

**Western  
Sydney Making  
Spaces Fund**

**22 May 2018**

**Assessment  
Meeting Report**

# Assessment Meeting Report

# WESTERN SYDNEY MAKING SPACES

Closing Date: Friday, 27 April 2018

Panel Meeting Date: Tuesday 22 May 2018

## OVERVIEW

The Western Sydney Making Spaces Initiative provides funding to support professional artists and arts organisations to create their work in new studios, artists' residencies and rehearsal spaces in Western Sydney.

A recent survey of the arts and cultural sector in the region found that the highest need identified by the sector/ arts practitioners is for spaces to create or make art works. The Western Sydney Making Spaces Initiative seeks to open up new and innovative arts sites across Western Sydney to increase the footprint of arts making and arts participation across the region. It is designed to encourage property owners or managers to offer new or unused spaces for making and programming art works in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

## OBJECTIVES

The Western Sydney Making Spaces objectives are:

- To increase opportunities for Western Sydney arts and cultural workers to make/ develop their art.
- To animate new spaces or venues in Western Sydney.
- To provide new creative hubs to build capacity and sustainability of arts practice in Western Sydney.
- To increase skills development and networking opportunities for Western Sydney arts practitioners.
- To increase visibility of arts and cultural practice across Western

## FUNDING

### Funding range

- \$15,000 - \$50,000 per application, per site

### CLOSING DATE

Friday 27 April 2018 at midnight (AEST)

## WHO CAN APPLY?

- Professional artists, creative partnerships, cultural groups and arts organisations based in NSW
- Community groups, unincorporated entities and non-government organisations based in NSW
- Government property owners/managers based in NSW.

## APPLICATION LIMIT

APPLICANTS ARE LIMITED TO SUBMITTING ONE APPLICATION PER NOMINATED SITE.

## TERM

Projects must commence on or after 1 August 2018 but can run until 30 June 2020.

## ASSESSMENT

The Western Sydney Making Spaces Initiative applications were assessed by arts sector peer professionals. Applications were assessed against the following assessment criteria:

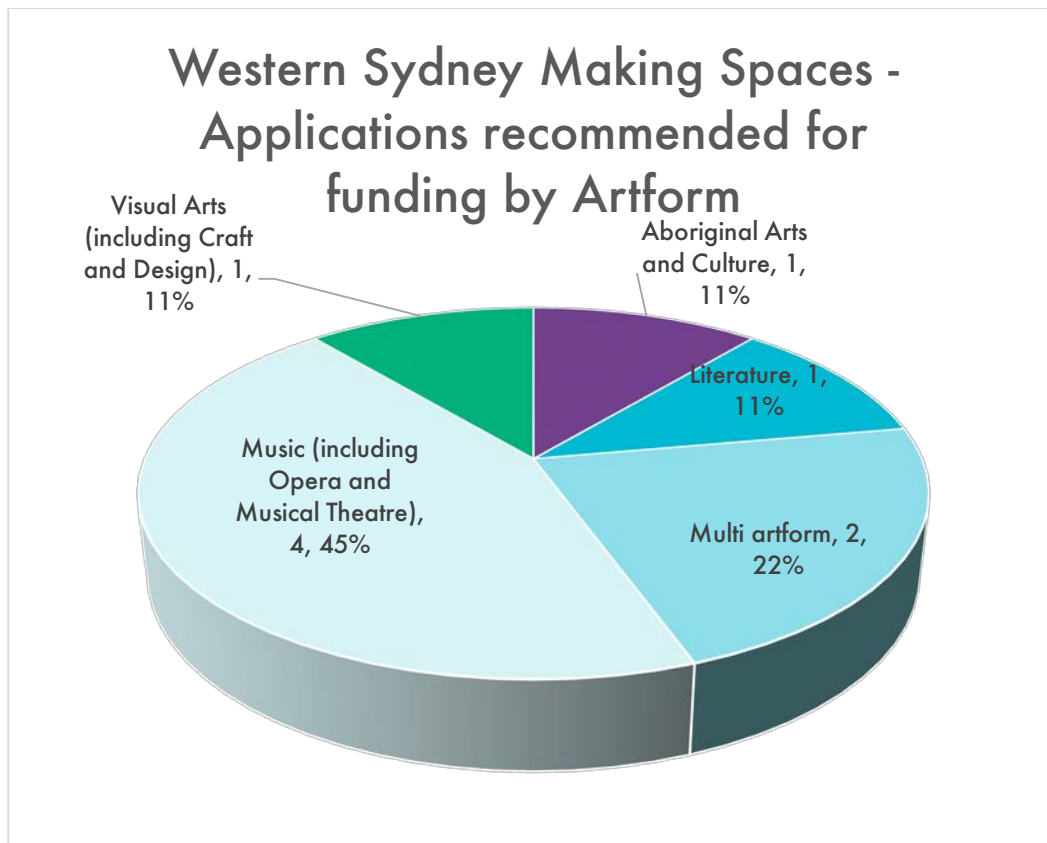
- Artistic and Cultural Merit (Quality)
- Engagement and Participation (Reach)
- Viability (Health)
- Budget (Health)

