

June 2023

CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING LEAD REGIONAL ARTS PROJECTS

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund provided \$153,241 in support of eight arts projects across regional South Australia in the March 2023 Project Grants round.

The latest grant round supports a range of project types, including supporting youth wellbeing through Circus, First Nations photography workshops, a reimagined art festival for the Yorke Peninsula, an art and poetry exhibition responding to the impacts of climate change, and a diverse program of mentoring and skills development for remote First Nations artists.

Country Arts SA's Chief Executive, Anthony Peluso said, *"The diverse range of projects in this Regional Arts Fund grants round reflects the robust nature and talent of South Australia's regional artists. Dealing with topics that affect our lives, like climate change and community wellbeing, the successful applicants' projects show that they are in harmony with their community's mindset. We look forward to seeing the outcomes and wish the applicants well as they grow their artistic practices."*

The themes for this round show how regional South Australian artists are using their artform to respond to important issues within their local communities. Several projects are centred around the impacts of climate change, building the capacity of local artists and community cohesion.

Successful initiatives in this round include:

Finding Flight After the Flood – A Community Circus Project

Riverland Youth Theatre, Our Lady of the River Primary School, Crunchtime Aerial Equipment and HeadSpace Berri combine to offer Riverland youth the opportunity to build health physical, mental and social habits through weekly circus training. Including transportation for participants, the program will culminate in a free community presentation highlighting the effects of the floods on the region.

Desert Voices

Desert Voices sets out to equip and empower First Nations photographers and visual artists living regionally in the Coober Pedy and Oodnadatta areas to tell their stories, their way. Over four weeks, mentor Dave Laslett, will host a series of responsive workshops spanning smartphones through to DSLR's culminating in practical desert field trips, while increasing the capacity of visual artists in the region alongside meaningful storytelling. Beginning with smartphones, tablets and DSLR cameras, artists will have the opportunity to tell their story, their way.

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 will open July 2023 and closes mid-August 2023 for projects that commence after 1 January 2024. For more information about the Regional Arts Fund please visit www.countryarts.org.au. A list of funded projects is below.

Media enquiries: Hélène Sobolewski – Helene.Sobolewski@countryarts.org.au

REGIONAL ARTS FUND – MARCH 2023
LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Finding Flight After the Flood – A Community Circus Project

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Lullabies in the North

"This partnership will see Lullaby Project Australia delivered in Yorke Peninsula/Mid North. Through workshops in Clare, Warooka and Edithburgh, parents, carers and grandparents will compose lullabies for their babies and community, celebrating families, culture and connection, supported by trained Lullaby Artists . Through Artist-mentorships with experienced artists, locals will develop their workshop leadership skills. The initiative will lead to recording lullabies, community concerts and an illustrated songbook.

GROUNDED: YP Art Festival

Following a COVID-19 induced hiatus, the Yorke Peninsula Arts Exhibition has been reimagined as a week-long festival. Featuring the traditional exhibitions plus artist panels, workshops, live music and more, the festival will focus entirely on showcasing Narungga and Yorke Peninsula artists.

Be Part of Things: We Are the Project

Regional creatives Kirste Vandergiesen, Eliza Wuttke and Alysha Herrmann in residence in their own communities—Barmera, Port Lincoln & Mount Gambier—exploring their own “town as the project” and “process as practice” to build connection, skills and capacity for themselves and other regional artists. The three artists will work together across distance and discrete individual project outcomes to share practice and amplify best-practice in regional arts engagement & delivery. Discrete outcomes in each community will connect and celebrate emerging writers through workshops, commissions and residency participation, and provide public-facing outcomes to delight the general public (in-person and online).

Solastalgia

‘Solastalgia – loss and return’ brings together artists and poets from Kangaroo Island, Adelaide and the South Coast, responding to the impact of climate change, such as the 2019 bushfires, and growing concerns for the natural environment. Coral Street Art Space will host this exhibition of film, photography, printmaking, and poetry, during SALA, in August 2023. An ekphrastic poetry workshop and weaving/storytelling circle will further engage the community. We are all part of a living/dying system; one in constant renewal. The exhibit invites audiences to reflect on their own experiences of the theme, in a landscape of kinship and compassion.

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Food Connections

Under the leadership of Evette Wolf, currently South Australia's active citizen of the year, Yankalilla Youth Theatre will run a community engagement project to explore a diverse range of art forms with a food focus. Incorporating devising theatre, script writing, theatre lighting, sound, creative writing, graphic design, illustration and cabaret. Outcomes include:

1. Devise, script and perform an original play for the Yankalilla Community Garden Opening.
2. Produce a food themed magazine, exploring professional writing, illustration and graphic design.
3. Host two excursions - led by a YYT youth planning group - Explore native foods and cabaret style performance venues."

Yalata – Culture Through Music & Art

Over the space of 18-20 months, Yalata Aboriginal Corporation will host a series workshops engaging local and interstate artists to work with the Yalata community to further develop their skills. Activities will include painting, lino printing, pottery, weaving, song, dance, and wood carving. From these workshops, a stock of art will be developed, which Community members will be able to be sell through the new Art Gallery, which is scheduled to open at the Yalata Roadhouse in 2023. A short film containing footage of the workshops and local artists will be created for display at the Yalata Roadhouse.

End.

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