



Australian Government

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

# Regional Arts Fund: Project Grants— recipients list, round 1, 2025

June 2025

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## Northern Territory

### Georgie Mattingley, Sadadeen NT

#### Project Pine Gap

**\$17,356.45**

Project Pine Gap is an exhibition of replica artworks that reflect the collection of artworks purported to be on display inside the highly secure spy base of Pine Gap in the Central Desert of Australia. The replicas are produced using information and descriptions gleaned from interviews with people who have entered Pine Gap and assistance from A.I. image generators.

### Michal Glikson, Yirrkala NT

#### Areyonga Artists Development Project

**\$30,000.00**

Areyonga is home to a sizeable community of Anangu visual artists, many of them painters, from prominent Indigenous artistic lineages. This project will deliver activities in the Areyonga art centre to provide power, materials and learning opportunities through an artist residency program. It will also support centre operations, technical assistance and ongoing learning opportunities through a combined studio assistant and art teacher role.

### Ms Shele Parker Black, Wagait Beach NT

#### FAR OUT online writers' meet

**\$3,290.00**

FAR OUT online writers' meet provides free fortnightly online writing sessions supporting writers across the Northern Territory to dedicate regular time to their writing practice, find inspiration and connect with the broader writing community. FAR OUT welcomes writers of all genres and forms, at all stages and levels of experience.

### Incite Arts Incorporated, Alice Springs NT

#### Xpress II - Mparntwe First Nations Music Mentoring Program

**\$30,000.00**

Xpress II is a collaboration between Incite Arts, Global Sound School and First Nations musicians and is rooted in the rich cultural heritage of the First Nations people living in Mparntwe. Xpress II offers employment and skills development opportunities aimed to meet the individual goals of Mparntwe First Nations musicians. Xpress bridges pathways between existing music programs in our region and provides the sustained framework these First Nations musicians are seeking.

## **MusicNT, Darwin City NT**

### **Bush Bands Program**

**\$30,000.00**

The Bush Bands Program is a collaborative initiative involving over a dozen partner organisations committed to supporting and advancing Australian Indigenous musicians and musicianship. Bush Bands Business will equip artists with industry knowledge, performance skills, and professional development opportunities to support their careers beyond the program. Each year, 10 acts from remote communities, including at least two female-led acts, are selected through an application process. The program will run from 10–14 September 2025 at Ross River Resort.

## **Yandamah Indigenous Corporation, Katherine NT**

### **National launch of Crown and Country by Warlpiri elders Wanta Jampijinpa Pawu and Jerry Jangala Patrick**

**\$30,000.00**

This funding will support the national album launch of Crown and Country by elders Wanta Jampijinpa Pawu-Kurlpurlurnu and Jerry Jangala Patrick OAM from Lajamanu, in collaboration with award-winning music producer Marc Peckham. This national launch includes the album release on ABC Music, a national marketing campaign, a community launch in Lajamanu, and an immersive installation showing at Darwin Festival, with an artist's talk and cultural exchange with Larrakia Nation elders.

## **Brown's Mart, Darwin City NT**

### **STAGE ONE: Djakapurra - my story**

**\$30,000.00**

"Djakapurra - my story," is an immersive theatrical journey celebrating the life and legacy of Djakapurra Munyarryun - one of Australia's most revered First Nations performers and cultural icons. This multi-art form production transcends traditional storytelling, offering an awe-inspiring exploration of culture, heritage, and artistry through the unique lens of Djakapurra.

## Queensland

### **Ganhaarr Cultural Education and Entertainment Indigenous Corporation, Peeramon QLD**

#### **Normanby On-Country Creative Bootcamp**

**\$27,500.00**

Ganhaarr Corporation will partner with Normanby Aboriginal Corporation and Topology Music to host a collaborative Creative Bootcamp on Normanby Station in Cape York. The project will bring together 10 Indigenous emerging musicians for a week of songwriting, composition, performance activities and cultural immersion. The project will build on the networks of Indigenous musicians and provide opportunities for mentorship to develop new work, with a focus on increasing confidence for live performances.

