



**Australian Government**

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

# **Regional Arts Fund: Project Grants— recipients list, round 1, 2026**

June 2026

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Director—Creative Services  
Communications Branch  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications Sport and the Arts  
GPO Box 594  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Australia

Email: [publishing@communications.gov.au](mailto:publishing@communications.gov.au)

Websites: [www.arts.gov.au](http://www.arts.gov.au) | [www.infrastructure.gov.au](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au)

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## **Northern Territory**

### **MusicNT, Yirrkala NT**

#### **Bush Bands Program**

**\$25,000.00**

The Bush Bands Program is a professional development and showcase initiative for remote First Nations musicians. Comprising the BBBiz intensive and the Bush Bands Bash showcase, it bridges the geographic divide for artists from the Northern Territory, Wertern Australia, South Australia and Queensland. The funding will support travel for remote Top End artists to participate in the 2026 program.

### **Multicultural Multigenerational Mainstream Dance Association, Wagaman NT**

#### **NT Street Dance Festival and Creative Incubator**

**\$30,000.00**

The NT Street Dance Festival is the first event in the Northern Territory to connect nationally established street dancers with participants from Darwin and remote communities. It will elevate the skills of NT dancers through a three-day creative incubator led by three of the country's top dancers, supporting skill development, creative exchange and collaborative choreography. This project raises the Territory's artistic profile by providing our multicultural and Aboriginal youth access to a globally connected movement fostering future cultural leaders and ensuring the Territory's creative scene remains relevant and diverse.

### **Alice Cotton, Wagaman NT**

#### **Alice Cotton - Debut Album Recording**

**\$20,000.00**

Born-and-bred Northern Territory songwriter Alice Cotton will record her debut album with ARIA-award winning producer Kuya James. The innovative record sees independent artist Cotton pairing her contemporary songwriting prowess with her classical background, featuring lush string quartet arrangements alongside the Sands Studio session musicians, producing an album that prioritises atmosphere, texture, and storytelling.

### **GUTS Dance Central Australia, Araluen NT**

#### **Desert Hothouse Presentation**

**\$29,507.00**

GUTS will premiere DESERT HOTHOUSE, a bold, multi-platform event unleashing three dynamic new dance works in a full takeover event at the Araluen Arts Centre, cushioned by artist talks and satellite events for a multi-layered audience experience.

## **Ngukurr Arts Aboriginal Corporation, Ngukurr NT**

### **Ngukurr Arts Ceramics Residency**

**\$25,250.00**

This project will support two senior artists and two emerging artists from Ngukurr Arts' to undertake a two-week ceramics residency at a studio in Bellingen, NSW. Working with an experienced ceramicist, the artists will develop skills in clay, explore ceramics as a new creative medium, and produce work for exhibition and commercial sale. These artists will gain valuable experience and inspiration, paving the way for their own artistic futures.

## **Jasmine Story, East Side NT**

### **Theatre Makers Presents**

**\$30,000.00**

Theatre Makers Presents is a new independent theatre season in Mparntwe/Alice Springs showcasing three original works developed through the Theatre makers program. The season features SMOKO by Jasmine Story, Tindergeist by emerging playwright Jesse Kallic, and Baby Space Race, a new interactive performance for babies and their parents, directed by Jac Marriott. Presented in partnership with Red Hot Arts, the season will activate their newly redeveloped workshop theatre space and celebrate the momentum of the contemporary local theatre scene.

## **Jacqueline Marriott, Braitling NT**

### **Freefall**

**\$20,658.00**

Freefall is a movement-led solo theatre work exploring neonatal intensive care, maternal mental health and the lived realities of early parenthood. Developed from personal journal entries written after an emergency twin birth in Mparntwe/Alice Springs, a medical evacuation and a three-week NICU stay in Adelaide, the work combines physical theatre, storytelling and dark humour to illuminate a rarely represented experience of motherhood.

## Queensland

### Capricorn Conservation Council, Wandal QLD

#### Walking Together on Country at Waddananggu

**\$30,000.00**

Capricorn Conservation Council will partner with Waddananggu Cultural Custodians to deliver a First Nations-led cultural arts and knowledge-sharing program on Country in Central Queensland. Guided by Custodian Gurridyula and family, the project brings together youth and community members for immersive learning through cultural practice, storytelling, song, dance, ceremony and time on Country.

### Lana de Jager, Closeburn QLD

#### Cadmium Press - a professional printmaking studio in the Samford Valley

**\$7,500.00**

Support to establish Cadmium Press, a professional fine art printmaking teaching studio, in regional Queensland including purchasing equipment for workshops and supporting artists to create high-quality, large-format artworks.

