

June 2022

## **Eight South Australian regional and remote arts practices to get more than \$160,000**

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund provided \$161,326 in support of eight arts projects across regional South Australia in the March 2022 grant round.

The latest grant round supports a range of project types including a creative development for a youth theatre work, touring an exhibition interstate, developing a body of work for exhibition, intergenerational bush painting camp and short filmmaking.

Country Arts SA's Chief Executive/Executive Director, Anthony Peluso said, *"Living regionally provides a unique context for artists to create exciting new work. This recent round of grants reveals the depth of talent and innovation that exists across our state. A number of artists have been supported to showcase their craft by making new work and sharing their work with new communities and audiences. Many successful projects also focus on making the arts inclusive and accessible to everyone, which are strong themes this year. Well done to all the grant recipients."*

Youth engagement, accessibility and inclusivity and the environment were themes for this round, with several applicants delivering projects for people with a disability and/or special needs and young people or visual arts projects with an environmental message. Successful initiatives in this round include:

### **Riverland Youth Theatre – Treetops to Towers, Renmark**

*Riverland Youth Theatre will engage digital artists and a composer to support 10 to 14-year-old artists from the Riverland and Mallee regions to build a virtual world in Minecraft in which they create and perform an original 'choose your own adventure'-type story that audiences can explore from their homes. This project gives outer regional and special needs participants the opportunity to participate, collaborate, utilise gaming abilities, learn valuable skills in theatre-making and have fun while creating a high-quality piece of theatre. Treetops to Towers is digital theatre making at its most exciting and accessible.*

### **Holdfast Art Project – Holdfast Limestone Coast Art Project, Port MacDonnell**

*Limestone Coast visual artists Joann Fife and Sally O'Connor will create a new body of work exploring the crucial ecological role algae (seaweed) play in the environment. As part of the creative process the artists will collaborate with other Limestone Coast creatives, Boandik Elders, local government and the wider community. This multi-artform project will culminate in a major curated exhibition at the Riddoch Art Gallery in April 2024.*

The Australian Government supports regional artists, arts workers and organisations to develop and expand their artistic practice through the Regional Arts Fund. Funding targets activities that will have long term cultural, economic and social benefits for individuals and communities. Funding through the Regional Arts Fund assists communities and individuals through the development of partnerships and cultural networks, by providing artists with professional development and employment opportunities, and by supporting arts and community development projects that provide local communities with opportunities to access exciting arts and cultural activities.

The Regional Arts Fund is administered on behalf of the Australian Government by Regional Arts Australia and organisations in each state and territory which include Country Arts SA. The next funding round closes mid-August 2022 for projects that commence after 1 January 2023. For more information about the Regional Arts Fund please visit [www.countryarts.org.au](http://www.countryarts.org.au). A list of funded projects is below.

**REGIONAL ARTS FUND – MARCH 2022**  
**LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**Alysha Herrmann – RENMARK**

**\$15,000**

*Guthrak - 2022 Riverland Creative Development*

Riverland creative Alysha Herrmann has received funding for a creative development for a new performance work titled Guthrak which is inspired by the tabletop game Dungeons and Dragons. The 60-minute interactive theatrical experience for young audiences aged 12 and up is written by Alysha based on a concept by Natalie Hockley. The creative development will bring the entire creative team together in the Riverland for the final stage of development before rehearsals begin in 2023. Guthrak will premiere at the dreamBIG Festival in Adelaide in 2023.

**Holdfast Art Project – PORT MACDONNELL**

**\$19,456**

*Holdfast Limestone Coast Art Project*

Limestone Coast visual artists Joann Fife and Sally O'Connor will create a new body of work exploring the crucial ecological role algae (seaweed) play in the environment. As part of the creative process the artists will collaborate with other Limestone Coast creatives, Boandik Elders, local government and the wider community. This multi-artform project will culminate in a major curated exhibition at the Riddoch Art Gallery in April 2024.

**D'faces of Youth Arts – WHYALLA**

**\$30,000**

*Burn Your Postcards*

Burn Your Postcards is a fast and furious filmmaking project for young and disabled artists in regional South Australia that creates vignettes of place at a moment in time. Over two weekends, film and drama groups in Whyalla, the Riverland and the Barossa will work with experienced writers and professional filmmakers to create super-short films that illustrate their perspectives on their hometowns. Participants will be encouraged to question the image of their town that appears on postcards and tourism websites and use visual storytelling to construct a new image of what it feels like to live there.

**Kristi Biezaite – ROBE**

**\$14,400**

*One sheep/One plant/One human*

Robe artist Kristi Biezaite will create a collection of textile, wearable art and fibre art pieces utilising natural dyes from only one native plant and the raw fleece of a sole sheep. Each piece will represent the limitations of one artist, a single sheep and a single plant. The project aims to facilitate contemplation on capitalist-based value systems and the consequences of disposable fast fashion and will result in educational workshops, presentations and exhibitions.

**Alison Mitchell – RIVERTON**

**\$22,000**

*Unlemon – A meandering tale of citrus*

Regional South Australian artist Alison Mitchell has received funding to tour the 'Unlemon – a meandering tale of citrus' exhibition to Mount Gambier (SA), Riverton (SA), Griffith (NSW), Waikerie (SA) and Bunbury (WA) in 2022 and 2023. The body of work presents a multi-layered story of citrus – its origins, trajectory, diversity and tenacity. The exhibition explores citrus' symbiotic relationship with humans, its global success and the disease that threatens to devastate the species and will be accompanied by talks by the artist and citrus industry representatives.

**Riverland Youth Theatre – RENMARK**

**\$15,000**

*Treetops to Towers*

Riverland Youth Theatre will engage digital artists and a composer to support 10 to 14-year-old artists from the Riverland and Mallee regions to build a virtual world in Minecraft in which they create and perform an original 'choose your own adventure' -type story that audiences can explore from their homes. This project gives outer

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regional and special needs participants the opportunity to participate, collaborate, utilise gaming abilities, learn valuable skills in theatre-making and have fun while creating a high-quality piece of theatre. Treetops to Towers is digital theatre making at its most exciting and accessible.

**Iwantja Arts – INDULKANA**

**\$20,000**

*Painting Bush Camp*

Artists from Iwantja Arts will participate in a five-day, intergenerational painting camp on Country at Amaroona Homelands in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. Elders will act as Cultural mentors during the painting bush camp and mentor younger artists in expressing and celebrating their Yankunytjatjara culture and Country in response to a site of Yankunytjatjara cultural significance. Participants will create both individual and large-scale collaborative paintings and take part in traditional spear making and grass weaving workshops. The resulting artworks will be curated into major exhibition outcomes.

**Ursula Halpin – PORT PIRIE**

**\$25,470**

*Breaking ground in career with inclusion in national arts event Dark MOFO*

Port Pirie-based glass artist Ursula Halpin will create a new body of work for the major, curated exhibition *Twist* at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in alignment with the 2023 Dark Mofo festival. The new work will draw on the artist's experience as an Irish woman living in Australia and is inspired by her Irish culture. The project will include research into historical attitudes towards women, fragmented families and the loss of language and culture through colonisation and indentured servitude.