

REGIONAL ARTS WA

Annual Report

2024





Acknowledgement

Regional Arts WA honours and respects the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather and operate, acknowledging their enduring connections to Country, culture, and spirituality.

We recognise the resilience and strength of First Nations peoples, their rich cultural heritage, and the ongoing importance of their knowledge and practices. We are committed to fostering cultural equity and understanding with First Nations people across Western Australia.



Funding Partners

As an independent not-for-profit organisation, Regional Arts WA relies on the strength of meaningful partnerships to thrive. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our current partners for your generosity and ongoing support of the regional arts sector. Your investment has brought joy, fostered connections, and sparked creativity in many regional and remote communities across the state.

Australian Government

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government initiative supporting the arts in regional, rural and very remote/isolated Australia. The Regional Arts Fund is provided through Regional Arts Australia and managed in Western Australia by Regional Arts WA.



WA State Government

Regional Arts WA receives core funding from the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSCI) and Lotterywest. Regional Arts WA's support for regional arts organisations and youth grants programs is made possible by the Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program, delivered by DLGSCI, with funding from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.



Project Funding Partners



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Our Vision

Connected and creative regional communities

Our Purpose

To champion and strengthen Western Australia's regional arts sector.

Our Values

Leadership

Cultural Equity

Integrity

Collaboration

Respect

About Us

Regional Arts WA (RAWA) is the peak body for regional arts in Western Australia, supporting artists, arts organisations, creative workers, groups and stakeholders in regional communities statewide.

We are a membership body working to connect regional communities with arts, culture, and creativity; strengthening the regional arts sector through partnerships, funding, sector development, strategic projects, and support services.

For over 30 years, RAWA has played a key role in shaping innovative and unique creative projects and approaches across regional WA and the Indian Ocean Territories.

2024-2026 Strategies

LEADERSHIP

Strengthening the regional arts sector, stimulating arts activity and growing capacity and leadership.

ADVOCACY

Advocating for the value of the arts, cultural equity and the principle of First Nations First, across community, government and the philanthropic sectors.

REGIONALISATION

Advancing cultural regionalisation (local decision-making).

INTERCONNECTED

Enabling inter-regional and intra-regional connectivity and cross-sector partnerships.



A Message from the Chair & CEO

When Regional Arts WA began in 1994, the world was a very different place. Western Australia was in the grip of an economic downturn and artists and communities were seeking new ways to sustain their creative practices. Against this backdrop, Regional Arts WA was founded to provide support, connection, and opportunities for regional artists and organisations.

2024 was a milestone year for Regional Arts WA as we celebrated our 30 Year Anniversary. Over the past three decades, we've undergone so many changes—some expected, others unforeseen—but through it all, our commitment to supporting and championing the arts in regional Western Australia has remained steadfast. The Anniversary provided an opportunity to reflect on our journey, celebrate our achievements, and reaffirm our commitment to the sector. Our celebrations culminated in the launch of *Thrive!*, our bold and ambitious five-year framework designed to strengthen and sustain the sector and set a new direction for regional arts development for the future.

A major highlight in 2024 was the expansion of our Regional Arts Network, which grew from 8 to 20 organisations, fostering greater collaboration and innovation across the state. Our Artist of the Month program continued to shine a spotlight on extraordinary talent, achieving a total of 105k+reach across our digital channels. We also welcomed over 90 new members, amplifying the voices of regional artists and strengthening our ability to advocate for the arts.

We are proud to report that in 2024, over \$1.66 million in funding was distributed across the state, creating jobs and bringing art to the heart of hundreds of communities. Our financial performance this year has remained strong, ensuring we can continue to invest in initiatives that support artists, organisations, and communities across the State.

2024 marked a shift in how we connected with our sector. We made a considered effort to re-engage the regions regularly, meeting face-to-face with communities from Kalgoorlie to Karratha, Broome to Geraldton, Waroona to Bunbury, Busselton to Albany, and Northcliffe to Esperance. These meaningful conversations revealed the depth of creativity and resilience that makes our regional communities so unique.

Building on these extensive regional visits, we strategically expanded our regional presence by employing staff members directly within regional communities. This not only strengthened our local connections but also ensured more authentic representation across Western Australia.

This decentralised approach has enhanced our visibility and accessibility, allowing us to be more responsive to local needs and opportunities.

This year's board elections drew strong interest from a talented and diverse field of candidates, reflecting the deep commitment to our purpose across the community. We're delighted to welcome Jennifer Halton, Josephine Johnson, Mohammed Ayo Busari, and Rosie Sitorus to the Board. Each brings fresh insight, lived experience, and valuable expertise. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our departing Board members—Grace Crogan, Ana Doria Buchan, Bobbi Lockyer, and Ken Mills—for their dedication and significant contributions during their time with us.

As we look ahead, we are focused on strengthening our partnerships, building sustainable art and culture practices, and exploring new opportunities to grow the impact of the arts in regional communities. In 2024 we began a new partnership with the Mid West Development Commission to present a regional sector gathering; the Mid West Creative Ecology Summit to be delivered in February 2025.

None of our work would be possible without the support of our funders, partners, and dedicated team. Thank you to Regional Arts Australia, the Australian and Western Australian Governments, Healthway, Lotterywest, The Ian Potter Foundation, Minderoo Foundation, and our Board, staff, donors, and regional communities.

Together, we are ensuring the arts remain a vital force in regional WA. With purposeful actions and a focus on long-term impact, we are committed to championing the sector for another 30 years and beyond.



CEO, Dr Pilar Kasat



Chair, Oliver Bazzani



Celebrating 30 years

For three decades, Regional Arts WA has had the privilege of working alongside extraordinary artists, cultural leaders, and communities across Western Australia. What began in 1994 as a response to challenging economic times has flourished into a dynamic arts organisation that continues to champion regional creativity and cultural expression.

This milestone year gave us a chance to reflect on our remarkable journey through a number of meaningful, impactful initiatives that have created lasting legacy including;

- Aboriginal Arts Centre Hub of WA (AACHWA)
- Creative Regions Program
- Regional Arts Partnership Program supporting Connect to the Creative Grid project which evolved into the Regional Arts Triennial led by Southern Forest Arts
- Regional Arts Summits
- Sand Tracks Tour - original contemporary music touring to remote First Nation communities
- Shows on the Go - performing arts touring Statewide
- Regional Arts Network
- Regional Arts Sector Investment (RASI) - multi-year funding for regional arts organisations
- Vote Arts Campaign
- Youth funding programs like YCulture Regional and Next Level Fellowships

Through the Collective Memory project, we honoured the contributions of the trailblazers that came before us, and celebrated key programs – some which have been many years in the making.

To our artists, communities, partners, and supporters who have been part of this incredible journey - *thank you*. Together, we will continue to nurture creativity and connection across regional Western Australia for the next 30 years and beyond.



Thrive!

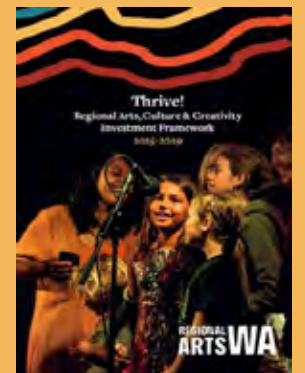
At our anniversary celebration in August, RAWA launched its integrated sector-informed strategy, *Thrive! Regional Arts, Culture and Creativity Investment Framework 2025-2029*, a blueprint to supporting, strengthening and promoting WA's regional arts and cultural organisations.

Regional organisations generate local employment and economic growth, while strengthening communities and creating lasting social, cultural, and environmental change. They are critical to the social fabric in regional and remote locations, enabling creativity, building connections, activating places and delivering vital services.

Over the next five years, RAWA will work with the sector, regional stakeholders and partners to deliver *Thrive!* through four domains:

- Sustainable organisations
- Statewide Leadership and Career Development
- Industry Excellence and Connection
- Regional Liveability and Vibrancy

Work has begun on implementing this exciting initiative.





Sector Development



Sector Development Program

Creative workers are the beating heart of our regional communities, building relationships and fostering vibrant, connected communities. Throughout the year we have supported regional artswriters and the broader sector through facilitating online conversations, informal sessions and face-to-face gatherings.

We hosted Lotterywest and DLGSC to share information about funding programs and visions; facilitated panel discussions featuring key creatives from The Shorebird Quest and Creative Connections, and explored how Community Arts and Cultural Development strengthens regional communities and builds lasting connections.

Looking ahead to 2025, we will launch an expanded Sector Development Program focusing on Community Arts and Cultural Development, Governance, Community Wellbeing, and Climate Adaptation - key areas identified through sector consultation in 2024. As we move further into an era of environmental uncertainty, climate change has emerged as a critical focus area. Regional artists, with their deep connection to the land, are uniquely positioned to address environmental challenges through creative projects that inspire positive action and build resilient communities.



Our Sector Development program will deliver local conversations, panels, regional gatherings, online forums, and place-based initiatives to both the broader sector and Regional Arts Network.

The Creative Leadership Program

Led online by Dr Shona Erskine, the program took place over four days in September with 14 participants representing five of WA's nine regions in attendance.

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Initiative

Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) student Kristopher Long undertook a three-month industry secondment with Goolarri Media Enterprise in Broome to support the planning and development of the Kimberley Blak Pride Festival and 2024 NAIDOC Week. This secondment was facilitated through the Regional Arts Network and made possible through a partnership between Regional Arts WA (RAWA) and Edith Cowan University's WAAPA.