# FUNDING STATISTICS

GRANT CATEGORY	Western Sydney Making Spaces Initiative
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	18
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	9
SUCCESS RATE	50%
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$731,214
AMOUNT FUNDED	\$433,140

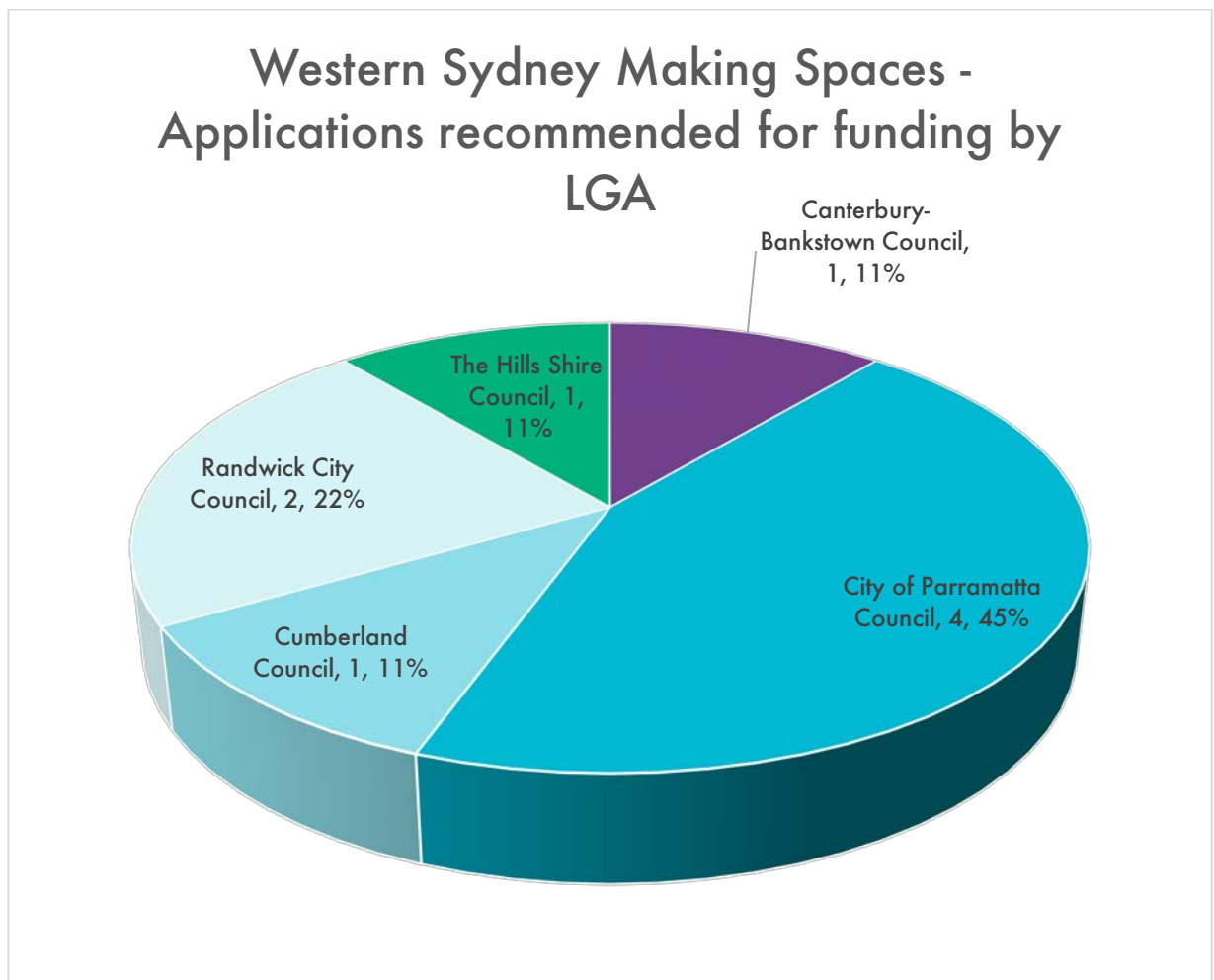
## Artform Breakdown

Of the 9 applications funded, four were for music activities, two for multi artform and one each for Visual arts, literature and Aboriginal arts and culture. The following chart shows the distribution of funding as a percentage according to artform.



## Geographical Spread

Funding was recommended for projects taking place across Western Sydney. Of the 9 applications recommended, four came from Parramatta and the others were from Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, and the Hills Shire. Two successful applications were to an organisation based in Randwick, however the projects are taking place in Mt Drutt (Blacktown) and Liverpool. 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.



## PANEL ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

The panel was pleased to see many initiatives finding new ways to activate spaces in Western Sydney. It was exciting to see projects involving emerging artists and engaging new audiences. The applications demonstrated the breadth of activity in Western Sydney and the high-quality art being created.

The Making Spaces initiative is a way to create opportunities, test these activities in new spaces, and by evaluating them build a case for ongoing engagement. Some applicants could embed the evaluation process more fully into their applications to further prove the viability of the activity.

The panel noted it is important for applicants to research the appropriate artists fees and pay artists properly. Some budgets lacked clarity and did not properly outline fees and costs involved for the artists. The panel advise that all applicants should check budgets carefully to ensure accuracy. Budgets were at times confusing and this impacts on the competitiveness of an application.

