

Arts & Cultural Projects

Round 2: 6 - 8 Feb 2018

Assessment Meeting Report

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ARTS & CULTURAL PROJECTS - ROUND 2

Closing Date: 12 December 2017

Panel Meetings:

Tuesday 6 – Thursday 8 February 2018

The Arts & Cultural Development Program's (ACDP) Arts & Cultural Projects category 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 and strengthen professional arts and cultural development in the small-to-medium arts and cultural sector.

This category is open to individual artists, arts/cultural workers, organisations, partnerships and groups. Projects may include, for example:

- the creative development and/or public presentation of work/s
- commissioning of professional artists to develop a new work for an event
- partnerships (including with the non-arts sector) to develop arts and culture in a specific region, priority area, artform or discipline
- community collaborations involving professional artists to develop skills, public performances, exhibitions or participatory events
- the development and presentation of a new museum display
- activities aimed at engaging young people in arts and culture, particularly students attending geographically and/or socio-economically disadvantaged schools
- extending an artist's/organisation's practice, audiences and markets
- developing and deepening audience engagement.

Arts & Cultural Projects applications were assessed by arts sector peer professionals. Applications were assessed against the following assessment criteria:

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

ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

The panel members from both the Performing Arts and Visual Arts, Museums & Literature assessment panels noted the following points as feedback for applicants to the Arts & Cultural Projects Round 2:

Quality

- The performing arts panel were impressed with the amount of high quality applications coming through in this round.
- The visual arts, literature and museums panel would encourage more experimental/creative applications and encourages applicants to take more artistic risk. This panel also outlined that the more highly favoured applications were clear and concise in their aims and objectives.
- There was significant diversity demonstrated across artforms represented in this round within the performing arts panel. From new media and multidisciplinary engagements with storytelling, to traditional forms of practice.
- The performing arts panel noted an outstanding representation of new Aboriginal/First Nations theatre and storytelling in the top field of applications, which indicates a creative and vibrant sector.
- Both panels were encouraged by the amount of applications prioritising people with disability.
- The panel assessing visual arts, literature and museums noted a lack of applications from people from CaLD backgrounds, and people from Western Sydney, whereas these two priority areas were noted as a clear strength within the performing arts sector.
- Solo projects by independent dancers were highly represented within this round. The applications written by the dance sector were generally very well researched, supported and constructed.
- Though most applications expressed a desire to engage priority areas, this was often not supported with clear evidence or strategy.

Engagement

- There was a large number of regional applications in the round across the board from independent artists to local councils, however the performing arts panel would like to see more application from the Northern Rivers.
- The round demonstrated a broad field of practice included across applications. Local government support for regional projects was

encouraging, but the panel would like to see a higher investment coming through from local councils.

- There were a number of highly ranked proposals from the classical music sector, but these proposals in general needed to address engagement and participation more clearly.

Viability

- While there were many well-presented projects engaging with 'art and health', many of these engaged artists as a secondary consideration. The panel would like to see a more collaborative approach from the health sector.
- Applicants should consider support material that better demonstrates the rationale for the project and the quality of the work, as well as its relevance to the community.
- Letters of support should be current and addressed to the correct funding body.
- Artists are encouraged to provide a more detailed artistic rationale and to more clearly articulate the process to achieve artistic outcomes in a realistic timeframe.

Budget

- Applicants would benefit from providing a greater level of detail in the budget in relation to rates, hours and pay scale used in calculations. A clearer breakdown of artists fees, technical fees and production would also be beneficial.
- The performing arts panel had a long conversation about the contemporary music sector and the difference between economies between performance and contemporary music. Artists either do not pay themselves appropriately, or the support networks available to artists do not have the capacity to include fees as part of the benefits that they achieve for their artists.

