



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts**



Australian Government

Festivals Australia

Festivals Australia grant recipients—Round 20 February 2025

| State / territory | Recipient | Project title | Project description | Festival or community event | Amount funded (excluding GST) |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| VIC | ACT Natimuk | LOOM | LOOM is an exploration of digital technologies transforming physical spaces in the small township of Natimuk. Situated inside the large Grain Shed, LOOM will transform the interior space into a living canvas of sound and light. Across three days of the Nati Frinj Biennale, audiences will experience the responsive, multi-sensory environment - where art, technology, and architecture meet. | Nati Frinj Biennale 2025 | \$50,000 |
| VIC | Arena Theatre Company | The Immersive Zone | As part of the newly established Creativerse Festival, the Ulumbarra Theatre foyer will be transformed into a creative laboratory where children and families actively participate in art-making with talented regional artists. Activities will include animation, photography and motion capture, creating soundscapes and interactive audio and visual responses through movement. | The Creativerse 2025 | \$38,500 |
| VIC | Ballarat International Foto Biennale | Life Force | Life Force is a public art project celebrating the Bogong Moth as a symbol of sustenance, survival, and interconnectedness. Led by Natimuk artist, Dave Jones and Wadawurrung artist, Dr. Deanne Gilson, the large-scale illuminated installation on the facade of the National Centre for Photography will draw on Wadawurrung ancestral knowledge merging contemporary and First Nations storytelling to highlight ecological and spiritual significance of the Bogong Moth. | 11th Ballarat International Foto Biennale 2026 | \$26,862 |

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| VIC | Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (BGLC) | Our Place Our Story | Our Place Our Story is an immersive storytelling performance incorporating dance, animation, and multimedia. The project celebrates Wotjobaluk heritage and resilience and will illuminate culturally significant sites around "The Ranch" and Wimmera River in Dimboola. The project invites Indigenous and non-Indigenous audiences to experience powerful narratives of place, identity, and history. | Wotjobaluk Nations Festival 2025 | \$80,000 |
| NSW | Carrathool Shire Council | Lake Woorabinda Festival Art Workshops | Accessible and inclusive art workshops for children and youth will be delivered as part of the Lake Woorabinda Festival. | Lake Woorabinda Festival 2026 | \$4,500.34 |
| QLD | Circa Contemporary Circus Company Ltd | Constellations | Constellations is a circus performance blending First Nations storytelling and community engagement in a site responsive performance shaped by the landscape and the artists involved. The project reimagines the role of community in art, elevating it to the heart of the performance. As the sun sets over Cairns, First Nations acrobats take flight in a breathtaking fusion of culture, place and people. | Shine On Gimuy 2025 | \$50,000 |
| WA | City of Albany | Albany 2026 Opening Ceremony | On New Year's Eve, the Albany 2026 Opening Ceremony will mark the official start of Western Australia's first bicentenary. A landmark digital storytelling project, focuses on Menang Noongar culture and reflects Albany's rich Indigenous heritage. The ceremony will be supported by local performances and embodies the vision for the year ahead. | Albany 2026 | \$68,595.94 |
| TAS | Clarence Arts and Events (Clarence City Council) | Clarence Jazz Festival 30th Anniversary Composer's Collective Project | To mark the 30th anniversary of the Clarence Jazz Festival in Lutruwita/Tasmania, 20 of the state's finest established and emerging jazz and contemporary music composers will create work reflecting on the festival's history, community significance and its ongoing legacy. Contributing to the development of the state's music sector by providing a significant opportunity for celebration, the project will culminate in a 90-minute jazz suite. | Clarence Jazz Festival 2026 | \$41,328.56 |

