

Arts & Cultural Projects

Round 1: 10-14 August 2015

Assessment Meeting Report



Arts
NSW

Assessment Meeting Report

ARTS & CULTURAL PROJECTS – ROUND 1

Closing Date: 29 June 2015

Panel Meetings: 10-12 August 2015 (Performing Arts)
12-14 August 2015 (Visual Arts, Literature,
Collections and Cultural Heritage)

The Arts & Cultural Development Program (ACDP) Arts & Cultural Projects Funding supports innovation, vibrancy and creativity in the NSW arts and cultural sector. It aims to deliver a dynamic and diverse range of arts and cultural experiences to communities across NSW, while strengthening professional arts and cultural development of artists and the small-to-medium arts and cultural sector.

This category is open to individual artists, artists/cultural workers, partnerships and groups who have been auspiced, and organisations. Projects may include, for example: the creative development and/or public presentation of work/s; commissions; research; new partnerships; community collaborations; work that involves new technologies; activities that extend an artist's or organisation's practice, audiences and markets.

Arts & Cultural Projects applications were assessed by two panels of arts sector peers – (1) **Performing Arts** and (2) **Visual Arts, Literature, Collections and Cultural Heritage** – against the following Assessment Criteria:

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

ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

This round of Arts & Cultural Projects attracted many high quality applications including experimental and innovative projects by small to medium organisations and individual artists. There was great cultural and geographic diversity in the applications and, in particular, regional NSW, Western Sydney, and young people were well represented. There were also a number of very strong proposed projects run for and by people with a disability.

Amongst the best applications, there was a high level of risk taking, experimentation and innovation. Projects ranged in size and scale, as did the size of the teams delivering them.

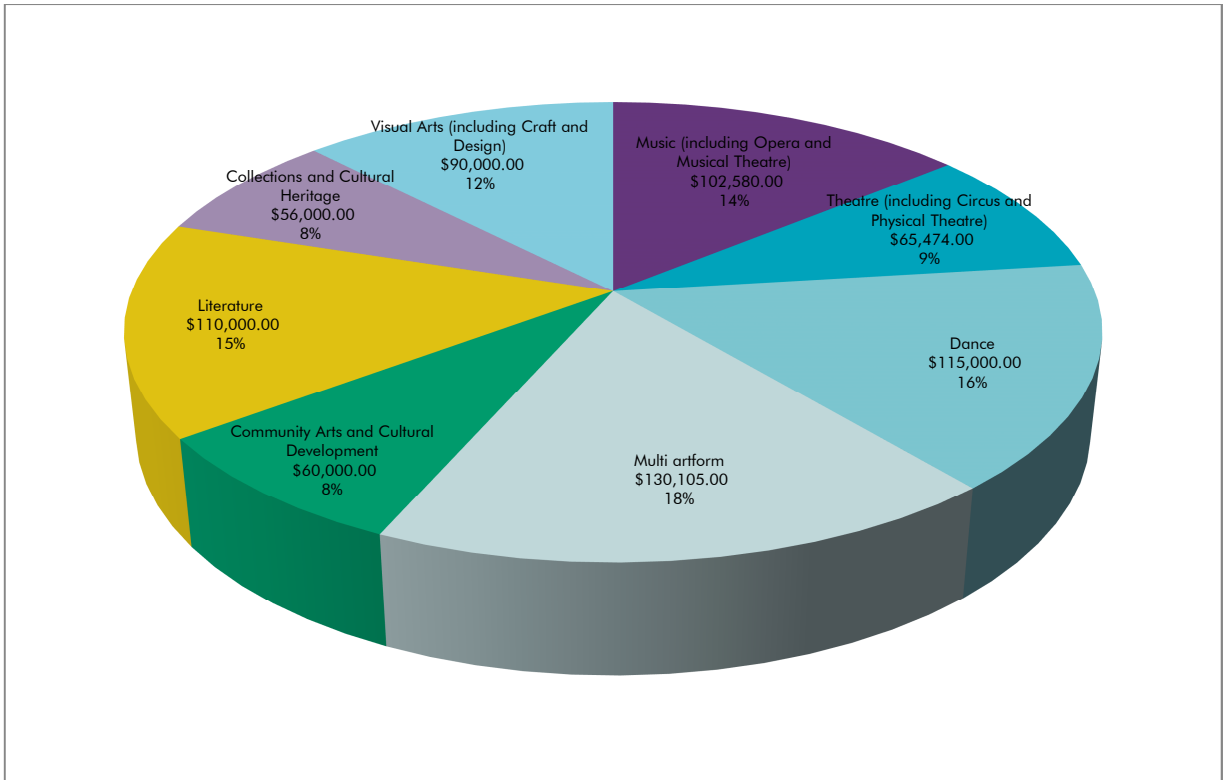
The strongest applications were those that identified artistic outcomes and demonstrated clear strategies for engagement with, and support from, communities as well as partner organisations.