### **JUTE Theatre Company, Cairns City QLD**

#### **4 on the Floor - Intensive Regional Script Development Model**

**\$29,771.00**

4 on the Floor is an intensive script development model designed to transform how early-stage new writing is nurtured in regional Australia. This methodology will bring four emerging playwrights together for an immersive one-week creative development lab, embedding dramaturgical processes, rapid-cycle feedback, and collaborative cross-pollination to accelerate the evolution of new work. Partnering with Belloo Creative will expand the program's impact, broadening the professional networks of participating playwrights and embedding their work into the broader Queensland theatre sector. The program culminates in a public showcase, using audience response as a key component of the creative process.

### **The Crackup Sisters, Winton QLD**

#### **The Dusty Hour – community engaged outdoor performance**

**\$28,675.00**

"The Dusty Hour" is a new outdoor performance by The Crackup Sisters that celebrates stories and storytellers of outback Queensland. This project completes the development of a comedy performance work that blends circus skills, knockabout humour, and participatory audience engagement in a unique purpose-built amphitheatre outback setting. The project includes community-engaged set-building workshops, final creative development with artists, and the production of essential set and costume elements for the premiere season in The Dustarena at the Home of The Crackup Sisters.



## **Damian Meredith, Pimlico QLD**

### **NIMBUS**

**\$19,217.50**

NIMBUS is a highly regarded interdisciplinary arts and music event reaching its third annual iteration. Running from 4pm to midnight, audiences will explore, discover, and physically interact with a fiasco of site-specific performance art, dynamic lighting and visual design, theatrical character roles, and genre-bending contemporary music.

## **ARC Disability Services, Manunda QLD**

### **ARC/JUTE Stories Alive: Books to Stage Project**

**\$21,662.00**

ARC Disability Services will partner with JUTE Theatre Company for a one-week creative development to adapt two published children's books, written by regional Authors/Illustrators living with disabilities, into theatrical scripts. With the involvement of ARC Ensemble actors working in a professional team, a showcase outcome will establish groundwork for eventual professional production. Professional opportunities for regional artists with disabilities will be fostered through engagement in a structured creative process alongside established theatre professionals, including a director, dramaturg, and projection designer.

## **Whitsundays Arts Festival, Cape Gloucester QLD**

### **Whitsundays Songwriter Festival 2026**

**\$17,950.00**

The Whitsundays Songwriter Festival is a 5-day festival in Airlie Beach, Queensland, under the umbrella of the Whitsundays Arts Festival that comprises a professional songwriter residency, emerging songwriter workshop and world-class concert and conversation performance. The festival will bring 6 of Australia's leading professional songwriters together at Airlie Beach to develop new works through collaboration.

## **John Harvey, Landers Shoot QLD**

### **The Heart of the Universe**

**\$20,296.00**

The Heart of the Universe is a three-channel video and sound installation by John Harvey and Walter Waia. The installation speaks to the rising sea levels threatening Saibai Island and the paradox of belonging to a homelands in a state of flux. The Heart of the Universe invites audiences to explore the question: how do we hold onto identity, culture, and connection to homelands when the land itself is disappearing?

## **Merryn Hughes, Main Beach QLD**

### **ArtStory Light Walk**

**\$30,000.00**

. The ArtStory Light Walk, will be a large-scale immersive experience of illuminated artworks showcased outdoors along the magnificent Gimuy Boulevard in the heart of Cairns/Gimuy, as part of the Shine on Gimuy Festival; a unique First Nations led arts and cultural festival that brings local communities, Indigenous and non-Indigenous together, to collaborate, celebrate and meaningfully connect with each other in Cairns/Gimuy.

## **Naygayiw Gigi Indigenous Corporation, Bamaga QLD**

### **WAKEMAB**

**\$30,000.00**

The Wakemab Story is a warrior from the Suy Baydham Clan of Saibai, who protects his homeland from neighbouring clans by eliminating anyone who dared to set foot on his land. Naygayiw Gigi Dance Troupe have pieced together the traditional songs, dances and stories to create a full narrative theatre-dance work. The narrative threads created through the cultural dances will tell a story that people can understand, relate to and engage with. This phase of the project will transform Wakemab from a cultural presentation into a contemporary theatre production. Naygayiw Gigi will collaborate with experienced theatre practitioners, upholding both artistic excellence and the cultural integrity of the Suy-Baydham Clan.