The partnership aims to create opportunities for young creatives to develop and sustain careers in the arts by building pathways between tertiary education and entering the workforce.

Annual Regional Arts Network Gathering

In August RAWA brought together 15 organisations in Perth for the Annual Regional Arts Network (RAN) Gathering. The event focused on exploring RAN's future direction, sharing ideas, and identifying opportunities for collaboration and capacity building.

Creative Australia's Digital Specialist-in-Residence (DSIR) Program

RAWA completed the DSIR program to improve its digital literacy and frameworks. Working with digital specialist Meeum, RAWA engaged with RAN organisations to develop a prototype digital tool for the RAN that would strengthen connectivity and inter-regional collaboration. The tool will be further developed and implemented in 2025.

Regional Arts Triennial 2024-2026

RAWA announced investment in the Regional Arts Triennial and is providing in-kind support through a key stakeholder group. The third Triennial, themed 'Radical Futures', will feature local exhibitions and performances in regional WA in 2025, followed by a selective showcase and sector event at John Curtin Gallery in Perth in 2026. This initiative is led by Southern Forest Arts, in collaboration with regional organisations, artists, curators, and venues across WA.

Regional Arts Network

Background

In 2019, RAWA established the Regional Arts Network (RAN) with support from Minderoo Foundation, The Ian Potter Foundation, and the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund. The RAN serves as a catalyst for regional arts development, creating powerful connections between artists, arts organisations, and communities across Western Australia. Through strategic partnerships with regional organisations, the network amplifies local voices, nurtures emerging talent, and facilitates innovative cross-regional projects.

Evolution of the RAN

Over the years, the RAN's structure has evolved through frameworks that support local RAN Coordinators, skills development initiatives and seeding of collaborative statewide projects. In 2024 there were eight RAN organisations with service agreements with RAWA. The RAN Leadership and Advocacy Group continued in 2024, sharing information and advocating for the benefit of the regional arts sector. This group was instrumental in supporting the development of *Thrive!*. In late 2024, we began transitioning toward the next iteration of the RAN, focusing on network expansion. Twelve more organisations joined the annual RAN gathering in Perth in August and were formally invited to be part of the RAN in November.

A Larger Network

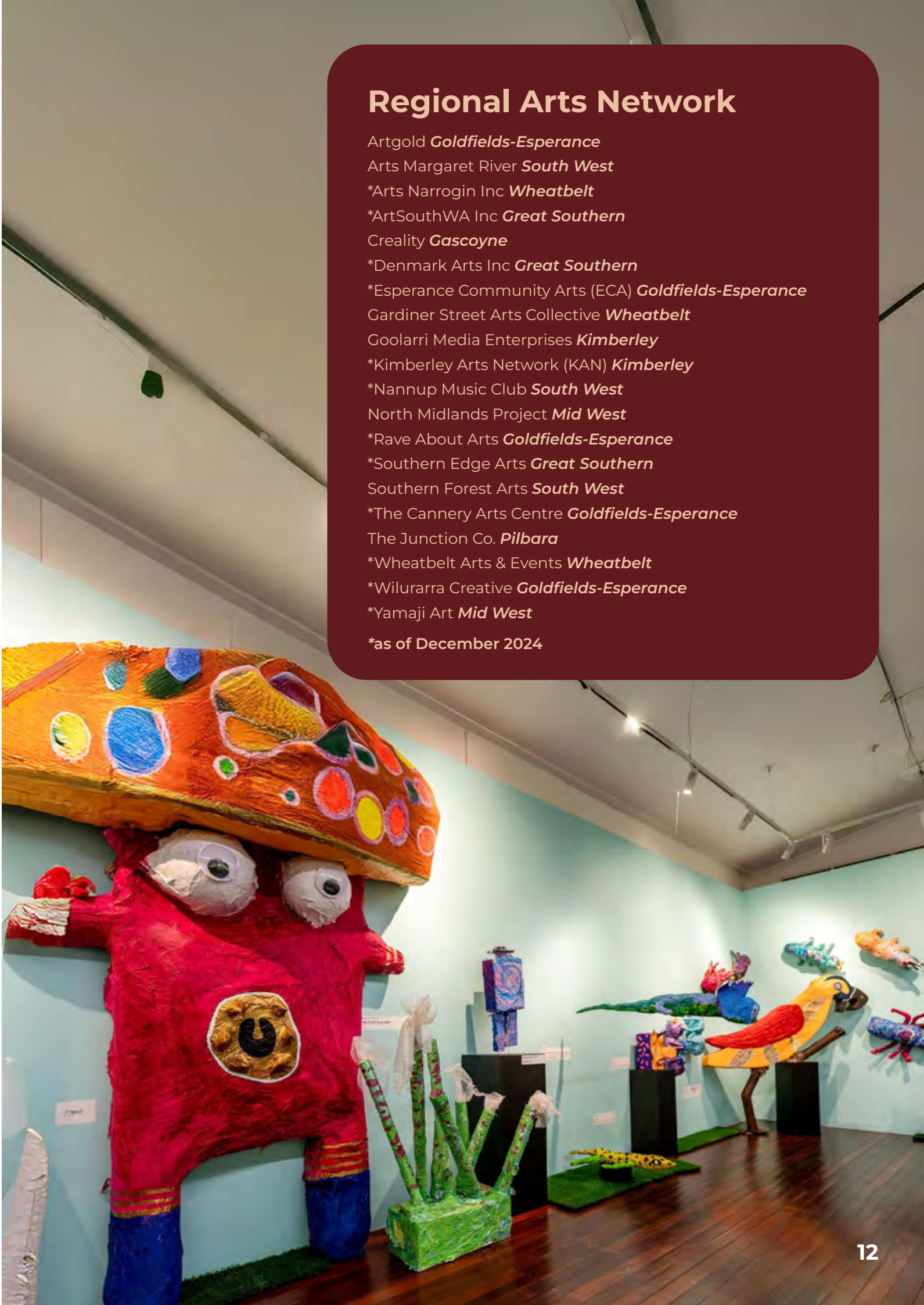
An expanded RAN is a key initiative within *Thrive!*, as a larger network will connect more regional creative workers and volunteers, offering a supportive peer-to-peer community that shares knowledge and resources, and collaborates with artists and stakeholders. Through this change, RAWA aims to establish the necessary industry support system for sustaining local employment, career development and creative programs, essential for the development and wellbeing of regional communities. Collectively, the RAN will work towards its vision: **arts and culture are the lifeblood of all regional communities.**

RAWA will continue to enhance its support for regional organisations, ensuring flexibility to introduce a diverse range of RAN members in 2025 and beyond.



Regional Arts Network

- Artgold *Goldfields-Esperance*
 - Arts Margaret River *South West*
 - *Arts Narrogin Inc *Wheatbelt*
 - *ArtSouthWA Inc *Great Southern*
 - Creality *Gascoyne*
 - *Denmark Arts Inc *Great Southern*
 - *Esperance Community Arts (ECA) *Goldfields-Esperance*
 - Gardiner Street Arts Collective *Wheatbelt*
 - Goolarri Media Enterprises *Kimberley*
 - *Kimberley Arts Network (KAN) *Kimberley*
 - *Nannup Music Club *South West*
 - North Midlands Project *Mid West*
 - *Rave About Arts *Goldfields-Esperance*
 - *Southern Edge Arts *Great Southern*
 - Southern Forest Arts *South West*
 - *The Cannery Arts Centre *Goldfields-Esperance*
 - The Junction Co. *Pilbara*
 - *Wheatbelt Arts & Events *Wheatbelt*
 - *Wilurarra Creative *Goldfields-Esperance*
 - *Yamaji Art *Mid West*
- *as of December 2024**