Professional artists, groups and organisations based in regional NSW and Western Sydney are encouraged to apply to future rounds.

Artform breakdown

The highest number of applications received was for music projects, closely followed by multi-artform projects. There was a similar number of theatre, literature, community and cultural development, and visual arts project applications, but fewer applications were received for dance and collections and cultural heritage projects.

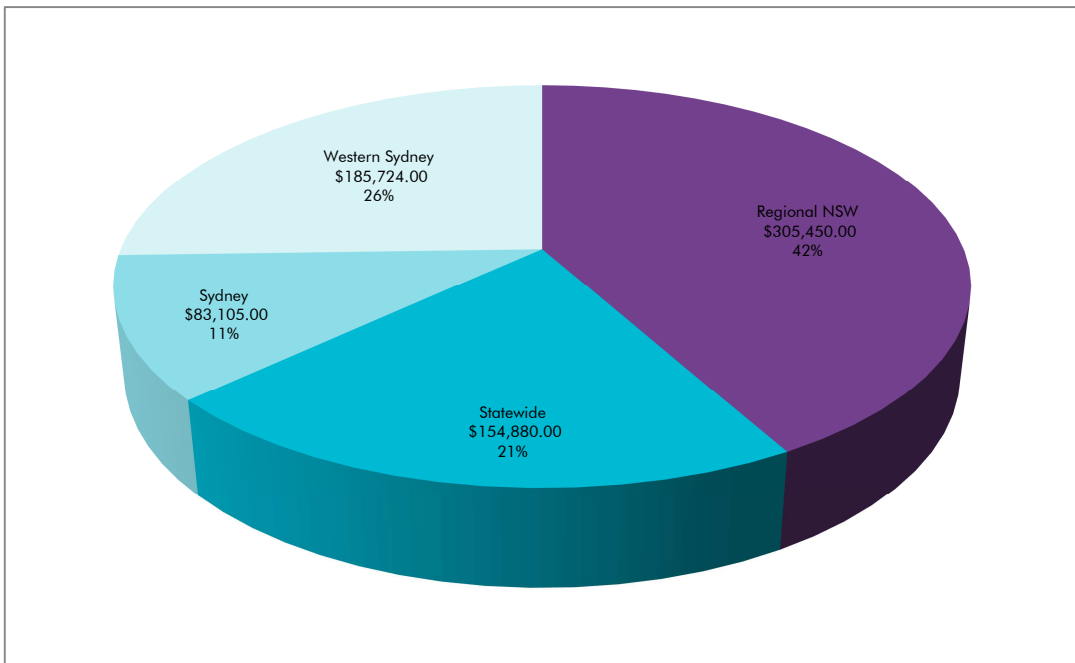
The following chart shows the **distribution of funding** according to artform.



Geographical spread

Funding was recommended for projects taking place across the whole of NSW. Of the 18 applications recommended, 7 will see activities delivered in regional NSW, 6 in Western Sydney, 2 in Sydney and 3 will have state-wide outcomes.

The following chart shows the funding distribution by region of activity.



