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Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Regional Arts Fund: Project Grants— recipients list, round 2, 2025

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New South Wales

Arts Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook NSW

Visuaural—a public program melding sound and visual art

\$28,585.00

The Visuaural program supports a set of artist residencies programmed for the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre in mid-2026. Visuaural gives the community the chance to create sound-visual art themselves and discover new ways of thinking of both sound and visual art.

Rebel Black, Lightning Ridge NSW

Resonance—Artist Residencies & Sound Futures in Lightning Ridge

\$29,750.00

Resonance is an artist-in-residence program designed to embed 3 regional artists over a 9-month period in Lightning Ridge, culminating in headline performances during the 2026 Open Mic + Headline series, and a suite of sound-focused community art outcomes.

Sprung Dance Theatre, Ballina NSW

Investing in Deaf-led Arts and Inclusive Practice

\$29,942.80

This project is an investment in the diversity of regional arts, a commitment to the ongoing development of d/Deaf and disabled regional artists and communities, and the cultural infrastructure that champion their work and careers.

Peggy Zephyr, Korora NSW

The Cost Of Living—Peggy Zephyr's Supermarket

\$29,974.00

The Cost of Living is a visual art project that reimagines the supermarket as a satirical space for female storytelling. Installation, sculpture, and textiles, mostly created in free trauma-informed community workshops, rebrand everyday products to reveal the real cost of living as a woman. Workshops are co-facilitated by a therapist, centring women and gender-diverse people from LGBTQI+, CALD, and regional communities.

Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre, Wagga Wagga NSW

Mercury Rising

\$27,305.00

Mercury Rising is a community project and bold new mainstage production developed by Re: Group Performance Collective, The Art Factory Supported Studio, and Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre. Co-created with artists with a disability, Mercury Rising fuses live performance and film to explore care, autonomy, and the liberating power of art.

Jessie Bell, North Albury NSW

The Beach- A sensory-led theatrical experience

\$29,079.30

Ran Away Theatre aims to work with a local disability support service to develop a new work of sensory immersive theatre, titled The Beach. Ran Away Theatre creates and performs theatre for people with disability in regional and rural areas. The work is accessible, immersive and responsive to the needs and preferences of its audience.

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery, Nowra NSW

Ngaoara Fellowship and Exhibition

\$27,320.60

A fellowship and solo exhibition for an emerging First Nations artist to be held alongside a solo exhibition and mentorship by an established First Nations artist. The Ngaoara Fellowship aims to create professional pathways for new generations of First Nations artists that allow for culturally supported artistic growth and experimentation. This project will result in two solo exhibitions that allow audiences from all backgrounds to experience contemporary First Nations art across generations, mediums and experiences.

Creative Caldera Incorporated, Murwillumbah NSW

Lava Arts Festival

\$7,500.00

The Lava Arts Festival is a 3 day multidisciplinary arts festival based in Murwillumbah, Northern NSW and surrounding areas, featuring a dynamic program including local and visiting artists. The festival will be run by Creative Caldera Incorporated, a dedicated group of local artists and art professionals. This annual event is a platform for artistic expression, collaboration, and cultural exchange.

Upper Hunter Shire Council, Scone NSW

Upper Hunter & Kia Ora Youth Music Camp 2026

\$15,872.00

The Upper Hunter & Kia Ora Youth Music Camp 2026 invites young people in the Upper Hunter region with an interest in music or dance to participate in a 3-day day camp offering intensive tuition from expert tutors. Designed to deepen artistic engagement and foster interschool connections, the camp provides a collaborative and enriching environment for regional students to engage in the arts.

Stonewave Taiko Inc, Bega NSW

Okina Mura:Big Village

\$14,879.30

Okina Mura: Big Village is a vibrant intergenerational community arts project uniting two leading Bega Valley arts organisations—Stonewave Taiko and FLING Physical Theatre. Celebrating all stages of life and the stunning natural environment of the Far South Coast, this project brings together diverse community members through shared creative expression.

