

WS Emerging Organisations

23 May 2018

Assessment Meeting Report

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WESTERN SYDNEY EMERGING ORGANISATIONS

Closing Date: Friday, 27 April 2018

Panel Meeting Date: Wednesday 23 May 2018

OVERVIEW

The Western Sydney Emerging Organisations Program will provide funding to emerging arts, screen and/or cultural organisations, groups, collectives, partnerships or individuals to build capacity and develop sustainable business, practice and employment models through a tailored program of support.

Funding is aimed towards developing strategic partnerships, exploring potential revenue streams and innovative development initiatives that increase skills and employment of Western Sydney arts practitioners. The program can also supply organisational seed funding to leverage funding opportunities from foundations and philanthropists and from local, state and federal government funding agencies. An 'Emerging Organisation' may be defined as an arts, screen and/or cultural group, collective or individual that is still emerging as a sustainable organisation and has an ambitious vision for their future.

The program aims to invest in the development of organisations in the Western Sydney arts, screen and cultural sector, to strengthen capacity and increase the viability of their programs and projects. Types of activities supported could include the development of strategic business plans, insurance costs, organisational resources and equipment, professional and business skills development, development of marketing and communication plans, and courses and training for staff.

OBJECTIVES

The Western Sydney Emerging Organisations objectives are:

- To increase opportunities for Western Sydney arts and cultural organisations to develop sustainable business models
- To increase capacity in the sector by supporting emerging Western Sydney organisations to build strong governance practice and strategic planning
- To increase skills development for Western Sydney arts practitioners to help sustain cultural practice and levels of employment in Western Sydney

- To establish partnerships to broaden income streams and leverage funding opportunities

Funding range

Applicants can apply for up to \$50,000 over two years. Please do not request more than this amount in your application.

Assessment

Western Sydney Strategic Opportunities applications were assessed by independently chaired assessment panels, comprised of qualified and experienced peer representatives. Applications were assessed against the following assessment criteria:

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

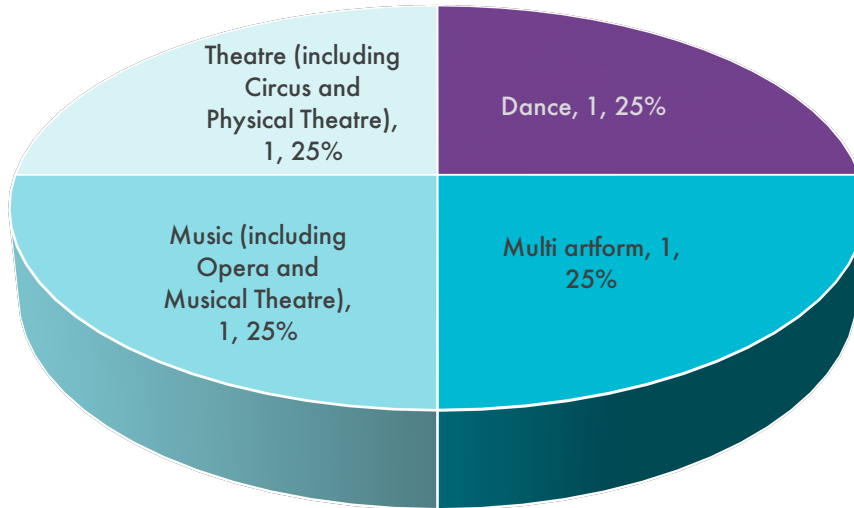
FUNDING STATISTICS

GRANT CATEGORY	Western Sydney Emerging Organisations
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	35
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	4
SUCCESS RATE	14%
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$1,509,936
AMOUNT FUNDED	\$199,525

Artform Breakdown

Of the 4 applications funded, there was equal representation for theatre, music, multi artform and dance. The following chart shows the distribution of funding as a percentage according to artform.

