

# Aboriginal Arts Regional Fund Assessment Meeting Report 8 April 2015



Trade &  
Investment  
Arts NSW

# Assessment Meeting Report

# ABORIGINAL REGIONAL ARTS FUND (ARAF)

Closing Date: Monday, 9 March 2015

Panel Meeting Date: Thursday, 8 April 2015

The **NSW Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund (ARAF)** is intended to support arts projects that celebrate and promote Aboriginal cultural identities in regional NSW and, by doing so, make the rich and diverse Aboriginal cultures of regional NSW more visible and accessible. For the purposes of this fund regional NSW includes the Central Coast, Newcastle and Wollongong and is defined as the areas or regions outside Greater Sydney.

## Objectives

The NSW ARAF objectives are to:

- enable Aboriginal communities in regional NSW to explore and express their **cultural identities**
- engage and promote **regional** Aboriginal artists, arts and culture in NSW
- build local and regional community **resilience and engagement** of Aboriginal arts and cultures
- build the **capacity and sustainability** of Aboriginal arts organisations in regional NSW
- increase **professional and skills development** opportunities for Aboriginal artists living in regional NSW.

## Funding range

- Up to **\$3,000** for individual professional artists
- Up to **\$15,000** for organisations

## Assessment

The ARAF 2015 applications were assessed by a panel of Aboriginal peers against specific assessment criteria. The criteria are given equal weighting.

- Artistic and Cultural Merit (Quality)
- Engagement and Participation (Reach)
- Viability (Health)
- Budget (Health)

## PANEL ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

Projects that combine strong professional practice with community and cultural outcomes fit the ARAF criteria. Applications that demonstrated clear professional engagement with their local context as applied to state and nationally focused outcomes were supported by the panel.

There was diversity of art-form representation but applications were weighted towards visual arts and overall there was a lack of theatre, music and dance projects. Future public art applications should include a range of professional engagement for Aboriginal people with involvement in artistic, technical and production components.

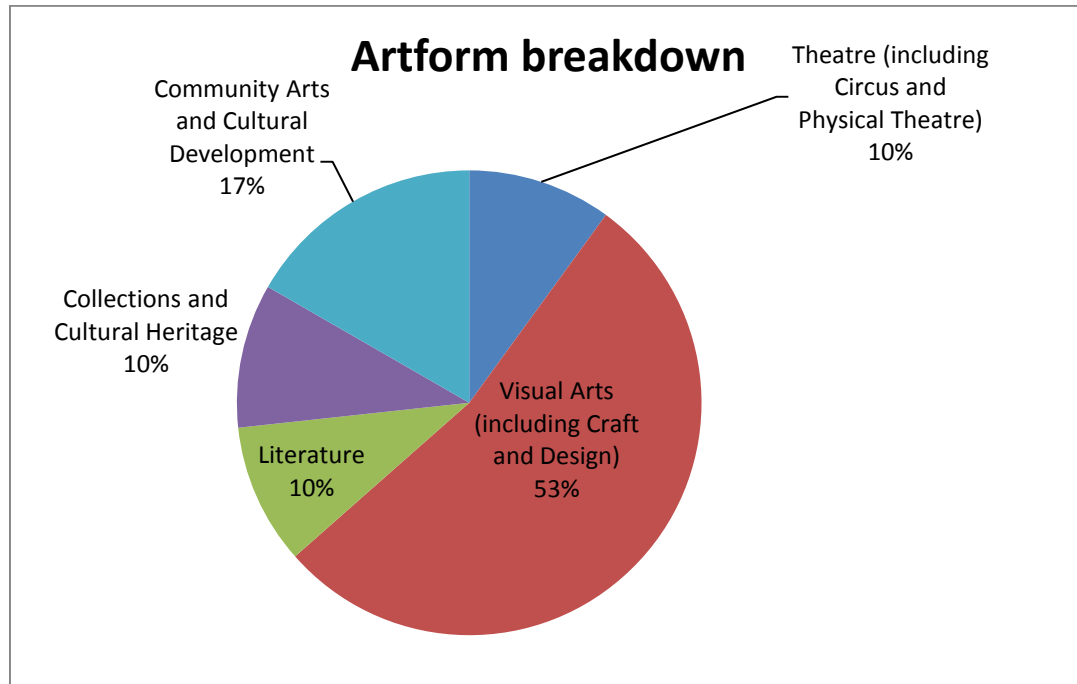
Whilst there were significant applications from regional and remote areas, the panel noted that those from the remote western areas were less competitive.

There was a significant increase in applications to the 2015 program, 18 more than in 2014, but there were still deficiencies in the presentation of budgets, and support material as well as grant writing more generally. The panel recommends that applicants consult with Arts NSW staff before making their application, particularly around budgets (the differences between income and expenditure), quality support materials and key performance indicators.