### Elvis Kernaghan, Winston QLD

#### Remote Voices Australia: Student-led Songwriting, Performance and Recording in Outback Schools

**\$24,403.20**

To inspire and support the next generation of Outback Queensland songwriters and performers, this project will deliver co-designed songwriting, recording and performance workshops to some of regional Queensland's most remote schools.

### Call of the Running Tide Artists Group, Shannonvale QLD

#### Call of the Running Tide - the Littoral Zone

**\$22,500.00**

The Call of the Running Tide - The Littoral Zone will engage twelve artists to produce new environmental artworks for a major exhibition at the Cairns Tanks Arts Centre in 2026. Curated by artist Jill Chism, the participating artists will respond to the biodiversity and environmental impacts seen at the Littoral Zone - which comprises of 12 intertidal zones along the far north Queensland coastline.

## **Shakespeare Under The Stars, Hyde Park QLD**

### **The Assignment by Terri Brabon**

**\$29,000.00**

Supporting the regional QLD tour of THE ASSIGNMENT, a new work by regionally based playwright/director Terri Brabon featuring a cast of emerging regional artists. THE ASSIGNMENT is a coming-of-age comedy celebrating life in a small North Queensland town in a very different time. Set against the dynamic backdrop of 1989, the play follows Jamie and her friends as they explore the complexities of identity, responsibility, and the unexpected ways we are tested by life.

## **Longreach P&C Association, Longreach QLD**

### **From the Bush to the Big Stage – QPAC 2026**

**\$30,000.00**

From the Bush to the Big Stage – QPAC 2026 will provide 100 rural and remote students the opportunity to perform at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) in Brisbane. The project will bring the voices, stories and talents of remote outback students to Queensland's most celebrated stage.

## **David Fenton, North Toowoomba QLD**

### **Rusty Love Bomb: A Queer Courtship Confessional**

**\$7,000.00**

The second creative development of Rusty Love Bomb: A Queer Courtship Confessional will engage a professional director and dramaturg. The project will include two open rehearsals, an autobiographical playwriting workshop for emerging artists focused on telling queer stories, and a free showing of the newly developed work.

## **Rockhampton Symphony Orchestra Inc, Gracemere QLD**

### **Uprise for Screen: Celebrating Women in Music**

**\$22,700.00**

An immersive orchestral project addressing gender equity in screen composition expanding opportunities for regional arts workers. A collaboration between emerging Australian screen composer Aubrielle and the Rockhampton Symphony Orchestra, the project creates a cinematic experience for Central Queensland audiences and reconnects Aubrielle with her hometown community.

## **Pittsworth District Alliance, Pittsworth QLD**

### **Spotlight - Inclusive Theatre Project**

**\$4,290.00**

The Pittsworth District Alliance, in partnership with Indelability Arts and Annie's House, will deliver a 10-week inclusive drama program for people with disability across Pittsworth and the surrounding region. The project will provide accessible performing arts workshops facilitated by experienced inclusive arts practitioners from Indelability Arts.

## **Cara-Ann Simpson, Haden QLD**

### **Furari Flores (Stealing Flowers): a multisensory exhibition exploring plants, place and lived experience at Hahndorf Academy**

**\$29,956.00**

An immersive, multisensory contemporary art exhibition presented at Hahndorf Academy in South Australia. Combining visual art, sound, scent and tactile elements, it invites audiences to experience art through multiple senses. Public programs, workshops, educational resources and digital engagement will broaden access for regional communities, artists and young people.

## **Joseph Geia, Macleay Island QLD**

### **Joe Geia's 2026-27 Sing for the Black Tour**

**\$30,000.00**

The Sing for the Black tour presents the Joe Geia Band production From Rations to Wages to Treaty alongside the launch of the soundtrack. Interspersed with personal stories and reflections, Joe takes every opportunity to share knowledge and culture with a heartfelt commitment to making a difference and creating understanding through his music.

## **Djabugay Tribal Aboriginal Corporation, Kuranda QLD**

### **ONE TRACK - Cultural Celebration**

**\$15,994.00**

A cultural event celebrating the creativity, cultural knowledge and leadership in the Djabugay community in partnership with Desert Pea Media and YouthLink. The event will create a powerful platform for celebrating Djabugay culture while strengthening community pride, participation in the arts and regional cultural activities.

## **Millmerran Arts Council, Captains Mountain QLD**

### **Millmerran Community Mural Project – Camp Oven Festival**

**\$5,282.48**

Regional artist Alex Stalling will design and facilitate the creation of a large-scale collaborative communal public mural on the exterior wall of the Sundowner Hotel on Millmerran's main street leading up to the Australian Camp Oven Festival.