## **Melanie Stevens, Cairns North QLD**

### **Hot & Heavy - by The Ironing Maidens**

**\$29,989.00**

Hot & Heavy is a queer-led, live, multi-artform, interactive, and immersive performance that engages audiences in a critical story about the future through a framework of care and posthuman theory. the production will be remounted into a one-hour, multi-artform stage production incorporating live electronic music, dance, aerial performance, projection, and instrument design, making it transferable across multiple venues. A community engagement program will accompany the remount, featuring dance workshops and post-show discussions that explore the work's themes and connect attendees with local climate movements.

## **Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, Cairns City QLD**

### **Inside Stories**

**\$20,389.00**

Inside Stories is a transformative printmaking program that will take place at Lotus Glen Correctional Facility in Mareeba, Far North Queensland, in 2025. Over a period of 12 months, master printmaker Theo Tremblay will lead 40 mentoring sessions, working with Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Islander inmates to create prints sharing their stories, experiences, and ideas. The finished works will be exhibited at the Court House Gallery in Cairns during the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) in 2026, offering inmates a platform to connect with curators, collectors, and the broader community.

## **Eumundi School of Music, Ninderry QLD**

### **Eumundi School of Music: Creating Pathways for Young Regional Musicians**

**\$29,598.90**

The Eumundi School of Music 2025 program will support 40 young musicians through a structured ten-week initiative, offering individual tuition, ensemble rehearsals, and stagecraft development under the guidance of professional mentors. Activities will take place in Eumundi, leading to a performance at the Eumundi School of Arts Hall on September 13, 2025. A group of 40 artists and cultural workers will be involved, sharing their expertise and shaping the next generation of music makers from the area.

## **Perseverance Street Theatre Company, Gympie QLD**

### **Pirates, Cowboys and Aliens – A Regional Queensland Tour**

**\$13,180.00**

Pirates, Cowboys and Aliens is a multidisciplinary theatre work by Gympie-based Perseverance Street Theatre Company. Integrating shadow theatre, animation, and physical theatre, the work celebrates creativity and play as essential to wellbeing at all life stages. Developed through interviews with regional Queenslanders exploring childhood experiences of play, this moving, age-inclusive piece blends applied theatre practice with dynamic storytelling.

## South Australia

### Fleur Elise Noble, Forest Range SA

#### Sunshine and the Dark Cloud - A new projection-based performance by Fleur Elise Noble

**\$25,640.00**

Sunshine is a new visual-theatre production by Fleur Elise Noble, fusing the mediums of drawing, animation, puppetry, film, projection and live performance. With the support of Project Create Community Arts Co-Op in Carey Gully, Fleur and collaborators will design and run a series of workshops with a group of 10 young regional South Australians. The workshops will focus on concept and content development, design, animation, projection mapping and performance, offering a rare opportunity for young creatives to participate in, and learn from world-class artists, performers and animators.

### Wendy Dixon-Whiley, Littlehampton SA

#### Earth Oddities

**\$16,277.00**

A natural evolution of the artist's practice, this project explores sculpture as a means to bring their drawing practice into the three-dimensional. Incorporating materials and techniques commonly used in character development on film, Wendy will experiment with texture, shape, scale and composition to create detailed, uncanny characters who appear as though they exist in their own strange worlds.

### Daniel Giles, Renmark SA

#### Mannum Medical Centre Connection to Country Artworks

**\$15,500.00**

Renmark-based artist Daniel Giles will create a safe and welcoming environment for First Nations people attending the new Mannum Medical Centre. Drawing on traditional knowledge and cultural history, Daniel's work will support a spiritual connection to Country as a pathway to healing. His artworks will feature in the centre, with additional spaces curated to showcase works by other artists.

### Evette Wolf, Normanville SA

#### Mini Mag Production & Workshops

**\$30,000.00**

This project will produce three editions of Mini Mag, a youth-focussed free magazine that will be printed and distributed to the community. Each edition will feature 30 pages of original content, created by young regional artists aged 15-26. This project will provide paid opportunities for both established and emerging regional artists in editing and design roles.

## **Courtney Mason, Goolwa North SA**

### **Professional development in support of Average Intelligence manuscript**

**\$8,907.79**

This project will support the secondary edit of the artist's debut novel with the goal of elevating the manuscript to a publishable standard. Courtney will attend The Island View Residency, hosted by Heather Taylor-Johnson, where they will engage in the practice of writing, refine editing and prose skills, and receive personalised guidance.

