



**Australian Government**

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



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**Festivals Australia**

# Festivals Australia grant recipients—Round 22 February 2026

June 2026

Project State / Territory	Recipient	Project title	Project description	Festival or community event	Amount funded (ex GST)
SA	Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Association Incorporated	Light from Deep Time	Light from Deep Time is a large-scale, site-specific contemporary artwork developed with the Andamooka community. The project will transform the opal mining landscape of the Andamooka Opal Fields into an immersive outdoor gallery. High-definition imagery of opal, opalised fossils and geological structures will be projected onto mullock heaps, the earth mounds created by mining, revealing the hidden science and beauty of the stones beneath. It will be created by projection designer Nic Mollison and local artists.	Opal Evolution Festival	\$43,700
VIC	Arena Theatre Company	The Immersive Zone, Creativerse 2026	The Immersive Zone will transform spaces across Ulumbarra Theatre into a free creative laboratory where children and families will make art alongside regional artists. This centrepiece of The Creativerse features distinct participatory experiences: Country & Belonging: On Country, an immersive exhibition exploring connection to place; the Hidden Creature Gallery, a digital treasure hunt through the theatre; Cerebral Nebula (Brain Light), an interactive sensory artwork; and a dedicated quiet creative space. The Immersive Zone is free and open to all festival-goers throughout the day.	The Creativerse	\$45,000

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QLD	Bribie Island Nature Festival Inc	YARUNYUNG	YARUNYUNG is a collaborative, multi-disciplinary art/fashion performance event premiering at the Bribie Island Nature Festival. It will bring together emerging First Nations designers from the Pumicestone Indigenous Education and Employment Council (PIEEC), chamber ensemble Muses Trio, and video artist/VJ Sean Healy. Young designers will showcase original wearable artworks in a runway-style fashion performance accompanied by live music curated and performed by Muses Trio. Immersive projections will be created live by Sean Healy using the young artists designs and imagery inspired by Bribie Island to transform the space into a celebration of culture, creativity and place.	Bribie Island Nature Festival	\$23,100
QLD	Bushy Creek Makers Fair.	Bushy Creek Voices – Stories of Place	Voices of Bushy Creek is a participatory community arts project inviting residents and visitors to share connection to place through words, creativity and storytelling. Inspired by the rhythms of the wet season and the question locals ask when the creek rises, “Is Bushy open?”, the project will centre on a sculptural tree and flowing river installation that will grow with community contributions during the Bushy Creek Makers’ Fair in Julatten. Participants will add clay elements, small poems and illustrated messages. Music, poetry and a dedicated written song will accompany the installation, creating a living portrait of the region and its community.	Bushy Creek Makers' Fair	\$12,000
NT	CBT Youth and Community Limited	Four Clans Cultural Dance and Music Celebration	The Four Clans Cultural Dance and Music Project celebrates the cultural identity of Borroloola through the traditional dance and music of the region’s four clans — Yanyuwa, Marra, Gudanji and Garrwa. As a highlight of the Malandarri Festival, these cultural dances will bring together Elders, families and young people to share stories, song and movement passed down through generations. Following the traditional performances, Indigenous bands and musicians will perform for the community.	Malandarri Festival	\$29,500

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TAS	Festival of Voices	Salamanca at 6	Salamanca at 6 is an intimate evening concert series presented in the Peacock Theatre during Festival of Voices. Each night at 6pm, there will be a one-hour performance by a different emerging or established Tasmanian vocal artist/s, offering the thrill of discovering original Tasmanian music in a warm and atmospheric setting.	Festival of Voices	\$15,449
QLD	Film & Arts Mackay Inc	FIRST LIGHT film screening & Q&A with guest	Film & Arts Mackay will present the film, 'FIRST LIGHT' at the Mackay International Film Festival. Directed by Filipino-Australian filmmaker James J. Robinson, the film is set in the remote mountains of the Philippines and follows an elderly nun confronting the ethical dilemmas of the institution she serves after the death of a young construction worker. This early Australian screening will include a Q&A with Melbourne-based actor and artist Emmanuel Santos.	Mackay International Film Festival 2026	\$3,000
QLD	Film Festivals Australia	Outback by the Sea Filmmaking Workshop	The Outback by the Sea Free Filmmaking Workshop will be held in September at the Barra Centre in Karumba, Gulf of Carpentaria. The workshop will be led by industry leaders and will provide an opportunity for filmmakers at any level to get inspired and learn the basics of making a short film.	Outback by the Sea Festival	\$15,500
TAS	Genre Productions Tasmania Ltd	Community and Cultural Workshop Series - Paper on Skin™ 2026	The Community and Cultural Workshop Series (Paper on Skin™ 2026) will offer a series of participatory paper-art workshops. Led by paper artist Stephanie Reynolds, participants will create large-scale decorative paper installations inspired by Tasmania's environment. The works will feature across key festival events including the Paper on Skin™ Gala Event, the Up-Close Showcase at Basalt and the exhibition at Devonport Regional Gallery. Workshops co-facilitated with Aboriginal cultural practitioner Karen Smart will contribute to a Welcome and smoking ceremony performed by Treenoner Dance Mob. Filmmaker Lara van Raay will document the creative process and performances.	Paper on Skin™ Festival	\$21,551