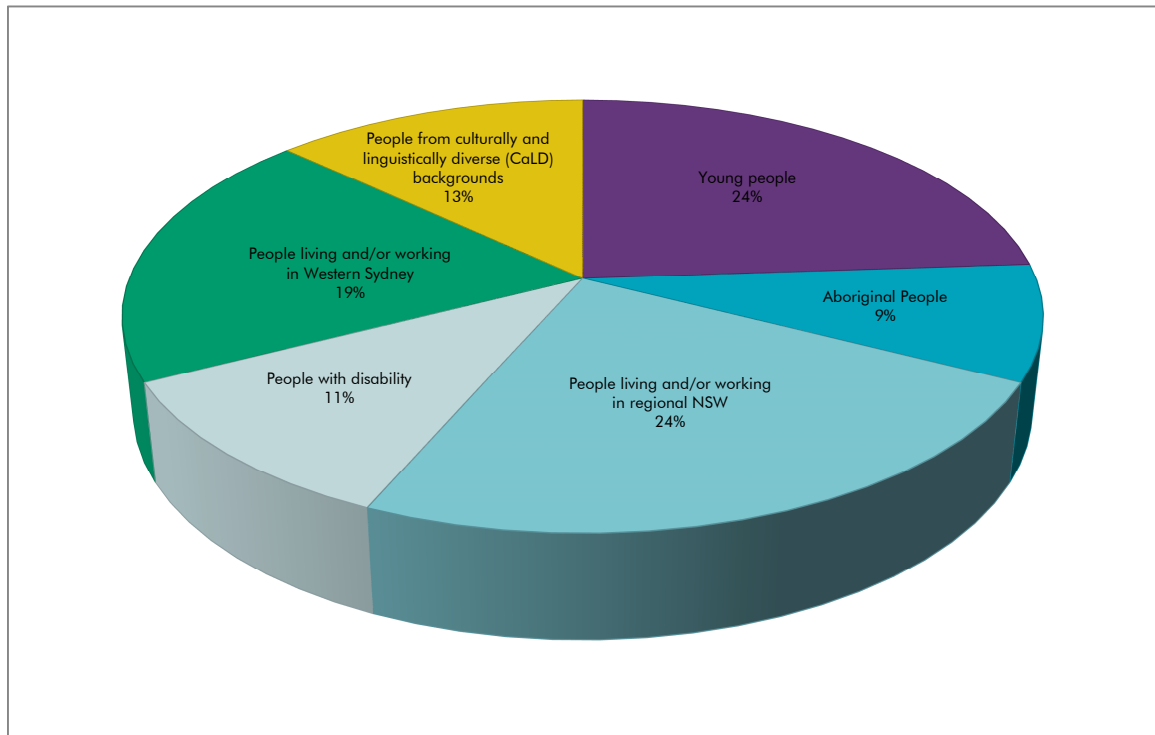
Arts and Cultural Development Program (ACDP) priority areas

While meeting ACDP priority areas is not a condition of funding in this category, the majority of applications recommended for funding show a genuine and deep level of engagement with the priority areas.

Where an application states that the proposed project meets one or more of the ACDP priority areas (i.e. people living and/or working in regional NSW or Western Sydney, Aboriginal people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with disability, young people), it should demonstrate strategies for, and depth of, engagement. Applicants should not see this question as merely a 'tick-a-box' exercise.

All ACDP priority areas are addressed in the combined applications recommended for funding.

The following chart shows the **percentage of instances** a priority area is addressed in the funded applications.