ArtFarm Ltd, Griffith NSW

Speaking Place

\$19,000.00

Speaking Place is a multi-disciplinary arts workshop program, on the inspiring grounds of Piccolo Family Farm. A series of arts workshops and seminars will be facilitated by skilled professional makers and artists across various unique creative disciplines. The workshops centre around the concept of Place, and how makers and creatives evoke and communicate Place through their craft.

Bundanoon Folk Festival, Bundanoon NSW

Sustaining & Expanding Bundanoon Folk Festival

\$23,200.00

Now in its third year, the Bundanoon Folk Festival has quickly become a highlight of the Southern Highlands cultural calendar, showcasing outstanding musical talent and fostering deep community engagement. This project seeks to support artist development, expand audience reach via a targeted marketing campaign and ensure professional sound quality at key venues.

Tal Shemesh, South Albury NSW

Two Truths and a Lie

\$23,000.00

Two Truths and a Lie is a new contemporary circus work created and performed by brothers Tal and Yoav Shemesh, acclaimed graduates of the Flying Fruit Fly Circus and rising talents in Australia's physical theatre landscape. This multidisciplinary production combines juggling, acrobatics, magic, and film to explore the shifting lines between reality and performance.

New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale NSW

New Horizons: Emerging Voices in Landscape

\$30,000.00

New Horizons: Emerging Voices in Landscape pairs up to 5 emerging regional NSW artists with acclaimed painter Angus Nivison for a ten-month mentorship and exhibition program at NERAM. The program builds creative and professional skills, networks, and visibility for regional emerging artists while also engaging regional audiences through public programs, education, and digital storytelling, fostering cultural, social, and economic benefits.

Albury City Council—Write Around the Murray, Albury NSW

Write Around the Murray 20th Festival Showcase Celebration Evening

\$14,960.00

The Write Around the Murray 20th Festival Showcase Celebration Evening will be held to mark the 20th anniversary of the festival and its status as one of regional Australia's most well established and longest running literary festivals. Write Around the Murray is an annual 5-day writers' festival for the communities in regional NSW and Victoria and attracts 5,000 attendees annually, including 2,000 school students.

Taranta Arts Inc., Bellingen NSW

Taranta Festival 2026

\$25,000.00

Taranta Festival 2026 presents a 3 day cultural celebration in Bellingen, NSW (6-8 November 2026) that strengthens regional communities through authentic cross-cultural artistic exchange. Building on four years of success, the festival employs master practitioners from Mediterranean, Latin American, and Indigenous traditions to deliver intensive workshops, collaborative performances, and community engagement activities.

Bank Art Museum Moree, Moree NSW

Gomeroi Light—Mona Fernando

\$28,512.00

In 2026, the Bank Art Museum will undertake a Kamilaroi-led project, Gomeroi Light, by artist Mona Fernando in collaboration with young people aged 10–15. Through a series of workshops, the young people will weave 100 lamp shades from lomandra gathered from the banks of the Mehi River.

Suzannah Jones, Glen William NSW

Forged Rhythms

\$21,380.00

Forged Rhythms is a site-based sonic arts project exploring blacksmithing at Tocal Homestead's heritage forge. Led by Suzannah Jones, the project centres on sound creation by artist Huw Jones, who will capture and compose rich soundscapes from the forge in operation – anvil strikes, bellows breath, fire crackle, and ambient sounds.

Madika Penrith, Long Beach NSW

Wiradjuri Country Sound History

\$30,000.00

Guided by Wiradjuri lore or 'Yindyamarra,' we will build an intercultural and interspecies audio compilation of songs and stories through time from Wiradjuri Country. This project aims to create opportunities for mob and settlers living on this Country to better understand their eternal relationships with their community/Country and to find belonging.

Amala Groom, Kelso NSW

One Hundred Years since the beginning of time

\$20,000.00

One Hundred Years Since the Beginning of Time is a six-month Wiradyuri-led community consultation and creative development program on Wiradyuri Country in Kelso, NSW. Led by conceptual artist Amala Groom, the project will prepare for her September 2026 solo exhibition at Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, curated by Madeleine Collie.