## South Australia

### Dr Emiko Artemis, Encounter Bay SA

#### Professional development with movement choreographer

**\$3,245.00**

Emiko will work with choreographer Gulsen Ozer to interpret the writings of Christina the Astonishing, a twelfth-century mystic anchoress, into a series of movements for a commissioned performance piece. Emiko will travel to Melbourne for in-person sessions with Gulsen at Dance House studios, North Carlton, and undertake follow up sessions online. The work will be presented at ACE Gallery in Adelaide in September and October 2026 allowing Emiko's work to reach a wide audience.

### Evette Wolf, Normanville SA

#### Algae Bloom: The Musical

**\$30,000.00**

In response to the algae bloom affecting coastal communities across South Australia, young people from Yankalilla Youth Theatre will create an original 30-minute musical exploring its impact on their lives and community. Using song and dance, they will lead the creative process, supported and mentored by local artists in writing, directing, choreography, set and costume design, and marketing. The work will be performed at the Hopgood Theatre in southern Adelaide.

### Sonya Rankine, Moonta Bay SA

#### Lakun Mi:mini - On Country-Creative Development

**\$30,000.00**

Lakun Mi:mini - On Country Creative Development is the next phase of a new song cycle theatre work grounded in Sonya Rankine's Ngarrindjeri matrilineal cultural connection, first conceived during a Fellowship with Brink Productions. The stories, knowledge and cultural responsibilities carried through Sonya's family sit at the heart of the works narrative, visual language and creative process. This phase centers on creating space to listen, gather and respond directly to Country by immersing the creative team within the living story of Lakun Mi:Mini on Ngarrindjeri Country at the Coorong and Raukkan.

### Juanella Donovan, Port Augusta SA

#### Juanella Donovan 'Knowledge Holder': Tamworth Textile Triennial- Nature Machine 2026

**\$17,972.00**

Juanella will create a new body of work for Nature Machine: The 6th Tamworth Textile Triennial, a major national exhibition of contemporary textile practice at the Tamworth Regional Gallery 2026, curated by Blake Griffiths. The project includes research, development and presentation of this new work, including travel to Country to consult with Elders, gather materials, and spend time at the sacred women's waterhole Pungka Pudinha. It will also support the creation of an installation comprising six works on paper and a sculptural vessel, using woven emu feathers, emu fat, kangaroo fur, ochre, acrylic, ink, yarn and natural fibres, as well as participation in the Triennial opening and public program.

## **Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Media, Umuwa SA**

### **Kungka Tjuta Music Project**

**\$26,220.00**

The Kungka Tjuta Music Project is a six-week program of women-focused music residencies across six APY Lands communities: Amata, Umuwa/Ernabella, Mimili, Indulkana, Pipalyatjara and Fregon. Delivered by Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Media in partnership with Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council, it engages Anangu women aged 17–25 through culturally grounded workshops in drumming, songwriting, performance and recording.

## **Emma Fuss, Boston SA**

### **Bottlebrush studio 2026-2027**

**\$9,600.00**

Bottlebrush Studio is an after-school visual arts program on Lower Eyre Peninsula supporting creative development for children aged 7–18 through artist-led classes in painting, printmaking, drawing and sculpture. Delivered by artists Emma Fuss and Katie Smith, the program provides inclusive opportunities for young people, with strong participation from neurodiverse children and those facing barriers to traditional extracurricular activities.

## **Part of Things, Barmera SA**

### **Portal Festival**

**\$29,978.27**

Portal Festival is a fantasy-themed storytelling event delivered in Barmera, bringing together the Riverland's diverse creative communities, including writers, gamers, illustrators and theatre-makers. Building on successful iterations in 2022 and 2024, the festival presents a weekend of workshops, performances and events designed to support regional artists and activate the local community.

## **Jodie O'Regan, Burra SA**

### **Burra Orchestra Project**

**\$29,102.00**

The Burra Orchestra Project will bring South Australia's Mid North community together in a unique creative collaboration throughout 2026. Led by local composer Jodie O'Regan with support from Chamber Music Adelaide, the project invites residents to help create an original music-and-libretto work using their stories, sounds and handmade instruments.

## **The Bowerbird Collective, Cape Jervis SA**

### **'Kurna Yarta - The Seasons' - Regional Tour**

**\$25,000.00**

The Bowerbird Collective, Jamie Goldsmith and Taikurtinna Dance Group will present the first regional tour of Kurna Yarta – The Seasons, an 80-minute multimedia performance exploring connection to Country, culture

and community. Free outdoor performances will be staged across Goolwa, Murray Bridge, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Lincoln in partnership with local councils and communities.

