Media Release

COUNTRY ARTS SA

16 November 2026

South Australian regional arts projects highlight community storytelling, cultural connection and creative participation

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund has provided more than $220,000 in support of 10 arts projects across regional South Australia in the August 2026 round of Project Grants.

The projects funded span a diverse range of artforms including visual arts, theatre, public art, community festivals, cultural practice and language revitalisation. Together, they reflect the important role the arts play in strengthening community identity, creating opportunities for participation, and sharing regional stories with broader audiences.

Australian Government Minister for the Arts, the Hon. Tony Burke MP said,

"Our regional and remote communities are filled with artistic experiences and stories.

"This funding helps regional arts go from strength to strength, connecting communities, attracting visitors and supporting regional economies - showcasing the best arts projects regional Australia has to offer."

"From visual arts to literature, theatre, film, music and dance, there's a place for every story, and a story for every place."

Several projects focus on creating meaningful connections between people and place. These include an exhibition of new and existing work inspired by the Limestone Coast from Mount Gambier artist Ida Sophia, a public mural celebrating the historic Ethel shipwreck at Marion Bay, and a new exhibition exploring contemporary experiences of home and housing insecurity.

First Nations-led projects are also a strong feature of this funding round. Dupang Festival 2027 will bring together Aboriginal dancers, artists and knowledge holders on Ngarrindjeri Country, while Winda Banggarangga will celebrate Nharangga language, culture and storytelling through community-created lanterns, song and performance. In Yalata, a large-scale community mural will share local stories, culture and connection to Country with visitors travelling across the Nullarbor.

Young people and community participation are central to a number of funded projects, including the child-led public art initiative Tiny in Burra, the youth-created theatre work Consult-A-Kid, and the Hills Winter Lantern Festival, which continues to mentor emerging artists and musicians while bringing communities together through creativity.

Country Arts SA Chief Executive Anthony Peluso said the projects demonstrate how artists help communities tell stories, strengthen connections and build a shared sense of identity.

"This round showcases the many ways artists help communities understand who they are, where they come from and where they are heading," he said.

"From major exhibitions and public artworks to cultural festivals and youth-led theatre, these projects tell stories that are deeply rooted in place and create opportunities for people to participate in creative life.

"It's particularly exciting to see artists working across generations, with children, young people, Elders and community members all contributing to projects that will leave a lasting cultural legacy in their regions."

The full list of successful initiatives in this round are listed below.

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.

For more information about the Regional Arts Fund, visit www.countryarts.org.au.

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REGIONAL ARTS FUND – ROUND 2, 2026

LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meningie West
Dupang Festival – Dupang Festival 2027 **$30,000**
Dupang Festival 2027 is a three-day celebration of culture, Country and community on Ngarrindjeri Land at the Coorong waterfront. Hosted by Uncle Moogy Sumner, the festival will bring together Aboriginal dancers, artists, weavers and knowledge holders from across Australia. The program includes cultural workshops, a First Nations marketplace, ceremonies, storytelling, music and dance performances. The festival will strengthen cultural connection, support intergenerational learning and create opportunities for communities and visitors to engage with First Nations culture.

Burra
Regional Council of Goyder – Tiny **$24,530**
Tiny is a child-led public art project transforming a section of Burra Creek into an interactive trail of miniature artworks. Developed in partnership with local schools, community groups and Council, the project encourages young children to shape public space while fostering creativity and curiosity. Funding will support signage, community-designed spaces, a field guide and a launch event, helping establish a unique cultural attraction for residents and visitors.

Mount Gambier
Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre – Hope Dies Last: Ida Sophia Survey Exhibition **$29,976**
The first major survey exhibition by acclaimed contemporary artist Ida Sophia will be presented by The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre. Born and raised in Mount Gambier, Sophia's practice is deeply connected to the Limestone Coast. Alongside existing and newly commissioned works, the exhibition will feature workshops, artist talks and mentorship opportunities, creating pathways for local artists while celebrating one of the region's most significant contemporary creative voices.

Yalata
Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation – Yalata Roadhouse Community Mural **$30,000**
The Yalata Roadhouse Community Mural will create a landmark public artwork at the Driver Reviver Shelter, a key stopping point for travellers crossing the Nullarbor. Developed through community consultation and led by the Yalata Art Centre, the mural will combine photography and painted artwork to share stories of Yalata's people, culture and connection to Country. The project will create opportunities for local artists, strengthen community pride and introduce visitors to the region's unique cultural identity.

Peterborough
Alysha Herrmann – Consult-A-Kid **$29,136**
Consult-A-Kid is a new theatre work co-created by young people from Peterborough that invites children aged 11 to 16 to tackle some of the big questions facing adults today. Led by 12-year-old Xander Orana with support from professional artists Alysha Herrmann and Nic Tubb, the project places young voices at the centre of the creative process. Funding will support final development, rehearsals and a premiere season at Adelaide Fringe, with potential for future regional touring.

Marion Bay

Marion Bay Progress Association – Marion Bay's Ethel Mural: Where Art Meets History **$3,400**

Local artist Jason Swales will create a public mural on the Marion Bay General Store celebrating the historic Ethel shipwreck at nearby Ethel Beach in Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park. Positioned at a prominent entry point to the township, the artwork will strengthen local identity, showcase maritime heritage and create a welcoming landmark for residents and visitors.

Ardrossan

Nharangga Aboriginal Progress Association – Winda Banggarangga, Strengthening Nharangga Warra (Winda on Country, Strengthening Nharangga Language) **$29,880**

Winda Banggarangga is a Nharangga-led cultural project bringing the Winda dreaming story back to Country in Ardrossan through language, art and performance. Community workshops will support participants to create lantern artworks informed by cultural knowledge, language and storytelling. New songs, dance and choreography will be developed for presentation at GROUNDED YP Art Festival 2027, followed by a public exhibition. The project will strengthen cultural continuity, language revitalisation and intergenerational learning.

Mount Gambier

Rachel Clayfield – Rent's Due **$17,585**

Rent's Due is a solo exhibition by Mount Gambier artist Rachel Clayfield exploring contemporary experiences of home, belonging and housing insecurity. Through a new series of oil paintings, the project examines home as both a place of comfort and uncertainty for younger generations. Funding will support the development and presentation of the work at the Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre as part of SALA Festival.

Macclesfield

Hills Winter Lantern Festival – Workshop Program and Festival **$7,000**

The Hills Winter Lantern Festival will deliver its eleventh annual workshop program and community celebration in Macclesfield. Working with the Macclesfield Community Association, the project will offer lantern-making, screen-printing, banner-sewing and percussion workshops, alongside mentorship opportunities for young artists and musicians. The program will culminate in a community festival featuring illuminated artworks, live music and visual arts experiences.

Mount Gambier

In Home Hospice Care – Passage Through Grief: A Contemporary Fibre Art Exhibition **$18,590**

Passage Through Grief is a contemporary fibre art exhibition by Mount Gambier artist Jude Niemiec exploring themes of loss, memory and renewal through paper, cloth, stitch and mixed media. Developed in partnership with Mount Gambier In Home Hospice Care, the project includes artist talks and accessible participatory activities designed to engage new audiences and encourage community connection through creativity.

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