

Frequently Asked Questions *Creative Regions*

The State Government's Royalties for Regions program will invest \$24 million in arts and culture in regional Western Australia over the four years between 2015 and 2018.

Known as the *Royalties for Regions - Creative Regions Program*, the initiative will be delivered through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA) and the Department of Regional Development (DRD). The Program will consist of five Schemes and Country Arts WA will be managing Scheme 4.

What exactly is this funding?

The Creative Regions program is a priority State Government commitment that seeks to:

- Enhance the viability of the arts and entertainment venues in regional centres;
- Build the capacity of the State's Aboriginal art centres;
- Strengthen regionally based arts and cultural organisations;
- Increase support for regionally based artists and arts workers; and
- Increase the number and variety of touring performances to regional areas and expand the current scope of the *Performing Arts Regional Touring Boost Grants Program*.

How did this come about?

In the lead up to the last state election, Country Arts WA ran a campaign called Vote Arts which lobbied all political parties to make a tangible and public commitment to regional arts. The Vote Arts campaign was informed by the Foundations for the Future Regional Arts Policy Paper. The WA National Party made a pre-election commitment of \$16 million and when they formed a coalition government with the WA Liberal Party, this pre-election promise became a reality and a total of \$24 million was committed. This funding has come from Royalties for Regions and is called *Creative Regions*.

Who is managing this funding?

The funding is being managed by the State Government through the Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA). The funding has been allocated through five schemes. Country Arts WA is managing Scheme Four which will increase the support for regional based artists and arts workers and strengthen regionally based arts and cultural organisations.

How much funding is allocated to Scheme 4 - Regional Arts and Cultural Activity?

A total of \$6 million has been allocated over a period of four financial years. This represents 24% of the total allocation of *Creative Regions* funding.

Where is Country Arts WA allocating this funding?

Country Arts WA advocated strongly that there was limited support in the regions for the not-for-profit arts organisations who are on the ground delivering the programs to their regional communities. Hence the largest portion of Scheme Four is being directly given to regional arts organisations. Country Arts WA will also have a new fund opening later in the year, as well as support for young people, the State Regional Arts Conference in 2017, the Focus Region Initiative and a new regional partnership program.

Over 50% of the total pool of money is being allocated to regional arts organisations and projects, another 30% is directed towards regional partnership programs and the remaining 20% spent on professional development and capacity building projects for regional communities.

Which organisations will receive funding as a priority?

The following organisations applied in late 2013 to the Core Arts Fund. Due to the overwhelmingly competitive round and to recognise the unmet need and high regional service delivery costs, the following 17 organisations will receive funding as a priority.

Organisation	Region
Denmark Arts Council	Great Southern
Esperance Community Arts	Goldfields-Esperance
Vancouver Arts Centre	Great Southern
Arts Margaret River	South West
Ravensthorpe Regional Arts Council	Goldfields-Esperance
ARTS Narrogin	Wheatbelt
Northampton Old School	Mid West
Theatre Kimberley	Kimberley
Exmouth Cultural Arts Centre	Gascoyne
Country Music Club of Boyup Brook	South West
Nannup Music Festival	South West
Southern Forest Arts	South West
Arts & Cultural Development Council (ACDC)	Mid West
Boddington Community Resource Centre	Peel
Community First International	Peel
Beverley Station Arts	Wheatbelt
Kambalda Cultural and Arts Group	Goldfields-Esperance

Where are the opportunities for me to apply for this funding for my project or program?

Country Arts WA will open a new fund later in the year to allow regional organisations, artists, individuals and Local Governments to apply for funding. It is envisaged that this will close in early 2016 and reopen annually for four years. The details are still being worked out, but we are endeavouring to keep the new fund as open as possible and address the areas of greatest need in the regions which aren't currently met through existing funding opportunities.

Will there be other funding opportunities under the Creative Regions program?

Country Arts WA is managing one of the five *Creative Regions* schemes, so it is worth exploring opportunities through the other schemes which will be managed by the Department of Culture and the Arts and CircuitWest.

For more information visit www.countryartswa.asn.au

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