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| NT | Darwin Entertainment Centre | Darwin Comedy Festival Regional Roadshow | The Darwin Comedy Festival Roadshow will deliver top-tier comedy across regional Northern Territory. Featuring leading Australian comedians alongside local emerging artists, the Roadshow will tour Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, and Katherine, delivering high-calibre performances while building local talent. | Darwin Comedy Festival 2026 | \$38,660 |
| SA | Illuminart Stories in Light | Quandong Dreaming: Bush Tucker Stories in Light | To be launched at the Quorn Quandong Festival, Quandong Dreaming: Bush Tucker Stories in Light is a unique projection show celebrating First Nations artwork and storytelling. Exploring the deep cultural significance of Bush Tucker, this project brings traditional knowledge, Dreamtime stories, and contemporary Indigenous artistry to life, enhancing cultural appreciation and community engagement in the Flinders Ranges. | Quandong Festival 2025 | \$46,240.18 |
| TAS | Junction Arts Festival | We are all stardust... | Celebrating Junction Arts Festival's 15th anniversary, We are all stardust... brings together award-winning music ensemble MZAZA, with the Launceston community, to create a stunning multicultural performance. The spectacle combines music, dance, and projections celebrating cultural diversity and universal connections through community led creation. The performance will not only illuminate the fountain in Prince's Square it will also illuminate the local community's spirit. | Junction Arts Festival - 15 Year Celebration 2025 | \$87,391 |
| NSW | Lakeside Festival Inc. | The Launch Pad | The Launch Pad is an initiative to identify and support local emerging musical talent and provides opportunities to work with professional artists. The Launch Pad will deliver learning and career pathways while facilitating connections with key industry contacts. Participants will then be invited to perform at the Lakeside Festival. | Lakeside Festival 2025 | \$15,500 |

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| QLD | Mackay Chamber Music Festival Inc. | Boxties Community Collaboration | The Borties, an internationally acclaimed ensemble, comes to Mackay for a transformative week of workshops and a side-by-side performance with regional students. The Borties will work alongside and mentor students giving them the opportunity to explore musicality, storytelling, and collaboration in an inclusive and inspiring experience. This project will culminate in a professional festival performance, leaving a profound impact on the cultural fabric of Mackay | Mackay Chamber Music Festival 2025 | \$19,576.25 |
| NSW | National Young Writers Festival | Younger Young Writers Program | Younger Young Writers is an outreach program for school-aged people, giving them the opportunity to participate in inspirational workshops run by professional writers. Taking place in the lead up to the annual National Young Writers Festival, the project provides pathways for young people to develop a deeper interest in the literary world and gain exposure to the arts through intergenerational knowledge sharing. | National Young Writers Festival 2025 | \$19,634 |
| QLD | Of One Mind Limited | Gladstone Angry Women's Choir | The Gladstone Angry Women's Choir will be formed through a community call-out and workshops. Led by Choir Master, Ruth Ghee in collaboration with Dannielle O'Keefe, and an emerging female composer, the newly formed choir will create a new song to be performed alongside the Unladylike Big Band, Queensland's only all-female big band, at the Women of the World Festival. | WOW - Women of the World Festival Gladstone 2025 | \$25,000 |
| NT | Red Hot Arts Central Australia Inc. | Dream Big 2025 | Dream Big 2025 is a youth event empowering First Nations and at-risk youth through hip-hop, storytelling, and mentorship as part of Desert Festival. Artist led song writing workshops will culminate in a live concert, providing young people with industry skills, confidence and community connection. The project aims to create a safe, inclusive space for Alice Springs youth to engage meaningfully with the arts and their community. | Desert Festival 2025 | \$22,000 |

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| NSW | Taranta Arts Inc. | Those Before | Those Before is a multifaceted exhibition and processional performance exploring ancestry through community art-making and theatre. Twenty diverse community members will create layered artworks reflecting their ancestral stories, which will be shown with a giant illuminated phoenix puppet at the Bellingen Taranta Festival. The project will transform the landscape into a site of cultural connection, creating a powerful meditation on heritage and belonging. | Bellingen Taranta Festival 2025 | \$30,800 |
| NT | Yothu Yindi Foundation Aboriginal Corporation | ILBIJERRI Theatre Company's BIG NAME, NO BLANKETS. | BIG NAME, NO BLANKETS celebrates the phenomenal journey of the Warumpi Band, told through the eyes of Sammy Tjapanangka Butcher, a founding member of the iconic Australian group. It is an internationally acclaimed, unique and uplifting epic rock 'n' roll theatre show tailored to be performed in remote Northern Territory as part of Garma 2025. | Garma 2025 | \$54,411.73 |