Applicants to future rounds are reminded:

- not to assume knowledge, but to include all relevant information in the application and ensure you complete all parts of the application form, including artist biographies and letters of support
- to provide the right level of detail in timelines with all the key project milestones and dates
- to show evidence of engagement and consultation with communities if the application is claiming to address priority areas

- to show evidence of following Arts NSW published Aboriginal protocols
- to use plain language in applications and avoid unsubstantiated claims
- to include detailed explanatory notes in the budget section of the application. In particular, clear descriptions of budget items, and detailed breakdowns of large cost items and in-kind support. You should also distinguish between in-kind support and cash support in the budget expenditure table. If necessary, you can provide more detailed budgets as support material
- to indicate if income is confirmed
- to include quality and relevant support material with applications and adhere to Arts NSW guidelines about support material limits/formats. Support material should be used to substantiate claims in your application as well as provide additional information
- to check that the information you are providing is consistent throughout the application. For example, if you state that you expect 3,000 attendees at your event in the 'project description' section of the application form, make sure that you enter the same number in the KPIs section
- that if you are from a 'non-arts' organisation, you are encouraged to ensure your project is led by professional artists or arts/cultural workers. You should also note that Arts NSW requires that all applications involve professional artists or arts and cultural workers.
- to discuss your application with Arts NSW staff prior to making a submission.

FUNDING STATISTICS

GRANT CATEGORY	Arts & Cultural Projects (Round 1)
ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	82
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	18
SUCCESS RATE	22%
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$3,326,595

AMOUNT FUNDED

\$729,159

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

2016 Arts and Cultural Projects Round 1

Ms Donna Abela (auspiced by Liverpool City Council) - \$15,000

The creative development of *Flame Tree Street*, a new play that explores the politics of care in the aftermath of a suburban tragedy. The development will engage with the Casula community to explore the personal and metaphorical implications of a light plane crashing in your street, and propose ways in which a community may draw upon its diverse cultural perspectives to re-set itself after such an event. The script will be workshopped with performers based in Western Sydney and presented in a community and industry showing at the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre.

AlburyCity Council - \$40,000

AlburyCity Council will present a contemporary exhibition, *Speed: Faster, Larger, Stronger, Quieter*, at the region's newly redeveloped multi-million dollar cultural facility, Murray Art Museum Albury (MAMA). The theme of the exhibition is the car, transport and innovation – an accessible and relevant subject in a region that was the base of Australia's last manufacturer of gearbox transmissions, the home of Brad Jones V8 racing and the birthplace of Robbins & Porter's 1913 monoplane. *Speed* will feature works commissioned from leading NSW contemporary artists, an outdoor installation, interactive works, and engaging public programs and events.

Ms Bec Dean (auspiced by Museums & Galleries of NSW) - \$50,000

The Patient Subject, developed by Sydney-based curator Bec Dean, is a curatorial project, exhibition and touring program. It will examine the experience of the artist as patient and the medical patient as a living subject in contemporary art. The exhibition will involve new collaborations between scientists and artists, and a participatory public program that will engage with hospitals, schools, aged care facilities, therapists and carers. Part of its intention is to challenge the stereotype of the fit, healthy body as the norm, and to acknowledge disabled practitioners as some of the leading makers and thinkers in contemporary art today. The exhibition will be launched at UNSW Galleries in Sydney and then tour to regional NSW over 2016-17.

Dance Makers Collective (auspiced by FORM Dance Projects Inc) - \$60,000

In 2016, Dance Makers Collective will present *Dads*, a three part project that includes a co-choreographed ensemble dance work directed by Miranda Wheen and presented by FORM Dance Projects and Riverside Theatres; a photographic exhibition presented by Parramatta Artists' Studios; and a radio documentary produced by ABC Radio National producer Tim Roxburgh. Dance Makers Collective will collaborate with a range of fathers in the community, including their own, to investigate the social significance of dance across generations and cultures. The project will reflect the moments, however fleeting, that dance occurs in our everyday lives. Stage one creative and community development activities will take place in Western Sydney (Parramatta) and stage 2 activities will take place in regional NSW (Federal), and include a workshop for dancers with and without a disability.

Flipside Dance Inc (auspiced by the Australian Dance Council – Ausdance (NSW) Inc) - \$55,000

Pushing the Boundaries is a year-long contemporary dance and multi-arts project for young people (8-18) and emerging artists (18-26) from Newcastle, the Central Coast and Greater Hunter. Working in collaboration with NSW professional choreographers, composers and visual designers: young artists will develop 4 performance outcomes at the Maitland Art Gallery (April), Hunter Dance Festival (July), Fort Scratchley in association with Tantrum Youth Arts (September). These performances will culminate in a full-length contemporary work at the Griffith Duncan Theatre, University of Newcastle in November that *Pushes the Boundaries* of what dance is, and the possibilities of what dance can be.

