

MEDIA RELEASE

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Minderoo and The Ian Potter Foundation join forces to connect creative communities across regional WA

Country Arts WA is excited to announce new partnerships with Minderoo and The Ian Potter Foundation, with a total investment of \$1 million over 4 years, to connect communities through a Regional Arts Network across Western Australia.

A Regional Arts Network of Hubs across the state will connect regional artists, audiences and arts workers to enable better service delivery, improved communications, increased local decision making and more integrated and coordinated sector planning.

The new partnerships will expand on the work of Country Arts WA's pilot program which started in 2017. Delivery of the Regional Arts Network will be accelerated through the employment of regional hub coordinators and the delivery of a Local Leadership program to communities.

Paul MacPhail, Chief Executive Officer of Country Arts WA, praised Minderoo and The Ian Potter Foundation for their foresight and strong commitment to regional communities and arts and culture in WA, "We sincerely thank Minderoo and The Ian Potter Foundation for their commitment in advancing regional arts and culture. The Western Australian regional arts sector has consistently told us of their need to feel more connected to each other, share more knowledge and build the capacity of local leaders. The partnerships will support us in meeting these needs as well as strengthen collaborations across the regions."

Nicola Forrest, Director of the Minderoo Foundation, says Minderoo is excited about the partnership to build further capacity in WA, "We're thrilled to be partnering with Country Arts WA and supporting its Regional Arts Network across the state. We're excited by the initiative's goal to build capacity in WA through its network of hubs and leadership training as we believe greater arts engagement in regional centres will benefit all West Australians."

Mr Charles Goode AC, Chair of The Ian Potter Foundation, agrees this partnership will see greater support and engagement in communities, "The Foundation is pleased to support Country Arts WA in the state-wide expansion of their program to develop the capacity of regional arts practitioners. These community-led initiatives will ensure sustained support of regional arts and greater engagement with their communities."

To find out more about the Regional Arts Network, please head to www.countryartswa.asn.au

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Media contact:

Weng-Si Cheang – Program Manager, Country Arts WA

P: 08 9200 6202 | Regional Freecall 1800 811 883 | E: wcheang@countryartswa.asn.au

SUPPORT MATERIALS**About the Regional Arts Network****What is the Regional Arts Network?**

Regional Arts Network is a model of two interconnecting programs that are the complementary Hubs and Local Leadership Programs.

What are the Hubs?

The vision is of a Regional Arts Network of 22 Hubs by 2023, connecting regional artists, audiences and arts workers to enable better service delivery, improved communications, increased local decision making and more integrated and coordinated planning. This is a holistic approach to supporting access to arts across our expansive state. It will build a sustainable and thriving ecosystem of connected, creative communities.

Hubs will each serve a geographic region, breaking the State into manageable sites related to area, population and local government boundaries. An Expression of Interest process will identify regional organisations ready to enter into multi-year service agreements as Hubs. These agreements provide both money and access to our support and mentoring, in return for them undertaking a list of services, including:

- Employment of coordinators
- Facilitating local conversations and forums
- Mapping community assets and opportunities
- Promoting local success stories
- Coordinating capacity and skill workshops
- Developing partnerships with Local Government authorities
- Collating important stories and data from across the community

What is the Local Leadership Program?

To support the Hubs, the Local Leadership program is delivered alongside to facilitate a culture of self-led leadership, collaborative leadership and community led contribution. It involves:

- 16 – 24 community arts leaders attending three 2-day workshops
- Attendees receiving group and one-on-one coaching sessions over a 12 month period
- Cultivating and growing arts and culture activities
- Creating a network of local leaders to expand capacity, creativity and local connection

Why do we need a Regional Arts Network?

The Western Australian regional arts sector consistently tells Country Arts WA of their need to be more connected to each other, share more knowledge and build the capacity of local leaders.

The Regional Arts Network aims to meet the identified needs and achieve the following goals:

- A minimum of two self-sustaining Hubs in each of the nine regional divisions of WA
- Sufficiently skilled and confident regional people to deliver high quality local, inter and intra-regional projects
- A more sustainable and coordinated approach to regional arts activity in Western Australia

About Country Arts WA

Established in 1994, Country Arts WA is the State's only multi-arts organisation with a purely regional focus. As an independent, membership-based, not-for-profit organisation our purpose is to celebrate and strengthen a powerful regional arts sector to contribute to connected and creative regional communities. www.countryartswa.asn.au

About Minderoo Foundation

Minderoo Foundation is a modern philanthropic organisation that takes on tough, persistent issues with the potential to drive massive change. Minderoo is independent, forward thinking and seeks effective, scalable solutions. The Foundation is proudly Australian, and one of Asia's largest philanthropies, with AUD \$1.5 billion committed to a range of global initiatives. Our team comprises over 75 employees across seven locations.

About The Ian Potter Foundation

The Ian Potter Foundation is one of Australia's major philanthropic foundations. The Foundation makes grants nationally to support charitable organisations working to benefit the community across a wide range of sectors including the arts, environment, science, medical research, health, education and community wellbeing. The Ian Potter Foundation aims to support and promote a vibrant, healthy, fair and sustainable Australia.