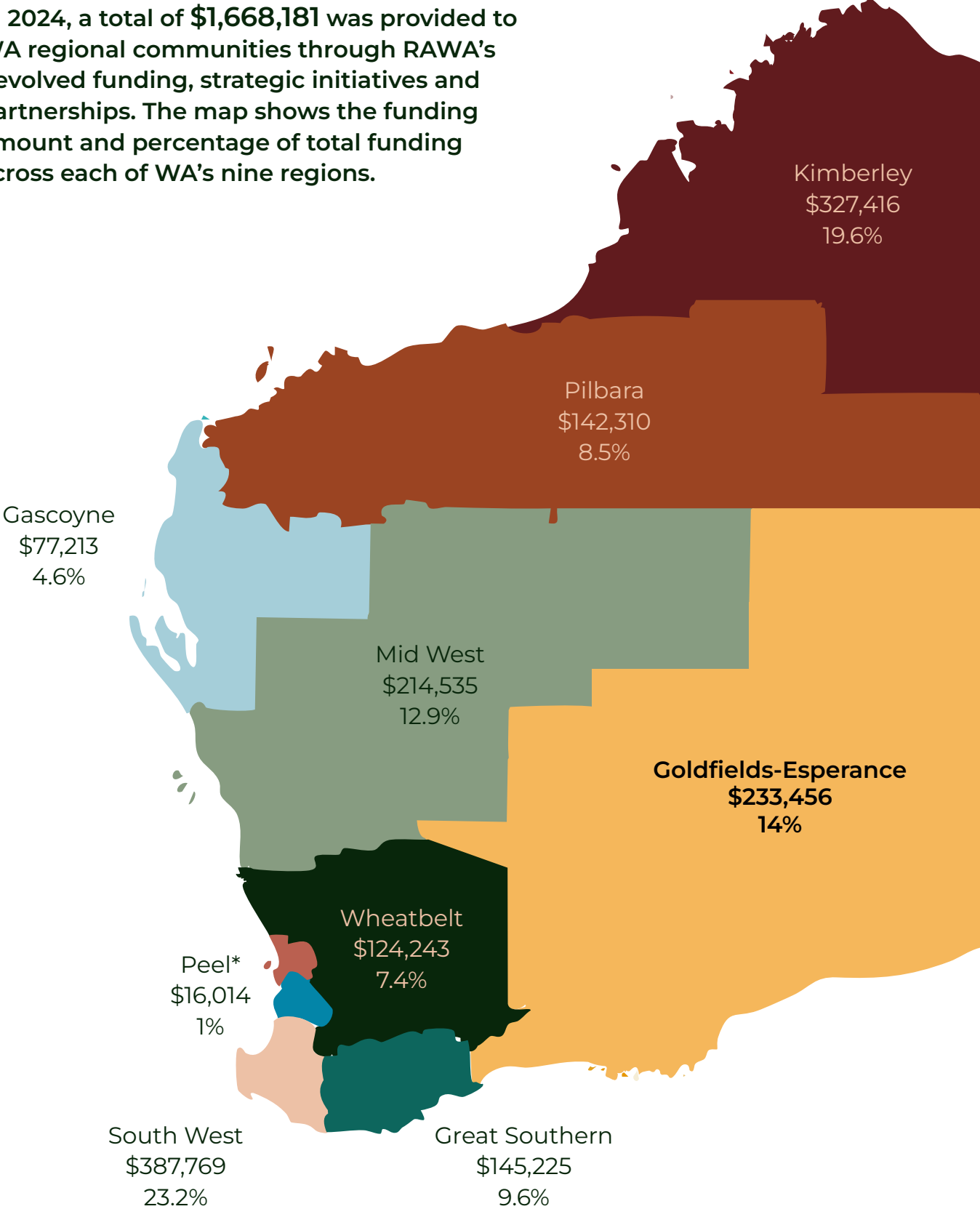




Funding Programs

2024 Total Funding

In 2024, a total of \$1,668,181 was provided to WA regional communities through RAWA's devolved funding, strategic initiatives and partnerships. The map shows the funding amount and percentage of total funding across each of WA's nine regions.



*Mandurah (Peel Region) is not eligible for Australian Government support via the Regional Arts Fund

Grant Assessment Pool

Most Regional Arts WA grant programs are peer-assessed by an independent, external panel of artists, practitioners or creative workers from across WA. Interstate panellists can assess Regional Arts Fund programs. In 2024, external assessors of our grant programs were:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Jessica Anderson (DLGSC Rep) Metro | Andrea Gray Mid West |
| Dureen Bolton Wheatbelt | Beverley Crowden Mid West |
| Faraday Boydell Pilbara | Suzie Haslehurst Peel |
| Guy Boyce Peel | Gwen Knox Kimberely |
| Jason Cleary South West | Ruby Liddlelow Peel |
| Shandell Cummings Great Southern | David Marshall South West |
| Codee-Lee Down South West | Odette Miller TAS |
| Gok-Lim Finch Metro | Amber Norrish Metro |
| Chloe Flockart Wheatbelt | Minna Rankine Mid West |
| Ainsley Foulds Goldfields – Esperance | Shauna Upton NT |
| Silvano Giordano Goldfields – Esperance | Leah Vlatko Mid West |



WA State Government Supported Grant Programs

Regional Arts WA provides three grant programs funded through the Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program (RACIP), managed by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries with support from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

- Regional Arts Sector Investment
- Next Level Fellowships
- Next Gen Arts Grants

Regional Arts Sector Investment

The Regional Arts Sector Investment (RASI) program supports core operational costs for regional WA arts organisations on a multi-year basis. It is open to regionally based, not-for-profit organisations that deliver arts programs to the community. It is highly competitive, and this year the funding requested far surpassed expectations. This demand underscores the critical need for operational sustainability of regional arts organisations.

Funding was awarded through an open, competitive grant round assessed by an independent panel. Successful applicants are funded for three years, from July 1st 2024 to June 30th 2027.

\$2,040,000
Funding Allocated
over 3 years
\$4,479,810 Requested

55%
of demand for
operational support
is unmet

17
Applications
Approved
22 Received



2024-2027 Regional Arts Sector Investment (RASI) Recipients

Arts Margaret River | South West | \$50,000 per annum

Arts Margaret River holds a unique position in the WA regional and Australian landscape with a state-of-the-art facility called the Nala Bardip Mia/Margaret River HEART, hosting music, theatre, dance, cinema, and visual arts events. Its premier event is the *Margaret River Readers & Writers Festival*, the largest regional event of its kind in Western Australia.

Arts Narrogin Incorporated | Wheatbelt | \$40,000 per annum

Arts Narrogin is dedicated to supporting art, culture, and entertainment in Narrogin and the Dryandra Country region. The organisation connects creatives with the community through a diverse annual program of live performances, exhibitions, workshops and community projects.

ArtSouthWA Inc | Great Southern | \$15,000 per annum

ArtSouthWA supports, champions and showcases the diverse community of visual artists of the Great Southern region of WA. It operates year-round, with its biggest undertaking being the annual *Southern Art & Craft Trail*, celebrating the talents of more than 600 artists from Lake Grace to Manjimup, Denmark, Bremer Bay, Mt Barker, Kendenup and Walpole.

Creality | Gascoyne | \$35,000 per annum

Creality is an annual circuit of festivals held on consecutive weekends in Shark Bay, Gascoyne Junction, Burringurrah Remote Community, Exmouth, Coral Bay and Carnarvon. Creality provides interdisciplinary art projects, training, and mentoring for local artists, and fosters cross-cultural collaborations.

Denmark Arts Inc | Great Southern | \$25,000 per annum

Denmark Arts Inc is a community-centred organisation committed to creativity, culture and Country. It supports and nurtures opportunities for Great Southern and South Coast artists across all artistic disciplines. Denmark Arts Inc coordinates the *Brave New Works* event and the *Denmark Festival of Voice* as part of its vibrant and inclusive annual program.

Esperance Community Arts (ECA) | Goldfields-Esperance | \$25,000 per annum

Esperance Community Arts (ECA) is committed to the delivery of community arts in accordance with the principles of Community Arts and Cultural Developmet (CACD). Working with artists, community groups and individuals, ECA delivers arts-based programs that reflect the interests of the local community, promote social wellbeing, and inspire change.

Gardiner Street Arts Collective | Wheatbelt | \$25,000 per annum

The Gardiner Street Arts Collective and its vibrant community arts space serve as a creative hub in the Northern Wheatbelt and Moora Region. It champions a fusion of arts programs and events, promoting cultural diversity and intergenerational collaboration by engaging with communities and creating a lively gathering place.

Kimberley Arts Network | Kimberley | \$50,000 per annum

Kimberley Arts Network (KAN) invigorates arts and culture in the Kimberley through events, activities, gigs and workshops. Based in Broome, it manages key events like the *Broome Fringe Festival* and operates the *Shed* art space - a welcoming base for activities and programs that support creative expression across the region.

Nannup Music Club | South West | \$65,000 per annum

Nannup Music Club has presented the Nannup Music Festival for 35 years. One of the most anticipated events on WA's music calendar, it highlights the best in new, emerging and Indigenous music over free and ticketed venues, set against the backdrop of WA's South West and the small-town atmosphere of Nannup. The NMC is growing its annual program and aims to develop its property into a vibrant arts and events hub.

2024-2027 Regional Arts Sector Investment (RASI) Recipients

Rave About Arts | Goldfields-Esperance | \$50,000 per annum

Rave About Arts (formerly Ravensthorpe Regional Arts Council), has a 30 year history of vibrant artistic programming across the Ravensthorpe Shire and beyond. It offers a diverse and adventurous annual artistic program that fosters vibrancy, connection and wellbeing across an isolated region.

Southern Edge Arts | Great Southern | \$35,000 per annum

Southern Edge Arts (SEA) nurtures the creativity of young people and delivers community cultural development programs in the Great Southern region. Specialising in circus and theatre, the organisation supports emerging artists to create original performance works that represent their experiences of living in the Great Southern.

Southern Forest Arts | South West | \$65,000 per annum

Southern Forest Arts is a dynamic community cultural organisation based in Northcliffe, offering diverse arts experiences that enhance social connection, cultural vibrancy, and wellbeing in the Southern Forests and Valleys region. The organisation works across multiple artforms and sectors, amplifying its impact through leadership and inter-regional collaboration.

The Cannery Arts Centre | Goldfields-Esperance | \$50,000 per annum

The Cannery Arts Centre offers contemporary visual art exhibitions, live music, and creative learning programs from its scenic location in Kepa-Kurl-Esperance. This community-led arts facility brings global culture to the region and fosters artistic collaboration and growth to create a vibrant cultural landscape.

The Junction Co. | Pilbara | \$25,000 per annum

With a clear vision to engage and empower regional creative industries, The Junction Co. connects regional creatives in the Pilbara with workspaces, learning opportunities and networks. The program framework includes two distinct learning pathways to build the capacity of creatives, with the goal to strengthen liveability in the Pilbara and enhance community belonging.