Milton Folk Jazz and Blues Festival Incorporated, Milton NSW

Milton Folk Jazz and Blues Festival

\$29,650.00

The Milton Folk, Jazz and Blues Festival is a 3 day, free, all-ages celebration of music and the arts, returning in May 2026. Weaving through the streets of Milton, NSW, performances will be held in local bars, cafes, pubs, the Milton Theatre, and Village Green Park.

Aboriginal Regional Arts Alliance (NSW) Aboriginal Corporation, Tamworth NSW

We Weave Together—Yinaar Weaving Gathering

\$30,000.00

We Weave Together is a 3 day weaving gathering and residency bringing together Aboriginal weavers from Regional and Remote NSW. This unique event will feature workshops from 3 master weavers — each specialising in different materials and techniques, including recycled resources such as wire — alongside opportunities for participants to share their own skills and cultural knowledge.

The Returning Indigenous Corporation, Mullumbimby NSW

Bulaan Dalang Gala Naa Gan Ngaa Leen Duu Indigenous Artist Residency

\$30,000.00

Bulaan Dalang Galii Naa Gan Ngaa Leen Duu is a 12 month artists residency for emerging Indigenous artists living on Bundjalung Country (Northern NSW). Translated as 'together, artists learning and sharing', the Program provides opportunities for participants to connect and explore different art medium, while developing their practice and up-skilling in arts business.

Lithgow Information & Neighbourhood Centre (LINC), Lithgow NSW

WEST: a creative engagement project for the young people of Bowenfels

\$25,500.00

WEST is a dynamic maker space where young people in Bowenfels transform ideas into original works of movement, storytelling, performance, and puppetry. Led by community artist Renata Comisso, with First Nations artist Bria McCarthy and LINC social workers, the space invites experimentation, collaboration, and creative risk-taking. With weekly engagements over a year, participants co-create new works that culminate in a vibrant public showcase, building skills in artistic practice, production, and creative leadership.

Nicole Smede, Nowra NSW

Mudjingaal Yangamba – Yawa Bulwal (Truth Telling) Debut Album Recording and Release

\$29,590.00

Yawa Bulwal ('Truth-Telling') is the debut album from Mudjingaal Yangamba, a collective of 10 Aboriginal women from Yuin Country, singing in Dhurga, Gumea Dharawal, and Gathang. The group brings together 5 Elders and 5 younger members, blending cultural authority with contemporary creative expertise. Their original songs share stories of cultural pride, displacement, and resilience, preserving language and lived experience through powerful, all-female First Nations voices.

Northern Territory

Kirrily Jordan, Braitling NT

Entwined Ecologies: Creative Practices for Ecological Repair

\$29,645.00

This project converts urgent environmental challenges into opportunities for regional artists and communities, turning invasive plants into unique basketry and textile works while building collaboration and community engagement in the arts. Interest in fibre arts is booming. However, the field remains over-reliant on imported materials like raffia and has largely overlooked the abundance of invasive plants as a local, sustainable resource.

Arafura Music Collective Inc., Larrakeyah NT

Journey to the Mythical Place

\$25,340.00

Journey to the Mythical Place is a high-quality arts project benefitting regional and remote artists, arts workers, audiences, and communities. It offers an immersive musical and storytelling experience for children, developed in collaboration with the musicians of Arafura Music Collective. Through original songs and evocative narratives, students will be guided on a journey across the land, sea, and sky surrounding Darwin and broader NT communities, connecting with Country in a joyful, respectful, and empowering way.

Red Dirt Poetry Incorporated, The Gap NT

Red Dirt Poetry Presents—NT Poetry Slam Tour from Mparntwe/Alice to Garramilla/Darwin

\$20,000.00

The NT Poetry Slam tour hits the road again in 2026. Starting from Mparntwe/Alice Springs, Red Dirt Poetry will head to Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin before returning home to finish with the final slam back in Alice Springs.