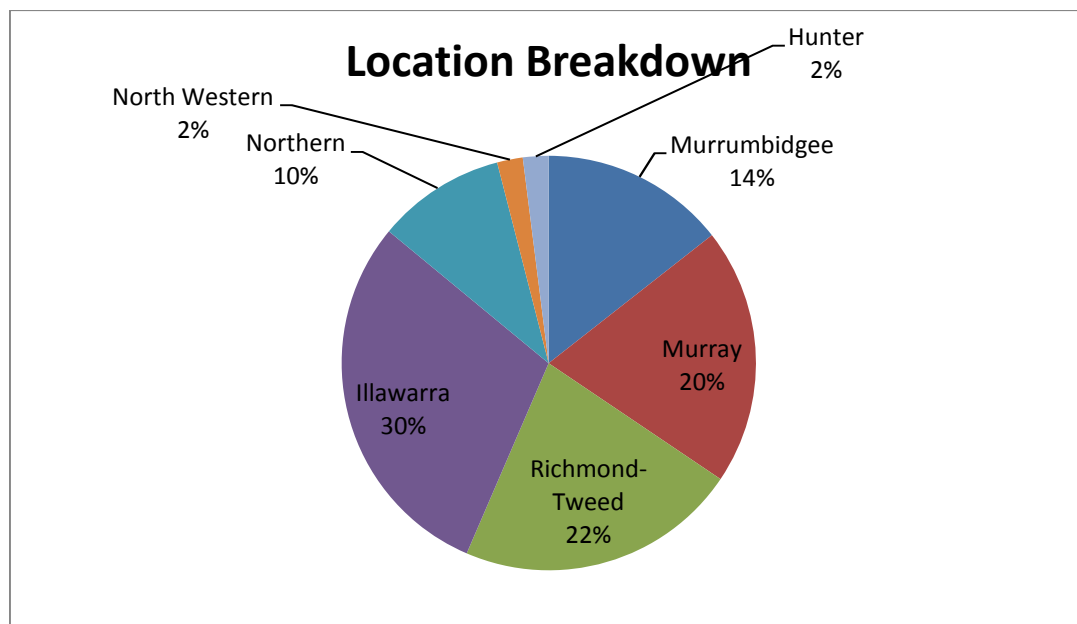
## FUNDING STATISTICS

GRANT CATEGORY	Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	54
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	15
SUCCESS RATE	28%
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$587,268
AMOUNT FUNDED	\$149,778

## DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING BY ARTFORM



## DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING BY LOCATION



# SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

## ABORIGINAL REGIONAL ARTS FUND (2015)

### **Flying Fruit Fly Foundation - \$15,000**

Bouncing River Kids is a circus skills workshop and performance program for young Aboriginal people aged 10+ in the Albury region. This established and successful circus program allows participants to channel their energies into positive experiences and exposes the participants to an environment that fosters teamwork and an understanding of cooperation. The program promotes individual learning and development and promotion of local Aboriginal culture. In 2015/16 the program will focus on telling unique local stories, based on life growing up with the Murray River, through circus and physical theatre.

### **Eastern Riverina Arts - \$14,600**

709.94R is a travelling exhibition of 18 Aboriginal artists from the Eastern Riverina region, curated by Aboriginal artist Melanie Evans.

Each commissioned artist will make a contemporary miniature work for installation; included in a wooden cabinet resembling a library card catalogue. The exhibition will tour throughout 2016 to ten libraries in the Riverina Regional Library network and the mobile library trucks. The exhibition will be curated by Aboriginal Arts curator, Melanie Evans.

### **South Coast Writer's Centre - \$14,678**

The SCWC Mentorship for Emerging Aboriginal Writers program aims to help emerging Aboriginal writers to develop their writing, public presentation, networking and facilitating skills. Three experienced workshop leaders will mentor the emerging Aboriginal writers on how to facilitate workshops with inmates at Junee Correctional Facility, present readings for the public and produce a publication.

### **Shellharbour City Council - \$15,000**

The Weaving Cultures Project will engage local Aboriginal weavers in developing woven designs for seating and sculptural forms in the new Shellharbour City Hub. The public art projects will have an extensive community cultural development aspect with weaving workshops with local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups. A key component of the project will be the opportunity for respected, experienced Aboriginal crafts people to develop their work for a significant public art project.

### **Sian Christiane Hromek - \$3,000**

'Covered By Concrete', is a collaborative project for the Underbelly Arts Festival 2015, created by three siblings Sian, Daniele and Michael Hromek, descendants from the Budawang people of the Yuin nation. Covered by Concrete will integrate mediums of sound, audio visual (recorded conversations of Aboriginal people describing their connection to Country), drawings, sculpture and written word to uncover the latent history of

Aboriginal occupation and stories of Cockatoo Island and Australia. The work will then be further developed during a creative residency on Cockatoo Island and presented at the Underbelly Arts Festival in August 2015.