Wheatbelt Arts & Events Inc. (WAE) | Wheatbelt | \$25,000 per annum

WAE organises the annual events including *York Festival*, *York Jazz Festival*, *York Writers Weekend* and *Ballardong First*. Throughout the year, it provides community based support and a venue for workshops, training, and the creation of art activities in the York/Avon Valley region.

Wilurarra Creative | Goldfields-Esperance | \$65,000 per annum

Wilurarra Creative is a grass-roots movement of young Ngaanyatjarra adults walking the line between ancient culture, colonialist mission history, and a future of their own choosing. It is a vibrant cultural community hub and incubator, offering music recording studios, instruments and staging equipment, the only public internet in town, materials for digital photography, video, art making, screen printing, metalwork and sculpture.

Yamaji Art | Mid West | \$35,000 per annum

Mara Arts Aboriginal Corporation (commonly known as Yamaji Art) supports Aboriginal artists in the Greater Geraldton region with production and marketing services. It fosters Aboriginal cultural continuity and economic and arts development through its gallery, retail and production space, and cultural revitalisation programs.



Next Level Fellowships

\$40,000
Funding Allocated
\$64,950 Requested

5
Applications
Approved
9 Received

Next Level Fellowships support young and emerging regional artists and arts workers in building skills to develop and sustain an arts career in the regions. Applicants can receive up to \$8,000 for creative activities and professional development over one year. This program is open to individuals or small creative groups (e.g. music bands, dance groups) from regional and remote Western Australia, aged 18-26.

Tahnee Carter | Kimberley

Tahnee Carter will write her fantasy novel 'Koa', exploring environmentalism and First Nations themes through a tribesman's journey. With mentorship from Mykaela Saunders and the Goolarri Writers Group, she'll develop a unique take on the fantasy genre.

Amberley Milne | South West

Musician Amberley Milne will attend a songwriting retreat and work with local producer Jame Newhouse to record, mix, and master three new tracks. She will also produce a music video and develop her social media and digital platforms, establishing her branding.

Amy Reeves | Kimberley

Australian Idol runner-up Amy Reeves delivered songwriting and music industry workshops at schools across the Kimberley region, building her workshop facilitation skills while giving back to her supportive local community.

Robbie Fieldwick | Peel

Robbie Fieldwick will be mentored by regional touring expert Whiskey and Boots to learn theatre production planning, pitching, networking and budgeting. The mentorship will support the creation of an original community engagement package and further develop Robbie's devised theatre production 'promethe(us)'.

Jessica Le Monnier | Goldfields-Esperance

Jessica Le Monnier will participate in two professional development mentorships: one focused on expanding her technical ceramic abilities with artist Krystal Obschonka, and another on developing her workshop facilitation skills with art teacher and artistic director Marcia Leonard.



Next Gen Arts Grants

Launched in 2024, the Next Gen Arts program supports arts activities for regional young people aged 12-18 years. The program aims to increase access to arts experiences for young people, support employment of regional artists and add to the liveability of regional communities.

Grants of up to \$3,000 were available in two rounds, for local governments, arts organisations, youth centres, Community Resource Centres (CRCs) and others with demonstrated demand. Following a review of the pilot program in late 2024, individual artists will be eligible to apply in 2025, and the funding limit will increase to \$5,000.

Shire of Coolgardie | Goldfields-Esperance | \$3,000

Local Kalgoorlie artist Em Anders will conduct a series of painting and resin art workshops for youth in Kambalda and Coolgardie, providing invaluable artistic opportunities. This project will conclude in May 2025.

\$24,976
Funding Allocated
\$30,716 Requested

9
Applications
Approved
11 Received

Cunderdin CRC | Wheatbelt | \$2,715

Merredin artist Sheree Lowe led four workshops in August called the 'Regional Renaissance: Cultivating Creativity Cunderdin', including Special Effects, Paint and Sip (non-alcoholic), Pot Decorating, and Resin Cheeseboard Making, aimed at engaging young residents of Cunderdin.

Wagin CRC | Wheatbelt | \$2,661

In collaboration with local artist Anita Longmuir and the Wagin Youth Art Collective, Wagin CRC offered art classes for local youth from July to December, culminating in a collaborative artwork that was publicly displayed.

Shire of Morawa | Mid-West | \$3,000

Geraldton street artist Shah Jackey facilitated a two-day workshop in July called 'Galactic Dreamtime Workshop' where participants, primarily First Nations youth, had their artworks displayed at the Mid-West NAIDOC event.



Wheatbelt Arts & Events Inc. | Wheatbelt | \$3,000

A collaboration with Voice of Avon 101.3 FM and the Ballardong Noongar community, 'York Yarns' will train local youth in broadcast media, helping them create radio content and develop their own program slots. This project will conclude in August 2025.

Boyup Brook Community Mental Health Action Team | South West | \$3,000

The Boyup Brook Youth Mural project will engage local artist Meri Beatty to work with up to 30 rural youth, aged 12-18, to design and install a mural on a storage container at the Youth Zone. Participants will enhance their art skills, foster community pride, and contribute to local aesthetics.

Hopetoun CRC | Goldfields-Esperance | \$3,000

Hopetoun CRC hosted a 3-day Make-A-Movie workshop with Filmbites during summer holidays. Youth aged 12-18 learned filmmaking, created a short film, and showcased it to the community.

Kellerberrin CRC | Wheatbelt | \$1,599

The Kellerberrin CRC will host a terrarium building workshop with Paint the Town in January 2025. Youth will learn to create their own terrariums while exploring creativity and nature.

Regional Sounds Inc | Mid West | \$3,000

The Perpetual Youth Arts Challenge in Jambinu, Geraldton, offers a 9-month creative program for youth aged 12-18. Local artists will lead workshops across various art forms, ending with a public exhibition of participants' work.

Australian Government Supported Grant Programs

The Regional Arts Fund (RAF) is an Australian Government program that supports and promotes participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture in regional, rural and remote Australia.

RAF is managed by Regional Arts Australia and administered in Western Australia by RAWA. RAF grants are delivered through Project Grants and Quick Response Grants.

\$543,583

Funding Allocated
\$1,486,498 Requested

48

Projects Funded

561,000

People Reached

273

Employment Opportunities

Statistics above are from 2023-24 Financial Year



Regional Arts Fund

Project Grants

Regional Arts Fund Project Grants support arts projects, professional development for artists and arts workers, and community capacity building projects for regional artists and communities. Successful projects encourage sustainable, economic, social, and cultural outcomes by encouraging partnerships, networks, and ongoing collaboration, aimed at developing audiences and broadening community engagement with the arts.



March

Town of Port Hedland Lunar Circus – Circus School Workshops | \$26,000 | Pilbara

Lunar Circus ran a series of 18 circus skills workshops leading up to Port Hedland's *The Spinifex Spree Carnival*, a free two-day festival. The workshops encouraged participation from diverse community groups, welcoming participants from 5-year-olds to adults with varying skill levels.

Pilbara and Kimberley Aboriginal Media Remote Indigenous Community Music Workshops, Recording and Live Performance support | \$30,000 | Kimberley

Pilbara and Kimberley Aboriginal Media is coordinating the PAKAM Music truck to deliver workshops, radio recordings, and live performance opportunities for local musicians in remote Aboriginal communities, including Warmun, Kalumburu, and Bidyadanga. The initiative aims to support and promote local musical talent in these areas and will conclude in May 2025.

Shire of Broome Lighting the Bay in Man Gala Season: Community Lantern Project | \$20,000 | Kimberley

This community-led initiative lit up the streets of Broome with lanterns, static illuminated sculptures, and a parade. Local storytelling, along with community and school-based workshops, led to the design and creation of the illuminated artworks. The project supported employment, training opportunities, and skills development for the wider Broome community.

Big hART Inc Songs for freedom: Next Generation | \$30,000 | Pilbara

The *Songs for Freedom: Next Generation* provided young people (aged 10-25) from Ieramugadu (Roebourne) with professional development in songwriting and music. Participants performed at the 2024 'Murru/Songs for Peace/Freedom' concert, held in Ieramugadu, to an audience of 3000 people.

Kimberley Arts Network Talismans: Power and Charm | \$26,881 | Kimberley

The *Talismans: Power and Charm* project was part of the 2024 Indian Ocean Craft Triennial, and included an exhibition at Old Sailmakers Shed in Broome, community engagement, and a live-streamed artists' panel. Partnered with Art on the Move, it featured works by Jacky Cheng, Clare Peake, Vanessa Margetts, Angela Bakkar, and Yiriman project women.

August 2024

Broome Pride Broome Mardi Gras 2025 | \$30,000 | Kimberley

The *Broome Mardi Gras*, hosted by Broome Pride, is a week-long festival celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community in Broome, WA. The event will run from February 26th to March 4th, 2025, marking over a decade of diversity with events like dance classes, cabaret shows, the *Big Splash Boat Party*, and *Mardi Gras Buzz Regatta*.

Shire of East Pilbara Regional Arts Workshop Series 2025 | \$20,310.05 | Pilbara

The Shire of East Pilbara will host arts workshops in Newman and Tom Price from May to September 2025. Monthly sessions include an evening community workshop and day workshops in Newman with Martumili Artists. In Tom Price, sessions will be held with Tom Price High School and at The Nintirri Centre's Arts Hub.