NT Writers Centre, Darwin City NT

NT Writers Festival 2026—Support Local and First Nations Artists

\$27,500.00

The NT Writers Festival is the premiere literary event of the Northern Territory, this 4 day event brings people together to share story, language and culture. With almost 40 events and 80 participating writers from around Australia and beyond, this festival will showcase and platform local talent and First Nations authors.

Amina McConvell, Rapid Creek NT

Arts and Disability | Accessible Visual Arts Studios: Seed projects with partner organisations Incubator Inisiatif, Yogyakarta/Java and Kulidan Space, Bali.

\$14,800.00

Amina McConvell will take up a valuable professional development opportunity in response to invitations from two Community Arts and Cultural Development organisations in Indonesia. McConvell will work with Incubator Inisiatif, Yogyakarta/Java and Kulidan Space, Bali to mentor these organisations in establishment of new accessible, inclusive visual arts studios for artists with disability in Indonesia.

Darwin Fringe Incorporated, Darwin City NT

2026 Darwin Fringe Festival

\$30,000.00

The biggest platform for emerging, independent and experimental artists in the Northern Territory, Darwin Fringe is 'your community arts Festival with bite'. Audiences will be alerted to expect the unexpected as hundreds of artists activate the city and beyond over 10 days in July 2026.

Queensland

Shoba Sadler, Jaffa QLD

The Accidental Bride – A New Intercultural Comedy

\$29,909.00

The Accidental Bride is a bold, Bollywood-inspired romantic comedy, flipping stereotypes and celebrating multicultural Australia. Featuring an Indian-Australian family in a joyful, genre-defying love story, this new work forms part of Cairns' 150th anniversary celebrations, honouring the city's vibrant cultural diversity with unapologetic laughter, love, and heart.

Lapunyah Art Gallery Inc, Chinchilla QLD

Reparative Threads: A Fibre-Based Act of Care and Connection

\$15,176.00

Reparative Threads is a fibre-based, community-embedded art project exploring the cultural and material residue of cotton in the Western Downs region of Queensland. A joint initiative between Dogwood Crossing (Miles), Lapunyah Art Gallery (Chinchilla), and Gallery 107 (Dalby), the project culminates in a multi-site community exhibition and the creation of a large-scale 3D relief wall work to be donated by the lead artist into the Chinchilla Community Collection.

Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville City QLD

Creative Research Residencies

\$27,139.57

Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts presents the Creative Research Residencies: an initiative amplifying North Queensland's voices, histories, and artistic expressions. With James Cook University's partnership, the project supports Australian visual artists to undertake an immersive, month-long period of research and development in Gurambilbarra / Townsville.

Toshi Sakamoto, Kuranda QLD

Toshi Sakamoto's Second EP – Sung in Japanese with Touches of English, Enriched by FNQ Artists

\$10,409.50

Kuranda-based Japanese singer-songwriter Toshi Sakamoto is creating his second EP, featuring four of his most popular songs from recent concerts and blending Japanese and Far North Queensland cultural influences. The project will involve collaborations musicians, audio engineers, and visual artists who have inspired Toshi throughout his creative journey in the region.

Central Highlands Music Festival Inc., Emerald QLD

Central Highlands Festival of Bands and Choirs 2026

\$19,462.00

This project will present a series of wind band and choir workshops along with school and community performances. Providing an opportunity for wind, brass, percussion and choral musicians in the Central Highlands region to develop music skills, culminating in a gala concert. The Concert will feature the music prepared in the workshops as well as a performance by 2 chamber wind, brass or choral ensembles.

Aaron Lenden, Ninderry QLD

Ouroboros

\$20,000.00

Ouroboros is a 15 minute short film exploring unresolved grief, inspired by a train accident that occurred in 1958. Based on personal experiences and conversations with the filmmaker's grandfather, a survivor of the tragedy, the film delves into the lasting impact of trauma over six decades.

