

MEDIA RELEASE

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Youth arts grants bring colour and opportunity to the regions

Regional Arts WA has funded seven youth-led projects through the Drug Aware YCulture Regional Grant program.

Seven diverse projects led by young people have taken place across the South West, Mid West, Great Southern and Peel regions. These projects have allowed young participants to dabble in skateboard deck painting, car painting, mural design, pottery, and virtual reality.

One exciting project that emerged through the Drug Aware YCulture Regional was the Drug Aware Loud and Proud Series, which was a three-day festival - which included a pride event, music performances by young local musicians, and a mural painting workshop facilitated by the Stu McMillian and the Youth Advisory Council. Project Coordinators James Ransley and Shannon Walker say they were excited to run this project in their community.

“Our Pride event brought a lot of colour and a positive atmosphere to the Margaret River Youth Precinct. Our LGBTQIA+ youth were really pleased to be represented and to have an event dedicated to being yourself and being proud.

“Our music event provided some young people the opportunity to play their first paid performance, and painting the mural allowed the young people of Margaret River to build their own creative identity in a friendly environment. This was really important to us, and it led to one of the funkiest murals in our Youth Precinct.

“The [Drug Aware YCulture] grant meant that we were able to provide a fun and inclusive series of events to the young people within the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. It was great to see so many smiling faces.”

Regional Arts WA CEO Dr Pilar Kasat outlined the importance of dedicated youth arts grants to the lives of young people in the regions.

“Funding for youth arts allows young people to explore their creativity in a healthy environment. Programs like the Drug Aware YCulture Regional provide a unique opportunity to develop vital skills in leadership, project management and community engagement that participants will carry on through the rest of their careers and lives.”

Drug Aware YCulture Regional, supported by Regional Arts WA and Healthway to promote the Drug Aware message, is a unique development program that empowers young people to run their own arts projects and accelerate their skills in community engagement, finances, event promotion, and project management.

Grants of up to \$6,000 are open now for regionally based young people aged 12–26 years old. As an entry level grants program for young and emerging artists, Regional Arts WA will support applicants every step of the way; from growing the idea and writing the grant application, to the delivery of the event.

Drug Aware YCulture Regional closes 30 November 2022. For more information on how to apply, please visit <https://regionalartswa.org.au/funding/drug-aware-yculture-regional/>

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To see this year's seven successful youth art projects, please refer to the Support Material on the next page.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

Drug Aware YCulture Regional – Successful Applications 2022 (as of August)

Drug Aware Youth Fusion Mega-Fest

\$3,664 | Peel | *Auspiced by Shire of Waroona*

Young people in Waroona came together for the Drug Aware Youth Fusion Mega-Fest during Youth Week 2022. Attendees developed their creative skills in face painting and skateboard deck painting workshops, facilitated by a young local community member, and were treated to live music, a drumming circle, indoor inflatables, an interactive photo booth, chill out areas and a virtual reality and gamer realm throughout the event.

Drug Aware Loud and Proud

\$4,000 | South West | *Auspiced by Shire of Augusta Margaret River*

Young people in Margaret River came together for the Drug Aware Loud and Proud series during Youth Week 2022. The three-day festival included a Pride event, with drag performances by Serenity Von Varda and Miss Cara, music performances by young local musicians, and a mural painting workshop facilitated by Stu McMillan and the Youth Advisory Council. Interactive stalls with merchandise and information were set up during the event by LDAG, run by WAPOL, and Margi Pride.

Art on Wheels – Morawa Drug Aware Youth Week Project

\$3,746 | Mid West | *Auspiced by Shire of Morawa*

Young people in Morawa participated in a series of car painting workshops with Geraldton artist Shah. Over the course of a week participants designed and painted bright, bold, and colourful designs on two old cars. They also worked with Onthesly Motorsports & Media to create a film documenting the process. These cars were displayed publicly in town during the school holidays before being moved to a more permanent location in town.

Drug Aware Youth Artivate Workshops

\$3,260 | Peel | *Auspiced by Shire of Murray*

Murray Youth for Youth members ran a series of workshops for local youth to try new artforms across the Shire of Murray. Young people participated in a skateboard deck painting workshop hosted by Bunbury Street Artist Giuseppe Rugnetta, worked with volunteers from the Pinjarra Art Hub to learn more about pottery and textile crafts, and came together at the Murray Library to participate in a virtual reality day where they learned how to make virtual 3D art.

Drug Aware Sunset Sesh

\$1,915 | South West | *Auspiced by Milligan Community Learning and Resource Centre Inc*

Young people in Dalyellup came together to enjoy live music and learn more about plein air painting while watching the sun set over the ocean. The event included a performance by local musician Maya Ixchell, a discussion with Kehaan Lange-McGuire about culturally informed symbolism, and a workshop presented by local artist Charlotte White on the use of acrylic paints and how to paint en plein air.

Improving Mental Health Mural and Workshops

\$4,000 | Great Southern | Auspiced by Youth Futures

Students from Youth Futures Community School Albany will participate in a five day workshop with experienced artists to learn how to paint a mural. They will then design and paint a mural for their school to brighten up their listening environment and symbolise positive growth and improved mental health.

Drug Aware Arts and Healthy Living School Holiday Program

\$4,000 | South West | Auspiced by Walpole Community Resource Centre

Young people from Walpole and surrounding areas will come together during the Spring school holidays for a series of workshops on cooking, music and writing. Each workshop will be delivered by young local artists.

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.

<https://regionalartswa.org.au>