Codee-Lee Down Development and Recording Project | \$30,000 | South West

Goomburrup based artist Codee-Lee will undergo professional development with producer James Newhouse at Lambchop Records, creating six new songs. This project explores fresh sounds and techniques to evolve her music. After development, the tracks will be recorded, mixed, and mastered for release.



Regional Arts Fund *Project Grants (cont.)*

Bunbury Fringe Festival 2025 *Bunbury Fringe Festival* | \$25,000 | South West

Bunbury Fringe’s 9th year will be an 8-day festival that will engage over 7,000 people from the South West, Wheatbelt, Great Southern, and Perth Metro. Running from January 24th to February 1st, the event will focus on connecting community through the arts, featuring free family events, music, theatre, circus, drag, comedy, film, and more, celebrating regional creativity and supporting local artists.

Country Music Club of Boyup Brook WA 2025 *Boyup Brook Country Music Muster* | \$30,000 | South West

The 2025 *Boyup Brook Country Music Muster* will showcase 200 WA artists across 12 venues (February 14th -16th). Features will include the WA Country Music Awards, street carnival, Ute and Truck Muster, and various workshops, strengthening Boyup Brook’s position as WA’s Country Music Capital.

Harvey Mainstreet Incorporated *Harvey Harvest Festival 2025* | \$20,000 | South West

The 2025 *Harvey Harvest Festival* (March 7th - 9th) will feature a free *Under the Stars* concert, Southwest Opera Company, WA Grape Stomping Championships, an Arts Hub, and diverse entertainment celebrating local talent and culture.

Shire of Cocos Keeling Island *Cocos Batik Revival Project* | \$24,824.33 | IOT

Led by artist Jacky Cheng, the *Cocos Batik Revival* project is bringing both traditional and modern Batik techniques to the Cocos Islands through community workshops. Participants on Home and West Islands are learning Cold Wax (modern) and Hot Wax (traditional) methods, developing skills for potential commercial production while preserving cultural authenticity. The project will conclude in September 2025.

Matthew Johnson Downsyde and Guests at Nannup Music Festival | \$5,014 | Peel

Perth HipHop band Downsyde will perform at the 2025 *Nannup Music Festival*, joined by First Nations artists Kyle Bartlett (Karratha) and Lyrical Instinct (Jacob Gregory, Broome). Funding will support travel costs for Kyle and Jacob, giving them the chance to perform at a major festival. The event showcases emerging First Nations talent, offering Perth and South West audiences a unique opportunity to experience music from the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

Chanel Brown *Hard As Puck – Producer Development* | \$30,000 | South West

Funding will support the production of *Hard as Puck*, a debut feature documentary following Para-Ice Hockey players competing for Australia’s first national team. Over 2025-2026, the filmmaker will manage crew, scheduling, budgeting, and post-production across regional Australia. Highlighting disability representation on and off-screen, the project addresses gaps in media diversity.

Leah Vlatko *Artist in Residency with Denmark Arts* | \$7,430 | Mid West

Leah Vlatko, a textile artist based in Jambinu, will attend the Denmark Artist in Residence program in February/March 2025. The residency will provide focused time to create, explore nature, and develop new work inspired by local flora. Leah will offer workshops and an open studio, fostering community engagement and future regional collaborations.

Baiyungu Aboriginal Corporation 2025 *Jamba Nyinayi Festival Baiyungu Cultural Dance Program* | \$29,988 | Gascyone

The *Jamba Nyinayi Festival* (18-20 April 2025) celebrates Baiyungu culture through dance and storytelling. The festival’s dance program, led by choreographer Janine Oxenham and cultural director Hazel Walgar, features Pundarra Performance Group and Coral Spawn, strengthening cultural traditions and intergenerational connections to country and language.



Regional Arts Fund

Quick Response Grants

Quick Response Grants support regional artists, arts organisations, and communities to take advantage of professional development or small-scale project opportunities that arise at short notice.



February

Camera Story | \$5,000 | Kimberley

Camera Story (CS) was invited by Multi Story Media (MSM) to host a workshop planning session and cultural consultation in Broome to introduce the initiative, *REALStock*. *REALStock* was an inclusive stock-image library for social change with a mission to shape our national identity, inclusive of our diverse and evolving population.

Simon Charles | \$3,000 | Wheatbelt

Simon Charles composed *Other Oceans*, a new work for microtonal bass flute, double bass, and electronics. Inspired by York’s landscape and environmental changes, the piece explored themes of land clearing and colonial impact. Created in collaboration with Berlin artists Rebecca Lane and Jonathan Heilbron.

March

Waringarri Arts Aboriginal Corporation | \$5,000 | Kimberley

Angelina Karadada Boona, a senior artist at the *Kira Kiro Artists Project* in Kalumburu, has been supported by the Aboriginal Contemporary Gallery in Sydney since 2020. They offered her a solo exhibition slot in April, which presented a crucial opportunity for promoting her work and enhancing her professional development through audience engagement.

Amanda Gardiner | \$2,286 | South West

‘It Woke the Town Up’ exhibition examined the 1976 Bunbury woodchip bombing protest against old growth forest logging. After successful showings at the 2023 Bunbury Regional Art Gallery Biennale and National Trust’s Heritage Festival, the exhibition toured the Museum of the Great Southern in 2024. Funding supported curator Amanda Gardiner’s travel and accommodation.

April

Abdul-Rahman Abdullah | \$3,000 | Peel

Abdul-Rahman Abdullah and Anna Louise Richardson presented at *‘Horse Girl Energy’*, a LaTrobe Regional Gallery exhibition exploring horse culture and human-animal relationships. The artists attended installation, openings, and gallery talks.

Warlayirti Artists | \$5,000 | Kimberley

Dulcie Nanala Napaltjarri debuted a solo exhibition in Sydney, facilitated by Warlayirti Artists and Aboriginal Contemporary and inspired by a transformative journey across the Great Sandy Desert to Wilkinkarra, her father’s homeland. The grant aided Dulcie’s travel, enabling her to share insights into her art and culture during an artist talk.

May

Nagula Jarndu | \$5,000 | Kimberley

Rowena Morgan (Kija), Dena Gower (Noongar), and Cecilia Tigan (Mayala) were selected to participate in the NATSIAA (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards) and attended the ceremony and spoke at an artist panel in Darwin. Their artwork *‘jarndunil jijawiliwili niyamarri’* was displayed at The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

Carly Le Cerf | \$3,000 | Great Southern

Carly Le Cerf participated in the *BigCi Residency Program* in Bilpin, Sydney Australia, situated on the edge of Wollemi National Park within the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Greater Blue Mountains. The residency was 6-8 months and informed the creation of a new body of work.

June

Matthew Sforcina | \$3,000 | South West

Musician Matthew Sforcina attended a 7-week seminar series on Persian, Turkish, and Arabic modal music by Ross Daly at Labyrinth Music School in Crete.

Regional Arts Fund Quick Response Grants (Cont.)

Helen Seiver | \$1,786 | South West

Helen Seiver attended the Indian Ocean Craft Triennial Conference (IOTA) 2024, exploring handmade crafts' inherent languages and aesthetic capacity to enhance her artistic practice and professional connections.

Jane Davies| \$3,000| Great Southern

Puppeteer Jane Davies participated in a two-week residency hosted by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre to explore a tri-screened shadow booth that she designed. The project involved combining projection, live animation, varied lighting and sound.

Ingarlgalandij Arts and Culture Hub| \$5,000 | Kimberley

Ingarlgalandij Arts and Culture Hub attended the 2024 *Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair*, empowering Bardi Jawi artists through opportunities for learning, growth, and national recognition. This event supported cultural exchange, marketing, and networking, marking a significant experience for the community.

July David Kent | \$3,000 | South West

Selected as a finalist in the *Ekka's 10th Annual Country Music Showdown*, David Kent performed original music and a cover at Brisbane Showgrounds. The opportunity led to some exciting developments, including an invitation to perform at the Gympie Muster, valuable networking with music directors, and media coverage of his work.

Yael Harris | \$3,000 | South West

Every Tree Has a Name was a poetry video installation highlighting old-growth forest logging. Filmed on August 15th at Bibra Lake, it featured a nighttime reading with projected images and words. The installation debuted at the *Perth Poetry Festival Gala 2024*.

Arts & Culture Inc | \$5,000 | Goldfields-Esperance

Workshops engaged participants in book and zine making, motivating and providing new skills. Each participant created a book, learning binding and printing techniques. Led by experienced educator Matt Dunne, the hands-on workshops catered to all ages and skill levels. Participants left with their own book and guides for future projects.

August Katie Breckon | \$2,939 | Kimberley

Kimberley based artist Katie Breckon participated in the Fremantle Arts Centre's exchange program with the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) in Dublin. During her ten-week residency, she explored historic collections and natural materials, examining themes of belonging and diaspora through the study of historic harvesting practices and plant symbolism.

Sarah Francis | \$3,000 | South West

WILD-LIFE was an immersive dance and sound experience debuting at Sydney Fringe 2024. Sarah and collaborator Alex Winner gathered feedback to refine it for for WA audiences and future touring, incorporating interactive elements to connect children with themselves, others, and nature for future touring.

Brittany Pfeiffer | \$3,000 | Kimberley

The six-week Japan residency focused on creating ceramic pieces for a traditional anagama wood firing, culminating in an exhibition.

