

Regional Capital 29 October 2015 Assessment Meeting Report

Arts & Cultural
Development
Program



Trade &
Investment
Arts NSW

Assessment Meeting Reporting

REGIONAL CAPITAL

Closing Date: Monday, 14 September 2015

Panel Meeting: Thursday, 29 October 2015

Regional Capital is one of a suite of Project categories under the Arts & Cultural Development Program (ACDP) and is available to regional organisations for capital works and the purchase of equipment used for arts and cultural purposes. Capital works can include construction, alteration, renovation, completion or fitting out of building or facilities for arts and cultural use.

The Regional Capital funding category supports innovative smaller scale capital infrastructure projects that increase and promote participation in arts and cultural activities. This funding category develops and addresses any local needs or gaps within arts and cultural facilities in regional NSW to improve the maintenance, preservation and display of collections. Collaboration and partnerships between and across community groups, arts organisations and local government authorities are encouraged to deliver efficient use of resources.

Regional Capital funding does not support the purchase of furniture and equipment to be used for administrative purposes. Applicants must clearly demonstrate that items will be primarily used for arts and cultural purposes and/or to improve the usability of arts and cultural facilities.

Arts NSW will provide matched funding of up to \$60,000.

Regional Capital applications were assessed by a panel of peers against the General Assessment Criteria:

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

Special Eligibility Conditions:

- Applicants must contribute 50% or more in income (including in-kind) to the project
- In-kind contributions (voluntary labour, donated materials and/or equipment or other resources) must be outlined in the application along with financial value
- For activities involving the development or renovation of infrastructure, applicants must provide proof of ownership of the infrastructure, a certified cost estimate, formal confirmation of other funding contributions, and detailed plans drafted by an architect or qualified draftsman

ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

Regional Capital funding addresses and responds to identified local needs for small scale capital works projects and purchase of equipment for arts and cultural purposes. The projects recommended for funding demonstrate the commitment of regional communities to improving their arts and cultural facilities to help deliver broader programming, increase audiences and the experience of diverse art forms.

There was a large amount of applications signifying high demand and a competitive round. Generally there was good regional reach and artform spread across the applications received in this category. There was also a range of applications from organisations focusing on arts and cultural activities for Aboriginal people, young people and people with disability.

Projects to receive funding include upgrades to sustainable lighting systems, climate control to bring regional galleries up to best industry standards, refurbishment of theatres to better accommodate national and international standards of performances and the development of new training and rehearsal spaces.

Many organisations needed to articulate more clearly what artistic and cultural outcomes their capital project would enable them to deliver. Applications should also outline the impact capital works will have on resource efficiencies, environmental conditions of the building and future operational costs. Overall, the round lacked projects involving multimedia, new technology and engagement with digital infrastructure. Applicants from the museum and heritage sector are encouraged to apply for projects with scope beyond maintenance and repair projects.

Successful applications included letters of support, strong planning, detailed budgets and strategic outcomes that clarified how funding would help the organisation achieve their ongoing artistic and cultural program.

Project viability was often strengthened through local council involvement and strong community partnerships with supporting letters to demonstrate an existing relationship. Applicants should include a dedicated project budget which clearly sets out the costs of the project for which funding is being sought and aligns with supporting material including quotes from contractors or equipment purchases.

Applicants are reminded to:

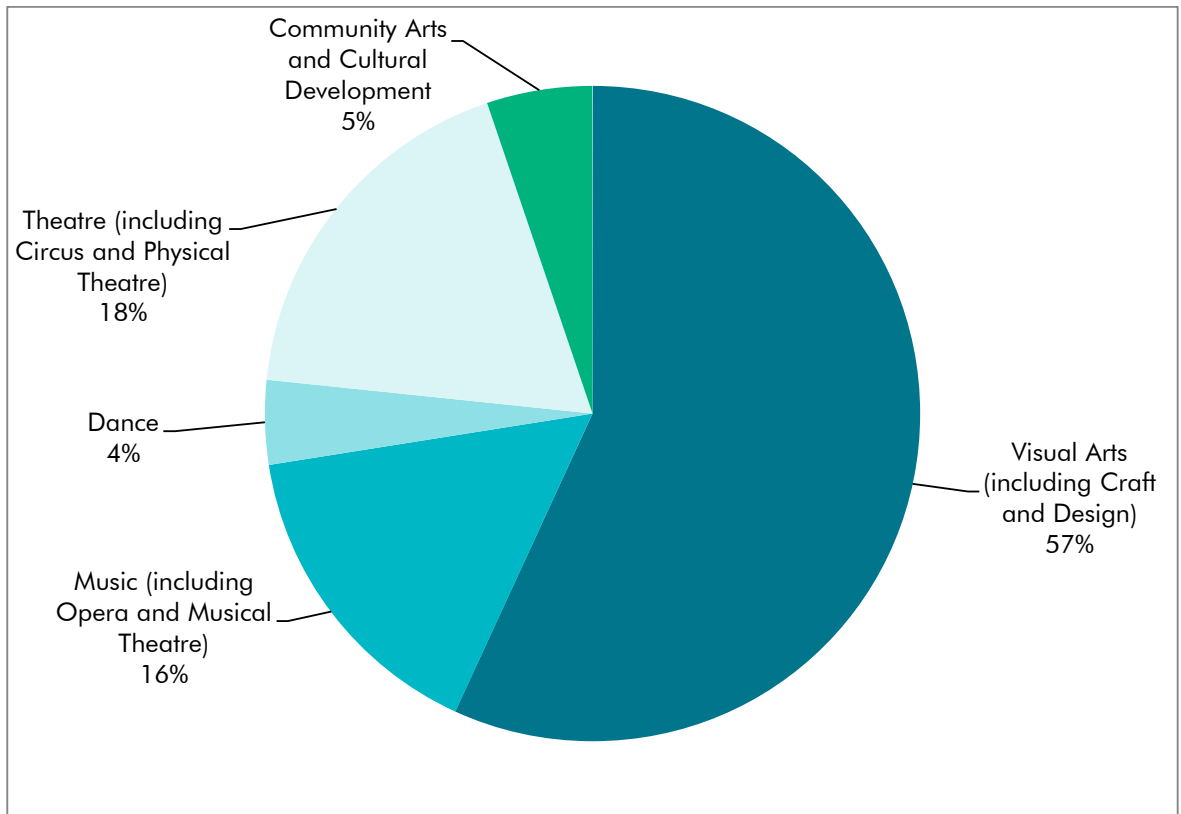
- Contact Arts NSW staff and/or their local Regional Arts Development Officer (RADO) to give their application the best chance of success
- Clearly articulate the artistic and cultural value of the project with respect to the category criteria and objectives of the ACDP
- Include a clear and accurate project budget for which Regional Capital funding is being sought. Supporting material that includes contractor quotes should align with the budget

- Clearly demonstrate and itemise their 50% contribution, (cash or in-kind)

Artform breakdown

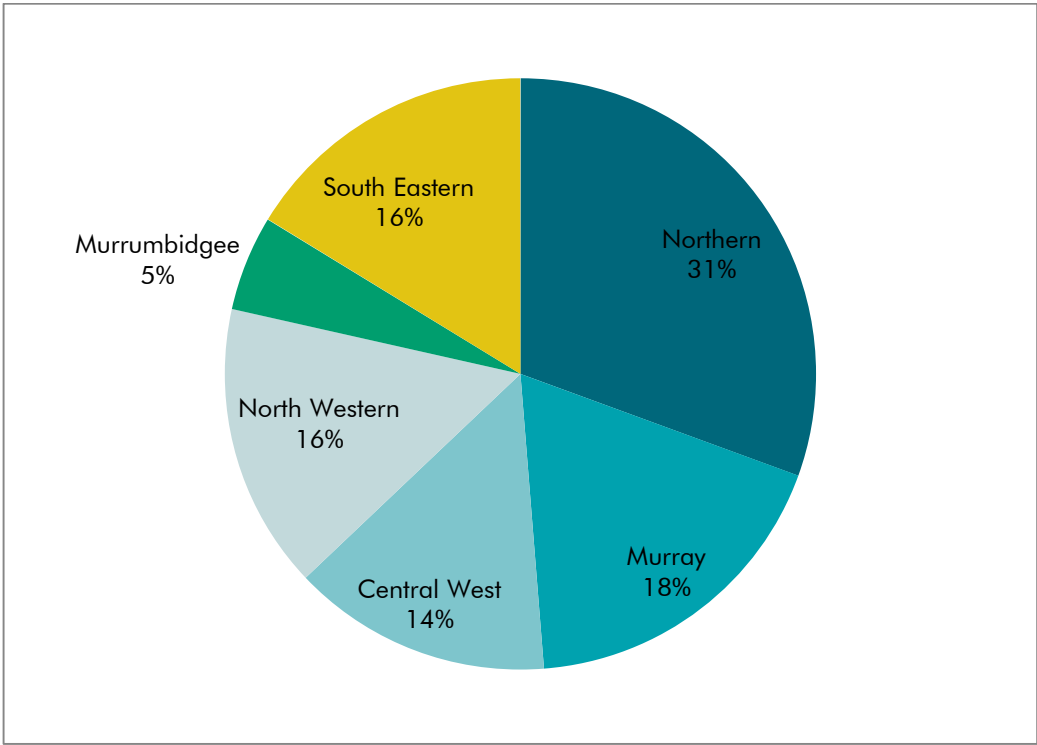
The highest number of applications recommended for funding were for visual arts organisations. There were a comparable number of projects recommended for theatre and music organisations respectively.

