

June 2024

## STORY TELLING & CONNECTION ACROSS ARTFORMS LEAD REGIONAL ARTS PROJECTS

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund provided \$195,326.00 in support of 10 arts projects across regional South Australia in the first round of Project Grants for 2024. Australian Government Minister for the Arts, Tony Burke, congratulated the recipients and their contributions to Australia's arts scene.

"The Regional Arts Fund not only helps ground-breaking arts projects come to life across Australia, but also helps generate employment in the arts – with this round to create over 500 employment opportunities for artists and arts workers in communities from Alice Springs to Longreach.

"A thriving cultural and creative arts sector is vital for the one third of Australians who live in our regions. We want more Australians to be able to experience and engage with the arts, wherever they live."

The latest Project Grant round supports a range of activities and artforms including opening the door to cultural participation through collaborative public art, reviving traditional print-making practices, learning to use new technology to support production and sharing of original contemporary songs, and supporting a remote textile artist to present her first clothing collection on a National and international platform.

The geographical spread for this round shows the breadth of arts practice in regional South Australia, with strong themes of storytelling and connection showing how regional South Australian artists are using their artform to respond to deeply personal experiences, and to share what makes their community unique.

Country Arts SA's Chief Executive, Anthony Peluso said, "This round of the Regional Arts Fund supports the making of remarkable new work in fashion, animation, printmaking, music, and public art across South Australia. Independent First Nations artists and arts groups of people with disability will have the opportunity to achieve their artistic and cultural ambitions and showcase their work in their local communities across regional and remote South Australia and to audiences across the country."

Successful initiatives in this round include:

### **The Memorial Pole Project Berri – Riverland**

**\$30,000**

Our project intends to convey the knowledge, culture and history of the seven tribal groups of the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee with the wider Riverland Community. This will be achieved by creating seven cylindrical, memorial poles/steel structures, with each one reflecting the stories and culture through visual and oral installations. Two local Aboriginal artists will create the works: Susanne Gray has authored the concept and design of the poles and Ena Turner will be engaged to create the visual artworks depicting Country, food sources and culture, specific to each group. We are invested in utilising innovative practices with the intention of sharing this important knowledge and history of our First Peoples in the form of large art installations within the Berri Community, fostering cultural pride and reconciliation.

### **Myriad Art Exhibition – Regional Artist Transport Multi-region**

**\$4,960.98**

Myriad is Community Living Australia's (CLA) collaborative art exhibition, which showcases the work of artists living with disability from across South Australia. As part of the SALA festival, the exhibition features more than 120 artworks by 65+ artists living with disability.

Myriad, now in its sixth year, is an initiative of CLA, a not-for-profit organization committed to charitable impact for the communities in which we operate. This collaborative exhibition showcases a myriad of artists, abilities, artworks and stories from people with disability.

Myriad will be open to the public 15 – 29 August 2024, and will be located in the Institute Building at the State Library of South Australia. There will be artworks for sale, with all proceeds from the sale going back to the artists.

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government program that supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote communities in Australia. The program is managed by Regional Arts Australia and administered in the South Australia by Country Arts SA.

The next funding round will open July 2024 and closes mid-August 2024 for projects that commence after 1 January 2025. 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.

Media enquiries: Lisa Woolford [lisa.woolford@countryarts.org.au](mailto:lisa.woolford@countryarts.org.au) 0436 6898 157

**REGIONAL ARTS FUND – ROUND 1, 2024**  
**LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**Warna, Tide Before Time** **\$7,441**  
**Ceduna – Far West**

Lead artist Sonya Coleman will participate in Country to Couture (C2C) to present her first clothing collection at the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (DAAF) in 2024. Through this project, Sonya will create a robust support network for the ongoing development of her garment and textile collection. She will work with a network of mentors set at every phase of her project: 1. from artwork to textile, 2. from textile to garment, 3. from garments and textiles to a product line that will produce sales and income generation opportunities for an Aboriginal artist in a very remote location of SA. Participation in C2C will expand Sonya's network across Australia and connect her with market opportunities for her artefacts, in addition to her ongoing involvement in future C2C activities and platforms.

**Open Doors Festival** **\$25,972**  
**Peterborough – Mid-North**

Through the innovative use of old doors as canvases, artists from all backgrounds and experience levels, including regional artists/innovators, community groups and schools, can showcase their creativity across various outdoor and indoor spaces transforming our rural town into a vibrant hub of stories and artistic expression. From the town square, the main street and within businesses, these captivating installations come together as an expansive outdoor/indoor exhibition, each telling unique stories and showcasing a multitude of mediums.