Symantha Parr | \$3,000 | Great Southern

Choreographer Sym Parr created a roving dance performance featuring two dancers in wildflower-inspired costumes for the *Bloom Festival* opening in Broomehill on September 22nd. The dancers, *Albany's Belle Fleurs*, performed a short ballet and mingled with the audience, celebrating the region's indigenous flora through joyful, improvised dance.

Bunbury Writers Group Inc | \$913 | South West

A *WA Poetry Slam* finalist led a four-hour interactive workshop introducing slam poetry. Participants learned to craft compelling narratives, master stage presence, and engaged in group critiques and live practice. The workshop fostered creativity, confidence, and offered tools for captivating audiences, welcoming poets of all levels.

September Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc | \$5,000 | Kimberley

The *Northwest Multicultural Festival* in Karratha (October 19th) celebrated diversity through music, dance, and food. The event drew 500-700 people and featured local artists in workshops and performances, showcasing regional cultural heritage.

Regional Arts Fund Quick Response Grants (Cont.)

Radio Margaret River | \$5,000 | South West

Technical and sound support for a live radio station performance at *Young@Heart*, showcasing local artists to a free audience at the HEART. This initiative promoted artists’ careers, enhanced their stage experience, and shared their work with a broader audience.

October
Arts Margaret River | \$3,164.24 | South West

Sian Baker, Artistic Director of the *Margaret River Readers & Writers Festival*, attended the inaugural *Regional Australia Writers Festivals Conference* and connected with East Coast literary networks. In Sydney, she met with publishers and the Sydney Writers Festival team to explore opportunities for showcasing Western Australian writers.

November
Jonathon Veitch | \$3,000 | South West

South 76 performed at the *2025 Tamworth Country Music Festival* on January 18th (Toyota Fanzone) and January 20th (JB Hi-Fi stage), with interviews booked on KIX Country and 2TM.

Chloe Flockart | \$3,000 | Wheatbelt

Central-Wheatbelt based artist Chloe Flockart developed a bioplastic recipe using invasive South-West plant species during a three-week residency. This research ensured her biodegradable sculptures met ecological goals and community engagement needs for a 2025 festival initiative.

Liyan Foundation | \$5,000 | Kimberley

Renowned artist Joshua Yeldham mentored Aboriginal artist Lloyd Kwilla during a two-week residency, enhancing his painting, sculpting, and wood engraving skills while exploring cultural narratives and providing insights into the contemporary art market for professional growth.

Alex Desebrock | \$3,000 | Goldfields-Esperance

Alex Desebrock undertook a 6-week residency at The Cannery Arts Centre, exploring *Tree Listening* through workshops, an immersive installation, and public talks.

Olivia Gamage | \$3,000 | South West

Olive Mae was selected as the sole WA artist for a prestigious 12-day *Australian Country Music Academy* residency, offering mentorship, workshops, performances, and career training to enhance her skills, visibility, and connections within the country music industry.

Leanna Shoveller | \$1,735.12 | Kimberley

Leanna Shoveller produced and distributed a new Compact Disc (CD) for promotion at the Nannup Music Festival and purchased a guitar and amplifier to support her solo performances in the Kimberley.



Strategic Projects



Strengthening Stakeholder Relationships & Partnership Development

2024 has been a landmark year for RAWA's partnerships and collaborations, as we've built powerful connections across sectors to amplify the voice of regional arts. Through meaningful engagement with key stakeholders, we've started new conversations and created exciting opportunities for our arts community.

Our partnership with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSCI) enabled regular, productive executive meetings throughout the year. We also took our message directly to communities through field trips, event attendance, and networking, and proudly showcased regional talent at the Great Southern Art Showcase during the Albany Community Cabinet with State Government Ministers in February.

Our collaboration with the Chamber of Arts and Culture WA (CACWA) continues to flourish. Together, we celebrated the successful launch of our *Thrive!* initiative and worked to strengthen regional service delivery while tackling key sector challenges through coordinated advocacy.

We've expanded our reach by forging stronger bonds with influential regional bodies including the WA Local Government Association (WALGA), Regional Development Commissions, Regional Development Australia, Rural and Regional Renewal WA, Department of Communities, Regional Australia Institute, and Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.

These partnerships have led to exciting developments, including productive discussions with Regional Development Commission CEOs and presentations to their Creative Industries Working Group.

We've celebrated regional arts through the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission's *Regional Arts and Culture Gathering* in Kalgoorlie, and secured an exciting new partnership with the Mid West Development Commission to host a regional summit in February 2025.



Social Fabric Cultural Equity Project

Weaving Stories Together

Regional Arts WA received funding from the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, Minderoo Foundation, Lotterywest and Healthway for the Social Fabric project.

Social Fabric is a two-year initiative across 2025-26 that will address barriers to cultural participation and amplify diverse voices through cultural exchange, storytelling, and collaboration.

The project will support First Nations people and multicultural communities in the Goldfields-Esperance region to create and share their stories of connection, through exhibitions, events, and performances. It will also develop resources aimed at improving cultural equity in regional communities across the State.

Social Fabric is presented in collaboration with Esperance Community Arts, Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation, and Tjuma Pulka Media Aboriginal Corporation.

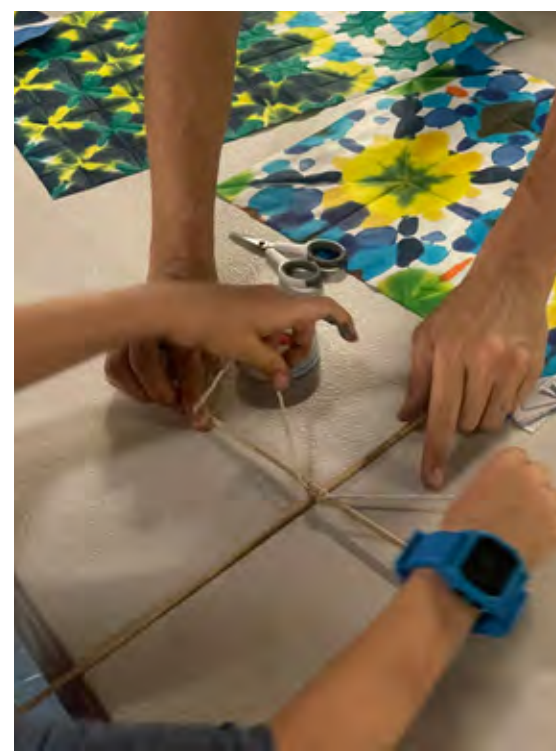


WA Museum & RAWA Partnership

Fish Trap Sculpture

Regional Arts WA received funding from Creative Australia to partner with the WA Museum on an innovative cultural project ahead of the Albany 2026 Bicentenary.

This collaborative initiative celebrates Menang culture through creative workshops and oral history, focusing on the culturally significant Albany fish traps. The project will culminate in the commissioning of a public artwork, to be prominently displayed on the site of the Museum of the Great Southern.



Indian Ocean Territories

In 2024, RAWA's engagement with the Indian Ocean Territories (IOTs) catalysed significant cultural development across Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands. As part of a *Service Delivery Arrangement* between the Australian and Western Australian governments, we initiated dialogue with local communities and the local Shires, leading to several transformative projects in addition to funding support of Arts and Culture Christmas Island.

Broome-based artist Jacky Cheng delivered textile workshops across both territories in May. The program reached 250 participants, with 104 people attending 11 workshops on Christmas Island and 146 joining 13 workshops on Cocos Islands. The strong engagement which was school children returning for community sessions, led to an exciting development - Seniors from the Cocos Malay community initiated a project to revive traditional Malay textile techniques, which became the first IOTs project to receive support from the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund.

The second project, running across May and June, saw social historian Dr Elaine Rabbitt deliver accredited Oral History training and school workshops, engaging 45 participants on Christmas Island and 28 on Cocos. Six vital oral histories were recorded on Cocos, contributing to the urgent preservation of these unique Australian communities' stories.

Workshops were enthusiastically received with many attendees joining multiple sessions and expressing interest in further opportunities. Potential to enhance future programming was identified.

In June, our CEO's visit focused on arts development and cultural services coordination, laying groundwork for several projects planned for 2025 and 2026. Our engagement extended to supporting two IOTs artists - Chris Su (Shire of Christmas Island nominee) and Trinity Ford (Arts and Culture Christmas Island nominee) - to attend the Indian Ocean Craft Triennial (IOTA24) in Perth. Chris was invited to speak at the closing plenary session and to work with organisers to showcase IOTs culture at the next Triennial. The visit also sparked international cultural exchange opportunities with Malaysia, Borneo, India, South Korea, Germany, and the UK.



Visibility & Advocacy

Advocacy

Throughout 2024, Regional Arts WA has maintained a powerful advocacy presence, effectively championing regional arts interests at both State and Federal levels. Our strategic engagement with the WA State Government, MPs, and Ministers has centred on promoting our *Thrive!* initiative and securing increased core funding for regional arts organisations and the RASI program.

We've strengthened our sector's voice by fostering cross-collaboration to enhance regional development, economic diversity, and tourism opportunities. Our advocacy has particularly emphasised creating sustainable employment pathways for creative workers, artists, and graduates in regional areas, while supporting local organisations to deliver impactful programs and services.

