



**Australian Government**

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



**Australian Government**

**Festivals Australia**

# Festivals Australia grant recipients—Round 21—September 2025

December-2025

State / territory	Recipient	Project title	Project description	Festival or community event	Amount funded (ex GST)
NT	8-EAR COMMUNITY RADIO INCORPORATED	East Arnhem Live 2026 Kids Zone	The East Arnhem Live 2026 Kids Zone will create a space for children and young people to participate in a program of interactive games, creative workshops and performances. Featuring large-scale artworks and projection-mapped animated installations, local Yolŋu (Indigenous) and Balanda (non-Indigenous) Artist Facilitators will collaborate with 3 schools to design and build artworks in the lead-up to the festival.	East Arnhem Live 2026	\$41,857
NT	Alice Springs Folk Club	String Dome – Strings Program	String Dome – Strings Program is a curated and participatory strings program providing professional development, skills transfer, collaborative creation of new work and performances for community members of Central Australia. It will bring expert musicians into contact with youth, emerging players and First Nations musicians in Alice Springs through workshops, mentoring and collaboration.	Top Half Folk Festival 2026	\$35,000
TAS	Australian Wooden Boat Festival	An Antipodean Odyssey	An Antipodean Odyssey premiering at the 2027 Australian Wooden Boat Festival. A new work by Mikelangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen and reimagines Homer’s classic in the Southern Hemisphere. This contemporary retelling of Odysseus’ epic sea voyage home from the Trojan War, explores themes of ocean wandering, mythic trials, masculinity and homecoming through original music and lyrics.	2027 Australian Wooden Boat Festival	\$52,489

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NSW	Big Band Blast Association Inc.	Bandemonium - the Big Band Blast Festival workshop program	The Big Band Blast Festival places education at the centre of its mission, offering workshops for people of all ages and abilities. The workshop program, Bandemonium, will be led by experts and provides a full day of immersive learning for registered bands and individual musicians.	Big Band Blast Festival 2026	\$12,620
QLD	Cardwell UFO Festival Inc	Stories in the Stars: Capturing Culture on Film	Stories in the Stars: Capturing Culture on Film, will document and celebrate the voices of local Traditional Owners and Indigenous artists as part of the Australian UFO Festival 2026. The project will feature Traditional Owners sharing their star stories, community workshops and the rehearsals of Indigenous dancers. It will conclude with a premiere showing on opening night of the Stories in the Stars art exhibition.	2026 Australian UFO Festival	\$31,910
SA	Copper Coast Council	Winda the Owl: Stories in Fire and Lanterns	Winda the Owl: Stories in Fire and Lanterns is a community art event that will bring to life the Nharangga story of Winda the Owl through fire, lanterns, performance and storytelling.	Copper Coast FLAME Festival	\$25,855
QLD	Eumundi Residents Association Incorporated	The Human Condition	The Human Condition project at the Eumundi Writers Festival 2026 will take audiences on a journey of deep thought and ideas to explore the human condition and human-to-human connection. A line-up of acclaimed writers will invite emerging writers and readers to consider what it is to be human in challenging times — through war, family ties and crime stories.	Eumundi Writers Festival	\$7,930
WA	FORM Building a State of Creativity Limited	Carrying the Fire	Carrying the Fire is the closing event for Albany 2026. The performative arts event will be co-designed, and community led through a series of workshops, with approximately 50 community groups taking part in a procession to celebrate community collaboration. Envisaged to include up to 50,000 visitors and locals carrying lights, it will create a major living artwork and is expected to be the largest participatory arts event in Western Australia's history.	Albany 2026	\$74,263
NSW	Four Winds Concerts Inc	Four Winds Community Orchestra: 'Body of Water.	Body of Water will be the grand finale event of Four Winds 2026 Spring Youth Music Festival. It is an 'all-ages, all-abilities' massed community performance involving orchestra, bands and choristers. Body of Water is the world premiere of two new works by composers Geoffrey Badger and Nick Keeling.	Four Winds Spring Youth Music Festival (SYMF) 2026	\$39,750