Ms Michaela Gleave (auspiced by Experimenta Arts Inc) - \$23,105

Sydney based artist, Ms Michaela Gleave, will develop and produce *Orbit*, a first of its kind smartphone/tablet app that will enable users to create unique compositions based on scientific data received from the stars. It will be one of only a few artist-developed artwork apps created in Australia, and aims to extend the reach of NSW cultural content and expand markets for digital art. The app will be of particular interest to regional NSW, and the project team will be undertaking onsite engagement with communities in and around Coonabarabran, in partnership with the Siding Spring Observatory and the local Astronomy society.

The Metropolitan Orchestra Inc - \$29,880

This project gives young NSW composers the rare opportunity to collaborate with a professional conductor to prepare scores prior to a recorded orchestral workshop. Eight composers (six having completed tertiary studies, two high-school aged) will be selected to participate in

workshops with a conductor and a small ensemble. Four works will then be chosen for the *Recorded Full Orchestral Workshop*. One or more works may be chosen for inclusion in The Metropolitan Orchestra's 2017 season. One composer may then be offered a commission for The Metropolitan Orchestra's 2018 season. To encourage the next generation, 250 school-aged composers will be invited to the orchestral workshop as observers.

National Young Writers' Festival - \$35,000

The annual National Young Writers' Festival will be held in Newcastle from 29 September - 2 October 2016. It is Australia's leading festival for young writers and has established itself as a convergence point for young and emerging writing communities from across the country. The Festival aims to support the professional and artistic development of writers aged 13 to 35 through programmed events, debates, readings, launches, performances, exhibitions, workshops, mentoring, and networking opportunities, and by encouraging collaboration between industry professionals with young participants. The 2016 Festival will be developed and curated by three artistic directors, who are young writers themselves.

NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Arts Association - \$56,000

The NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Arts Association is a state-wide coalition of Aboriginal managed and operated cultural facilities such as cultural centres, keeping places and knowledge centres. It will develop an exhibition of NSW Aboriginal tangible heritage, artworks and cultural objects drawn from the collections of Aboriginal Cultural Centres across regional NSW, Western Sydney and Sydney. The items will be presented at the Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre in Deniliquin to coincide with the annual Wamba Wamba Perripa Perripa Week in 2016. This exhibition will highlight the diversity of Aboriginal culture from across the state and, by working with a professional Aboriginal curator, each of the contributing organisations will further their engagement with their collections, by identifying significant objects and stories that are unique to their region.

Opera North West Ltd - \$30,000

Funding to support the presentation of the 2016 *Opera in the Paddock* concert event and a series of regional concerts presented by Opera North West throughout the north west area. There will be a presentation of collaborative performances between the University of New England and the University of Newcastle, Fusion, and a series of regional workshops attached to the presentations.

Parramatta Female Factory Precinct Memory Project (auspiced by Manning Clark House Inc) - \$32,000

Bonney Djuric will lead and develop a collaborative project in Western Sydney titled *Living Traces: activating and archiving the graffiti traces and memories of Parramatta Girls Home*. This project will explore memories of place and capture individual and collective experiences. Parragirls, former occupants of the home, will be directly engaged with the production, together with leading artists, specialist historians and academics and others historically related to the site. Outcomes include a special edition hand-printed book, works on paper and a performance work to be presented onsite, and information about the artworks and site will be enabled using Quick Response (QR) codes. These activities will significantly deepen the Western Sydney presence of the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct Memory Project.