Running parallel to the Open Doors exhibition, a diverse array of art/craft workshops will be hosted throughout the event period. Led by local and regional artists, these workshops will cover mediums ranging from blacksmithing to chocolate truffle making, printmaking, photography, floristry, and more. This project aims to 'open the door' to people's perspectives on what art is, offering them the opportunity to explore and experience various art forms firsthand.

**Tumbleweed Community Film Project** **\$29,019**  
**Yankalilla – Fleurieu Peninsula**

Yankalilla Youth Theatre's performance troupe, young people aged 9-12 years, will create a comedy western film. The film will be directed and edited by emerging film maker El Crossland, with mentorship from award winning film maker Mikey Hill. The film will involve community members including local shop owners and offer a positive, accessible community arts opportunity for our rural town.

**Flinders Songs – Recording Studio and Performance Project** **\$25,829**  
**Port Pirie – Mid-North**

This project involves a collaboration between two South Australian Regional Groups. Namely, Bridge To Nowhere Arts Association Inc, (BTNArts hereafter) located at Warnertown and The Port Augusta Music Club. (Hereafter PAMC) The main aims are:

1. Recording Studio training to members of both groups including how to use the Focusrite Scarlett 2i2 Studio & Ableton Lite software.
2. To set up and record original songs developed by members.
3. To develop participants recording and performance practice - singing & ukulele, mandolin, guitar and other instruments.
4. To be confident in performing their new songs in front of large audiences. For example, Port Pirie Smelters Picnic (15,000) Port Augusta Wharfest (10,000 people), and Quorn Ag Show.
5. To ensure the recorded songs are archived on ARTS NowHere website, The project seeks to improve access to culture for regional, isolated & remote communities.

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**"Mama" - A 2D Animation Short Film About Grief & Hope  
Whyalla – Eyre and Western**

**\$27,804**

"Mama" is a 20 minute 2D digital animation short film. It is based on a true story of the protagonist's (the artist's) loss of her mother to cancer, at the age of 12. The film shows the female protagonist in different periods throughout her life, and how that early loss affected and influenced her passion for creating art.

The film can be emotionally intense, especially if you have experienced loss yourself, but there is comic relief, visual effects, colourful imagery, & music that will help maintain emotional balance. The story line incorporates ways of finding silver linings, messages of hope, therapeutic techniques & creative outlets for coping with significant grief & loss. The film is PG rated and is created in Whyalla, South Australia by a small team of local creatives & edited in Adelaide.

**Pinnaroo Printmakers  
Pinnaroo – Murray Mallee**

**\$30,000**

The "Pinnaroo Printmakers" project will activate one of the largest collections of printmaking machines in South Australia at the Mallee Tourist and Heritage Centre. This will allow the community to learn modern printmaking techniques alongside the traditional, using the historical machines.

The aim is to improve social cohesion, learn new skills through workshops, and mentor local artists who may be able to continue the sharing of skills into the future. Importantly we want to activate the museum and the equipment that no one in the community currently knows how to use. The final part of the project is to have an event where the participants can demonstrate the use of the printing presses in the museum and exhibit their works.

**Cellar Folk Club Skills Development Workshops  
Galinyala, Port Lincoln – Lower Eyre Peninsula**

**\$4,304**

The Cellar Folk Club Inc is the only predominantly acoustic music club in our region and has been established for 30 years. 2024 is our club's 30th anniversary year. We have planned a range of events to celebrate this milestone with a very strong focus on connecting with our local community in Pt Lincoln and communities across the Lower Eyre Peninsula. One of these activities is a collaboration with local regional music instructors and professional folk performers to provide workshops & performances for members, the Port Lincoln and the wider Lower Eyre Peninsula community, culminating in several performances in which some participants can have an opportunity to participate. This project will occur over approximately a 3 month period.

**SA Water Tank Mural****\$9,994****Woodside – Adelaide Hills**

A mural to be painted directly onto the surface of the SA Water tank on Ridge Road, corner Jacaranda Drive, Woodside. LoveWoodside, a community group of 100% volunteers working to strengthen community cohesion and facilities, is managing the project through a steering committee. An experienced, Adelaide Hills based artist, Taylr Jay, will produce the work whilst mentoring a less experienced artist Bella Gazard.

**The Memorial Pole Project****\$30,000****Berri – Riverland**

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