

2015 NSW Regional Arts Fellowship Assessment Meeting Reporting 23 September 2015

Arts & Cultural
Development
Program



Trade &
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Arts NSW

Assessment Meeting Report

2015 NSW REGIONAL ARTS FELLOWSHIP

Closing Date: Monday, 24 August 2015

Panel Meeting Date: Wednesday 23 September 2015

NSW Regional Arts Fellowship

The NSW Regional Arts Fellowship is offered by the State Government to enable an artist or arts/cultural worker from regional NSW to undertake a self-directed program of professional development. In 2015 two Regional Arts Fellowships will be offered.

The fellowships are open to artists and performers or arts/cultural workers from all art forms, including dance, design, digital arts, history, Aboriginal arts, literature, music, theatre, screen and the visual arts.

Activities may include:

- travel (international and/or national)
- mentorships or internships with recognised arts organisations
- residencies at institutions/organisations
- short-term courses, workshops or other training (Note: The Fellowship is not available to support study which will result in formal tertiary qualification such as a degree)
- creation of new work
- any combination of the above.

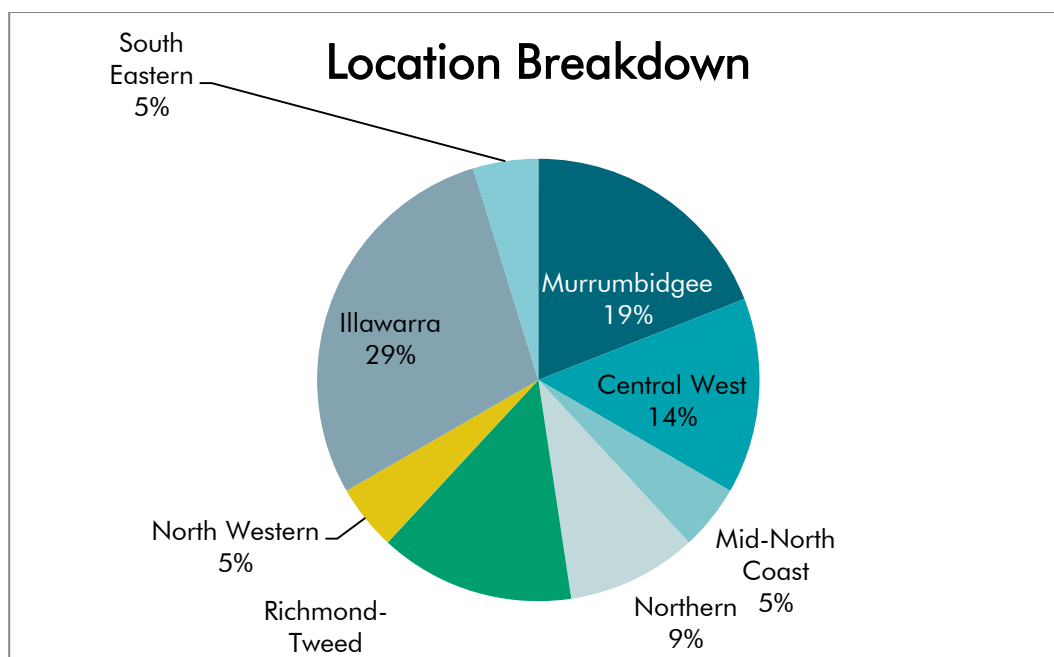
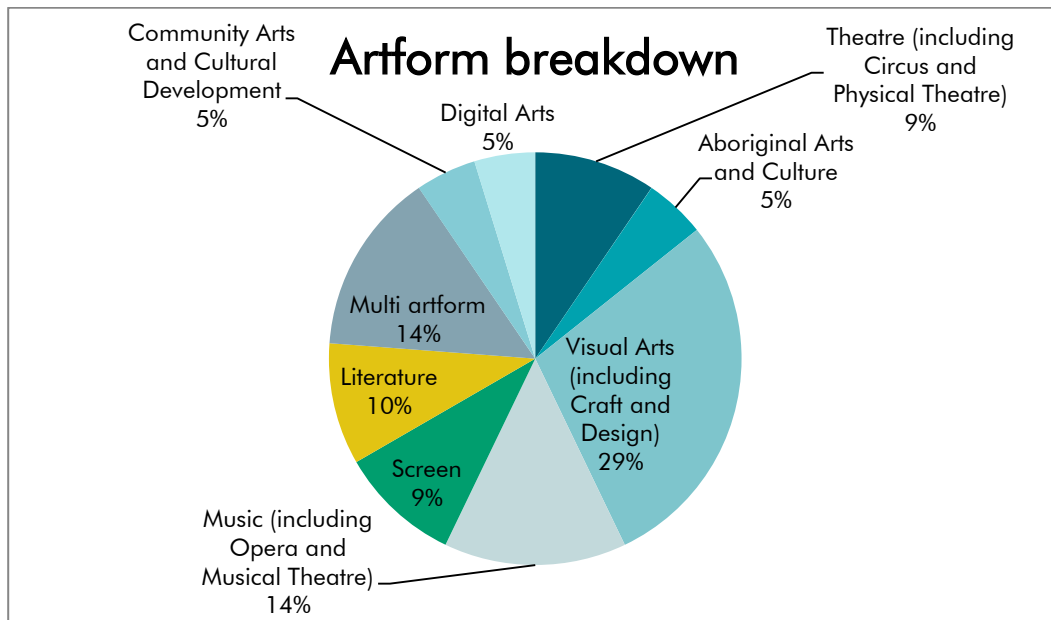
Assessment Criteria