Timelines for projects are also important. A clear timeline and workplan ensure the project is viable and gives confidence to the panel that all the outcomes will be achieved.

It was acknowledged that for this round there was limited time to prepare and find available spaces. Finding appropriate spaces and negotiating usage can take considerable time and effort. A longer lead time for this round may have led to a higher number of applications, particularly for performing arts who often have specific needs for types of flooring or sound proofing.

The panel suggests applicants focus on quality art making activities. It is sometimes better to do less but achieve higher quality outcomes. The quality of engagement is also important. Strategies for engagement need to be targeted and relevant to the community. For example, if targeting Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) participants there needs to be a clear approach built on strong partnerships and research. The panel would like to see more direct engagement with the CaLD communities in Western Sydney including seniors.

Overall the panel was impressed with the arts and culture activity presented in the round and was pleased to support this next stage of Making Spaces in Western Sydney.

## SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

### Western Sydney Making Spaces (2017/18)

Project title: **Arts Lab @ Westmead Connectivity Centre**

Applicant: **Health and Arts Research Centre Inc**

Total amount recommended: **\$50,000**

Applicant LGA: **City of Parramatta Council**

Activity LGA: **City of Parramatta Council**

Artform: **Multi artform**

An experimental space for artists to build capacity for health arts projects at Westmead Health Precinct.

