the Australian Government;
- International travel costs, either for an overseas artist to visit Australia or a local artist or arts worker to travel overseas;
- Projects that primarily aim to support state-funded programs managed by Country Arts SA or partnership or sponsorship arrangements between Regional Arts Organisations and other organisations;
- Performing Arts touring projects are only eligible to apply under the Shows on the Road Program;
- Projects that have commenced or been completed will not be considered;
- Curriculum based activities in schools or courses of ongoing education and training in government or private institutions in Australia or overseas, academic activity, including wages or course work that is required as part of any academic program;
- Costs of organising and running competitions, prizes, awards, or fundraising events (for example, judges expenses, administration and infrastructure costs); and
- Projects managed by grantees who have not acquitted previous grants from the Regional Arts Fund, Country Arts SA or any other funding administered by the Australian Government.

Grant applications will not be considered if previous applications have not been acquitted.