

Regional Partnerships

November 2017

Assessment Meeting Report

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REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

EOI Closing Date: Tuesday 13 June 2017

Final Closing Date: Monday 25 September 2017

Final Panel Meeting: Wednesday 1 November 2017

The Arts & Cultural Development Program (ACDP) Regional Partnerships funding category supports significant and long-term partnerships in regional NSW that will stimulate strong and diverse regional arts and cultural activity, and leave a legacy.

This funding supports strategic partnerships across and beyond the arts and cultural sectors, including those with local government authorities or other public, private or community organisations. Partnerships between regional and Sydney-based organisations are eligible if the benefit and funding goes directly to the region.

Funding is available for new projects and/or the significant developments of a current project.

This funding category involves a two-stage application process:

- **Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EOI)**
- **Stage 2: Final application**

In Stage 1, the EOIs were shortlisted based on assessment by Create NSW staff against ACDP assessment criteria and priorities, objectives of the category, and strategic objectives of Create NSW and the NSW Government.

Shortlisted applicants were given feedback on their EOIs and received support from Create NSW to develop their project.

Final applications submitted under Stage 2 were assessed by a panel of arts and cultural sector peers against the following Assessment Criteria:

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

ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

This funding round attracted a high standard of applications with a good reach across regional NSW and broad artform spread. Applications came from local Government, the small to medium arts and cultural sector and other community and arts organisations. The projects and partnerships proposed were diverse and innovative, reaching across and beyond the arts and cultural sector.

The most competitive applications demonstrated strong partnerships with evidence that partners were actively involved in all stages of the project (planning, development and delivery) and providing an appropriate financial contribution (whether cash or in-kind). The roles of partners were well defined and supported by a structure to manage the project, such as a steering committee or working group and/or a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) outlining roles and responsibilities.

Applicants are reminded that, although Sydney-based organisations and practitioners can be involved in a partnership, the benefit and funding allocated in this category must go to regional areas.

If funding is sought for an already existing project, e.g. an existing arts festival or event, the applicant must demonstrate that their proposal is the significant development of this current project. Applicants seeking funding for ongoing activities should consider apply under other funding categories, for example, Arts and Cultural Projects.

Providing sufficient detail and explanation in budgets is incredibly important in demonstrating whether a project is viable, well planned and effectively utilising resources. Budgets that lacked detail and were not transparent were difficult to assess. Applicants are reminded that it is essential for budgets to include an adequate provision for artist/creative fees, particularly for any involved regional artists.

Shortlisted projects were of the highest quality and demonstrated the development of strategic and significant partnerships, potential to build regional audiences and the capacity to leave a lasting legacy in regional NSW.

As this was a regional category, the final assessment panel favoured projects which demonstrated sound partnerships with the potential for leaving a long-term legacy in a region (or regions) and focused on supporting artists and practitioners living and working in regional NSW. Applications that demonstrated engagement with an ACDP priority area, in addition to addressing the regional NSW priority, were also highly regarded

The final assessment panel was pleased to support projects which:

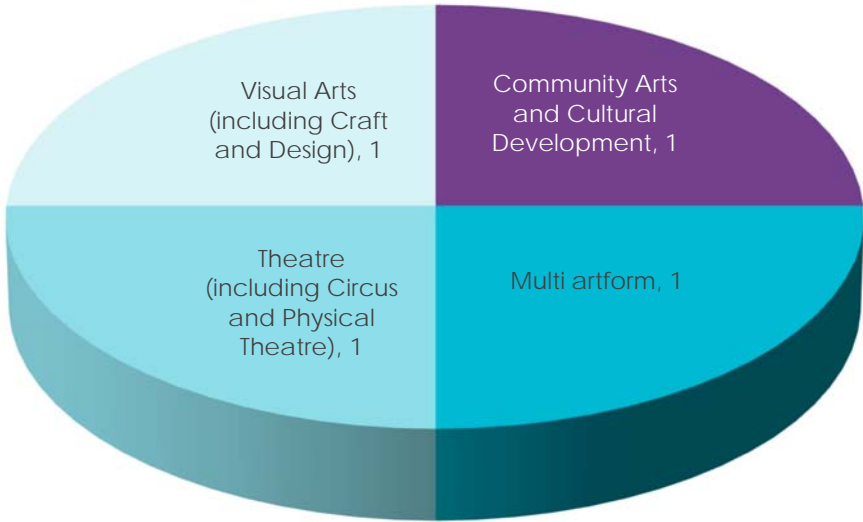
- incorporated strong Aboriginal creative leadership
- use arts and culture to address and highlight important social issues in regional areas
- proposed an innovative and contemporary approach to partnerships and arts and cultural projects

The panel is confident that the four funded projects will generate significant and long-term benefits for regional arts and culture, and specifically regional artists and communities. The funding will facilitate the generation of new partnerships and relationships that will benefit regional NSW now and into the future.

