

MEDIA RELEASE

8 June 2021

Funding Boost for Regional Cultural Sector Renewal

Four regional Western Australian arts and cultural projects will receive an investment of \$350,000 over three years through the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund Recovery Boost program.

The Regional Arts Fund Renewal Program will support four projects to strengthen and provide long lasting benefits for regional communities, three of which support First Nations led renewal across the remote Kimberley region with the fourth project providing training and employment of regional producers.

- **Warlayirti Artists Aboriginal Corporation | \$90,000 over 3 years | Halls Creek – Kimberley**
Strong Culture, Strong Community: Cultural Coordinator will support cultural maintenance and the revitalisation of the cultural centre in the remote community of Balgo.
- **Theatre Kimberley | \$80,000 over 3 years | Broome - Kimberley**
Creating Stronger Ways will strengthen cross cultural practices within the Broome based performing arts company Theatre Kimberley.
- **Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre | \$90,000 over 3 years | Derby - Kimberley**
Funding will support *Growing Connections: Annual Artistic and Cultural Exchange for Kimberley Aboriginal Women* on a business development and artistic skill sharing which will be presented at the 2021 Regional Cultural Festival and subsequent annual gatherings.
- **Annette Carmichael Projects| \$90,000 over 3 years | Denmark - Great Southern**
Thread 7: Distributed 15 provides a framework for the training and employment of regional producers embedded within the development of an intra-regional multi-artform performance work.

Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, said the Morrison Government's investment in the long-term development and sustainability of regional arts is crucial for the recovery of Western Australia's cultural and creative sector.

"We understand the extreme disruption to the arts and cultural sector in Western Australian from the pandemic, which is why the Government acted quickly to introduce our \$10 million targeted measure, as part of the Relief and Recovery Fund," Minister Fletcher said.

“I am pleased to see these four projects receive \$350,000, which will provide opportunities for artists and arts workers, including those in regional Indigenous communities, to develop strategic planning, innovative projects, and improve their overall sustainability.”

Regional Arts WA CEO Paul MacPhail says the investment will create a long-lasting impact in local communities and across the regions.

“The Regional Arts Fund Renewal Program will provide significant support to four organisations for the implementation of new models and frameworks which will have long lasting benefits for their organisation, for their communities and for regional artists. The investment will not only have a direct impact on the regional economy through the creation of jobs but will support the sector to sustainably position itself for the future.”

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 its member organisations which includes Regional Arts WA.

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

www.regionalartswa.org.au/funding

End.

Media Contact

Weng-Si Cheang – Regional Arts WA Program Manager

P: 9200 6202 | Regional Freecall 1800 811 883 | E: wcheang@regionalartswa.org.au



Australian Government

Regional Arts Fund

SUPPORT MATERIAL

Regional Arts Fund's Renewal Grant Recipients

Annette Carmichael Projects | \$90,000 | Denmark - Great Southern

Thread 7 - Distributed 15

Annette Carmichael Projects will develop and deliver a training and employment program for regional Producers, embedded within the creation of a new multi-sited and multi-artform performance work. The work will premiere in 5 regional communities in 2023 as part of the 2023 Perth Festival, in partnership with STRUT Dance.

Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre | \$90,000 | Derby - Kimberley

Growing Connections: Annual Artistic and Cultural Exchange for Kimberley Aboriginal Women

Growing Connections will bring Aboriginal women from across the Kimberley region together on an annual basis to share, celebrate and exchange cultural knowledge and artistic skills through intergenerational activities. Growing Connections will be embedded permanently into annual events of the peak regional Aboriginal organisations, including the KALACC Triennial Regional Cultural Festival, and is part of a broader strategy to increase support for women's cultural agendas.

Theatre Kimberley | \$80,000 | Broome - Kimberley

Creating Stronger Ways

Theatre Kimberley will employ a First Nations Cultural Worker as part of their Creating Stronger Ways program, aimed at strengthening the company's cross-cultural practices, building capacity and knowledge and improving their connection to and engagement with First Nations communities in the Kimberley.

Warlayirti Artists Aboriginal Corporation | \$90,000 | Halls Creek – Kimberley

Strong Culture, Strong Community: Cultural Coordinator

Warlayirti Artists Aboriginal Corporation will employ a Cultural Coordinator aimed at profoundly shaping the future of Warlayirti Artists and revitalising the artistic and cultural heritage of Balgo, Australia's most linguistically and culturally diverse Aboriginal community. The Cultural Coordinator will focus on intergenerational transfer of knowledge through weekly On-Country trips with young people and Elders, coordinating arts workers to revive the already established Culture Centre, and work directly with community service providers.

About Regional Arts WA

Established in 1994, Regional 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