Fewer applications were received from dance and community arts groups.



Geographical spread

Funding was recommended for projects taking place across regional NSW. Of the 10 applications recommended, 3 will see activities delivered in Northern NSW, 2 in the Murray region, 2 in South-Eastern NSW, 1 in Central Western NSW, 1 in North-Western NSW and 1 in Murrumbidgee region.



FUNDING STATISTICS

GRANT CATEGORY	Regional Capital
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	30 eligible applications
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	10
SUCCESS RATE BY APPLICATION	33%
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$ 1,112,934
AMOUNT FUNDED 2015	\$ 384,200

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

REGIONAL CAPITAL (2016)

Cootamundra Creative Arts Inc (\$20,000) to enhance the Arts Centre in Cootamundra with the installation of climate control and lighting systems as well the extension of storage space. The works will enable the Centre to be made available to the community year round for a range of arts and cultural activities including programs for Aboriginal people, young people and people with disability.

Dubbo City Council (\$60,000) to refurbish the studio in the Community Arts Centre of the Western Plains Cultural Centre into a 'black box' theatre. The project fulfils a need for a space in the region to host small scale and experimental productions. The theatre will be for community and professional use and showcase new Aboriginal theatre works and young people's theatre projects.

fLiNG Physical Theatre Inc (\$16,000) in Bega for the purchase staging and production equipment. The equipment will support fLiNG to tour to other regional centres, schools as well as providing a resource for other organisations to hire. The project provides opportunities for young people to engage and participate in quality arts and cultural activities.

Flying Fruit Fly Foundation Ltd (\$9,700) in Albury for the installation of new fittings for a training space and improved storage solutions. The project will help expand the use of the training and rehearsal floors for circus arts sessions running concurrently and provide safe storage of equipment, props and in particular valuable items in the Flying Fruit Fly Circus national archive. The modest upgrade of facilities will support the delivery of more programs to the local community, professional circus sector and especially young artists.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council (\$46,500) to upgrade the lighting in the Goulburn Regional Art Gallery to achieve best industry standard lighting for exhibitions. This will be achieved by removal of existing lighting tracks and replacement with a suspended universal light system and upgrade lights to energy efficient LED luminaires. This project will improve the sustainability, presentation and cultural value of exhibitions and programs presented in the region particularly for local artists, Aboriginal artists and artists with disability.

Inverell Art Society Inc (\$30,000) to install air conditioning and solar electricity at Inverell Art Gallery. This project will improve the Gallery's ability to house collections, run exhibitions and will secure long term cost savings for the Gallery allowing a greater portion of the budget to be allocated towards community programs. The Gallery will consequently be able to deliver additional visual art workshops for Aboriginal people and young people in the area.

Moree Cultural Art Foundation (\$27,500) for the upgrade of the Moree Plains Art Gallery's air-conditioning system. The project will help preserve the Gallery's heritage building, increase energy efficiency and install humidity control to better protect sensitive collection material, including significant Aboriginal heritage items and artworks. Securing the preservation of collections will ensure the local Kamilaroi community can regularly view and engage with their artistic and cultural heritage.

Morundah Bush Entertainment Committee Incorporated (\$60,000) for the Morundah Arts Centre towards the addition of a green room, stage lighting and assistance with the fit out of a new permanent 350 seat theatre. It will deliver an attractive, modern and purpose-built arts and community space which can also host touring events and artists. The facility will also allow the Centre to strengthen its ongoing education programs for young people.

New England Regional Art Museum Limited (\$60,000) for gallery standard, energy efficient LED light fittings for the New England Regional Art Museum in Armidale. The project will improve conservation needs for displaying artworks from the Museum's historic art collections and visiting exhibitions, as well as providing an improved visitor experience for tourists and regional audiences. The new lighting will also be used to exhibit works by regionally based artists, community groups and cultural organisations including local Aboriginal artists.

Orange City Council (\$54,500) for the refurbishment of the Orange Regional Gallery. The project includes improvements to flooring, main reception and removal of furnishings to create greater exhibition space. The refurbishment coincides with the launch of the neighbouring Orange Regional Museum and increased visitation to the precinct. The improvements will support the Gallery to host exhibitions of international significance as well as ongoing programs for young people and people with disability.