## **Kingston District Council, Kingston SE SA**

### **Brushstrokes for Better**

**\$24,540.00**

The Brushstrokes for Better Mural Art Project is a community-led initiative aimed at enhancing visible public spaces through vibrant and transformative high-quality visual art in the regional community of Kingston. This project is a collaborative partnership between the Council as facilitator, the Health Advisory Committee as the place host, community as participants and artist Taylr Jay, who will mentor a local emerging artist.

## **Bunna Lawrie, Goolwa SA**

### **Song to the Whales Canada and US Tour 2025 featuring Bunna Lawrie in a tri-First-Nations collaboration**

**\$29,008.00**

Bunna Lawrie, Mirning Elder, Whale Dreaming Songman and Jason Lee Scott will collaborate with Oktoecho (Canada) Corrina Bonshek and collaborators (Australia) to adapt Song to the Ocean and tour through Canada and USA. Bunna and Jason will perform in the high-profile tri-First Nations shows, Song to the Whales and Song to the Waters. Premiering and headlining at the International First Peoples Festival, Montreal, Landscape of Nations, Niagara Falls and Lincoln Centre for Performing Arts, New York.

## **Rachelle Plazeriano, The Pines SA**

### **Creative Healing: Karen's Journey After Acquired Brain Injury**

**\$3,762.00**

Yorke Peninsula artist Rachelle Plazeriano will further collaborate with Karen Brown, who discovered art following an acquired brain injury, to develop new work for an exhibition. This project will further support Karen's artistic growth, enabling her to share her stories and encourage others. The exhibition will form part of Yorke Peninsula Grounded Festival.

## **City of Victor Harbor, Victor Harbor SA**

### **Studio Sessions**

**\$28,080.00**

The Studio Sessions program offers young emerging artists from the southern Fleurieu Peninsula a unique opportunity to professionally record and produce their own music. This initiative provides free studio sessions for artists to create an EP, including professional mixing and mastering. Participants will receive mentorship from local industry professionals, gaining practical insights into music production and the broader industry.

## **Stansbury Progress Association Incorporated, Stansbury SA**

### **Stansbury Hosts Charlee Watt**

**\$3,600.00**

Stansbury Progress Association will host cabaret artist Charlee Watt's Beating up the Beatles show at the Stansbury Institute, supported by local artist Karina Voigt. This performance will provide an opportunity to engage the local community with the arts and be part of the broader Grounded Festival.

## Victoria

### UPPER MURRAY PERFORMING ARTS INC., Tintaldra VIC

#### The Snowy Mountain Tango Festival, a means to reach new heights

**\$7,500.00**

The funding will support the Upper Murray performing arts association to deliver the Snowy Mountain Tango Festival—an emerging cultural event within the region. As the festival continues to grow in scale and audience reach, it is becoming a key fixture in the local cultural calendar. Strengthening the festival's sustainability will not only secure its future but will also enable the association to reinvest in a broader range of performing arts initiatives, supporting year-round cultural activity and community engagement.

### Indigo Shire, Beechworth VIC

#### Bulegeaba - Creating on Country

**\$30,000.00**

The Bulegeaba – Creating on Country project is a First Nations artist-led initiative focused on cultural reclamation, self-determination, and the vital role of creative and cultural expression in reconciliation. Led by artist Glennys Briggs (Taungurung, Yorta Yorta, Wiradjuri, and Palawa), this residency and program offers First Nations artists the opportunity to engage with and create on Country at Bulegeaba (Lake Moodemere), located in Wahgunyah, Victoria.

### Tara Gilbee, Fryerstown VIC

#### Professional development, collaborative research and knowledge exchange in relation to ecological and sustainable creative practices.

**\$19,000.00**

Tara Gilbee will undertake professional development in Europe, focussing on ecological creative process in relation to photography and site-specific practices. Including conferences, residencies, workshops and a mentorship. Returning to Central Victoria, Gilbee will deliver workshops for Red Shed in Newstead utilising the skills acquired through this professional opportunity.

### Things of Foam and Wood, Kyneton VIC

#### Blowies

**\$24,722.00**

The Blowies are large-scale puppet replicas of Central Victorian flies, created in the tradition of street theatre. Suspended from long poles, these animated characters swoop through public spaces, stopping to share a meat pie and their irreverent worldview with unsuspecting passers-by. This project aims to further develop The Blowies in collaboration with the local community, specifically engaging the Kyneton Football Club as a

live test audience. By presenting the work in this dynamic setting—where art, sport, and flies intersect—the artists will assess its creative rigour, humour, and capacity to connect with a broad regional audience.

