

The Art of Inspiring Communities

2024 - 2025





Major Events

Middleback Arts Centre turns 40

In March 2025, the Middleback Arts Centre celebrated 40 years as the cultural and artistic centre of Whyalla.

Run by Country Arts SA, the centre has evolved into a modern facility featuring a 210-seat cinema and a 478-seat theatre. It hosts diverse Australian and international film and performances, including ballet, drama, theatre, and music.

This milestone moment honoured the centre's enduring role in the life of the region.

Middleback Arts Centre has been part of my life since childhood from school concerts, community events, and countless performances. It continues to be a vital part of our community, a place where memories are made, and creativity thrives.

– Lucille Sellars-Harris
Operations Manager, Middleback Arts Centre

Nunga Screen

Nunga Screen continues to showcase the great work of First Nations filmmakers with free community screenings across SA. It has grown as a fundraising initiative, giving organisations the opportunity to share the stories and messages of this curated short film program in their workplace.

1500 people

attended screenings at Country Arts SA Arts Centres.

103 corporate packages purchased

by organisations including Catholic Education, National Gallery of Australia, Wesley Mission Queensland, Women's and Children's Health Network, and Save the Children Australia.

\$141,500 raised

for First Nations initiatives from the purchase of corporate packages.



425,902 Attendances

at events, exhibitions and performances across South Australia



1,824 Events

attended by **110,324 people** at Country Arts SA Arts Centres



8,427 Performers

on Country Arts SA's stages, with **2,126 people working** behind the scenes



189 Artists

supported through professional development opportunities including residencies and workshops



First Nations Employment

16% of all ongoing and contract employees identified as **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander**

New Work



6 works produced

including 5 First Nations works



10 works presented

including 5 First Nations works

Saltbush Country Ruby Award

Saltbush Country's win at the 2024 Ruby Awards was one of the highlights of an outstanding year for Country Arts SA.

The First Nations-led exhibition, presented in partnership with the Art Gallery of South Australia and Tarnanthi Festival, was named **Outstanding Regional Event or Project** at the awards, which celebrate excellence across South Australia's arts, culture, and creative industries.



Tarnanthi Regional Curator Marika Davies.
Photo courtesy of Department of the Premier and Cabinet.



Photo: Lana Adams

Intersection

Intersection is a bespoke professional development program connecting artists, craftspeople, designers and creatives in regional communities across South Australia. In 2025 it toured to the Spencer Gulf, Kangaroo Island, the Clare Valley, Burra, Murray Bridge and the Murray River, Lakes and Coorong.

In total we connected with
121 regional artists
through the program

Community Partners

Our partnerships with local governments remain strong and vital, connecting communities with the arts and employing local artists and arts workers.

Our partners include:

- City of Whyalla
- City of Port Lincoln
- Port Pirie Regional Council
- Naracoorte Lucindale Council
- Regional Council of Goyder
- Renmark Paringa Council
- Yorke Peninsula Council
- City of Mount Gambier
- City of Victor Harbor

Funding

Federal Government 10%

State Government 48%

Local Government 11%

Earned Income 31%

**Total investment
\$11.6m**

*Additional infrastructure
investment of \$2.1m*



Photo: Liz Daniels



About Us

Our vision is for artists and the communities of regional South Australia to thrive through engagement with the arts, and be recognised as valued contributors to the nation's cultural voice.

Country Arts SA transforms the way arts are made and engaged with in regional South Australia.

Acknowledgement of Country

At Country Arts SA, we live and create on the unceded lands of the First Peoples of South Australia.

We respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, artists and communities, and recognise their continuing connection and spiritual relationship to these lands, waters and skies.

Putting First Nations first, we are committed to listening, caring for Country, and safeguarding, sharing and celebrating the oldest living cultures in the world.



**COUNTRY
ARTS
SA**



**Government
of South Australia**



CreateSA