FUNDING STATISTICS

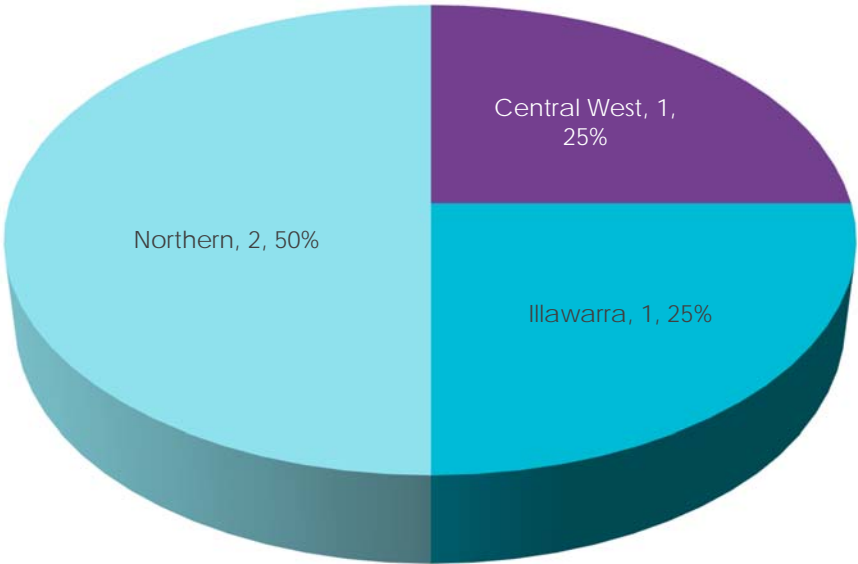
GRANT CATEGORY	Regional Partnerships
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	25
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS	4
SUCCESS RATE	16%
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$2,840,425
AMOUNT FUNDED	\$450,000

Recommended applications by artform



Recommended applications by location of applicant

Note: This chart does not reflect location of activity.



SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Beyond Empathy Ltd \$150,000

DEFIANT is a partnership between Beyond Empathy and the Lismore Regional Gallery, focusing on young people affected by suicide. This multi-disciplinary public art project aims to disrupt risk-taking behaviour in young people from Lismore and the surrounding areas. Over two years participants will take to the streets of Lismore with stories from their lived experiences, creating large scale photo/text paste-ups, zines, moving images and pop-up dance performances.

Other partners include Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA), Arts Northern Rivers, Screenworks, Ngulingah Distance Education Program, Rekindling the Spirit, Jullums Aboriginal Medical Service, Intra Drug and Alcohol Service (The Buttery), Headspace, Youth Connections/Social Futures, YWCA and Rivers Secondary College.

Cementa Inc \$150,000

An artist, farmer and a scientist walk into a bar... is a series of eight collaborative arts residencies involving artists, farmers, Aboriginal knowledge holders and scientists. The residencies and related public outcomes will be held in both Kandos and Bingara and will culminate in a two-day conference in late 2019. This two-year project builds networks in regional NSW around the themes of agriculture, environmentalism and rural economies, fostering dialogue and cooperation through boundary-crossing art practices.

Key partners in this project are Cementa Inc, the Kandos School of Cultural Adaptation, The Living Classroom in Bingara, Starfish Initiatives and Arts North West and Orana Arts.

Illawarra Performing Arts Centre Ltd for Merrigong Theatre Company
\$70,000

Merrigong Theatre Company will partner with The Disability Trust to take its eight-year relationship to a new level, by establishing a performance-ready professional actors' ensemble known for creating original theatre productions. Comprised of 8 talented members from the Disability Trust's Altogether Drama program, the actors' ensemble will undertake weekly workshops, participate in intensive skill development workshops with guest creatives and develop smaller works for presentation as well as a new mainstage production for presentation in the 2020 Merrigong season.

The two partners in this project are Wollongong's Merrigong Theatre Company and The Disability Trust which is based in Wollongong and services the Southern Tablelands, South East Arts and ACT regions.

New England Regional Art Museum **\$80,000**

Myall Creek and Beyond includes a program of exhibitions, public programs and a symposium that explores the history and ongoing impact of the 1838 massacre of Aboriginal people at Myall Creek. The project will employ indigenous curator Bianca Beetson along with a group of leading contemporary Aboriginal artists to work with the local community of Northern Regional NSW, to research and create new works exploring the issues and complexities of this historic event and its aftermath.

Other partners include the Armidale and Region Aboriginal Art Centre and Keeping Place which will host an exhibition display of historical materials and research; the University of New England which will host and co-produce a related academic symposium; Beyond Empathy which will coordinate and deliver regional workshops with local communities and artists; and Arts North West which will coordinate regional community and education programs.