## **Castlemaine State Festival, Castlemaine VIC**

### **Castlemaine - the Musical**

**\$25,000.00**

Castlemaine - The Musical is an all singing, all dancing celebration of the beloved town - an original musical designed to tease out and take a light-hearted look at the things that make us tick. This work is a celebration of the work of volunteers in the arts, land care, the emergency services, and the various advocacy groups that might come from different backgrounds but who all make up a community.

## **Nicholas Carver, Inverloch VIC**

### **Arockalypse Now Festival**

**\$7,500.00**

Entering its fourth year, Arockalypse Now will continue raising the profile of Bass Coast artists through the running of its landmark festival held at The Westernport Hotel, San Remo.

## **Rebecca Russell, Clunes VIC**

### **TRIGGERED Creative Development**

**\$30,000.00**

TRIGGERED intricately explores the nuances of trauma and its impact on the human mind and body. With black theatre illusion, puppetry, projection, sound technologies, movement that fuses, physical theatre and clowning, informed by somatic practices. Bodies become puppets and reality is twisted.



## Western Australia

### Southern Edge Arts, Centennial Park WA

#### The Creation of Now 2025

**\$30,000.00**

An intergenerational performance where children and young people are empowered to create 'the world of now' which they invite their parents, family and friends into as collaborators and witnesses. Bringing together young people from the Great Southern, this large-scale work is created in partnership with community organisations and regional artists.

### Nic Duncan, Ocean Beach WA

#### Binalup, Menang | First Light, First People

**\$29,986.00**

A Menang-led collaboration between Elders and award-winning portrait photographer Nic Duncan will highlight the positive contributions of Menang people in the Albany community. The project will produce a series of portraits with recorded stories while mentoring an emerging Noongar photographer. This work will be featured as part of "Albany 2026," the city's bicentenary celebrations.

### Goolarri Media Enterprises, Broome WA

#### Professional Skills Development for Goolarri Media Associate Artists Through Ilbjerri Theatre Company

**\$29,229.00**

Through Goolarri Media's Indigenous Writers Program, three associate artists—playwright Melody Dia, writer and director Kimba Benjamin, and costume and assistant set designer Rika Hamaguchi—will participate in a creative and skills development week with Ilbjerri Theatre Company in Melbourne. This opportunity comes ahead of the 2026 premiere of the new play *Because We're Blak*.

### Camera Story Ltd, Broome WA

#### The Next Step: New Stories, New Technologies, New Artists

**\$30,000.00**

Next Step is a professional development project supporting First Nations artists Mary-Lou Divilli and Nuriah Jadaï to refine their artistic practices and expand their skills in photography, painting, textiles, and printmaking. With mentorship from specialist art consultant Emilia Galatis, and Camera Story's Sarah Landro, the artists will develop new works that celebrate traditional storytelling through contemporary mediums.

## **Wheatbelt Arts & Events Inc, York WA**

### **Ballardong Moorditj annual program**

**\$26,055.00**

An arts and crafts pilot program initiated and developed by York's Ballardong community aims to build community capacity, enhance social and emotional well-being, and share cultural practices. The activities will culminate in showcases at 2026 First Nations arts events and support the establishment of a new cultural centre in York, Western Australia.

## **Theatre Kimberley Inc, Cable Beach WA**

### **Sandfly Road Show - sharing circus with the West Kimberley**

**\$26,786.00**

Theatre Kimberley in collaboration with YUCK Circus, will create a youth circus work which will travel to remote partner schools in West Kimberley Aboriginal communities. Members of Broome's Sandfly Circus Performance Troupe will perform the work, creating youth connections across the region and extending the appetite for, and appreciation of, physical theatre.

## **Juluwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation, Roebourne WA**

### **25th Biennale of Sydney (2026)**

**\$28,325.00**

Yindjibarndi Elder, Wendy Hubert has been invited to the 25th Biennale of Sydney (2026), to create a large-scale garden that celebrates ancestral knowledge. Focusing on native plants that are used for food, medicine, and ceremonial purposes, Wendy and five regional arts workers from Karratha will travel to Sydney to install the exhibition —that will be a space for communities to gather, learn, and yarn.