## Victoria

### Archer Broughton, Smeaton VIC

#### Archer's Love Songs From The Divine Church Of The Open Sky - Big Brass Band Regional Workshops and Performance Project.

**\$30,000.00**

Archer is delivering a two-year, community-led touring project featuring seven performances across regional Victoria. Working with local brass bands in Wonthaggi, Geelong, Wodonga, Colac, Camperdown, Casterton and Melbourne, the project combines community consultation, workshops, open rehearsals and live performances, creating opportunities for regional musicians to collaborate with leading contemporary artists.

### (it's no) drama, Fish Creek VIC

#### PowerLine

**\$30,000.00**

Funding will support the regional delivery of *PowerLine*, a large-scale performance work created by Gippsland-based inclusive arts company (it's no) drama in collaboration with Rawcus Theatre Company. The project will engage 20 diverse performers through workshops in Leongatha, culminating in site-specific performances at the inaugural coLAB Inclusive Arts Festival in South Gippsland. As part of the broader collaboration, the work will also be presented in Melbourne at Gasworks Arts Park and Federation Square for International Day of People with Disabilities.

### Ruth O'Leary, Castlemaine VIC

#### Development of solo exhibition at Castlemaine Art Museum

**\$10,000.00**

Artist Ruth O'Leary will develop a new body of work exploring regional sites, historic archives and her lived experience of motherhood. Drawing on archival material from the Castlemaine Art Museum, the project reflects on the role of women in the arts — past and present — through the creation of a large-scale dress installation that transforms the gallery into an inclusive space connected to the many meanings of 'motherhood'.

### Daisy Collier, Castlemaine VIC

#### Birramalgu yanhayaan (gone to the bush): A new commission project

**\$18,320.00**

*Birramalgu yanhayaan (gone to the bush)* is a major new interdisciplinary project exploring the intersections of contemporary art, carceral systems and eco-social practice. Developed on Dja Dja Wurrung Country, the work unfolds through site-specific interventions, experimental audio-visual and sculptural works, and community engagement, and will premiere at West Space in 2026.

## **Golden City Support Services/CreateA, Bendigo VIC**

### **Laundry**

**\$24,000.00**

Laundry is a new theatre work devised by members of CreateA's Performing Ensemble, inspired by the memories of a woman with disability who worked in the laundry at St Aidan's Orphanage in Bendigo. Premiering at The Engine Room in March 2027, the performance explores how work and everyday routines shape identity, belonging and connection.

## **Things of Foam and Wood, Kyneton VIC**

### **Raven - A new puppetry work for primary school touring**

**\$30,000.00**

RAVEN is a touring puppetry theatre work for students from Prep to Grade 6, designed to travel easily into school halls and multipurpose spaces, combining beautifully crafted puppets, simple storytelling and gentle audience interaction. The performance tells the story of Raven, a real Macedon Ranges resident, who has spent her life caring for local birds, inviting students into a world where animals listen, communicate and sometimes guide us through difficult times.

## **Arena Theatre Co, Strathdale VIC**

### **Country & Belonging: On Country — An Immersive Exhibition**

**\$30,000.00**

Created in partnership between Arena and Dumawul, a Dja Dja Wurrung cultural enterprise, this immersive exhibition will showcase student artwork, photography and personal Acknowledgements of Country developed through three years of First Nations-led residencies in Greater Bendigo primary schools. Premiering at Arena's Creativerse 2026 festival at Ulumbarra Theatre, the exhibition combines large-scale visual installation, children's voices, documentary footage and augmented reality, and has been designed to tour regional venues, schools, libraries and festivals across Victoria.

## **Lake Bolac Eel Festival, Lake Bolac VIC**

### **The Bunjil Project**

**\$10,000.00**

Artists Bronwyn Razem and Dave Jones will collaborate with students from Lake Bolac College to create a sculpture of Bunjil through a series of workshops. Using metal reclaimed from fire-affected farms across the district, students will help shape the work before weaving in layers of fabric, feathers and other locally sourced natural materials. The Bunjil sculpture will complete a series of four birds illustrating the First Nations story of Lake Bolac, marking the final stage of an ambitious ten-year community project to share and celebrate this story.

## Western Australia

### Country Music Club of Boyup Brook WA, Boyup Brook WA

#### Boyup Brook Country Music Muster 2027

**\$30,000.00**

The 40th celebration of Western Australia's longest running country music festival will showcase original live music, emerging talent and regional pride. The three-day Boyup Brook Country Music Muster event will feature the Western Australia Country Music Awards, street carnival, bush poetry and artist development workshops, bringing the Southwest town to life through music.