Key achievements include presenting our *Thrive!* strategy to Minister for Arts and Culture Hon David Templeman MLA, Minister for Regional Development Hon Don Punch MLA, Meredith Hammat MLA, and various regional Members of Parliament. Our CEO's strategic visit to Canberra in October resulted in productive meetings with the Office of the Arts, Regional Arts Australia, and Australian Government leaders.

These advocacy efforts have yielded results, notably increased political engagement and support. A landmark outcome was the WA Nationals' pre-election commitment of \$38 million, including \$18 million earmarked for Regional Arts WA through their '*Making a Difference for Regional Arts*' policy.

Our continued advocacy has successfully positioned regional arts as a priority in policy discussions, strengthening our relationships with key decision-makers.

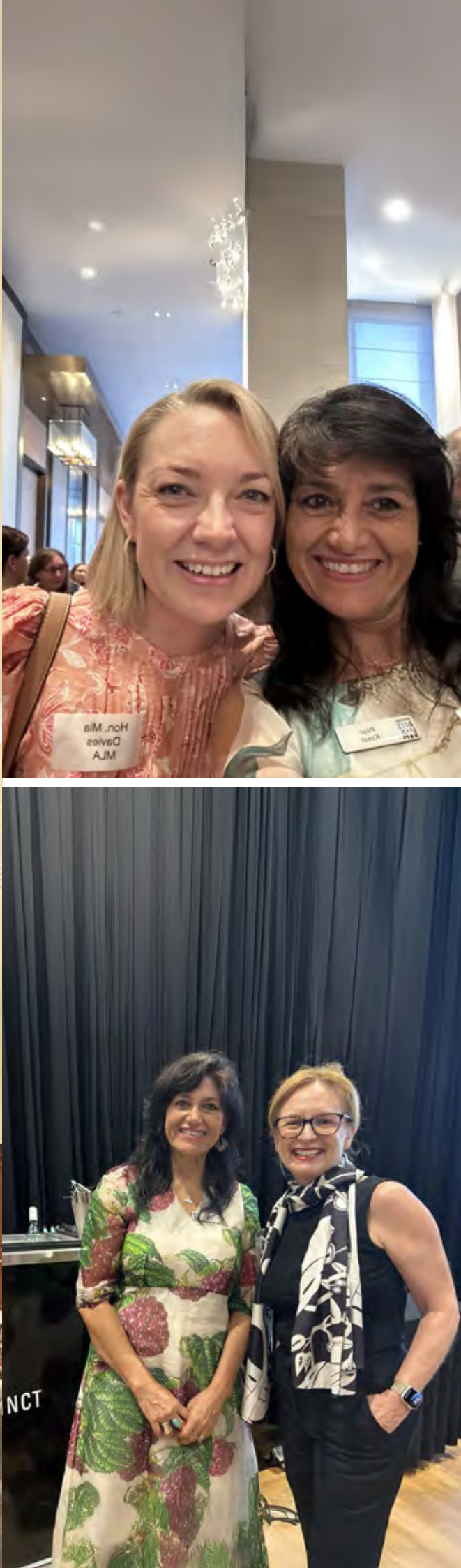


Public Relations & Communications

This year, Regional Arts WA focused on boosting visibility to celebrate its 30th anniversary, promote *Thrive!*, and raise awareness of the regional arts sector and Regional Arts Network (RAN) through online and print articles, interviews, and features.

Key highlights included:

- Radio interview on *Drive with Jo Trilling* on ABC on October 14th
- Article in ArtsHub *A 30-year ambition: Regional Arts WA sets up the game to drive funding innovation*, October 17th
- Interview with the CEO Dr Pilar Kasat on RTRFM, October 25th
- Article with Liv Declerck from Business News *Raising Visibility for Regional Arts*, November issue



Artist of the Month

In 2024, we celebrated the remarkable talent, dedication, and passion of regional artists. This year our AOTM program showcased the diversity and vibrancy of contemporary regional Western Australia. For example, Yinggarda artist Raymond Edney’s story reached over 30,000 people and sparked meaningful conversations nationwide.

The initiative helps to promote artists and their practice through interviews on RTRFM’s Artbeat Program, sharing of social media posts, Instagram Takeovers, and feature stories hosted on the RAWA website.



March
Wayne Bergmann & Madeline Dickie
Writing | Kimberley
Respected First Nations leader Wayne Bergmann and award-winning writer Madelaine Dickie collaborated for six years on *Some People Want to Shoot Me*, a powerful publication exploring Wayne’s experiences as a prominent leader navigating two cultures during a crisis. The book was launched by the WA Premier in April 2024.



April
Helen Seiver
Visual Art | South West
A multidisciplinary artist based on Wardandi Country, Helen creates evocative works across sculpture, painting, and installation, engaging with environmental, political, and personal narratives. Her collaboration with Desmond Taylor, exploring shared histories, reconciliation, and healing, produced a powerful body of work called *another way*, which was exhibited at Holmes à Court Gallery in April 2024.



May
Carolina Furque & Stephen Eastaugh
Visual Art | Peel
Artists Carolina and Stephen explore place, connection, and travel, shaped by residencies across Argentina, Chile, France, the Netherlands, Cambodia, Thailand, and Australia. Their exhibition *REMOTELYCLOSE* at the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery in May 2024 showcased their collaborative dialogue on movement and geography.



June
Alexia Parenzee
Music | Mid West
An alt-folk/roots musician based in Southern Yamatji country, Jambinu/Geraldton, Alexia has built a powerful presence in the WA music scene as a songwriter and performer. Alexia let us ride along on her regional tour in June 2024 to promote her new EP *Retrospect*, sharing her experiences live in an Instagram Takeover.



August
Vivienne Garrett
Actor | South West
Vivienne is a highly accomplished award-winning actor, director, and educator who moved to Margaret River in 2017. She is sharing her wealth of experience and knowledge while facilitating community workshops and working on the opening performance for Busselton’s new Saltwater Performing Arts Centre, to open in 2025.



September
Leon Holmes
Visual Art | Peel
An international award-winning artist based in Mandjoogoordap (Mandurah), Leon is renowned for his expertise in Plein Air painting. As the founder of *Plein Air Down Under*, Leon took us behind the scenes of one of the biggest outdoor painting festivals in the world in September 2024, with more than 200 artists painting across the Peel region.

Artist of the Month (cont.)



October
Stuart McMillan
Multidisciplinary | *South West*
Stuart is a multidisciplinary artist based in the Margaret River region. He explores how the external world shapes the internal human experience through sculpture, photography, painting, and immersive installations. As artist-in-residence at Cannery Arts Centre as part of the *Esperance Sculpture Trail* project, Stuart created site-responsive installations inspired by the region’s landscapes.



November
Paulette Jadzinski
Visual Art | *Pilbara*
Paulette Jadzinski, an emerging artist from Port Hedland, draws inspiration from her community, her carer Jane Bolton, and the work of singer Selena Gomez. In 2024, Paulette’s artistic journey flourished through workshops and mentoring, leading to a group exhibition at Courthouse Gallery and the prestigious Patron Prize at *The Jury Art Prize*.



December
Raymond Edney
Multidisciplinary | *Gascoyne*
Raymond is a celebrated Yinggarda man, artist, musician, and educator from Carnarvon. His impact spans from global artist residencies to national performances alongside renowned musicians, as well as vital work delivering *On Country Cultural Awareness Training* through UWA’s WA Centre for Rural Health.

Digital Engagement

In 2024, our digital engagement flourished, drawing our community into the Regional Arts WA story. The Collective Memory Project brought RAWA’s 30-year history to life through archival images and heartfelt video messages, sparking meaningful connections.

Website

With the launch of *Thrive!*, 2024 was a year of high visibility, and saw significant growth in our digital reach, with page views increasing by 13,000 compared to the previous year, totalling 51,000 page views and 20,000 unique visitors.

While celebrating these engagement metrics, we also recognised the need to enhance our digital infrastructure to better serve our diverse audience. In response, we’ve initiated a comprehensive website evolution focusing on accessibility, usability, and modern design principles.

The focus is on implementing clearer navigation, enhanced contrast ratios, improved font legibility, and faster page load times. As a leading arts organisation, we’re committed to meeting evolving technological standards and audience expectations, with the improved platform scheduled to launch in the first half of 2025.

