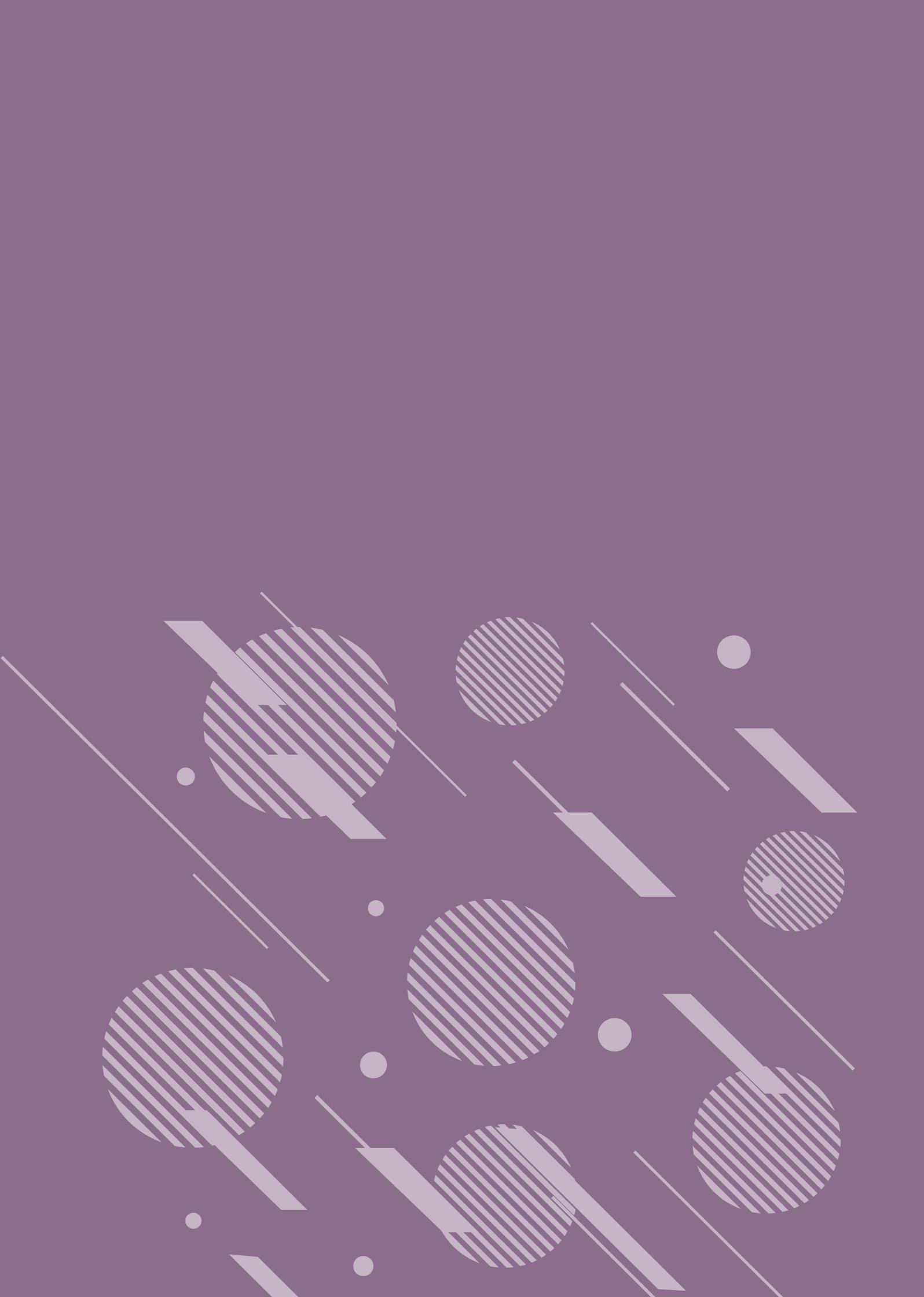




# REGIONAL CULTURAL FUND

Expressions of  
Interest guidelines





## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PREMIER

Our state's economy is stronger than ever before. More money is being invested into the regions than at any other point in our history, and as a result we are seeing more services and more infrastructure being delivered right across the state.

We are ensuring regional NSW reaps the benefits of our economic wins and we are working hard to harness the sense of community that makes regional NSW the best place to live, work and invest.

Our \$73 billion record infrastructure investment agenda is already improving the safety of our roads and access to quality health, education, and police and emergency services. It is also generating business confidence and private sector investment.

From *Tomorrow, When the War Began*, filmed in the Upper Hunter, through to the Margaret Olley Art Centre in Murwillumbah, regional NSW has hundreds of examples of artistic excellence.

The \$100 million Regional Cultural Fund will support construction of new arts and cultural facilities, upgrades to existing facilities and repurposing of infrastructure so that regional communities can enjoy bold and exciting experiences that reflect the state's rich cultural diversity.