### Emily O'Brien, Bayonet Head WA

#### The Girl with the Colourful Mind

**\$30,000.00**

A new dance production exploring Emily's lived experience of autism and mental health, and its impact on those around her. Developed through her Next Level Fellowship, The Girl with a Colourful Mind will premiere at Albany Town Hall in April 2027, with Emily directing, choreographing and producing under the mentorship of award-winning creative producer, Annette Carmichael and long-time choreographic mentor, Jessica Ruggera.

### Broome Community Information Resource Centre and Learning Exchange Incorporated Broome, CIRCLE Broome WA

#### Strengthening Artwork Documentation and Story Collection Processes

**\$26,490.00**

Broome CIRCLE's Artists Away from Home program supports First Nations artists from remote community art centres across the Kimberley and Pilbara to continue painting while in Broome. This project will strengthen story collection and artwork documentation processes within Artists Away from Home through targeted training for First Nations arts workers - including story recording, transcription, photography and filmmaking - benefiting art centres throughout the Kimberley and Pilbara.

### Camera Story, Broome WA

#### The Next Step: A Level Up

**\$30,000.00**

Kimberley-based First Nations artists Mary-Lou Orliyarli Divilli and Nuriah Jadai will develop new, ambitious bodies of work for their first solo exhibitions. Led by Camera Story, a Broome-based arts organisation, the project includes On-Country residencies in Kupungarri and Mangala Country alongside mentoring and professional development across regional Western Australia.

## **Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation, Albany WA**

### **Every Stitch Holds Country: A First Nations Community Quilt for Carrolup**

**\$30,000.00**

A First Nations-led, community-driven project across the Great Southern region honouring truth-telling about the Carrolup children of the Stolen Generation through storytelling and on-Country creativity. Workshops in painting, drawing, cloth dying and embroidery will foster intergenerational knowledge-sharing and cultural connection, culminating in a public exhibition of artworks, and a community quilt that educates and engages the wider community.

## **Southern Forest Arts, Northcliffe WA**

### **2026 WA Regional Visual Arts Summit - Travel Bursaries**

**\$30,000.00**

Funding to support 40 regional artists to attend the 2026 WA Regional Visual Arts Summit, Radical Futures, held at the John Curtin Gallery, Perth. The Summit builds on the success of the third iteration of the WA Regional Arts Triennial, this momentum will culminate in a four-day conference and survey exhibition, providing a major platform for the 40 selected artists to present their work to new and diverse audiences in one of Western Australia's most prestigious gallery spaces.

## **Geraldton Open Studios & Surrounds, Geraldton WA**

### **GOSS Artist Exchange & Engagement Program 2026**

**\$30,000.00**

The GOSS Artist Exchange & Engagement Program 2026 is a year-round initiative supporting artists participating in Geraldton Open Studios & Surrounds (GOSS) in Western Australia's Mid-West. Developed in response to artist survey feedback, the program creates opportunities for artists to connect, share their work and engage with audiences throughout the year, including quarterly artist slide nights, in conversation gatherings, a temporary GOSS Pop-Up Hub exhibition space, and an Emerging Artist Market.

## **Leith Alexander, Boundain WA**

### **Sheds: Stories from the Shearing Shed**

**\$19,306.00**

A documentary-led arts project by Narrogin filmmaker Leith Alexander, drawing on her lived experience growing up on a sheep farm and her deep connections with the shearing community. Through interviews with shearers, wool handlers and farmers across the Southern Wheatbelt - alongside immersive field recordings - the project will preserve stories and rarely documented sounds, forming the basis for a cross-disciplinary performance combining film and live music, composed and directed by award-winning composer Corrina Bonshekwith.

## **Yinhawangka Foundation, Paraburdoo WA**

### **From Earth to Art: Yinhawangka Emergence**

**\$30,000.00**

A one-week, on-Country program supporting Yinhawangka artists to create exhibition-ready works grounded in cultural strength, ancestral knowledge and connection to Country. Through mentorship, skills development and engagement with Elders, the residency culminates in a curated exhibition that celebrates contemporary Yinhawangka identity while strengthening cultural visibility, pride and pathways for artists to share their stories.

## **Neville Talbot Mount, Clarence WA**

### **Conducting Mentoring Program**

**\$5,800.00**

A pilot program for aspiring conductors in the Great Southern Region to build the skills needed to lead community music groups across a range of genres. Combining structured coursework with practical, on-the-podium experience, the initiative offers a hands-on pathway to strengthen regional music leadership and capacity.