JUTE Theatre Company, Cairns City QLD

Creative Development of A New Theatre work, 'Fearless' by Indigenous Regional playwright, Charmaine 'Dizzy' Doolan

\$29,998.00

A 5 day, First Nations-led creative development to advance 'Fearless', a contemporary, uplifting theatre work by Cairns-based rapper and emerging playwright Charmaine 'Dizzy' Doolan. Building on JUTE's 2020 creative development of Fearless, this stage focuses on drafting, on-floor dramaturgy, and music-text integration (rap, spoken word, blues), culminating in a public reading and feedback session at Bulmba-ja Arts Centre.

Arts Nexus Inc, Atherton QLD

Tapestry of Yarns: Sharing our stories

\$26,900.00

Tapestry of Yarns is a podcast series showcasing the people and stories of the Atherton Tablelands, Far North Queensland. The program combines mentoring, training, and production support to help participants share their stories on global platforms such as Spotify and YouTube.

Lizzy Stanfield Flores, Newtown QLD

The Bear Truth School Tour

\$12,955.45

The Bear Truth is a powerful verbatim theatre production designed for secondary school audiences across the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley regions. This innovative touring performance explores real Queenslanders' experiences with gender-based discrimination, societal expectations, and empowerment, using the viral online question 'Would you rather be trapped in the woods with a man or a bear?' as its launch point.

Kuranda Conservation Community Nursery Inc, Kuranda QLD**BIG Cassowary, Four Metre Painted Statue****\$20,000.00**

This project will create an iconic landmark, peculiar to Kuranda, akin to other Big Things for which Australia is famous. Big Cassowary will support local Australia's First Nation's People's culture and story in art and raise awareness about the cassowary and its environment. The project will promote tropical North Queensland as a must-see destination, creating and sustaining jobs.

Artists Connect Incorporated, Mackay QLD**St Lawrence Artists Retreat 2026****\$16,855.16**

In September 2026, 50 regional artists and participating community members will gather on Koinmerburra Country for the St Lawrence Artists Retreat. The Retreat brings together artists and community members from the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday regions for 4 days to skill share, network and collaborate.

Kuweni Dias Mendis, Beechmont QLD**Reverberations: a multisensory arts experience****\$29,821.00**

Reverberations is a multisensory arts experience presented in 3 parts: an autobiographical film projection as public art; a live autobiographical performance by the artist; and a participatory art installation where the community co-creates a large, collaborative, ephemeral work.

South Australia

Tjala Arts, Amata SA

Updated edition of Tjala Arts book Nganampa Kampatjangka Unngu

\$30,000.00

This project involves the creation of an updated edition of the Tjala Arts Book 'Nganampa Kampatjangka Unngu: Beneath the Canvas—The Lives and Stories of the Tjala Artists' (published in 2015). Through critical essays, photography and first-person narratives, this edition will include 10 new artists whose practices have flourished over the past decade, alongside emerging voices and will showcase extraordinary achievements from the past decade.

accare, Berri SA

Berri Community Centre water tank mural

\$17,800.00

This project provides an opportunity for users of Berri Community Centre to create a mural for a currently blank water tank. Through story-sharing, design and spray-art workshops led by local Riverland artist Jarrod Loxton, participants will co-design an artwork celebrating Berri's creativity, resilience and community spirit.

Charlee Grace Watt, Port Lincoln SA

Shows for SALT Festival 2026

\$15,600.00

Rolling the Stones and Aftertaste are two performance projects created by award-winning Port Lincoln artist Charlee Watt for the 2026 SALT Festival. Rolling the Stones reimagines iconic Rolling Stones songs featuring a powerhouse band alongside mentored local youth musicians. Aftertaste: The Late-Night Variety is a bold, community-led cabaret event that spotlights local singers, dancers, and performers supported by professional musicians.

Riverland Youth Theatre, Renmark SA

They Sing to the Waters of Now

\$29,918.95

Teen members of Ramble Arts will be mentored by professional film creatives to complete pre-production and production of writer Alysha Herrmann's short film They Sing to the Waters of Now. Co-produced by Ramble Arts and Alysha, the project will upskill and mentor young Riverland creatives, to bring this unique regional story to life.