The NSW Government continues to recognise the social, cultural and economic value of the arts and the recreational and educational benefits that result from a thriving arts and cultural sector.

**The Hon John Barilaro**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Regional NSW  
Minister for Skills  
Minister for Small Business



## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

Art and culture is at the heart of every regional community. The Regional Cultural Fund is an important initiative to make sure the state's towns, villages and cities remain exciting and vibrant places to live, work and visit by increasing the reach of arts and culture.

We all know that many local organisations run on the time and passion of generous volunteers in facilities that struggle to meet the expectations of their community.

The four funding categories under the Regional Cultural Fund will ensure a diversity of local projects have a much better opportunity to secure funding.

This record commitment to regional arts and culture is all about making sure that everyone gets their fair share, no matter where they live.

With real money available to improve cultural infrastructure and programs right across this beautiful state, it is an exciting time for regional arts and culture.

**The Hon Don Harwin MP**  
Minister for Resources  
Minister for Energy and Utilities  
Minister for the Arts  
Leader of the NSW Government in the Upper House  
and Vice-President of the Executive Council

# GUIDELINES

2

## Regional Cultural Fund

The \$100 million Regional Cultural Fund has been established by the NSW Government to support local communities and help the development of cultural infrastructure to enable bold and exciting arts and culture that reflects the rich diversity of regional NSW. Up to \$25 million will be made available in the first round of funding.

The NSW Government recognises the social, cultural and economic value of the arts in regional NSW. A thriving arts and cultural sector provides a focus for communities and offers opportunities for learning and self-development. Participation in the arts promotes personal and collective wellbeing, as well as contributing strongly to an innovative and robust local economy.

Investment in arts and cultural facilities in regional NSW drives dynamic country towns and regional centres, with facilities and programs attracting visitors and giving regional artists more opportunities. Cultural infrastructure also plays a role in supporting regional economic development and improving the lives of people living in regional environments. It ensures regional communities across NSW remain attractive and vibrant places for people to live.

Effective cultural infrastructure projects in regional NSW will ensure that arts and cultural facilities in NSW support a diverse and distinctive cultural offering, increased participation, regional development and the growth of the regional cultural sector.

All decisions will be made based on evidence demonstrating that projects have a positive economic and social impact for regional NSW.

## Eligible applicants

The Regional Cultural Fund is available to all 92 regional local government areas, Lord Howe Island and the Unincorporated Far West. Regional local councils are those outside Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

To be eligible to make an application, an organisation must be a legally constituted Australian based entity or one of the following:

- a not-for-profit incorporated body
- a non-trading (non-distributing) cooperative/trust
- a local government authority.

If a business unit or entity does not have its own Australian Business Number, an application must be submitted on its behalf by the local government authority.

Project applications are invited from:

- local government
- Aboriginal Land Councils and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups
- incorporated associations, including businesses, industry and community organisations
- cooperatives
- educational institutions
- non-government organisations.

Projects will need to demonstrate that they maximise other co-investment by the applicant and, potentially, by the Commonwealth Government or other industry contributions.

## Important dates for Round 1

Expressions of interest  
**17 July 2017 to 4 September 2017**

Successful projects notified  
**23 October 2017**

Final business cases due  
**15 January 2018**

Announcement  
**5 February 2018**



Michael MacGregor, *New Start*, 2012.  
Goulburn Regional Art Gallery  
Permanent Collection, public artwork.  
Photo | Goulburn Regional  
Art Gallery



*Railway Wonderland*, 2015. NORPA  
Photo | Katie Holmes

## Available funding

Funds allocated within Round 1 of the Regional Cultural Fund will be provided in four categories:

- **small scale regional cultural infrastructure** grants of up to \$60,000 for improving arts and cultural infrastructure and purchasing equipment for arts and cultural purposes
- **medium scale regional cultural infrastructure** grants between \$60,000 and \$1 million to improve arts and cultural infrastructure and revitalise local communities and economies through strategic investment
- **large scale cultural infrastructure investment** grants over \$1 million for cultural infrastructure in regional NSW, with a strong focus on partnerships with local councils and communities
- **operational grants** to support the delivery of arts, cultural, screen and heritage projects.

Projects submitted should commence within a 12-month time period and ideally be completed within two years of funding approval.



Young people from Hay perform at the historic home, Bishop's Lodge, in *The Echo in Our Walls*, 2016.  
Outback Theatre for Young People.  
Photo | Victoria Anderson



*Reverberate Interactive Festival of Sound* presented by Outback Theatre for Young People, 2013. Artists Danielle O'Keefe, Vic McEwan and Jim Coad worked with local young people to produce interactive video and sound works.  
Photo | Outback Theatre for Young People

# ELIGIBILITY

4

## Eligible projects

### Aims and objectives

The Regional Cultural Fund aims to strengthen regional arts, screen, culture and heritage, and revitalise local communities through strategic investment.