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<b>NSW</b>	Goulburn Mulwaree Council	SteamWorks Creative Program	The SteamWorks Creative Program includes interactive workshops and participatory arts experiences for all ages. Led by professional artists, makers, and performers, it will offer activities including costume, wearable art, creative writing, circus performance, recycled art, watercolour, Neurographic art, and heritage-inspired art and crafts.	Steampunk Goulburn	\$10,540
<b>QLD</b>	Heart of Gold International Short Film Festival	Heart of Gold Creative Lab	A 3-day program designed to build filmmaking and storytelling skills in the Gympie region. It will be delivered during the Heart of Gold International Short Film Festival and will bring filmmakers, writers and creative practitioners to Gympie to share their expertise with local participants. Through hands-on workshops and talks, participants will explore key aspects of filmmaking and related creative practices, building skills, confidence and networks.	Heart of Gold International Short Film Festival	\$10,000
<b>NSW</b>	New England Bach Festival	Elizabeth Scott Residency	Dr Elizabeth Scott, as Conductor-in-Residence at the New England Bach Festival, will focus on J. S. Bach's choral music, in collaboration with Ensemble Apsley and organist David Drury. Guest musicians and singers from schools, community and church choirs will participate in workshops, rehearsals, and performances, to develop choral skills and deepen stylistic understanding. The project will end with performances of Bach's Peasant Cantata BWV 212 in Hanna's Arcade, and Cantata BWV 108 within the Festival's Choral Evensong at St Peter's Anglican Cathedral.	2027 New England Bach Festival: Bach Abroad	\$12,729
<b>VIC</b>	Newstead Young Writers Festival with Newstead Arts Hub	Song Weaving	Workshops by Mo'Ju will explore what collaboration looks like in songwriting and music creation across their solo career and current collaborative ventures. The workshop will combine storytelling techniques with soulful musical influences to discover what comes out the other side.	Newstead Young Writers Festival	\$2,700

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<b>NSW</b>	SCULPTURES IN THE GARDEN INC.	My Kingdom for a Horse - a collaborative community sculpture installation	My Kingdom for a Horse is a collaborative, large-scale community sculpture project presented as part of Sculptures in the Garden in Mudgee, NSW. Over the course of the 16-day festival, visitors of all ages will work alongside professional artists to create a growing herd of life-sized horse sculptures using natural, locally sourced materials over steel armatures.	Sculptures in the Garden	\$52,240
<b>WA</b>	Shinju Matsuri Inc.	Millie the Black Kite : a play about a bird	Shinju Matsuri Festival, will host a play based on a true story about a bird called Millie, found as a fledgling in Broome, hand reared, and travelled to Bali accidentally on a Cruise ship. A collaboration between Broome's Big MAMA Productions and Flying Balloons Puppets, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The theatre group have been invited to perform the play at Pesta Boneka Puppetry festival, Yogyakarta, Indonesia and Melbourne Festival of Puppetry, both International biennial Puppetry festivals in 2026.	Shinju Matsuri	\$36,685
<b>SA</b>	Sit Down Shutup And Watch	Consensus	Consensus will invite community to literally shape their inclusion, to get creative with how they are counted. Disability led, Sit Down Shutup(SDSW) And Watch will deliver a day of workshops, using visceral clay and/or blender (the digital equivalent). Participants will create positive effigies of themselves and animate these forms with support from the SDSW team under tutelage of Liam Somerville. These short animations will combine to form a digital epic resulting in a chaotic crowd of diversity; Screen Art that can be presented as installation, projection or momentary capture.	Sit Down Shutup And Watch Screen Festival	\$26,350