D'faces of Youth Arts, Whyalla Norrie SA

Regional Flying Monster Service

\$19,980.00

A film project borne between Riverland Youth Theatre and D'faces of Youth Art designed to breach the geographical distance between regional young people through making films with lasting community impact. Collaboration and mentorship in Whyalla under lead artists Michal Hughes, Sam Wannan and Stu Nankivell will support young creatives from both regions to write, direct and shoot two short films as part of a 6 part web series.

Southern Eyre Arts, Port Lincoln SA

Our Place, Our Future

\$30,000.00

Working with regional communities, filmmakers, marine scientists, composers, designers and visual artists, the project will translate complex environmental concepts into a compelling film work. The film will be premiered with live musical accompaniment at a multi-screen outdoor event during SALT Festival 2026 before being screened digitally and across regional South Australia.

Kangaroo Island Our Town Incorporated, Kingscote SA

Island Circus, Magic and Arts

\$25,000.00

A dynamic youth-focused arts initiative developed on Kangaroo Island, blending circus, magic and creativity to inspire skill-building and community connection. The program will offer hands-on workshops, creative development and performances designed to spark collaboration across local music and arts events.

Nharangga Warra, Moonta Bay SA

Winda the Owl: Stories in Fire and Lanterns

\$30,000.00

A community event will bring to life the Nharangga story of Winda the Owl through fire, lanterns and storytelling. Held on Country and guided by Narungga Elders, this immersive experience invites participants to gather and share in cultural knowledge, language and connection. Handcrafted lanterns inspired by the Winda Dreaming Story will illuminate the night, accompanied by a powerful soundscape.

Tasmania

Session Players Tasmania Inc, Acton TAS

2026 Deloraine Celtic Music School

\$3,900.00

Session Players Tasmania will present the 2026 Deloraine Celtic Music School that brings together a music community focused on learning and playing traditional Irish music. Presented by outstanding Irish music tutors, it incorporates performance and tuition culminating in the Tutors Concert and a Ceili (bush dance) for participants and community to share another healthy, fun side to Irish music that is suitable for all ages.

Folk Federation of Tasmania—Miena Seisiun sub-group, West Moonah TAS

Miena Seisiun 2026

\$4,300.00

Folk Federation of Tasmania will present the 2026 Miena Seisiun to provide an opportunity for players of traditional Celtic music from across Tasmania to meet and play together, and to provide an enjoyable concert and dance experience for the regional community.

Tasdance, Launceston TAS

THE INFLUENCER NORTHWEST EXCHANGE

\$30,000.00

The INFLUENCER Northwest Exchange, Tasdance will bring Kyall Shanks' INFLUENCER to regional Tasmania; Burnie, Stanley and King Island, pairing it with locally created performances. Through workshops, open classes, and shared stages, the program deepens community connection, celebrates regional creativity, and expands access to exceptional contemporary dance.

Junction Arts Festival, Launceston TAS

Awakening Ceremony: Return of the Fire

\$30,000.00

As part of a long-term partnership Junction Arts Festival will present The Awakening Ceremony: Return of the Fire, a vibrant ceremony led by Palawa practitioner Nathan Pitchford. It draws upon a process of significant artistic learnings and creative methodologies, progressing at a pace and in an environment that honours his vision. This event is a significant component of the 2026 Festival that will include several performance opportunities and a greater community engagement woven into the project design.

Nunami Sculthorpe-Green, Kingston Beach TAS

rayakana milaythina (Song of Country)

\$16,139.26

rayakana milaythina is a two-year project exploring the Palawa cultural relationship with the cycles of Country. Guided by the seasons, Nunami Sculthorpe-Green will create a series of wind chime sound installations across Lutruwita/Tasmania. Made from clay, imprinted with textures from Country and glazed with locally harvested rock, clay and ash from harvested native plants, the chimes will carry the marks of Country. Over the next two years, the artist will undertake a series of residencies to harvest and create the chimes, installing them for the opening of Ten Days on the Island festival in 2027.