The objectives of the Regional Cultural Fund are to:

- **provide a distinct cultural experience** — enable unique arts, screen, culture and heritage offerings or meet an identified need or gap
- **enhance cultural vitality** — improve or establish cultural infrastructure and generate additional jobs in the cultural sector or the broader economies of the region
- **promote increased participation in creative and cultural activities** — enable access to arts and cultural projects and increase participation and diverse audiences in cultural events for regional communities, including for young people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- **ensure design excellence** — projects should consider design excellence as a key component of the project development and procurement process.

### Types of projects that could be funded

The Regional Cultural Fund supports projects that improve regional cultural infrastructure. Examples include:

- building new local public cultural facilities
- refurbishing existing local cultural facilities, such as libraries, museums and halls
- digitisation of collections to enable wider access for regional communities
- repurposing existing infrastructure for arts, screen, culture and heritage uses
- projects that support touring exhibitions and community cultural engagement in regional areas.

## Ineligible projects

The Regional Cultural Fund will not support projects that:

- are not in eligible locations
- have exclusive private benefits
- relate primarily to ongoing operational expenditure (including, but not limited to, regular repairs and maintenance)
- relate to engaging or paying permanent employees
- relate to buying or upgrading non-fixed equipment or administrative or running costs that are normally the responsibility of business, state or territory agencies or local council
- would proceed without NSW Government financial assistance
- relate to marketing, advertising or product promotion
- require ongoing funding from the NSW Government or Commonwealth Government that has not been budgeted.



# ASSESSMENT

## Two step process

The projects will be assessed through a two step process by the NSW Government.

### STEP ONE

#### Submit an Expression of Interest

Expressions of Interest are sought for investment under the Regional Cultural Fund. Applications for the Regional Cultural Fund must show evidence of community consultation and how the project will improve arts, screen, cultural and heritage outcomes for communities across NSW. Wherever possible, projects should support local procurement, job creation and skills development outcomes.

**To submit an Expression of Interest, go to:**

[www.nsw.gov.au/regionalculturalfund](http://www.nsw.gov.au/regionalculturalfund)

Should you require assistance identifying or completing the form, please email [regional@arts.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regional@arts.nsw.gov.au) or call **(02) 8289 6575**.

### STEP TWO

#### Submit further information

If your Expression of Interest is successful, you will be asked to include more detail regarding financial and service delivery outcomes. The scope of the information will depend on the amount of funding being sought. For larger projects, this will involve the preparation of a business case. Assistance is available from Create NSW to help applicants develop business cases should they need it. The information submitted will be assessed against the assessment criteria outlined in the Regional Cultural Fund fact sheet.

# NEXT STEPS

## If you are successful

Organisations must not make financial commitments for funded activities until funding agreements have been finalised by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and any relevant parties.

The funds must be spent on items/eligible project costs directly relating to the project, as specified in the application and the funding agreement.

Funds that are unspent at the end of the project, or which were not used in accordance with the funding agreement, must be returned.

Requests for variations or changes to the project may be considered in limited circumstances. Changes or variations may be rejected or accepted subject to certain conditions.

Recipients will be given a three-week period to review, accept and return the signed funding agreement to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

The information provided in funding applications will be used to create:

- funding and reporting schedules based on key milestones
- key performance indicators
- a proposed evaluation method.

Information on grants may be publicised.

Kirk Watts, *Watch/Wait* and *Consult/Compromise*, 2013 in *Cut and Flow* exhibition at the Western Plains Cultural Centre.

**Photo | Western Plains Cultural Centre**



Windsong Pavilion, 2014. Four Winds.

**Photo | Robert Tacheci**

# MUSEUM OF THE RIVERINA

## MORE INFORMATION

[www.nsw.gov.au/regionalculturalfund](http://www.nsw.gov.au/regionalculturalfund)

### Contact us

**Email:** [regional@arts.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regional@arts.nsw.gov.au)

**Phone:** (02) 8289 6575

©State of NSW 2017

#### Disclaimer

While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the facts contained within this document are correct at time of printing, the state of NSW, its agents and employees, disclaim any and all liability to any person in respect of anything or the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done in reliance or upon the whole or any part of this document.

#### Copyright notice

In keeping with the NSW Government's commitment to encourage the availability of information, you are welcome to reproduce the material that appears in this Regional Cultural Fund document for personal, in-house or non-commercial use without formal permission or charge. All other rights reserved. If you wish to reproduce, alter, store or transmit material appearing in this Regional Cultural Fund document for any other purpose, request for formal permission should be directed to the Department of Premier and Cabinet, 52 Martin Place, Sydney. You are required to acknowledge that the material is provided by this Regional Cultural Fund document or the owner of the copyright.