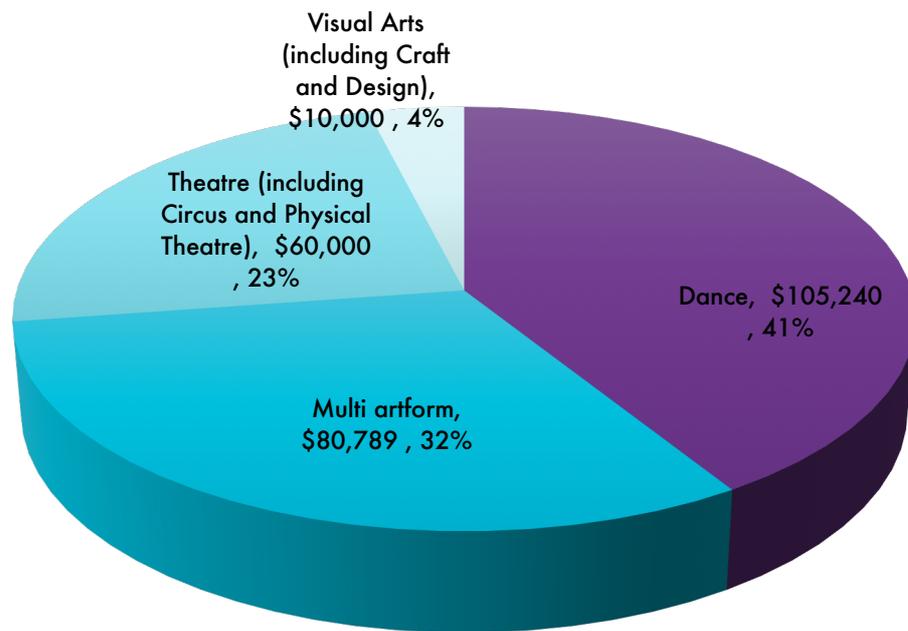
FUNDING STATISTICS

GRANT CATEGORY	Arts & Cultural Projects
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	222
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	6
SUCCESS RATE	2.7%
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$8,296,017
AMOUNT FUNDED	\$256,029

Artform Breakdown

Of the 6 applications funded, the highest numbers were from dance projects, followed by multi artform. The following chart shows the distribution of funding as a percentage according to artform.

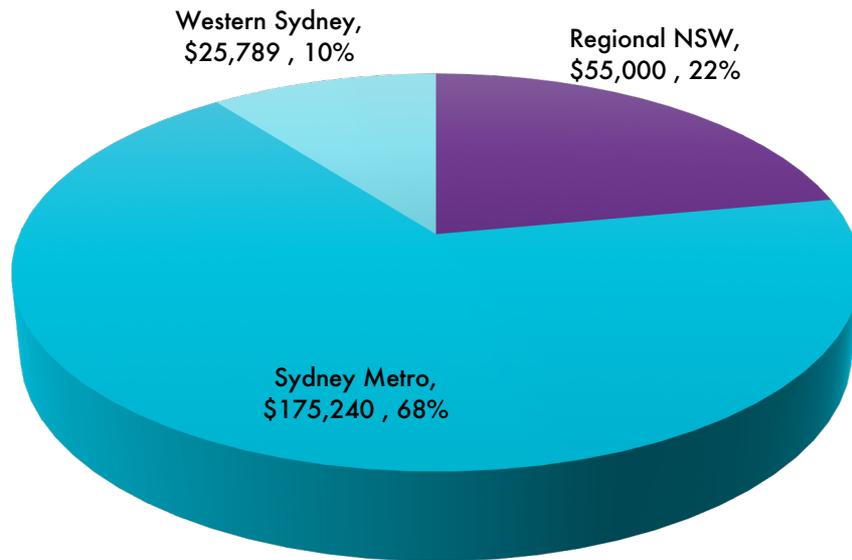
RECOMMENDED APPLICATIONS BY ARTFORM



Geographical Spread

Funding was recommended for projects taking place across NSW. Of the 6 applications recommended, four came from Sydney, one from Western Sydney, and one from regional NSW. The following chart shows the number of successful applications from each region, and displays funding allocated to that region as a percentage of all funds.

RECOMMENDED APPLICATIONS BY APPLICANT LOCATION REGION



SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

2017/18 Arts and Cultural Projects – Round 2

Marrugeku Inc - \$60,000

Le Dernier Appel/The Last Call is a new trans-Indigenous dance theatre work jointly commissioned by Centre Tjibaou, Nouméa and Carriageworks, Sydney. The work brings together an exceptional cast and creative team from Sydney and Nouméa to explore decolonization through dance. *Le Dernier Appel* will rehearse and premiere at Carriageworks in mid-2018.

The Corridor Project Ltd - \$55,000

BIG - little Histories of Canowindra is a singular, multi art-form event that interweaves four significant local histories across multiple sites in the regional NSW town of Canowindra. The local histories featured include those of the Devonian period; First Nation; Bushranger; and agricultural activity; culminating in an extraordinary community driven event.

Ensemble Limited - \$60,000

Ensemble Theatre will produce its first production featuring the story of an Indigenous man, with an Indigenous director, all-Australian creatives and emerging Indigenous performers. Geoffrey Atherden's *Black Cockatoo*, reflects on a significant moment in Australia's cricketing history, race relations and national identity and will premiere during the 2019 Sydney Festival.

Blue Mountains City Council - \$25,789

A series of public programs celebrating 2018 NAIDOC in conjunction with the exhibition *John South: Skyworld* will explore Aboriginal astronomy through cross disciplinary programs. The program of events includes panel discussions with leading Aboriginal astronomers and artists, stargazing with scientists from Penrith and Linden Observatories and artist John South (Barkindji), as well as holiday programs for people 5 to 16 years old.

Lingalayam Dance Company Inc - \$45,240

Anandavalli and Vicki Van Hout will develop *Serpent/s*, an interdisciplinary dance theatre work researched and conceived on the mythological significance of Serpent manifestations of two cultures; Australian Indigenous and Indian. The project will incorporate polyrhythmic driven dance, digital animation and spoken text.

Ms Harriet Body - \$10,000

Paired is an exhibition resulting from twelve months of independent research looking at collaborative art practices between artists living with and without intellectual/developmental disability or complex needs across Australia. The exhibition has been selected by Firstdraft Gallery's board of directors to be included in their Emerging Curators Program in 2018.