

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 15 October 2019

LOCAL COMMUNITIES DRIVING REGIONAL HUBS INITIATIVE

Five diverse organisations will be leading Regional Arts WA's Regional Arts Network initiative as they re-imagine how arts services are delivered to their local communities across regional and remote Western Australia.

The Regional Arts Network of Hubs is proudly supported by the Minderoo Foundation and The Ian Potter Foundation, and with funding from the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund. The four year investment provides each Hub with an initial one-year investment to employ a local Hub Coordinator to lead conversations with their communities to support local arts and culture outcomes and activate a state-wide network.

The program's Expression of Interests (EOI) were reviewed by a panel of regional community leaders. Out of the 11 EOIs received, five organisations were selected to become a Hub; ArtGold (Goldfields-Esperance), Creative Corner (South West), North Midlands Project (Mid West), Ravensthorpe Regional Arts Council (Goldfields-Esperance), and The Junction Co. (Pilbara).

Regional Arts WA CEO Paul MacPhail says he is excited to see this program attract a diverse range of organisations.

"We know each region has its diverse communities, imperatives, cultural requirements and challenges. This is reflected in the five organisations selected by the panel to be part of the Regional Arts Network. Each organisation is uniquely positioned in their community to meet local needs."

The recently selected Hubs are also thrilled and say they are invested in/committed to coordinating a network within their communities to drive local decision making.

Artgold Chair John Matthew says, "The Regional Arts Network initiative will provide benefits beyond our current reach and capabilities. It will increase the exposure of our good news stories documenting our creativity, innovation, collaboration and success born and nurtured here in the Goldfields. Having the resources to be able to employ another person in the Goldfields creative industries is a boost to industry diversification. It will not only provide practical support for artists and arts workers within the region but have them connected to a state-wide network.

Creative Corner Acting Chair Mat Lewis says, "Creative Corner is extremely proud to be selected to continue as a regional arts hub. The Creative Corner places enormous value in the partnership with Regional Arts WA over the years, which strengthens the support for the Creative sectors across the region. This will provide significant opportunities to develop collaboration across the state."

North Midlands Project Co-Chairs Jane King and Andrew Bowman-Bright say, "North Midlands Project is looking forward to being part of this sector-wide initiative. We're excited to expand our work in connecting artists, arts workers and the community to build strong outcomes for regional Western Australia. Our many thanks to Regional Arts WA, the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, The Ian Potter Foundation and the Minderoo Foundation."

Ravensthorpe Regional Arts Council's Chair Ainsley Foulds says, "The Ravensthorpe Regional Arts Council is excited to be selected to be part of the Regional Arts WA Network of Hubs. Connection is what helps communities to thrive, we are looking forward to further establishing considered networks, researching interregional goals, mapping community assets, resources and artists and deepening connections."

The Junction Co. Chair Miranda Cecich says, "The Junction Co. team is incredibly excited to form a new partnership with Regional Arts WA, to establish the Port Hedland Courthouse Gallery+Studio as a Hub for the Pilbara region. This is an opportunity for regional creatives, those from Newman to Warralong, Coassack to Dampier, Hedland and Tom Price, to connect and network with other creatives, industry, schools and those wanting to engage with regional arts and culture. The Junction Co.'s vision to engage, grow and empower regional creatives is significantly supported through the partnership with Regional Arts WA. "

To find out more about the Regional Arts Network, please head to

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

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Australian Government
Regional Arts Fund



SUPPORTING MATERIAL

SUCCESSFUL HUBS

Artgold

Artgold, formally Arts & Culture Goldfields Association, exists to serve and promote arts organisations, upcoming events and individual artists working in the Goldfields. The association aims to raise the profile of all arts genres by actively promoting and supporting arts activities in the wider community. www.artgold.net.au

Creative Corner

The Creative Corner is the peak body for the creative sector in the South West region of WA, connecting people, businesses, services and events with each other and with creative opportunities within and outside the region. <https://www.thecreativecorner.com.au/>

The Junction Co.

The Junction Co. was founded in 2018, by ten Pilbara-based small business owners who wanted to sell their artisan wares via a new pop-up retail platform, while also providing a workshop program to share their handmade skills with the community. Since its inception, The Junction Co. have evolved and have established as an arts not-for-profit organisation, with a clear vision to engage, grow and empower regional creative industries. The Junction Co.'s mission is to advocate and connect regional creatives with workspace, learning opportunities and networks, to uplift their endeavours and create an environment which both local community and creatives can support each other. To achieve their mission, their strategic priorities focus on connecting communities, enhancing artistic excellence and developing creative. www.thejunctionco.com.au
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North Midlands Project

North Midlands Project is a not-for-profit organisation working to strengthen regional communities through high-quality and engaging arts, culture and heritage experiences. The organisation is based in both Carnamah and Geraldton and delivers arts-based activities across the six regional shires of the North Midlands (Carnamah, Coorow, Mingenew, Morawa, Perenjori and Three Springs) and across the City of Greater Geraldton. www.northmidlands.org.au

Ravensthorpe Regional Arts Council

Situated in the remote rural Shire of Ravensthorpe, the Ravensthorpe Regional Arts Council (RRAC) is a volunteer based incorporated organisation that provides a diverse and adventurous arts program of events throughout and beyond the region. Through artistic activity RRAC builds community cohesion, identity and inclusiveness.

ABOUT REGIONAL ARTS WA

Established in 1994, Regional Arts WA (formally 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.regionalartswa.org.au

ABOUT THE REGIONAL ARTS FUND

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote communities. This program is managed by Regional Arts Australia and, in Western Australia, by Regional Arts WA. The program provides funding for grants, including quick response and community grants for arts projects, professional development for artists and arts workers, and community capacity building projects.

www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/regional-arts-fund

ABOUT THE MINDEROO FOUNDATION

The 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.

www.minderoo.com.au/

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.

www.ianpotter.org.au/