

MEDIA RELEASE

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Five Regional Western Australian Art Projects Receive Federal Funding

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund will provide more than \$109,000 for regional Western Australian arts projects; this funding is managed in Western Australia by Country Arts WA.

Five arts projects will be delivered in regional and remote Western Australian locations in the Kimberley, South-West, Great Southern and Goldfields-Esperance regions.

These include an individual artist, supporting their creative development of a puppetry work in collaboration with local creatives; and four community-based projects that will provide opportunities for people to come together to develop skills, build creative career pathways, and to reflect on and share cultural knowledge, contributing to their regions' sustainable cultural development.

Paul MacPhail, Country Arts WA's Executive Director, says that the funding support will provide valuable opportunities for regional and remote communities to develop their skills-base and broaden engagement with the arts.

"The projects funded demonstrate the value of community involvement in the creative direction of arts projects - from providing an artistic pathway for at-risk youth in Southern Edge Arts' *RISK Youth Circus* to Goolarri Media's up-skilling and mentoring of artists and technicians to support the Kimberley region's performing arts industry."

A panel of arts and culture community leaders assessed the applications. Trish Barron, Chair of the Regional Arts Fund WA Panel says, "Regional WA has a thriving arts and culture sector which plays an important role in building strong and liveable communities, creating jobs and contributing to local economies. So, it was not surprising that there were a high number of quality applications to this round, making it very competitive and a difficult task for the Panel. The Panel commends all of the applicants for their ongoing commitment to the arts in regional WA and extends its congratulations to those successful applications, which met the criteria to a very high degree."

The Regional Arts Fund is one way the Australian Government supports regional artists and arts organisations to develop their artistic practice and produce works and experiences to benefit their local communities. The Regional Arts Fund is administered on behalf of the Australian Government by Regional Arts Australia and its member organisations which includes Country Arts WA.

Country Arts WA offers a variety of funding programs to support regional arts projects across Western Australia. For more information, visit www.countryartswa.asn.au or call regional freecall 1800 811 883.

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SUPPORT MATERIAL

PROJECT FUND SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Southern Edge Arts | \$24,950 | Great Southern

RISK Youth Circus

Southern Edge Arts will work with local Aboriginal artists and cultural advisors to offer circus training to at-risk youth and establish the Great Southern region's first Aboriginal circus troupe. *RISK Youth Circus* aims to support Aboriginal youth who are at risk of disengaging from school and provide an artistic pathway with weekly classes throughout the year.

Waringarri Aboriginal Arts | \$28,400 | Kimberley

Dawang Stories

Dawang Stories will support local artists to develop their practice beyond a technical-based approach, to one focused on building conceptual frameworks that reflect on Indigenous storytelling and knowledge transfer. The project will provide opportunities for multi-disciplinary cultural expression and artists will be supported to craft strong cultural narratives by working with experienced curators, designers & facilitators.

Ms Sky River | \$15,000 | South West

Bird Wings and Puppet Strings

Bird Wings and Puppet Strings is an original puppet-based project aimed at promoting positive environmental awareness through puppetry, storytelling, film and music. Puppeteer Sky River will collaborate with a local filmmaker, set designer and musician, and local performers in the creative development of the puppetry production. The project will culminate in a performance in Margaret River.

Goolarri Media Enterprises | \$14,450 | Kimberley

Lights, Camera, Action!

Lights, Camera, Action! is a series of professionally tailored workshops and mentoring sessions to develop the skills, knowledge and business acumen of emerging and young artists and technicians who are seeking career paths in music and artistic event production. These workshops will up-skill participants within the Kimberley performing arts industry, leading to concrete employment pathways and careers for local, regional and remote participants.

Esperance Community Arts | \$26,651 | Goldfields-Esperance

Nyungar Boodja: Welcome to Country Mural Project

Esperance Community Arts will work with the families of the Traditional Owners in the Esperance region to design and develop four murals celebrating Nyungar land and culture and providing a visual Welcome to Country in the Esperance CBD. The project will create opportunities for local regional artists and young people to acquire new skills and share cultural knowledge through a series of four community workshops.

About Country Arts WA

Country Arts WA is an independent not-for-profit organisation governed by regional membership. We are the only Western Australian arts body with a purely regional focus. We build the creativity, connection and capacity of regional communities to further develop WA's regional arts sector around key outcomes of diversity, sustainability, relevance, and celebration.

Our services to the regional arts sector include investment and advice to produce and present projects; the development of programs and strategies to encourage growth; the communication of strong, positive storytelling; and the networking of regional hubs and leadership programs across the state. www.countryartswa.asn.au

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund is provided through Regional Arts Australia.



Australian Government

Regional Arts Fund