



Summary Guidelines

Regional Arts Fund Project Grants

This is a supplementary document to the official guidelines to assist with interpretation. In the event of any inconsistency between this summary and the guidelines, the official guidelines will be the basis for all decisions.



Australian Government
Regional Arts Fund

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government program that supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote communities in Australia.

About the Regional Arts Fund

The Regional Arts Fund (RAF) is an ongoing Australian Government program that supports artists, arts workers and communities in regional and remote Australia.

Each year, the program provides around \$6 million to support arts and cultural activity across the country. It is part of the Australian Government's Arts and Cultural Development Program, which aims to increase participation in, and access to, arts and culture. RAF recognises that regional and remote arts practice is essential to a strong and diverse national arts sector. It supports creative work that reflects local stories, strengthens communities, and contributes to regional economies.

National Context

The Regional Arts Fund aligns with Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place, the Australian Government's five-year plan for the arts and cultural sector.

Revive focuses on:

- First Nations First
- A place for every story
- Supporting artists as workers
- Strong cultural infrastructure
- Engaging audiences

Through this, the Regional Arts Fund helps ensure that artists, organisations and communities in regional and remote Australia can thrive, grow and stay connected to national cultural life.

How the Program Is Delivered

The Regional Arts Fund is managed by Regional Arts Australia on behalf of the Australian Government.

Grants are delivered locally through Regional Arts organisations in each state and territory (known as Regional Program Administrators). These organisations:

- run funding rounds
- assess applications

- award grants to artists and communities

Each year, at least \$2.7 million is distributed through open, competitive grant rounds.

What the Fund Supports

The Regional Arts Fund supports projects and opportunities that:

- strengthen regional communities through arts and culture
- build partnerships and collaboration
- increase access and participation in the arts
- support artists' careers and professional development
- deliver high-quality, viable creative outcomes

Two Ways to Apply

There are two types of grants available through the Regional Arts Fund. Each supports different kinds of activity.

1. Quick Response Grants

Quick Response Grants support small, time-sensitive opportunities. These are for activities that:

- come up unexpectedly
- need to happen soon
- are smaller in scale

For example:

- attending a workshop or training
- taking up a short-notice opportunity
- delivering a small, immediate project

These grants are quick to apply for and quick to assess, with a streamlined process.

2. Project Grants

Project Grants support larger, more developed projects. These are for activities that:

- take more time to plan

- involve deeper community engagement
- have longer-term outcomes

For example:

- creating new work
- running a community arts project
- delivering a multi-stage program

These grants require more detailed planning and application information.

Which One Should You Apply For?

A simple guide: If your opportunity is urgent, small, or unplanned – apply for a **Quick Response Grant**. If your project is larger, planned, and longer-term – apply for a **Project Grant**

Support Available

If you're unsure which grant is right for you, or need help applying, contact your state or territory Regional Arts organization. They can:

- talk through your idea
- help you choose the right grant
- support you with your application

Project Grants

1. About the Project Grants program

Project Grants support larger arts projects in regional and remote Australia.

These projects are:

- well-planned and developed over time
- designed for deeper community engagement
- focused on longer-term cultural, social or economic impact

Project Grants are suited to activities such as:

- creating new artistic work
- delivering community arts projects
- developing professional practice or careers over a longer timeframe
- building partnerships and collaborative projects

They support work that is more complex in scope and requires structured planning, delivery and resourcing.

2. How much you can apply for

Up to \$30,000

3. Who Can Apply

You can apply if you are:

- an individual artist or arts worker
- a group or organisation
- based in regional or remote Australia (eligible locations MM2-MM7, see below)
- Over 18 years of age. Note: If you're under 18, you can still apply however, your application must be supported by an adult (18 or over) who has an ABN and agrees to manage the funding on your behalf

Your project must:

- primarily benefit a regional or remote community

Projects can take place anywhere in the world, however as the applicant you must be based in an eligible location (MM2–MM7)

What is an Eligible Location (MM2–MM7)?

To check if you are based in an eligible location, visit the [Regional Arts Fund Eligibility Map](#) and enter the address under which your ABN is registered. If you do not have an ABN, you will need to be auspiced by an organisation based in an eligible location.

