

## MEDIA RELEASE

22 October 2020

### Long-term arts and culture investment of \$1.52M will strengthen regional communities

*\$1.52 million will be injected into sixteen arts and culture organisations' annual initiatives in regional Western Australia across the next 2.5 years through the Regional Arts Sector Investment program.*

The Regional Arts Sector Investment (RASI) program is funded by the State Government and is delivered by Regional Arts WA.

This long-term arts and culture investment will deliver annual initiatives and events, local employment in arts and culture organisations, and boost jobs for professional artists and artworkers delivering creative projects within regional WA communities.

For example:

- **Wilurarra Creative** (Goldfields-Esperance) will receive \$102,836 over 2.5 years to support the creative aspirations of Ngaanyatjarra young adults by recognising strength, building capacity and providing resources. The RASI funding will be used to employ four young people as part of Wilurarra Creative's program which is self-determined by Ngaanyatjarra people and includes music, Wilurarra Mangka (hair) salon projects, digital inclusion projects and publications including their highly acclaimed Alanya project.
- **The Junction Co.** (Pilbara) will receive \$112,500 over 2.5 years to build the capacity of Pilbara artists to succeed in creative enterprise while also delivering a program that will strengthen Pilbara's liveability and connectedness. The RASI funding will support the new role of Pilbara Arts Co-ordinator who will strengthen the organisation's reach across Port Hedland, Newman, Tom Price, Karratha and Onslow.
- **Arts Narrogin** (Wheatbelt) will receive \$88,000 over 2.5 years to support and promote art, culture and entertainment in Narrogin and Dryandra Country region. RASI funding will be used to continue the employment of a part-time Manager who then leverages additional resources to deliver a strategic program that focuses on community connection and belonging; the creativity of local artists and strengthening audience engagement.

A panel of arts and culture community leaders assessed the RASI applications with Alison Dalziel as their Chair. Alison was keen to stress the importance of stimulating activity and investment across a broad range of regional arts practice and organisations.

“The contribution of culture and arts to liveable and thriving communities can't be overstated. The successful organisations enable regional communities across WA to access outstanding arts experiences, via an array of artforms including Aboriginal culture, youth theatre, music, circus and visual arts.”

The full list of Regional Arts Sector Investment (RASI) recipients:

- Wilurarra Creative (Goldfields Esperance), \$102,836 over 2.5 years
- Theatre Kimberley Inc. (Kimberley), \$150,000 over 2.5 years
- The Junction Co. (Pilbara), \$112,500 over 2.5 years
- The Cannery Arts Centre (Goldfields Esperance), \$62,500 over 2.5 years
- Southern Forest Arts (South West), \$61,494 over 2.5 years
- Southern Edge Arts (Great Southern), \$87,500 over 2.5 years
- Ravensthorpe Regional Arts Council (Goldfields Esperance), \$87,500 over 2.5 years
- North Midlands Project (Mid West), \$110,000 over 2.5 years
- Ku'arlu Mangga (Mid West), \$112,500 over 2.5 years
- Gascoyne in May Inc. (Gascoyne), \$87,500 over 2.5 years
- Esperance Community Arts (Goldfields Esperance), \$87,500 over 2.5 years
- Denmark Arts (Great Southern), \$150,000 over 2.5 years
- Beverley Station Arts (Wheatbelt), \$37,500 over 2.5 years
- ArtSouth WA (Great Southern), \$37,500 over 2.5 years
- Arts Narrogin (Wheatbelt), \$88,000 over 2.5 years
- \*Arts and Culture Christmas Island (Indian Ocean Territories), \$150,000 over 2.5 years

The program is supported with funding from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Royalties for Regions funded Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program.

*\*Additional support from the Australia Government's Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities has been directed to support the Indian Ocean Territories with a separate Federal government allocation to enable funding for Arts and Culture Christmas Island.*

End.

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## SUPPORT MATERIAL

### Regional Arts Sector Investment Recipients

#### **Arts and Culture Christmas Island (Indian Ocean Territories), \$150,000 over 2.5 years**

Arts and Culture Christmas Island (ACCI) is a not for profit, artistic and cultural organisation, which values and supports creativity within the Christmas Island community. ACCI runs a yearly calendar of programs and events that recognises and promotes the talents, expertise and cultural diversity of the Christmas Island community.

#### **Arts Narrogin (Wheatbelt), \$88,000 over 2.5 years**

Arts Narrogin Incorporated is a volunteer-led, not-for-profit association that supports and promotes art, culture and entertainment in Narrogin and Dryandra Country region. The organisation aims to enliven the region in many ways including presenting exhibitions, workshops, and live performances; supporting artists through networking opportunities, promotion, skills development and training; and advocacy for arts and culture.

#### **ArtSouth WA (Great Southern), \$37,500 over 2.5 years**

ArtSouthWA is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation, run by a committee of volunteers and contracted personnel. It promotes a diverse range of visual arts and crafts within the Greater Southern region of WA. They support and promote members which include regionally based art galleries, practitioners and arts organisations. A professional development program culminates in the annual Southern Art and Craft Trail.

#### **Beverley Station Arts (Wheatbelt), \$37,500 over 2.5 years**

Beverley Station Arts manages Beverley Station Gallery and Platform Theatre, a vibrant, site of civic and cultural expression, enriching lives within the community and improving employment opportunities and development of regional artists. BSA present outdoor community events including a performing arts season from September to April, Easter Markets. They also present the annual Beverley Art Prize amidst numerous exhibitions and workshops.