**Lismore Regional Gallery (Lismore City Council) - \$15,000**

Funding will go towards the Creative Development of 'Dreaming Trails', a project investigating trade between the Bundjalung and Gumbaynggirr nations. Objects from the collections of Yarrawarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Richmond River Historical Society will be researched by three Bundjalung and three Gumbaynggirr artists creating new works for exhibition at Yarrawarra Cultural Centre and Lismore Regional Gallery.

**Bundanon Trust - \$8,500**

TRANSMIT Art-and-Banner Project is a four day intensive residency and mentorship project at Bundanon Trust involving local Aboriginal artists from the Aboriginal Cultural Arts Program, TAFE, Nowra campus and young people who are disengaged from school. The process will be facilitated by local professional artist and teacher Warwick Keen. The team will come up with a concept and design for the artwork, which will be installed in the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre foyer and studio on August 21, 2015 as part of TRANSMIT, a celebratory performance involving around 60 local Aboriginal young people.

**Byron Shire Council - \$15,000**

A collective of local Aboriginal artists will produce 4 - 6 seasonal exhibitions. The exhibitions will provide the artists the opportunity to explore and express their relationships with Country or culture or family/ community life for that season. There will also be a NAIDOC and additional exhibition to explore other themes. The collective will hold cultural exchange events to discuss themes, plan exhibitions, share skills and ideas. Participating artists will have the opportunity to develop skills in curation. A catalogue featuring all participating artists will be produced to continue to promote the project and the artists.

**Wagga Wagga City Council - \$7,000**

Wagga Wagga City Council will host a panel forum featuring four high profile Aboriginal artists to discuss key cultural and political issues impacting Aboriginal artists today. The panel forum will target attendees from Join the Dots Professional Development Program for Aboriginal artists and creators, local schools, the wider Aboriginal community and the non-Aboriginal community. The forum will enhance our local artists' knowledge of issues that may be faced when furthering their arts career.



### **Arts North West Inc. - \$15,000**

The engagement of a regional NSW Aboriginal Creative Freedom Curator to enhance the professional and skills development opportunities of emerging and well known Aboriginal performers and artists, guiding them to explore and express their cultural identities through culturally appropriate, vibrant, creative and high impact displays and performances for the opening of the Aboriginal Cultural Showcase. This will create a new and fresh prospective to attract wider audiences of Aboriginal people and visitors to the Aboriginal Cultural Showcase.

### **Murray Arts Inc. - \$15,000**

To engage author Dr Anita Heiss as a facilitator/author/storyteller to work with local Aboriginal artists in the region to explore the importance of their own individual stories to their art. Through a series of interviews and one on one sessions, Anita will work with artists to tell their own stories in their own voices. These stories will be collected together, along with professionally photographed images of their works in a publication which will showcase the richness and diversity of Aboriginal arts practice in the Albury and surrounding region.

### **Hubert Thomas Timbery - \$3,000**

Hubert Thomas Timbery will work in conjunction with artisans/artists Dianne Berkrey (stained glass) and Barney Ryan (carver, painter, poker-work) to develop a project based on a Bidjigal Whale Dreaming creation story for the Booderee National Park (Jervis Bay region). The final work will be a large scale stained glass window depicting the designs for the Whale Dreaming story, for which Timbery is a custodian of.

### **Warwick Patrick Keen - \$3,000**

Established artist Warwick Keen intends to tour his photographic exhibition 'Back to Burra Bee Dee' to regional centres and galleries within NSW. The grant will assist with transportation and travelling costs. The exhibition tells the story of Warwick's ancestors from the Coonabarabran area of NSW. Keen's great, great grandmother acquired 600 acres of land in the 1890's, a place to become known as 'Burra Bee Dee'. This is a significant story that needs to be told to all Australians.

### **Darryl Ferguson - \$3,000**

Darryl will introduce Aboriginal arts and culture to infants and young children of the community through his carved totem poles. The carved totem poles have inspired Darryl to create a unique art form that will broaden the audience knowledge of the local culture on Darryl's Country. Darryl will work closely in partnership with the Little Diggers Pre-School & Childcare Centre and the Lightning Ridge Pre-School, in promoting local Aboriginal art and culture.

### **Saretta Jane Fielding - \$3,000**

Saretta Jane Fielding will design and create a public artwork celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and the successful partnerships between community and the wider community in Lake Macquarie. Local Elders will contribute to the project, telling their stories through the collaborative project. The artwork would be a part of NAIDOC celebrations and create a visual invitation to others to join in and share in culture, promoting reconciliation and creating a platform for future opportunities for Aboriginal people within the community.

## **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

Arts NSW create separate categories for individual artists and organisations in future ARAF funding rounds to ensure individuals are competitive.