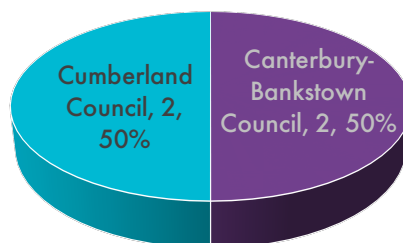
Western Sydney Emerging Organisations - Applications recommended for funding by Artform



Geographical Spread

Funding was recommended for projects taking place across Western Sydney. Of the four applications recommended, two came from Cumberland Council region and two from Canterbury-Bankstown Council region. 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.

Western Sydney Emerging Organisations - Applications recommended for funding by LGA



PANEL ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

The panel welcomed this important strategic initiative and timely investment for the growth of the arts, screen and cultural sector in Western Sydney.

There was a strong demand for the funding demonstrating the ongoing need for the development of sustainable independent arts organisations. The diversity within the submissions was reflected in the panel's recommendations for funding.

The recommended applications demonstrate the artistic and cultural vibrancy of Western Sydney. The panel is excited to support the establishment of four new independent arts organisations in Western Sydney.

The panel had concerns around true engagement with Western Sydney and questioned some applicants lack of engagement with the region. The panel also had concerns about the satellite projects from established organisations.

The panel noted that many of the applications read more as projects, as opposed to the development of emerging organisations.

The panel would have liked to see more of a clear separation of the artistic ambition of the organisation and the ambition of the organisational or business development.

Many of these applications did not address additional Arts and Cultural Development Program (ACDP) priority areas. Although this is not an official requirement for the Emerging Organisations round, the panel felt that that given the diversity of the Western Sydney region other priorities should have been addressed outside of Western Sydney.

The panel felt that there was a good representation of artform spread across the round and were pleased with the balance of artform in the higher ranked applications.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Western Sydney Emerging Organisations (2017/18)

Applicant: **Arab Theatre Studio**

Total amount recommended: **\$49,905**

Applicant LGA: **Cumberland Council**

Activity LGA: **Cumberland Council**

Artform: **Theatre**

Arab Theatre Studio will develop their organisational capacity with the support of experienced mentors, acquiring business skills, as well as engaging in strategic cultural planning. Arab Theatre Studio will grow a sustainable model to work towards their vision of establishing an ongoing Arab Australian contemporary arts space in Western Sydney. Arab Theatre Studio has been initiating and producing cultural work since 2014.

Applicant: **Sacred Currents**

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

Applicant LGA: **City of Canterbury-Bankstown**

Activity LGA: **City of Canterbury-Bankstown**

Artform: **Music**

Sacred Currents Inc identified the need to have two new roles to help boost the sustainability of the organisation. Improved management capacity and building consistent revenue streams were key underlying factors identified in the Sacred Current Inc's latest business plan that would result in the organisation's ability to both sustain and grow.

Applicant: **Dance Makers Collective**

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

Applicant LGA: **Cumberland Council**

Activity LGA: **Cumberland Council**

Artform: **Dance**

Dance Makers Collective will formulate a business plan with the mentorship of experienced professionals to build a case for support to garner additional funding to sustain the infrastructure, program and project costs of the organisation. Dance Makers Collective has established a variety of strong partnerships to develop and deliver programs across Western Sydney. These will expand their capacity and reach, and generate new income streams. In addition, they will grow and strengthen communities to embrace dance not only as an artform for the expression of ideas, but as an essential part of community building, health, education and culture.

Applicant: **Outlandish Arts Productions Ltd**

Total amount recommended: **\$49,620**

Applicant LGA: **City of Canterbury-Bankstown**

Activity LGA: **City of Canterbury-Bankstown, Blacktown City Council**

Artform: **Multi artform**

Outlandish Arts Productions Ltd will employ two consultants on their 2018/2019 arts program to hone their mission, vision and strategic objectives. This funding will allow the organisation to develop strategic and business plans. They will formulate volunteer, partnership and engagement strategies as well as consolidating a marketing and branding strategy. Outlandish Arts Productions Ltd will identify entrepreneurial income streams, and begin implementation to develop strategic philanthropic relationships and a fundraising program.