#### **Denmark Arts (Great Southern), \$150,000 over 2.5 years**

Denmark Arts has grown over 35 years and plays a critical role in the Great Southern region of WA, fostering positive arts experiences and promoting the value of regional arts. They lead, support and collaborate with artists to take creative risks and produce ambitious multi-artform works, festivals and events which are responsive to and assist in envisioning a unique cultural and geographic identity.

#### **Esperance Community Arts (Goldfields Esperance), \$87,500 over 2.5 years**

Esperance Community Arts (Inc) has sourced funds and delivered arts-based projects within its region for over 20 years. They operate within a Community Arts and Cultural Development framework, engaging professional artists and artworkers and prioritising collaborative projects identified by community partners. ECA focus on building local capacity, creating community connections and telling local stories.

#### **Gascoyne in May Inc. (Gascoyne), \$87,500 over 2.5 years**

Gascoyne in May Inc creates inter-disciplinary art projects customised in response to local initiatives. They deliver a program within a framework which utilises situation-based training for residents; creative and professional developments for local artists; and cross-cultural collaborations

between community members, artists and stakeholders. They deliver internships and mentorships for all ages.

**Ku'arlu Mangga (Mid West), \$112,500 over 2.5 years**

Ku'arlu Mangga is an Aboriginal organisation established to retain the Old Northampton School facility as a hub for the Aboriginal community. They provide Aboriginal led intergenerational arts and culture programs that include collaborative art installations, major public art commissions, exhibitions and cultural performances. Ku'arlu Mangga engage with regional artists in professional development with local Aboriginal artists who in turn provide art and culture programs for young people and families.

**North Midlands Project (Mid West), \$110,000 over 2.5 years**

North Midlands Project is a not-for-profit arts, culture, history and heritage organisation working towards regional Western Australia to be known for its happy, healthy communities and vibrant, connected towns. They operate across the southern portion of Western Australia's enormous Mid West region. Formed in 2015, they deliver activities in Carnamah, Coorow, Mingenew, Morawa, Perenjori and Three Springs (collectively known as the North Midlands) and in the City of Greater Geraldton.

**Ravensthorpe Regional Arts Council (Goldfields Esperance), \$87,500 over 2.5 years**

Ravensthorpe Regional Arts Council (RRAC) is the peak arts and cultural body within the Shire of Ravensthorpe responsible for delivering a diverse annual program of artistic activities, capacity building and employment opportunities. Operating for more than 30 years, RRAC partners with a diverse range of community groups to deliver artistic activities that enrich the liveability of the region. Their program also supports community participation in the Shires of Jerramungup and Lake Grace.

**Southern Edge Arts (Great Southern), \$87,500 over 2.5 years**

Southern Edge Arts (SEA) plays a pivotal role in the Albany community by providing young and emerging artists with opportunities to grow through a program of arts workshops, performances and skills development in circus and theatre arts. SEA's work spans nearly 40 years and has produced a diaspora of alumni that can be identified throughout the Australian arts sector both nationally and internationally.

**Southern Forest Arts (South West), \$61,494 over 2.5 years**

Southern Forest Arts is an artist-led, value-based, outcome-driven membership organisation, based in Northcliffe in WA's South-West. Its primary role is the development, support and promotion of diverse and meaningful arts and cultural experiences within the Southern Forests region. SFA also serve the broader regional WA arts sector as a coordinator of intra-regional collaborative initiatives.

**The Cannery Arts Centre (Goldfields Esperance), \$62,500 over 2.5 years**

Formed in 1979, the Cannery Arts Centre (the Cannery) is an arts organisation that contributes to community wellbeing and cultural vibrancy of the Esperance region. They provide employment opportunities to regional artists, foster new and emerging artists and support established arts practitioners. Located in the heritage listed Hunts Canning Factory, the Cannery houses an exhibition venue, art studio, office and meeting-room/bar.

### **The Junction Co. (Pilbara), \$112,500 over 2.5 years**

Formed in 2018, The Junction Co. is an arts organisation with a vision to engage, grow and empower regional creative industries. They advocate for and connect regional creatives with workspace, learning opportunities and networks, and create an environment where the community and creatives can support one another. Their program seeks to strengthen Pilbara liveability and connectedness by delivering programs which build community belonging, a sense of place, and provide an economic contribution to the community.

### **Theatre Kimberley Inc (Kimberley), \$150,000 over 2.5 years**

Theatre Kimberley (TK) is based in Broome, WA. TK works with all ages and cultures across the Kimberley region to support thriving, creative and connected communities. For over 20 years, TK has created performing arts opportunities and productions that connect local people to professional artists. They focus on bringing local Kimberley stories to life in creative and diverse ways.

### **Wilurarra Creative (Goldfields Esperance), \$102,836 over 2.5 years**

Wilurarra Creative is located in the very remote Mirirrtjarra (Warburton) Community, Ngaanyatjarra Lands, WA. Since 2004, Wilurarra Creative has developed a Community Arts and Cultural Development framework that is 'right-way' for Ngaanyatjarra communities; featuring long-term, intergenerational and cross-cultural approach to skills development and learning that fosters unprecedented community 'ownership'. Wilurarra delivers a diverse range of community-driven activities and creative programs, co-created with 16-30 year old Ngaanyatjarra people.

## **About Regional Arts and Culture Investment Program**

The Regional Arts and Culture Investment Program will deliver \$18.9 million over four years to regional WA. Through strategic investments, it will build capacity in the regions and contribute to liveability and vibrancy of regional communities. This program will deliver on State Government Priorities: Sharing Prosperity to strengthen economies, create jobs and nurture prosperity in the regions.

## **About Regional Arts WA**

Established in 1994, Regional Arts WA (formerly 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. More at: [www.regionalartswa.org.au](http://www.regionalartswa.org.au)