



Artist Professional Development Grants Guidelines



Country Arts SA's **Artist Professional Development Grants** support artists and arts workers to participate in professional development opportunities of their choosing.

The purpose of these grants is to contribute to costs associated with undertaking professional development opportunities such as workshops, courses, mentorships, conferences and seminars.

Country Arts SA aims to run one Artist Professional Development Grant round per year.

What is classified as a Professional Development opportunity?

The following activities are considered professional development opportunities:

- participation in courses, residencies, workshops, etc.
- mentoring from a professional artist who can provide advice and teach new skills
- attending a conference, masterclass, seminar, performance, exhibition, etc.
- work experience, an internship or volunteer role
- the engagement of a professional artist (or artists) to run workshops or deliver a presentation in your community – in this instance the grant will be used to cover the travel and accommodation costs of the artist/s that have been engaged, rather than the applicant

If you are unsure about whether your professional development opportunity is eligible, please email Country Arts SA's Grants team at grants@countryarts.org.au.

Grant Round Dates

The 2026 round of Artist Professional Development Grants will open **27 April** and close **24 May 2026**

How much you can apply for

- **Up to \$1,500** for applicants located in regions MM2–MM5
- **Up to \$2,000** per application for applicants located in regions MM6–MM7

The applicant is expected to cover any additional costs associated with participating in the professional development opportunity through their own contributions or other funding sources.

Applicant Eligibility

To apply for an Artist Professional Development Grant, you must be:

- permanently based in regional or remote South Australia, residing in locations classified as MM2–MM7 according to the Modified Monash Model
- an individual artist/arts worker over the age of 18 with an active sole trader ABN; or
- an Australian incorporated organisation or Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander corporation actively registered as such on both the Australian Business Register and the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) Register, or an unincorporated community group that has arranged an eligible auspicising organisation

The applicant's postcode **must** match that of the registered ABN.

Not Eligible to Apply

Applicants are not eligible to apply for an Artist Professional Development Grant if they:

- are an individual under 18 years of age
- are based outside of regional or remote South Australia (MM2–MM7)
- have an overdue Country Arts SA or Regional Arts Fund grant acquittal
- have already received an Artist Professional Development Grant in the same financial year
- are an entity type outside of those outlined under "Applicant Eligibility" (e.g. for-profit companies, partnerships and family trusts are not eligible).



Eligible Expenditure

Artist Professional Development Grant monies may only be spent on:

- professional development costs such as fees for workshops, masterclasses, conferences, unaccredited training or courses, seminars, shows, mentors, etc.
- travel costs such as flights, bus, train or tram fares, fuel, taxi or ride share fares
- accommodation
- meals and incidentals

Grant money cannot be used to pay the applicant for their time to participate in a professional development activity.

Applicants are required to submit receipts for expenditure when the grant is acquitted.

Access and support

Country Arts SA is committed to supporting equitable access to professional development opportunities for regional artists and arts workers. We recognise that artists bring different experiences, ways of working and support needs, and we encourage you to contact us to discuss what will help you apply.

We warmly encourage applications from First Nations artists, artists from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and artists with disability.

Support is available at any stage of the application process. This includes having a conversation with the Grants team before you apply, assistance to understand the application form or support material requirements or arranging access adjustments that work for you.

If you are unsure whether your opportunity is eligible or would like to talk through your project idea, we strongly encourage you to contact the Country Arts SA Grants team. A conversation before you apply can help clarify eligibility and will make the application process easier. Please email grants@countryarts.org.au.

Preparing your Application

1. Discuss your professional development opportunity with a Country Arts SA team member prior to commencing the application. Staff are located within various communities around South Australia and can quickly advise if you and your idea or opportunity are eligible for a Country Arts SA Artist Professional Development Grant.
2. View the application form in SmartyGrants via the link on the Country Arts SA website to see what is required, including what support materials you will need.
3. Organise support materials.
4. Commence the application and contact a Country Arts SA team member for guidance and advice as needed throughout the application process.
5. Important: The project start date must be within 3 months of the 24 May 2026 and the latest completion date for the activity is 31 December 2026.

Support Material

If the application is for yourself:

- artist CV (no more than 2 pages)
- evidence of arts practice in the form of photos, web links (websites, social media, articles etc.), letters of support, media articles, audio or video files
- evidence of the professional development opportunity

If the application is to engage a professional artist (or artists) to run workshops or deliver a presentation in your community:

- artist CV (no more than 2 pages) for the visiting artist/s
- email or letter of confirmation and quote from the visiting artist/s
- evidence of visiting artist/s arts practice in the form of photos, web links, letters of support, media articles, audio or video files
- evidence of intended promotional planning of the workshop or presentation within your community



Assessment

Applications for Artist Professional Development Grants are assessed internally by trained grant assessors. All applications are assessed on their merit and in accordance with the objectives of the fund.

Factors of consideration when making assessment decisions include, but are not limited to:

- the relevance of the professional development opportunity to the applicant's existing artistic practice
- the likely impact of the professional development opportunity on the applicant's practice, including expansion of practice and skills transfer opportunities
- quality and viability of the professional development activity

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within 10 working days of the round closing.

If successful, a grant agreement will need to be signed and an invoice provided within 1 week of receiving notification of success.

Variations

If your project changes at all, a variation to the grant can be arranged by Country Arts SA's Grants team. Changes may include, but are not limited to, project start or end dates, type of opportunity you will be undertaking (including changes to mentors or key artists), or the location.

As soon as you are aware of a change, contact the Country Arts SA Grants team at grants@countryarts.org.au with details regarding the project changes. The Grants team will then arrange a variation form in your SmartyGrants account. You will be notified of approval or if further action is required via email.

Acquitting the Grant

Applicants must acquit the grant within 6 weeks of the professional development opportunity taking place.

Country Arts SA requires information regarding the outcomes and financials of the project. Receipts for expenditure and evidence of participation or delivery of the professional development opportunity must be provided.



Applicants are encouraged to take photos of the professional development opportunity. An acquittal form will be provided for completion via SmartyGrants.

All images submitted with your acquittal must be properly credited with the photographer's name, description of the photo (including names of any people), where and when it was taken. Permission to use the photo should be obtained from the photographer and any people appearing in the image.

Thinking of applying?

We encourage you to talk to us before starting your application.

Contact the Country Arts SA Grants team to discuss your idea or ask for support: grants@countryarts.org.au

Apply online via SmartyGrants: artsdevelopment.smartygrants.com.au/APD2526