

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ten Regional Western Australian Artists and Organisations Recover from COVID-19 with Federal Funding

Ten regional Western Australian creative projects will receive an investment of \$247,387 through the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund (RAF) Recovery Boost; a funding initiative managed in Western Australia by Regional Arts WA.

The RAF Recovery grant round will support the delivery of creative projects that will assist regional WA communities in their recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. The funding will provide local artists and organisations with positive medium-term recovery opportunities to develop inter-regional collaborations, build community skills and provide valuable spaces for the community to engage with the arts.

The recipients are:

- **Arts Margaret River | \$30,000 | Margaret River – South West**
Margaret River Reader and Writers Festival 2021: The Margaret River Readers and Writers Festival will feature more than 50 of Australia's best writers, speakers, thinkers, journalists and novelists. The festival is set to take place at the Margaret River HEART in May 2021. Recovery funding will be used to enhance the capacity for social connection at the event, in an effort to aid social connection post-COVID.
- **Bunbury Fringe | \$30,000 | Bunbury – South West**
Bunbury Fringe 2021: The 2021 Bunbury Fringe will present exclusively West Australian artists, creating a program of 30 performances and projects in the Fringe Hub. In both the medium and long term, driven by the changes brought about by COVID-19, Bunbury Fringe will be instrumental in developing works that can be presented beyond this festival in regional and national spaces.
- **Christopher Young | \$29,089 | Margaret River – South West**
Careful: Christopher Young will collaborate with musicians and actors to develop a highly engaging virtual reality experience for aged care residents in the South West, assisting them to reconnect with their communities after the isolation created by COVID-19.
- **Mara Arts Aboriginal Corporation | \$29,000 | Geraldton – Mid West**
Ngatha Wangga: The Yamaji Language, Dance and Song Project: Mara Arts Aboriginal Corporation will develop resources for community engagement and empowerment of the wider Yamaji communities, to assist in the revival and maintenance of Yamaji languages through the

delivery of collaborative art and cultural activities. The events of 2020 highlighted the need for the preservation and development of Yamaji languages, which saw community members return home to their communities during the COVID-19 lockdown amid concerns over Elders and their particular vulnerability with this pandemic.

- **Nannup Music Club | \$25,000 | Nannup – South West**
Nannup Music Festival: Nannup Music Club will present an eclectic mix of acts over the March long weekend, highlighting the best in new, emerging, and Indigenous original music. Nannup Music Festival has identified the need to modify the Club's operations, strategic planning and program in order to survive its current situation and recover from COVID-19.
- **North Midlands Project Inc | \$29,259 | Carnamah – Mid West**
North Midlands Creative Community Days: The North Midlands Project will deliver a series of 24 Community Days to reconnect people with creativity, encompassing professionally delivered arts workshops, live music and performances in the wake of COVID-19 restrictions being lifted.
- **Southern Forest Arts | \$30,000 | Northcliffe – South West**
Mycelium: Co-designed to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by COVID-19, *Mycelium* will nurture sector-wide resilience, sustainability and vibrancy through networks of exchange and support between regional arts groups and independent practitioners.
- **Stage Left Theatre Troupe | \$7,419 | Boulder – Goldfields-Esperance**
Delivery of Professional Theatre Arts Workshops in Kalgoorlie: Stage Left Theatre Troupe will partner with Black Swan Theatre to deliver a series of professional quality theatre arts workshops in Kalgoorlie in 2021.
- **The Junction Co | \$30,000 | Port Hedland – Pilbara**
Pilbara Public Artists Development Program: The Pilbara Public Artists Development Program will be a capacity-building program for Pilbara artists to further develop their practice into public art through a series of presentations, workshops, and skills development sessions.
- **York Arts & Events | \$7,620 | York – Wheatbelt**
Community arts program: York Arts & Events will diversify their programming to deliver a pilot program of arts experiences for young people and workshops for adults, stimulating the community's creativity as it recovers.

Regional Arts WA CEO Paul MacPhail says the response from the Federal Government by developing the Regional Arts Fund Boost is critical to regional communities in their recovery from COVID-19.

“The Regional Arts Fund is the perfect delivery model for ensuring a quick response to COVID-19 and an efficient and effective distribution of funding. Artists and creative communities are able to recover from the impact of the downturn much faster and as an outcome, boost the Australian economy with the Federal Government's direct investment into regional, remote and rural communities.”

Regional artists, arts workers, groups and organisations will also have the opportunity to apply to the Regional Arts Fund through the RAF Project Grant, RAF Annual Event and RAF Quick Response programs when they open on 11 January 2021.

For more regional funding opportunities, please head to our website:

www.regionalartswa.org.au/funding

The Recovery Boost funds are delivered through the mechanisms of the Regional Arts Fund in recognition that arts and culture activities are vital in the recovery and renewal process. 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 organisations in each state and territory which includes Regional Arts WA.

End.