2015 NSW Regional Arts Fellowship applications were assessed by a panel of peers against the following criteria:

1. demonstrated high artistic and cultural merit (evidence to support this should be provided)
2. potential to significantly benefit the applicant's artistic or cultural practice
3. demonstrated contribution to building capacity of arts and culture in regional NSW
4. the program is well planned and achievable

FUNDING STATISTICS

GRANT CATEGORY	Fellowships
APPLICATIONS ASSESSED	21
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	2
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$1,050,000
AMOUNT FUNDED	\$100,000



ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

The assessment panel agreed that the inaugural 2015 Regional Arts Fellowships were very competitive and attracted a broad spectrum of artforms, demonstrating the strength of arts and cultural practice in regional NSW. Whilst the geographic spread was limited the overall standard of submissions was high.

In this first round 21 applications were assessed from arts and cultural practitioners and workers covering a diversity of artforms and approaches. Visual arts and crafts represented the largest number of applications received, followed by music and multi arts. Applications proposed programs engaging with memoir, building regional theatre networks, experimental music, dance and poetry. The project outcomes included mentorships, networking and art form development.

The panel was delighted to recommend two successful recipients, Mr Adam Deusien and Ms Clare Brassil who were selected for their innovative artistic vision and their inspiring, ambitious programs that will contribute greatly to the capacity of arts and culture in their regions and beyond. The panel made special mention of writer Jessie Cole, and recommended she be Highly Commended for her application.

The recommended fellowship proposals were well planned to support the growth of the applicants own skills and practice along with a demonstrated connection to their regional area.

In future rounds, the panel would like to see applicants provide a clearer outline of their connection to their region and encourages applications from rural and remote practitioners in the future. Applicants are reminded to:

- Clearly demonstrate a program of professional development, not just one project. The fellowship is for a period of professional development, which is a range of activities coming together to form a program. This could include research, a mentorship and the development of a new work.
- Clearly demonstrate how the professional development plan furthers their career and practice.
- Seek assistance in preparing their application from their Regional Arts Development Officer, or other key arts organisations in the region. Applicants are also encouraged to contact Arts NSW staff to discuss their application prior to submitting.
- Include letters of support and EOIs from potential mentors. Letters of support should also demonstrate support from the applicant's region for the project.
- Provide evidence of Aboriginal consultation on projects and adhere to the [Arts NSW Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Protocols](#) if working with Aboriginal communities.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

NSW 2015 REGIONAL ARTS FELLOWSHIPS

Clare Brassil, a classically trained and orchestral cellist and composer from Wagga Wagga, creates music using looping technologies and an amplifier with her cello under the moniker Cello Riot. She has performed and recorded for the Melbourne, West Australian, Tasmanian and Sydney Symphony Orchestras and contemporary artists including Kanye West, Barbra Streisand, Katie Noonan, Missy Higgins, The Whitlams and Jimmy Barnes.

Ms Brassil will undertake an 11 month series of mentorships with composers and artists, create new works, and perform in workshops and concerts across regional NSW. Mentors include:

- Katie Noonan and Zac Hurren
- Canadian cellist/composer Julia Kent and
- Australian film composer Michael Yeserski.

Adam Deusien, Bathurst theatre director, deviser and lecturer in Theatre/Media at Charles Sturt University, has trained, taught and performed in Queensland, Hong Kong and Los Angeles. In 2012, he founded the physical theatre company Lingua Franca with Alison Plevy in Bathurst.

Over 10 months Mr Deusien's fellowship program includes:

- Workshops to share skills with three regional performing arts hubs, Hot House (Albury), Generator (Lismore) and Local Stages (Bathurst).
- A placement at Griffin Theatre Company, Sydney, accompanied by a mentorship with Artistic Director Lee Lewis
- A placement at Déda Dance Company in Derby, UK working on its annual community festival of physical performance
- Development of a new theatre work.