4. What can you use the Project Grant for?

You can use the grant for:

- Artist and staff fees (fair pay required, using [NAVA](#), [MEAA](#) or [LPA](#) rates)
- travel and accommodation
- Materials, production and equipment
- venue hire
- accessibility costs
- project administration costs

5. What This Grant Supports

Project Grants support:

- new creative work
- community-engaged arts projects
- multi-stage or longer-term activities
- professional development
- projects that build skills, partnerships and opportunities in regional communities.

6. How applications are assessed

Your application will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. **Impact** – What difference will your idea make?
2. **Support & Partnerships** – Who is involved or supporting it?
3. **Reach** – Who will benefit or participate?

4. **Opportunity** – How does this support artists or skills?
5. **Quality & Viability** – Is your idea realistic and well planned?

All criteria are equally important.

A simpler way to think about the criteria

Instead of five separate sections, think about:

- What are you doing? Why now?
- Who benefits?
- Why are you the right person to deliver it?
- How will you deliver it?

7. What Assessors Are Looking For

A strong application will:

- clearly explain the project
- demonstrate community need
- show realistic planning and budgeting
- include experienced people
- pay artists fairly

8. How to Apply

Applications are submitted online.

For the best chance of success, we strongly recommend that you contact your State or Territory Regional Program Administrator before submitting your application. Their details are at the end of these Guidelines. They can help you check if your idea is a good fit and answer any questions you may have.

For your application, you will need:

- A title for your activity
- A short project description (no more than 100 words)
- Responses to the criteria
- Budget
- Timeline

- Support material

9. Application Questions

- Question 1 – Project Overview (300–500 words)
What are you doing, and why is it important?
- Question 2 – Impact & Reach (300 words)
Who will benefit and what difference will it make?
- Question 3 – Delivery & Viability (300 words)
How will you deliver the project, and why are you capable?
- Question 4 – Partnerships & Support (200 words)
How will the project develop partnerships and collaboration?

10. Timing

Project Grants are delivered through fixed application rounds.

Application rounds

- Applications are only accepted during advertised opening periods. Please refer to your state regional program website
- Each round has a clear opening and closing date.
- Applications submitted after the closing date will not be assessed.

Project start dates

- Projects must not begin before funding approval is confirmed.
- If successful, you will receive a formal funding agreement before starting your project
- Project start dates should align with the timing agreed in your application and funding agreement.

Multi-year projects (if applicable)

- If you are applying for multi-year funding, you must clearly outline how the project will be delivered across financial years
- Funding is provided in line with approved milestones and reporting requirements.

Important timing advice

- You are strongly encouraged to plan your project timeline realistically before

applying

- Larger funding requests may require longer assessment and approval timeframes
- We recommend contacting your Regional Program Administrator early, particularly for complex or higher-value projects, to discuss timing and feasibility.

11. Assessment Process

- After the round closes, applications go through a structured assessment process (more information below).
- This includes review against the published assessment criteria.
- Assessment times may vary depending on the number of applications received and available funding in each state or territory.
- You will be notified of the outcome once assessments are complete and decisions are finalised.

Applications are:

- reviewed by peers and industry experts with knowledge of the arts and regional practice
- assessed competitively against other applications received in the same round
- recommended for funding based on merit and available funding in each state or territory, meaning not all eligible or strong applications may be successful depending on demand and budget.

12. Accessibility

We aim to:

- make expectations clear
- reduce unnecessary complexity
- support regional applicants

You can ask for support with your application, communication, or project delivery. This may include help completing the form (e.g. a scribe), alternative formats (such as large print, audio or video formats), interpreting services (including Auslan or language translation), support workers or access assistants, and costs to make your project accessible for participants and audiences.

If you need support or have questions, contact your state Regional Arts organisation.

12. Contact details

Depending on where you are based, you can contact your Regional Program Administrator for more information or support.

Australian Capital Territory

artsACT

artsACT@act.gov.au

02 6207 2384

New South Wales

Regional Arts NSW

funding@regionalartsnsw.com.au

02 9270 2500

Northern Territory

Darwin Community Arts

raf@darwincommunityarts.org.au

08 8945 7347

Queensland

Flying Arts Alliance

raf@flyingarts.org.au

07 3216 1322

South Australia

Country Arts SA

grants@countryarts.org.au

08 8444 0400

Tasmania

RANT Arts

grants@rantarts.com

03 6331 8232

Victoria

Regional Arts Victoria

grants@rav.net.au

1300 882 531

Western Australia

Regional Arts WA

investment@regionalartswa.org.au

08 9200 6200