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<b>SA</b>	Lewis Major Projects	Triptych and Lien	Triptych and Lien are both dance works that have toured internationally and will be presented at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre, Mount Gambier as part of the Adelaide Fringe 2026 regional program. This double presentation will bring South Australian artistry directly to regional audiences, complemented by artist Q&As, open rehearsals, community dance and technical workshops.	Adelaide Fringe	\$22,892
<b>NSW</b>	Milton Folk Jazz and Blues Festival Incorporated	The Jazz Lab	The Jazz Lab is a pop-up stage at the Milton Folk Jazz and Blues Festival. It will transform a closed street into a venue for a vibrant musical. Science Lab is a collaboration between Ulladulla High School's science students, Budawang School's art class and locally based set designer Andrea Espinoza to create theatrical lab-inspired staging and a striking mural.	Milton Folk Jazz and Blues Festival	\$44,835
<b>NSW</b>	Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce	Mullumbimby Community Creative Making Workshops and Presentation Kaleido Festival	Floating sculpture, music and theatrics designed and produced in collaborative community workshops with local artists will feature in a pageant during the Mullumbimby Kaleido Festival.	Mullumbimby Kaleido Festival 2026	\$49,690
<b>QLD</b>	Mundubbera Enterprise Association	Spotlight North Burnett – Rising Beyond the Berries	Rising Beyond the Berries is a cultural development program to identify mentors and showcase emerging performers from across the region. It will include music, dance, comedy and cultural expression.	Mundubbera Blueberry Festival	\$22,780
<b>VIC</b>	National Celtic Folk Festival	Balla Wiin – Spirit of Country	Balla Wiin – Spirit of Country will offer meaningful cultural development opportunities through the retelling of the local Indigenous story The Snake and the Eel and emphasizes deep connection to Country and all forms of life. Told through diverse art forms — storytelling, shadow puppetry, light and projection — it will invite inclusive community participation across generations and is led by a team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists.	Balla Wiin – Spirit of Country presented at National Celtic Folk Festival	\$23,800

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WA	Nature Conservation Margaret River Region	Community River & Land Art Trail	The Wooditjup Bilya Community River and Land Art Trail will invite the public to experience Wooditjup Bilya (the Margaret River) through art, culture and ecology. The trail will open with a Welcome to Country by Wardandi Elders and will include cultural talks and guided walks led by scientists and custodians. Along the trail, temporary artworks created from natural materials by artists, schools and community groups will highlight the river's stories and biodiversity.	Wooditjup Bilya Festival (working name)	\$36,075
NT	NT WRITERS' CENTRE INC	Waves of Belonging	A night of storytelling, poetry and music, Waves of Belonging will celebrate deep ties linking South Asia and the Top End. Writers, musicians and poets from across the region will share words that traverse saltwater, memory, migration and belonging. Curated by a musician and theatre maker, the multi-art event will weave visual art, videography, music and poetry into the performance.	NT Writers Festival	\$22,614
VIC	PORT FAIRY FOLK FESTIVAL COMMITTEE INC	Marrang: A space for First Nations gathering and learning at Port Fairy Folk Festival	Marrang means 'meeting place' in Peek Whurrong language and will be a cultural hub on Gunditjmara Country featuring song, story, dance, art and community connection. The project will be developed in consultation with local Indigenous artists, curators and storytellers. It will include workshops, traditional dance, music and yarnning circles, to share, learn and engage with cultural knowledge and artistic practices of Gunditjmara and other First Nations peoples.	Port Fairy Folk Festival 2026	\$72,000
NT	Red Dirt Poetry Incorporated	Passageways/Caminos	Passageways/Caminos will create a bridge between poetry, science and culture. Red Dirt Poetry Festival (Central Australia) will collaborate with Chile's International Poetry Festival (ACRUX - Festival Internacional de Poesia) to create a South-to-South cultural exchange that will connect communities from coast to desert through shared southern skies.	Red Dirt Poetry Festival	\$20,000
VIC	Samara Cunningham	White Mouse Youth Dance Project	White Mouse is a performance project that will bring together young people to create an original work inspired by the life of World War II resistance fighter Nancy Wake. Guided by a team of professional artists, participants will explore themes of courage through movement and storytelling workshops concluding in a public performance.	Fishy Stories	\$35,300

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NSW	Tomerong School of Arts	Tomerong Hall Oral History & Art Project: if these walls could talk	If these walls could talk will celebrate Tomerong Hall's 100 years celebration through the creation of an interactive archive. This oral history/art project will affirm the voices and stories of locals through curated conversations and an immersive, multi-media installation. Community members will be invited to share and record their stories, through video art, soundscape and hanging murals.	Tomerong School of Arts Centenary Celebration	\$27,340
NSW	Woolgoolga Chamber of Commerce Industry & Tourism Inc trading as Woolgoolga & Northern Beaches Chamber of Commerce Inc	Curryfest Cabaret: The Bollywood Express	Curryfest Cabaret: The Bollywood Express will blend contemporary cabaret, live music, dance and storytelling to celebrate Woolgoolga's Punjabi-Australian heritage. Led by Naidu Theatre Company, with a regional cast and cameo community leaders, the work will premiere at the fully accessible Wiigulga Multipurpose Centre in the week of the festival.	Woolgoolga Curryfest	\$20,000