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Country Arts SA announces Regional Arts Fund March 2020 grant round open

Applications are now being accepted for the Regional Arts Fund (RAF), an Australian Government initiative that supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote communities in Australia. The program is managed by Regional Arts Australia and Country Arts SA, and is designed to benefit regional and remote arts practitioners, arts workers, audiences and communities.

Funding will support regional artists and community groups for projects that inspire arts and cultural activity in rural, regional and remote areas of South Australia.

Regional artists who are looking to develop their arts practice, or artists and organisations who are motivated to stimulate their communities through innovative arts projects are encouraged to apply.

Funding for the 2020 round is available for projects commencing between 1 July 2020 and 30 April 2021. Projects must be based or delivered in regional SA, with grants available in the categories of Step Out (up to \$25,000) and Step Up (up to \$5,000). The focus of the project can include visual arts, circus, dance, film, literature, music, theatre, puppetry, digital media and cross-art form works.

In 2019, the Regional Arts Fund Step Up and Step Out grants saw support for 25 new projects sharing in more than \$287,734.

The Regional Arts Fund supports a diverse range of arts and cultural activities across regional rural and remote SA.

Country Arts SA CE Anthony Peluso said, "Our grants programs can support community-based arts projects that aim to assist communities and artists, especially those affected by the recent bushfires. The arts have a powerful way of bringing communities together and can play a key role in the healing process. It is important that people are supported to express themselves and to make sense of their experiences. Country Arts SA staff are available to provide support to local artists and communities in developing projects that contribute to the recovery effort."

Country Arts SA also delivers the *Skills Development* grant program. This grant can assist individual artists or groups to provide innovative skills development opportunities through workshops, or provide opportunities for the development of project ideas and concepts. Individual artists, across all art forms, can now apply to the *Skills Development* grant program to pursue unique development opportunities.

The *Quick Response (up to \$3000)* grant is available throughout the year to support regional artists to access professional arts development and training opportunities, or organisations and communities with small project opportunities that arise at short notice.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project ideas with their local Country Arts SA Arts and Cultural Facilitators prior to submission for one-on-one support. Arts and Cultural Facilitators are based throughout regional South Australia.

The Regional Arts Fund is administered on behalf of the Australian Government by Regional Arts Australia and its member organisations which include Country Arts SA.

For more information about the program, including guidelines and instructions please visit www.countryarts.org.au

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