Mudlark Theatre Inc., Launceston TAS

Mudlark Theatre: Regional Theatre-Makers Development Program

\$29,600.00

Mudlark Theatre, in collaboration with Theatre North, will launch the inaugural Regional Theatre-Makers Program in 2026. A year-long development initiative connecting Tasmanian artists with nationally acclaimed playwrights, theatre-makers and industry leaders. Participants will develop the tools to create bold new work, build sustainable pathways through to production, and forge national networks.

Jack McLaine, East Launceston TAS

Creation of a new body of work for Tasmanian Electronic Duo Sumner

\$7,500.00

Chloe Wilson and Jack McLaine will write, record and produce 5 new songs for their electronic project Sumner. The project includes pre-production, song writing and one week of focused creative work—captured by a professional videographer against the landscapes of Lutruwita/Tasmania's West Coast—and one week of post-production.

Emily Doi, Dynnyrne TAS

エミエミ (emi emi) Debut EP Release and Launch Show

\$7,500.00

Japanese-Australian musician Emi Doi will release her debut 6 track EP for her project emi (エミエミ). Blending J-pop and contemporary electronic influences, the EP will be rolled out over 5 months in early 2026, with 2 singles leading into the EP culminating in a launch show at Moonah Arts Centre.

Victoria

Mansfield Cultural Heritage and Arts Centre, Mansfield VIC

Tracks Through Time

\$11,566.75

This Shire-led community-based project will see the creation of a ceramic mural on the south wall of the recently constructed Mansfield Heritage Museum. The work will link the globally significant local evidence of when animals first emerged from the sea 350 million years ago with the stories of the Taungurung people in the Mansfield valley and mountains, and those from the era of colonial settlement.

Ballarat Mechanics' Institute, Ballarat Central VIC

Stage Ready

\$22,946.00

In partnership with local community groups, Ballarat Mechanics' Institute will train emerging theatre technicians through hands-on workshops and mentored placements on live events. Participants will learn lighting, sound, rigging, and stage management while working alongside professionals on theatre, dance, and music productions, filling a local skills gap and building employment pathways.

Gelareh Pour, Black Hill VIC

The Red Vacuum

\$21,075.00

The Red Vacuum is a cross-artform performance work led by Ballarat based Iranian-Australian musician Gelareh Pour. Following a child's perspective of the Iran-Iraq War, it explores resilience and the lasting impact of war on children and communities. The creative team will refine visual, performative, and staging elements while deepening the music's integration with the evolving visuals to create a fully realised multisensory experience.

Shepparton Arts Festival, Shepparton VIC

Community-Connected Producer Program

\$30,000.00

Rooted in the cultural heritage of Yorta Yorta Country, Shepparton Arts Festival will lay the foundation for longer-term pathways by prioritising First Peoples-led programming. A local First Nations producer will be engaged to deliver two events during the festival supporting Indigenous artists and performers.

Michael Chew, Castlemaine VIC

Mapping Our Futures

\$16,000.00

In this project led by participatory designer and community-based creative practice researcher Dr Michael Chew, Castlemaine Library will be transformed into an interactive community futures hub through a large-scale wall map installation and targeted workshop program.

Beechworth Biennale Inc., Beechworth VIC

The Beechworth Biennale 2026

\$23,870.00

The 2026 Biennale will celebrate and reflect on the many characteristics of Beechworth, highlighting the town's unique architectural and natural features, and its many layers of history from First Nations perspectives to the Gold Rush, to an imagined potential future.

Yarragon Arts Council Inc., Yarragon South VIC

Yarragon Studio Events

\$28,300.00

Yarragon Studio, nestled in the foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges, will deliver a program allowing easy access to a variety of performances ranging from chamber music to the West Gippsland Concert Band (and its training band, The Greenhorns), to a youth music festival. In collaboration with hatted restaurants and top wine producers, this community hub embraces all cultural pursuits.

