

October 2024

STORY TELLING & CONNECTION ACROSS ARTFORMS LEAD REGIONAL ARTS PROJECTS

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund provided \$181,774 in support of 10 arts projects across regional South Australia in the second round of Project Grants for 2024.

The latest Project Grant round supports a range of activities and artforms including growing the skills of the next generation of circus artists, connecting regional writers, opening the door to music through a travelling instrument program, and supporting a visual artist to develop new skills in technology as part of creating her next body of work.

With a strong focus on skills development and capacity building, this round shows the depth of arts practice in regional South Australia, with strong themes of community connection and shared experience showing how regional South Australian artists are using their artform to build sustainable practices which are grounded in place.

Country Arts SA Chief Executive Anthony Peluso said, "This round of the Regional Arts Fund supports the developing of remarkable new work in areas including circus, visual arts, installations, music, and First Nations storytelling. There's a strong focus on growing the skills and abilities of the next generation of artists to achieve their artistic and cultural ambitions and showcase their work in their local communities across regional and remote South Australia and to audiences nationally. We look forward to seeing the outcomes and wish the applicants well as they grow their practices."

Successful initiatives in this round include:

Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln and the Riverland

Part of Things – Part of Fringe X Playwright Pals

\$24,510

This three-year strategy aims to build the capacity of regional storytellers to create and present original performance work. This grant will support the first year, which will see 15 writers - five writers each in Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln and the Riverland - meeting monthly on Zoom and in person to develop new performance work(s). They all will have access to three Masterclasses across the first year, and six writers will have the opportunity to attend a networking/Personal Development weekend at the 2025 Adelaide Fringe. Across the first year each cohort will be supported by a local coordinator who will be mentored to develop their producing skills to further support the writers.

Copley

Ngapala Arts – First Nations Artist Development Project

\$28,443.85

First Nations artists will visit Ngapala Arts in Copley to run workshops spanning six days to further enhance the skills of the Ngapala Arts crew. The workshops will include artists specialising in ceramics, providing local creators with opportunities to develop new techniques and refine their art. The workshops will incorporate a variety of techniques and surface finishes - including ceramics, ochre, sculpting, building techniques, cultural story sharing, and interpretation. A highlight will be the on-Country workshop, which will emphasise the importance of sharing culture on Country.

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 South Australia by Country Arts SA.

The next funding round will open February 2025 and close mid-March 2025 for projects that commence after 1 July 2025. For more information about the Regional Arts Fund please visit www.countryarts.org.au. A full list of funded projects is below.

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REGIONAL ARTS FUND – ROUND 2, 2024
LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Port Lincoln

Southern Eyre Arts – SALT on the Water: Message in a Bottle **\$30,000**

Inviting everyone - from young people in schools to the whole community - to write a message about their wishes/hopes for the future, these messages will then be placed in lanterns representing bottles for an evocative display across Boston Bay during SALT Festival. Local songwriters will create songs from the messages and perform on a floating barge as lanterns are released. The event will be held on the foreshore of Port Lincoln alongside the jetty accompanied by a spectacular array of light across the water.

Yorke Peninsula

Yorke Peninsula Council Arts & Culture Working Group – Wildu – Fire Lanterns **\$29,500**

Set to be a highlight of the 2024 Grounded Festival This fire and lantern performance will tell traditional stories of the Narungga people by engaging the Narungga community, Nharangga Aboriginal Cultural Tours, local artists and community art facilitators. Stories will include the Wilda (eagle totem) and the catching of Gynburra (butterfish) along the Yorke Peninsula coastline. Before the performance, a series of workshops will allow community members to create their own fire and lantern sculptures. This will allow community to contribute to the eventual event/performance and increase general understanding of Narungga history and culture. The event and associated workshops will be a highlight in the 2025 Grounded Festival

Berri

Fit to Fly's Path to Pro **\$28,300**

Regional multi-disciplinary performer Caitlyn Larsson will direct a small circus performance troupe take their skills to the next level. The group will devise and create a professional show, cast and rehearse it, market and stage it in a 492-seat venue with professional rigging and tech.

Fleurieu Peninsula

Sand Writers – Connecting Through Literature: new skills new forum **\$3,000**

This project will upskill aspiring writers both in the craft of writing and using social media to connect with other regional writers and lovers of reading and the visual arts. Local professionals will hold open workshops to help further skills and build new connections.

Mount Barker District

Mount Barker District Council – The Travelling Instruments Project **\$11,980**

Artist and musician Andy Rasheed will design and build a suite of seven handmade, plywood instruments. Tuned in the pentatonic scale, the instruments will be harmonious with each other no matter the experience level of the person playing them. After an initial demonstration event for arts community stakeholders, the instruments will then be lent out by Council for creative workshops in libraries, performing arts schools, disability support programs, and community centres. They will also be available for interactive performances and musical installations at arts festivals and community events, and dance and drama performances by local performing arts groups.

**Port Augusta
Continuum**

\$5,000

Multi-disciplinary artist and mother Juanella McKenzie will collaborate with daughters practising cultural continuation through visual art. By exploring ancestral and contemporary techniques, she'll ensure cultural knowledge is maintained and passed on to the next generation, keeping culture and identity strong while also maintaining connection to country and family.

**Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln and the Riverland
Part of Things – Part of Things X Playwright Pals**

\$24,510

This three-year strategy aims to build the capacity of regional storytellers to create and present original performance work. This grant will support the first year, which will see 15 writers - five writers each in Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln and the Riverland - meeting monthly on Zoom and in person to develop new performance work(s). They all will have access to three Masterclasses across the first year, and six writers will have the opportunity to attend a networking/Personal Development weekend at the 2025 Adelaide Fringe. Across the first year each cohort will be supported by a local coordinator who will be mentored to develop their producing skills to further support the writers.

Copley

Ngapala Arts – Ngapala First Nations Artist Development

\$28,334

First Nations artists will visit Ngapala Arts in Copley to run workshops spanning six days to further enhance the skills of the Ngapala Arts crew. The workshops will include artists specialising in ceramics, providing local creators with opportunities to develop new techniques and refine their art. The workshops will incorporate a variety of techniques and surface finishes - including ceramics, ochre, sculpting, building techniques, cultural story sharing, and interpretation. A highlight will be the on-Country workshop, which will emphasise the importance of sharing culture on Country.

The Riverland

Storytellers Workshops

\$20,218

Riverland Youth Theatre will deliver a series of 40 weekly workshops over 2025 - 10 per school term. These free, weekly two-hour workshops will support regional young people - ages 13-18 - to develop their writing and storytelling skills by connecting them with local regional artists, writers, and storytellers. Food and transport will be provided to make the workshops accessible and help create strong pathways for the participants to grow their skills.

Fleurieu Peninsula

Shallow and Rapid (Working Title)

\$7,424

Artist Gail Hocking will create a new body of immersive installation work to exhibit mid-2025. Her work will include multi-layered moving images, experimental sound, and vibrational sound work.

End.