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SUPPORT MATERIAL

Regional Arts Fund's Recovery Grant Recipients

Arts Margaret River | \$30,000 | Margaret River – South West

Margaret River Reader and Writers Festival 2021

The Margaret River Readers and Writers Festival will be delivered in May 2021 with both physical and virtual events featuring more than 50 of Australia's best writers, speakers, thinkers, journalists and novelists. In response to COVID-19 the festival will adapt the program to engage a wider international audience and connect with the local community, authors, artists and audiences through live streamed events, virtual Q&A's, virtual workshops and networking sessions.

Christopher Young | \$29,089 | Margaret River – South West

Careful

Photographer Christopher Young will collaborate with local actors and musicians to develop highly engaging virtual reality experiences for aged care residents in the South West, assisting them to reconnect with their communities after the isolation created by COVID-19. Christopher will consult with aged care facilities, mental health professionals and other stakeholders to develop intimate and innovative outcomes for this vulnerable demographic. The content will also be released online for the broader community to access.

Nannup Music Club | \$25,000 | Nannup – South West

Nannup Music Festival

The Nannup Music Club will deliver the iconic Nannup Music Festival in 2021, putting in place operating plans to assist in recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. The Festival will present an eclectic mix of acts over the March long weekend, set to the stunning bush backdrop of Australia's South West and the small town atmosphere of Nannup. It will highlight the best in new, emerging, and Indigenous original music, create exposure opportunities for artists and invite everyone to share, immerse and discover in a weekend of music.

Southern Forest Arts | \$30,000 | Northcliffe – South West

Mycelium

Mycelium is the second initiative of The Creative Grid. Co-designed to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by COVID-19, *Mycelium* will nurture sector-wide resilience, sustainability and vibrancy through networks of exchange and support between regional arts groups and independent practitioners within the diverse communities and contexts in which they operate.

The Junction Co | \$30,000 | Port Hedland – Pilbara

Pilbara Public Artists Development Program

The Pilbara Public Artists Development Program will be a capacity-building program for Pilbara artists to further develop their practice into the public art space through a series of presentations, workshops, and skills development sessions. Developed by The Junction Co in response to industry gaps identified during COVID-19 restrictions, the program will provide an opportunity for Local Government Areas and agencies to engage local artists, and will assist in creating a sustainable, economically stimulated, regional public art industry in the Pilbara.

Bunbury Fringe | \$30,000 | Bunbury – South West
Bunbury Fringe 2021

Bunbury Fringe Inc will deliver a curated, nine-day festival in the heart of Bunbury's CBD to provide a platform for artists to develop works, and for regional audiences to experience the arts. In the recovery from COVID-19 the 2021 festival will present exclusively West Australian artists. Of the 30 performances, five works are projects specifically developed, and/or being launched at the Festival. In both the medium and long term, Bunbury Fringe will be instrumental in developing works that can be presented beyond this festival, in regional and national spaces.

Stage Left Theatre Troupe | \$7,419 | Boulder – Goldfields-Esperance
Professional Theatre Arts Workshops in Kalgoorlie

Stage Left Theatre Troupe will partner with Black Swan Theatre to deliver a series of professional quality theatre arts workshops in Kalgoorlie in 2021. The workshops will be open to students, teachers, and local artists. The short-term goal is to elevate local skill levels and enhance performances, whilst the long-term goal is to create a more sustainable theatre community to assist in retaining a skilled workforce in the region.

North Midlands Project Inc | \$29,259 | Carnamah – Mid West
North Midlands Creative Community Days

The North Midlands Project will deliver a series of 24 Community Days to reconnect people with creativity and each other across Carnamah, Coorow, Mingenew, Morawa, Perenjori and Three Springs throughout 2021. This will encompass professionally delivered arts workshops, live music and performances, giant games, health and support services, and a showcase of local and creative organisations in the community.

Mara Arts Aboriginal Corporation | \$29,000 | Geraldton – Mid West
Ngatha Wangga: The Yamaji Language, Dance and Song Project

Mara Arts Aboriginal Corporation will develop resources for engagement of the wider Yamaji communities through the delivery of collaborative arts and cultural activities. COVID-19 lockdown highlighted the critical need for the preservation and development of Yamaji languages. *Ngatha Wangga* will assist with the revival and maintenance of Yamaji languages, bringing together Yamaji and Italian artists in a unique cross-cultural collaboration, to strengthen these respective cultural identities through two-way cultural exchange and engagement.

York Arts & Events | \$7,620 | York – Wheatbelt
Community Arts Program

York Arts & Events will diversify their programming to deliver a pilot program of arts experiences for young people and workshops for adults, stimulating the community's creativity as it recovers. The program aims to achieve long-term sustainability and ascertain the feasibility of a permanent community arts and culture centre in consultation with the community.



Australian Government
Regional Arts Fund

About Regional Arts WA

Regional Arts WA is the State's only multi-arts organisation with a purely regional focus. We are an independent, membership-based, not-for-profit organisation and are highly regarded within WA and nationally as an innovative, high value leader in the arts and in regional and community development.

Our purpose is to celebrate and strengthen a powerful regional arts sector to contribute to connected and creative regional communities - making WA a better place to live.

Regional Arts WA manages a variety of funding programs to support regional arts projects across Western Australia. For more information, visit **www.regionalartswa.org.au** or call regional free call 1800 811 883.