Find Your Voice Collective, Warrnambool VIC

Find Your Voice Collective presents 'Mad Dogs & Englishmen'—Live Concert

\$28,697.00

Warrnambool's Find Your Voice Collective will work with Colac's all-abilities Find Your Light Choir, and Lake Colac Specialist School through a series of inclusive workshops that alternately explore the creative process of song writing and the business of arts management. Culminating in a joint performance of "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" (Joe Cocker's repertoire) at the Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre.

Western Australia

City of Busselton, Busselton WA

Busstop

\$30,000.00

Busstop is a landmark theatre production developed with the Wardandi community, sharing their living history on stage for the first time. Premiering in March 2026, it features acclaimed Noongar artists Lynette Narkle and Kelton Pell. Busstop focuses on empowering regional artists through mentorships, technical training, and collaborative learning that will build long-term creative capacity, shaping the future of theatre in Southwest WA.

Martine Perret, Margaret River WA

Saltwater Women of the Midwest—Ebb and flow of personal stories

\$29,039.86

Saltwater Women is a multimedia exhibition sharing stories of ten women from Mid-West coastal towns, highlighting their deep ties to the sea. It includes mentorship for Indigenous artist Nicole Dickerson and a Shine Emerging Women student, guided by Martine Perret.

Daniel Christensen, Exmouth WA

Bluebone—tour of the South West WA

\$18,626.16

Exmouth band, Bluebone, will embark on a 10 show regional South West WA tour, in February 2026, to promote their album of original music, *Of Water and Dust*. The tour includes two DIY music production workshops in Margaret River, supporting regional arts development and career growth through exposure, networking, and skill-sharing in minimalistic, high-quality music creation.

Kimberley Arts Network, Broome WA

KAN Ceramics Studio Establishment

\$28,630.00

The Kimberley Arts Network will establish a Ceramics Studio Program to deliver high-quality, locally accessible ceramics experiences, while creating meaningful employment and creative development opportunities for regional arts workers.

Denmark Arts, Denmark WA

#32 Brave New Works Festival 2026

\$29,983.00

Brave New Works is WA's only experimental community arts festival, running for 32 years. Held annually in March in Denmark, it will support regional artists through 40+ activities and 300 participants in 2026.

Heloise Roberts, Margaret River WA

Between the Capes

\$3,000.00

Collaborative artists Heloise Roberts and Moira Fearby present *Between Two Capes* at the 2026 South West Biennial. Comprising 144 painted plywood tiles, the large-scale work links Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin. Using enamel and conte chalk, it explores memory, perception, and place.

Matthew Johnson, Serpentine WA

Sundown Nannup Festival Performance

\$5,686.00

Gascoyne-based band Sundown will travel to and perform at the 2026 Nannup Music Festival.

Goolarri Media Enterprises Pty Ltd, Broome WA

Because We're Blak theatre play

\$30,000.00

Because We're Blak is a bold new play by Nyul Nyul playwright Melody Dia, directed by Rachael Maza for Ilbijerri Theatre Company. Developed entirely in Broome, this 'blak dramedy' blends AV, sound, and visuals with a portable set. Premiering in May 2026 at Gimme venue, the play features a majority First Nations team and will tour to Fitzroy Crossing and Derby with performances and forums.

Waringarri Arts Aboriginal Corporation, Kununurra WA

Gelengajbenga-Woorr—Next Generations Project—Learning All Kinds of New Things

\$29,754.00

The Gelengajbenga-Woorr Project supports emerging artists at Waringarri Aboriginal Arts through cultural activities, creative workshops, and career development. The Learning All Kinds of New Things initiative offers dynamic workshops to engage and empower new and young artists in creative exploration.

Miss Chloe Flockart, Merredin WA

Glass Reef: Overseas professional development opportunity and presentation of first solo exhibition

\$24,356.97

Central Wheatbelt and South West artist Chloe Flockart will be mentored by renowned Irish glass artist Andrea Spencer to develop *Glass Reef*, her first solo exhibition in Busselton. Using recycled glass to create sculptural reef structures, Chloe will explore WA's fragile coral ecosystems.