Ms Anne-Louise Rentell (auspiced by Illawarra Performing Arts Centre Ltd) - \$14,450.00

Anne-Louise Rentell will commission two local poets from the Illawarra, Auntie Barbara Nicholson and Ali Smith, to write a series of monologues based on the stories of the women who work the main street of Port Kembla. *The Siren Project* will draw narrative inspiration from Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid* and the local Aboriginal myth of the *Story of the Five Islands*. The monologues will be developed through a community participation process that engages with the women who work on the street in Port Kembla and local Aboriginal elders. The vision for *The Siren Project* is to create a beautiful and powerful performance work that transforms verbatim stories into poetic text and song, and gives voice to a marginalized group of women.

Ms Natalie Rose and Mr Chris Dunstan (auspiced by Shopfront Theatre for Young People Co-op Ltd) - \$16,024

Artists Natalie Rose and Chris Dunstan will deliver the Blacktown workshop season and presentation of *The Hungry Games*, a contemporary theatre project for young people. The project will involve 25 local young participants from Blacktown who will imagine a dystopic future where the roles of humans and animals have been reversed. Blacktown Arts Centre will host the work in April 2016, with a free 2-week workshop program culminating in 5 performances to the public.

ruckus ensemble (auspiced by PACT Centre for Emerging Artists Inc) - \$60,000

The creative development and presentation of *Speed of Life*, a new theatre work created and devised by ruckus ensemble (Sydney) in collaboration

with Epic Encounters (Kampot, Cambodia). The piece will premiere at PACT centre for emerging artists in May 2016 and will be the final result of an international collaboration between artists all living with a physical and/or intellectual disability.

Sacred Currents Inc - \$42,700

Worlds Collide is a live multimedia performance of world dance music that explores 'difference' and 'collaboration'. Led by Artistic Director and Producer Richard Petkovic, the project explores themes of faith, diversity, identity and collaboration through a series of composition workshops and rehearsals that will culminate in a world dance music multimedia concert featuring projections of Western Sydney communities by young video artist Reilly Baker. The new work will unite the acoustic world fusion of the Shohrat Tursun Trio (Uyghur, Ghana, Australia), South Asian Underground sounds of Coco Varma's Sitar Funk (London), contemporary sacred pop/rock (Blue Mary), Latin music, dance and rituals (Victor Valdes) and current issues from the street by Mt Druitt's hip hop artist, EMCEE Esky. This new work will be presented at the Riverside Theatres in 2016 and will target audiences from the communities represented and those interested in art, world music fusions, electronic dance music and young people interested in hip hop.

Sydney Story Factory - \$75,000

The Sydney Story Factory will deliver creative writing workshops to hundreds of young people across the state through partnerships with schools and youth-focused community groups in Sydney, Western Sydney and in regional NSW. Young people (aged 13-17) from diverse and marginalised backgrounds will be supported to write about their experiences of being a teenager. These stories will be published as spoken word stories on a dedicated website and included in in-house publications. Selected participants will develop their work for a printed anthology titled *A Day in the Life of a Teenager*. To extend its impact, the project also includes professional skills training and the development of teaching resources.

The New Landscapes Institute (auspiced by The Performance Space) - \$75,000

The New Landscapes Institute will produce and present the *The Long Paddock*, a multi-artform project exploring the NSW Travelling Stock Routes and Reserves. These shared, regional tracks are reserved for travelling or grazing stock and cover approximately 500,000 hectares in NSW. Many are based on Aboriginal pathways and provide refuge for endangered ecosystems and wildlife corridors. In this project, artists will

develop site-specific work exploring the historical, environmental and cultural significance of these uniquely Australian pathways. An exhibition of the works and an associated public program will then tour to regional galleries and centres across NSW.

Dr David Williams (auspiced by Griffin Theatre Company Ltd) - \$20,000

The creative development, writing and public work-in-progress presentation of *Smurf in Wanderland*, a new theatre work about football, identity and belonging. A performance about football, tribalism, belonging, intra-city rivalry, geographic identity, local politics and good branding, a *Smurf in Wanderland* will be developed in several stages over 2016 in residence at Riverside Theatres in Parramatta and Griffin Theatre Company, with the work-in-progress publicly presented at both venues in September 2016. This artistic cross-city partnership reflects the intra-city sporting rivalry at the heart of this theatre work.