

Media Release

30 June 2022

Ten artists and organisations receive Australian Government funding with a focus on First Nations projects

Ten regional arts and culture projects, with six projects by First Nations artists and organisations, will receive an investment of over \$190,000 through the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund; a funding program managed in Western Australia by Regional Arts WA.

Examples of the funded First Nations projects include;

- **Marrugeku Inc.** will receive **\$30,000** towards Burrbgaja Yalirra, a multi-year research and development program that builds capacity in the next generation of remote and regional independent dance artists.
- **Victoria Coyne** will receive **\$5,000** to record a song in the South West dialect of the Noongar language, to accompany her previously published book Djerap Wardandi Boodja-k (Birds on Wardandi Country).
- **Kaata-Koorliny Employment and Enterprise Development Aboriginal Corporation** will receive **\$30,000** to deliver a structured and interactive training program with Noongar artist Peter Farmer. The program aims to increase First Nations creative culture while improving mental health outcomes of young First Nations people aged 18-35 years in Narrogin.
- **Gwendolyn Knox** will receive **\$25,000** for the creative development of her new play Scones with Nanna, a site-specific, multi-artform performance work that tells the story of how 'Nanna' was taught to deny that she was a Ballardong Noongar woman.

Regional Arts WA CEO Paul MacPhail says the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund investment into regional arts is crucial and will continue to encourage and support social, cultural and economic development.

"Regional Arts Fund Project Grants are essential in supporting and promoting increased access to arts and culture for regional communities. We are proud to support these projects which will make our communities better places to live, contribute to economic growth and improve individual wellbeing," said MacPhail.

Since 2020, the demand for the Regional Arts Fund in WA continues to rise, with a 34% increase in applications. The Investment Sub-Committee's Chair Julian Canny says that the increase has made the grant assessments more difficult by the quality of applications received.

"It is not surprising that there were a high number of outstanding applications. Regionally led arts initiatives are poised to be some of the best investments for the future of WA's communities. The Investment Sub-Committee would like to extend our congratulations to all applicants for the high calibre of work submitted." says Canny.

End.

Media Contact:

Weng-Si Cheang – Program Manager, Regional Arts WA
08 9200 6202 | Regional Freecall: 1800 811 883 | wcheang@regionalartswa.org

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.



Australian Government
Regional Arts Fund

Support Material

Funded Projects

Katie Breckon (Kimberley) | \$12,008 | Remembering Bungarun

Katie Breckon will explore the story of Bungarun Leprosarium through drawing and printmaking. The project draws from State Library of WA collections with guidance by a Cultural Advisory Group of Kimberley elders, educators and leaders, and historian Dr Mary Anne Jebb.

Marrugeku Inc. (Kimberley) | \$30,000 | Burrbgaja Yalirra (Dancing Forwards)

Burrbgaja Yalirra is Marrugeku's multi-year program of intensive dance research laboratories and new short works curated by co-artistic directors Dalisa Pigram and Rachael Swain, that builds capacity in the next generation of change makers in community and culturally informed contemporary dance. Burrbgaja Yalirra began in 2017 to address access issues for remote and regional independent dance artists and deploys new trans-Indigenous and intercultural collaborations to revivify, remember and reimagine contemporary dance in Australia.

Nagula Jarndu Designs (Kimberley) | \$30,000 | Country on Cloth

Nagula Jarndu (Saltwater Woman) First Nations artists will create a new collection of screen-printed and digitally printed textiles designed specifically for a women's and men's clothing range. The designs will draw on artist's connections to Country, culture and language. There will be a photoshoot on Country of the final garments, modelled by the artists and local First Nations models. From this, a catalogue of stories about the artists and the designs will be made.

Southern Forest Arts (South West) | \$22,000 | The Stars Descend - Chapter 2 (Northcliffe)

The Stars Descend is an ambitious, original, multi-arts production presenting five unique chapters of inter-linked public performances spanning five locations across three regions of southern WA in March/April 2023. Each chapter explores shared responsibility of care for people and planet from the perspective of stars gazing upon us. Chapter 2 is Northcliffe's contribution to the storyline, focusing upon the power of resilience and beauty in a transformational message of climate action and hope. This participatory project of state significance is a collaboration between Southern Forest Arts, Annette Carmichael Projects, Gondwana Link, and multiple regional arts partners.

Victoria Coyne (South West) | \$5,000 | Song from Djerap Wardandi Boodja-k

This project involves recording a song in the South West dialect of the Noongar language to accompany Victoria's book Djerap Wardandi Boodja-k (Birds on Wardandi Country). The book and song support, through art and language, a sense of connectedness to and respect for the beauty of Wardandi culture, Country and birdlife.

Alisa Blakeney (South West) | \$11,091 | Residency at Cité internationale des arts, Paris

Alicia Blakeney will undertake a professional development residency at Cité internationale des arts, Paris, France as part of the Australia Council for the Arts' International Residency Program. This residency will enable her to conduct research towards a major research project investigating sonic archives and collaborative production, to better understand the history of Australian experimental digital practice within a global context.

Gwendolyn Knox (Kimberley) | \$25,000 | Scones with Nanna

A creative development of the new play Scones with Nanna, a site-specific, multi-artform performance work, to be carried out on Ballardong Noongar land. The story tells of survival, denial, dementia, colonisation, poverty, and displacement. Nanna's story is told with honesty and wit and how she was taught to deny that she was a Ballardong Noongar woman. It exposes the secrets that a family has kept hidden for generations, in a humorous celebration of womanhood and scones, warts and all, in a journey through an old worker's cottage that could have been Nanna's house.

Kaata-Koorliny Employment and Enterprise Development Aboriginal Corporation (Wheatbelt) | \$30,000 | The Narrogin Emerging Artists Program

The Narrogin Emerging Artists Program is a structured and interactive training program that aims to increase First Nations creative culture while improving mental health outcomes of young First Nations people aged 18-35 years in Narrogin. The program will be delivered by respected First Nations artist, Peter Farmer, over two eight-week blocks to a total of 24 emerging artists. During the program, participants will gain practical and technical skills in painting, producing a major piece at the conclusion of the program which will be exhibited in the Keedac Community Centre.

Samuel Newman (Kimberley) | \$14,329 | Nelson O'Reeri Album and Cultural Video

This project will document the work of Ngarinyin and Worrora man Nelson O'Reeri through the production of a ten track album and video work produced on Country. With 30 years' experience as a musician, teacher, mentor, event organiser and Traditional Owner of Ngarinyin country, O'Reeri has a strong support base and a collection of important work but has yet to professionally record any of it. The cultural work will stand as an educational resource, documentation of Kimberley life, and promotion of O'Reeri as an experienced artist to new audiences.

Shannon Clohessy (South West) | \$12,528 | Kaatijin Professional Development

This project will provide professional development and practice growth for regionally based artist, Shannon Clohessy, to expand on her arts practice of glass work by gaining skills and knowledge in lampworking, glassblowing and hot glass techniques while maintaining connection to the environment and embedding cultural intricacies. These techniques will be transferred through established glass artists. These skills will then be transferred to the wider community with a focus on other First Nations artists via workshops or one-on-one mentoring.

About Regional Arts WA

Regional Arts WA is the State's only service organisation delivering a multi-arts program to strengthen and celebrate our powerful regional arts sector. We are a regionally governed, not-for-profit organisation looking after the regional arts sector, meaning every artist, arts worker, arts and cultural organisation, and group with regional programs.

regionalartswa.org.au

About 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 project grants, professional development for artists and arts workers, and community capacity building projects.

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