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NSW	South East Arts NSW Inc	On Track	On Track is an immersive multimedia performance that explores the Bundian Way, the ancient Aboriginal pathway linking Mount Kosciuszko to Twofold Bay near Eden. Narrated by author John Blay, the work combines storytelling, film and live music to bring the landscapes and histories to life. Featuring Yuin artist Warren Foster and Australian musicians Anna McMichael, Louise Devenish and Ben Ward performing Damian Barbeler's atmospheric score, On Track invites audiences to experience the Bundian Way as a living pathway of movement, cultural exchange and connection to Country.	Headland Writers Festival	\$23,886
NSW	Strawberry Music Group	Nangarna Woka Nurratj - Respect Country's Dreaming	Nangarna Woka Nurratj – Respect Country's Dreaming is a large-scale audio-visual installation that will be presented at Strawberry Fields Festival on Yorta Yorta Country. Created by Yorta Yorta Artists Dylan Charles and Neil Morris, with digital animation by Rose Staff, the work will bring together visual art, sound and storytelling to honour Country, creation stories and cultural knowledge. The installation will be projected along the banks of Dungala (the Murray River).	Strawberry Fields Festival	\$40,000
NSW	Stroud Crowd Choir	The Dawson Play (working title)	The Dawson Play is an original multimedia theatre production created for the Stroud 200 Bicentenary. It dramatises the 1826 arrival of Robert Dawson who was first Chief Agent of the Australian Agricultural Company. He was guided by Worimi man Ben to the site of what would become Stroud, NSW. Combining live theatre with location-shot film, the production tells a story of cross-cultural respect and the shared founding of a community. Three performances are scheduled, a dedicated school's session and two public performances.	Stroud 200 - Bicentenary of Stroud	\$25,500
TAS	Tasdance t/a Assembly 197	DOUBLE SLINK	DOUBLE SLINK is an inclusive, intergenerational collision between community, artists and the joy of collective movement. Led by Tasdance Artistic Director Adam Wheeler, it will feature 10 professional dancers, 60 local dance-lovers and the popular toy, 'DOUBLE SLINK'. Participants will use slinkys as a tactile partner to explore analogue play and the human need for connection in an increasingly digital world.	Junction Arts Festival	\$68,670

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SA	The Barossa Council	Light the Barossa Night	Light the Barossa Night partners with local and South Australian artists, creatives and community during the South Australian Living Artists Festival (SALA). Over one weekend in August, a light/arts trail will be displayed at Barossa Bushgardens on Ngadjuri country. Artists will co-design immersive, multi-sensory arts installations on the trail, facilitated by creative director, Illuminart.	SALA - South Australian Living Artists Festival	\$36,000
VIC	The Man From Snowy River Bush Festival	Where the Poem Comes Alive: Live Art at The Man From Snowy River Bush Festival	Two large murals will be created during the festival that will provide visitors with opportunities to watch the artwork develop while experiencing the community's interpretation of the region through the artist Shakey's work. The murals reflect shared community input as to the most appropriate local legends to be shown.	The Man From Snowy River Bush Festival 2027	\$25,200
VIC	The River Folk Festival	Strings Across The Valley	Strings Across the Valley is a collaborative project in partnership with the Stringmania Camp which will create a series of collaborative performances centred around large-ensemble string music and cross-cultural folk traditions. This project will bring international and national artists into the region and provide opportunities to participate in workshops and mentoring. It will conclude with a performance on the main stage at The River Folk Festival.	The River Folk Festival 2026	\$24,195
TAS	The Unconformity Inc	Crib Road: The YoungConformity	The YoungConformity is a youth-led live music event that will be presented as part of The Unconformity 2027. It will support young people to participate in the festival program as musicians, curators and producers. The event will take place as part of Crib Road - a free gathering space on Queenstown's main street where audiences gather for food, music, experimental art and connection. This event will be the culmination of The Unconformity's targeted youth program on the West Coast, including a series of music workshops delivered throughout 2025, 2026 and 2027 in partnership with Music Tasmania and Mountain Heights School.	The Unconformity 2027	\$85,584

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QLD	Woodfordia Incorporated	The Sound Temple	Led by creative partners, Cave Urban: 60 community-members will participate in Woodfordia-grown bamboo harvesting and an intensive 2-week, installation-building workshop during Lake Gula, Sept 2026, festival attendees will assist with completing the modular installation at participatory workshops during the festival. Together, they will build a Sound Temple to frame the Main Amphitheatre stage. The installation combines public-art with functional stage-production.	Woodford Folk Festival - The Renewal	\$48,000