Project title: **Murama Cultural Arts and Education Space**

Applicant: **Sydney Olympic Park Authority**

Total amount recommended: **\$50,000**

Applicant LGA: **City of Parramatta Council**

Activity LGA: **City of Parramatta Council**

Artform: **Aboriginal Arts and Culture**

The Murama Cultural Space is located at Newington Armory on the Parramatta River. This space is co-designed by Indigenous Youth and Elders. It is a place for artistic cultural expression, healing and well-being, ceremony, knowledge sharing, training and community engagement.

Project title: **Blacktown Writers' Room**

Applicant: **WestWords Ltd**

Total amount recommended: **\$40,000**

Applicant LGA: **City of Parramatta Council**

Activity LGA: **Blacktown City Council**

Artform: **Literature**

A writers' room in Blacktown LGA providing a mix of non-live-in residential studio space and support for the development and presentation of new work by writers from Western Sydney. This room joins a network of existing rooms in Parramatta, Katoomba and Campbelltown.

Project title: **Cumberland gets Anime-ted!**

Applicant: **Ms Inara Molinari**

Total amount recommended: **\$50,000**

Applicant LGA: **Cumberland Council**

Activity LGA: **Cumberland Council**

Artform: **Music**

Enlivening the Granville Town Hall in the Cumberland LGA as a music rehearsal space for 'Philharmonia' sized choral rehearsals in 2019, including preparation and development of the 'Anime-ted Project'. This is a program of newly arranged 'Anime' theme songs performed at the 2019 Sydney Cherry Blossom Festival.



Project title: **Get Out of the Garret! (GOG!)**  
Applicant: **Ability Options Ltd**  
Total amount recommended: **\$50,000**  
Applicant LGA: **The Hills Shire Council**  
Activity LGA: **Blacktown City Council**  
Artform: **Multi artform**

A creative space and facilities in Seven Hills for Western Sydney artists with disability. This space supports skills development, networking opportunities, access to facilities and equipment and to employment and education programs.

Project title: **Bankstown Music Hub**  
Applicant: **Mr Richard Petkovic**  
Total amount recommended: **\$43,140**  
Applicant LGA: **City of Canterbury-Bankstown**  
Activity LGA: **City of Canterbury-Bankstown**  
Artform: **Music**

Transforming a space in Bankstown CBD to allow Western Sydney musicians the opportunity to create new work, rehearse and build audiences in a new live venue.

Project title: **An artist-run initiative for Western Sydney**  
Applicant: **PARI**  
Total amount recommended: **\$50,000**  
Applicant LGA: **City of Parramatta Council**  
Activity LGA: **City of Parramatta Council**  
Artform: **Visual Arts (including Craft and Design)**

A new artist-run initiative in Parramatta, to be based in a council-owned commercial property in the heart of Parramatta CBD. The program of exhibitions is for early-career and Western Sydney-based artists, supported by regular events including artist talks, readings, screenings and performances.

Project title: **Mt Druitt Street University Music Project**

Applicant: **The Ted Noffs Foundation**

Total amount recommended: **\$50,000**

Applicant LGA: **Randwick City Council**

Activity LGA: **Blacktown City Council**

Artform: **Music (including Opera and Musical Theatre)**

A professional-standard music production space for disadvantaged young artists to create new works and develop specialist, career-relevant skills as part of the Mt Druitt Street University Music Project.

Project title: **Liverpool Street University Music Project**

Applicant: **The Ted Noffs Foundation**

Total amount recommended: **\$50,000**

Applicant LGA: **Randwick City Council**

Activity LGA: **Liverpool City Council**

Artform: **Music (including Opera and Musical Theatre)**

A professional-standard music production space for disadvantaged young artists to create new works and develop specialist, career-relevant skills as part of the Liverpool Street University Music Project.