

Guidelines

REGIONAL ARTS SECTOR INVESTMENT

The Regional Arts Sector Investment (RASI) program supports regional Western Australian arts and cultural organisations. Funding recipients will be determined through an open and competitive funding round, providing funding of up to \$60,000 per annum for a period of 2.5 years*.

The fund is open to not-for-profit regional organisations who deliver a program of arts activities to their community.

The purpose of this fund is to invest in a number of organisations across the state who collectively:

- Create, present or support quality and diverse arts and cultural experiences for regional Western Australian communities
- Support the development of the regional arts sector
- Contribute to the economy of the regional arts sector through employing professional regional artists and arts workers

Please read through the guidelines and ensure you speak to the Project Officer before applying.

Key dates

Online applications will open via SmartyGrants on Monday 11 May 2020. The Project Officer will be available from that time to assist in the process.

Regional Arts Sector Investment applications will close 5pm, Friday 31 July 2020.

The contractual period is 1 January 2021 until 30 June 2023*.

The Project Officer may provide feedback on one draft per applicant if requested at least three weeks prior to the closing date.

Who can apply

The Regional Arts Sector Investment supports arts and cultural organisations that are:

- Not-for-profit organisations
- Based in regional Western Australia (as determined by the [Development Commission boundaries](#))
- Have formal governance and operational infrastructure
- Legally incorporated and have an ABN registered to a regional address
- Have annual financial budgeting processes and reporting systems with accounts independently audited annually (or be prepared to undertake annual audits)

The fund has a priority focus on organisations whose primary purpose is the promotion and engagement of arts and culture in their community. However, it is recognised some regional communities are served by non-arts not-for-profit organisations. These organisations are eligible to apply if they can separately present programs that deliver arts and cultural outcomes.

Who cannot apply

- Local Government Authorities
- Individuals and for-profit organisations
- Organisations not based in regional WA (as determined by the [Development Commission boundaries](#))
- Organisations with ABN's not registered to a regional address
- Organisations funded through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Arts Organisations Investment Program
- Unincorporated organisations
- Academic, training institutions and schools
- Organisations whose primary focus is the delivery of competitions, awards or fundraising activities
- Professionally managed venues operated by LGA or High Capacity Performing Arts Venues as identified in [Circuitwest Touring Strategy](#)
- Organisations which have outstanding acquittals with Regional Arts WA or the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

How much can you apply for

Funding is available up to \$60,000 per annum for 2.5 years (January 2021 – June 2023), to a maximum total of \$150,000.

Regional Arts WA has a total of \$1,373,344 to distribute across the entire program.

As an example, this is a possible scenario for distribution. Hence, organisations need to consider their budgets and apply for what they need, rather than the top amount because it is available.

Example request p/a	Total request amount*	Example no. orgs supported	Example allocated total
\$60,000	\$150,000	3	\$450,000
\$45,000	\$112,500	3	\$337,500
\$35,000	\$87,500	3	\$262,500
\$25,000	\$62,500	3	\$187,500
\$15,000	\$37,500	3	\$112,500
			\$1,350,000

Regional spread of funding will be a consideration, as well as limiting funding per community to a total of \$60,000 per annum.

Only organisations who have received a minimum \$20,000 from Regional Arts WA consecutively for the last three years (over the period of January 2017 until December 2019) are able to apply for the full amount. The Panel will assess applications asking for higher amounts to meet the criteria to a higher degree.

Only organisations with a Strategic Plan can apply for \$25,000 and above.

It is expected organisation asking for above \$45,000 per year can demonstrate Reserve Ratios of at least 20%.

Funding should represent no more than 20% of an organisation's annual (arts) turnover.

Applicants should note funding through this program is intended to supplement, rather than replace existing sources of funding or revenue. Accordingly, organisations must demonstrate funding from local government or other sources will be maintained at a level consistent with the preceding two financial years (i.e. 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019).

Organisations in receipt of funding through other streams of the Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program (i.e. In The House), must clearly identify this income in their budget and ensure RASI funding is not going towards the same components (i.e. cannot fund same staff member or both offset rental costs). This is to ensure Target Outputs can be easily measured.

What you can apply for

- This funding is intended to fund operational expenses and employment costs. This can include arts worker or artist salaries, as well as administration costs such as rent, power, governance, software subscriptions, telecommunications and insurance. Capital purchases up to \$2,000 will be considered if they support operations and employment.
- Some program/project costs may be covered if the organisation determines this is the best use of these funds; however, it is important to note that there are other grants available which support project costs.

What you cannot apply for

- Programs which principally benefit metropolitan locations or areas outside of regional WA.
- Capital works such as construction or purchasing of studios, workspaces or gallery spaces.

Assessment Criteria

Your application will be assessed by the Regional Arts WA Panel against the following criteria. The Panel is made up of peers who are active in their own regional communities in arts and cultural activities and have experience across a range of art-forms.

Organisational

The extent to which your organisation:

- Demonstrates strong strategic intent through sustainable business planning and appropriate structure
- Has skilled staff and board through the experience of the people leading and governing your organisation
- Generates employment for regional arts workers and artists
- Demonstrates sound financial responsibility through previous annual audited accounts, budgeting/forecasting, and financial health of the organisation
- Generates a diversity of funding from earned income, other organisations, and local governments

Artistic

The extent to which your organisation and the work it produces, presents or services:

- Is of artistic merit
- Is well regarded within the local or state context
- Encourages artistic and/or audience development
- Employs professional artists for appropriate arts outcomes
- Generates employment and development of regional artists
- Respects culture and tradition and/or is unique in Western Australia

Community

The extent to which your organisation and the work it produces, presents or services:

- Develops partnerships with local government, community organisations, and relevant arts bodies
- Engages, collaborates, and consults with the community
- Encourages diversity of engagement and programming
- Reflects the local identity through a structured arts and culture program that is locally relevant and reflects the community
- Advocates to and for the local and regional arts sector

Note: The Project Officer will also supply the Panel with information relating to an applicant's funding history with Regional Arts WA and previous reporting and acquittals.

Support Material

You must submit support material with your application to help the Panel better assess against the criteria.

- Strategic Plan or answer questions related to strategic intent
- Target Outputs (if not included in Strategic Plan)
- 2021 – 2023 Budget (note: this funding can only represent a max. of 20% of total organisational income)
- Audited Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss statements from the last two financial years (i.e. Jan-Dec 2018 & 2019 or July-June 2018 & July-June 2019)
- Letters of Support

You may submit other support material to amplify your application. If you need advice on what type of support material to submit, please contact the Project Officer.

How to apply

Applications open Monday 11 May 2020.

Applications are to be submitted online through SmartyGrants. You can log in or register with SmartyGrants via the link on the Regional Arts WA website or here:

<https://regionalartswa.smartygrants.com.au/>

Before starting an application, please contact the Regional Arts WA Project Officer.

Successful applications

Applicants that are successful will be required to complete interim reports and a final acquittal, with funding payments for years 2 and 3 paid on the receipt a satisfactory report. All reporting will be submitted via SmartyGrants.

Regional Arts WA contact details

Phone 08 9200 6200

Freecall 1800 811 883

<http://www.regionalartswa.org.au>

Acknowledgements

The Regional Arts Sector Investment funding is provided through the Regional Arts and Culture Investment Program with support of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, with Royalties for Regions funding from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The purpose of the program is creating jobs, economic development, tourism and improving social cohesion by supporting the creative and cultural industries in regional Western Australia. Through strategic investments, the program aims to build capacity in the regions and contribute to liveability and vibrancy of regional communities.



Department of **Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries**

Department of **Primary Industries and Regional Development**