Social Media

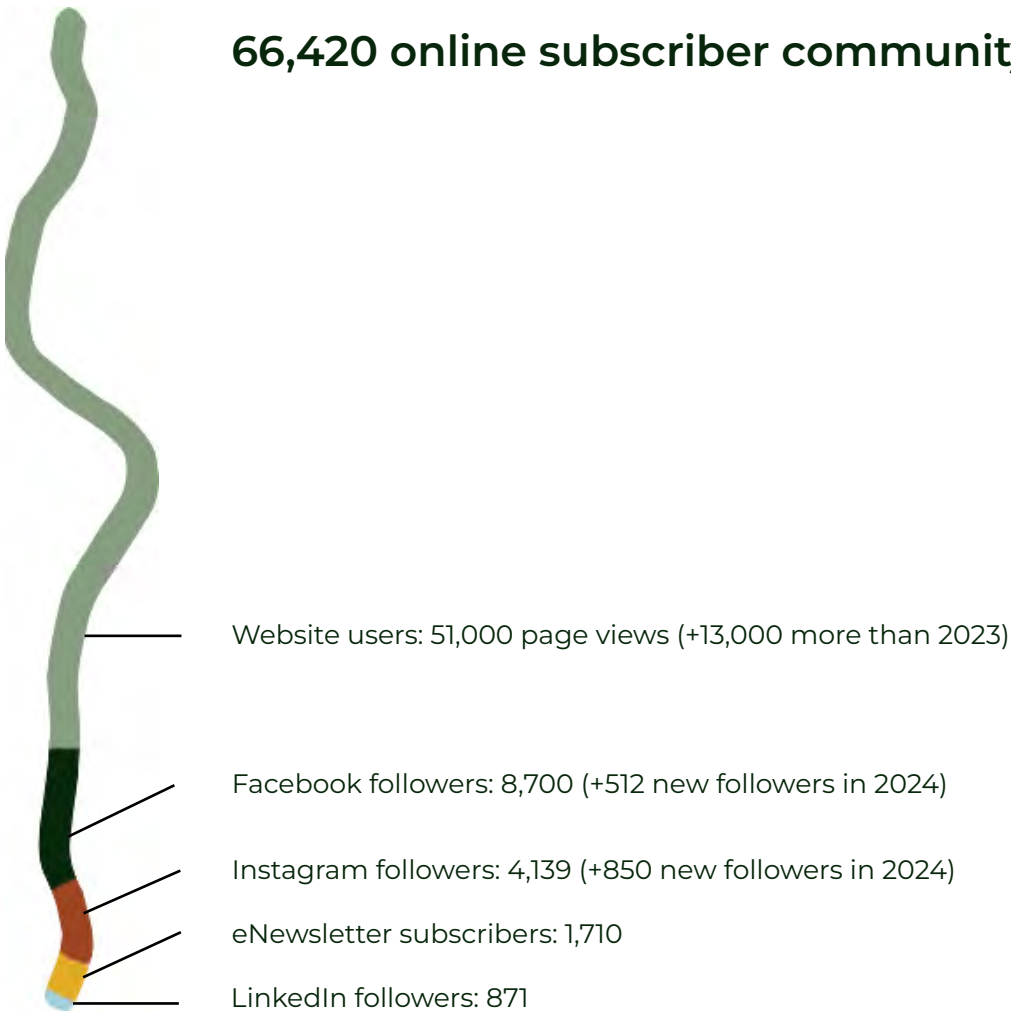
Collective Memory Campaign
In 2024, we launched an engaging social media campaign called the Collective Memory Project, celebrating RAWA’s rich 30-year history. Through carefully curated fortnightly posts, we shared compelling archival images showcasing the diverse teams, innovative projects, regional organisations, and talented artists who have shaped RAWA from the early 90s to today.

As part of the Collective Memory Project, we also shared short 30th Anniversary video messages from past RAWA CEO’s, artists and sector champions, who shared their fondest memories. These social media posts and stories were well received and offered our audiences a chance to tag familiar faces and authentically engage with RAWA and each other.



Digital Audience

66,420 online subscriber community in 2024



Membership

Regional Arts WA concluded 2024 with a strong membership base of 546—reflecting a 20% increase over the past two years.

This steady growth is mirrored by increased engagement across our social media and digital platforms, highlighting the impact of our initiatives and the value our members place on being part of a connected, statewide arts community.

Our diverse membership includes artists, arts workers, cultural organisations, volunteers, community resource centres, venues, local governments, and community leaders—each playing a vital role in enriching the arts and cultural eco-system across Western Australia.

To support this expanding community, we began developing a new membership management platform in 2024. This system will enhance our ability to connect with members, streamline communications, and introduce new services that further support and strengthen the sector.

Total: 546	
Individual: 358	
Organisations: 188	
Gascoyne	15
Goldfields-Esperance	61
Great Southern	46
Kimberley	37
Mid West	51
Peel	30
Pilbara	28
South West	93
Wheatbelt	70
Perth	107
Interstate/Other	8





Governance & Operations



Operational Innovation & Improvements

In 2024, Regional Arts WA achieved substantial operational advancements through strategic initiatives and organisational refinements. A cornerstone achievement was the successful implementation of our decentralisation strategy, through the deliberate recruitment of staff across Western Australia’s diverse regions. Our expanded geographical presence now encompasses the Peel, Gascoyne, Mid West, and South West regions, complementing our Perth operations and enabling deeper regional engagement.

We made significant improvements to our organisational policies and procedures to enhance both efficiency and effectiveness. This included revisiting our core values, streamlining our Strategic Plan, implementing a new staff review system and developing a comprehensive set of Risk Management documents.

Digital transformation initiatives remained a focus, with the inauguration of an extensive website modernisation project designed to elevate user experience, enhance communication channels, and amplify sector visibility. This initiative will ensure our digital presence better serves our diverse stakeholder base.

Additionally, we transitioned our IT services to a cloud-based platform to bolster data security, switched to an online phone system, and began the development of a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system to enhance communications with our members and lay the groundwork for introducing new member services.

In alignment with our commitment to fostering emerging talent in the arts sector, we facilitated a professional development opportunity for ECU/WAAPA student Erin Shepherd, providing invaluable industry exposure to an emerging arts professional from the Mid West region.

We deepened our commitment to environmental responsibility in 2024—not as a compliance obligation, but as an acknowledgement of its importance. By adopting sustainable purchasing practices, reducing waste, and embedding eco-conscious principles into our operations, we’ve taken measurable steps to lessen our footprint. Looking outward, we initiated collaborations with the sector to raise awareness in regional communities about climate adaptation and resilience, driving positive change toward sustainability. We are committed to integrating these efforts across all levels of our work, inspiring a collective movement toward a greener, more sustainable future.



Finance

Regional Arts WA maintained its strong financial position in 2024, delivering an operating surplus for the second consecutive year. This achievement is a direct result of disciplined financial management and success in securing diverse funding sources. Additional support was attracted from philanthropic partners, Healthway, Lotterywest, and Creative Australia, building on the multi-year government agreements established in 2023. Collectively, these income streams have reinforced a stable and resilient financial foundation.

Following the restructuring and recruitment efforts of 2023, this past year was marked by continuity and stability. This consistency enabled the smooth delivery of our core programs while positioning us to effectively roll out a range of innovative new projects. This operational consistency has been vital in supporting the strategic objectives outlined in the 2024–2026 Strategic Plan, ensuring that Regional Arts WA remains responsive and adaptable to sector needs. Sound financial stewardship remains central to achieving our strategic goals, enabling us to plan and deliver impactful arts and cultural outcomes across regional Western Australia. Looking ahead, our robust financial footing ensures we are well-placed to respond to emerging opportunities and invest confidently in the future of regional arts, which aligns with our commitment to sector leadership and sustainability.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Grant and philanthropic income	1,504,910	1,296,622
Non-grant income	41,739	41,023
Expenses		
Employee benefits expense	(859,518)	(678,892)
Community projects / investment program	(194,000)	-
Program, production and touring	(117,786)	(321,726)
Marketing and promotion	(18,424)	(14,776)
Infrastructure costs	(284,983)	(246,392)
Surplus / (Deficit) before income tax expense	71,938	75,859
Income tax expense	-	-
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	71,938	75,859
Devolved grant and philanthropic funding income	1,530,496	1,738,152
Community projects / investment program	(1,530,496)	(1,738,152)
Net devolved funding	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	71,938	75,859

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2024

ASSETS	2024	2023
Current assets	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	1,932,000	698,463
Trade and other receivables	106,332	594,177
Other	28,510	54,790
Total current assets	2,066,842	1,347,430
Non-current assets		
Right of use assets	6,332	10,772
Property, plant and equipment	16,204	13,058
Total non-current assets	22,536	23,830
TOTAL ASSETS	2,089,378	1,371,260
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	254,151	131,027
Grants and income in advance	1,353,055	858,938
Lease liabilities	3,832	3,832
Employee benefits	112,025	85,676
Total current liabilities	1,723,063	1,079,473
Non-current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	5,635	9,712
Employee benefits	11,483	4,816
Total non-current liabilities	17,118	14,528
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,740,181	1,094,001
NET ASSETS	349,197	277,259
EQUITY		
Retained surpluses	349,197	277,259
TOTAL EQUITY	349,197	277,259

Staff

Chief Executive Officer, Dr Pilar Kasat
General Manager, Catherine Driver
Manager Strategy and Partnerships, Alysha Saunders
Finance Manager, Martin Tunley (Contractor)
Investment Coordinator, Hannah Chambers / Carla Steele
Network Coordinator, Gemma Robins
First Nations Officer, Janine Oxenham
Communications Officer, Natalie de Rozario
Arts Development Officer, Carla Steele / Emmaline James
Operations Officer, Jaala Kuempflein
Network & Investment Officer, Megan Lemon
Student Intern (3 Months), Erin Shepherd

Board

Chair, Oliver Bazzani
Deputy Chair, Lesley Wilkinson
Secretary, Grace Crogan (to March 2024)
Secretary, Clancy McDowell
Treasurer, David Wall
Jacky Cheng
Ken Mills (to April 2024)
Bobbi Lockyer (to June 2024)

New Board Member From May 2024
Jennifer Halton
Josephine Johnson
Rosie Sitorus
Mohammed Ayo Busari
Ana Doria Buchan (until 14 October)

Regional Arts WA would like to thank the outgoing Board members for their dedication and valuable contributions to regional arts across WA.



Acknowledgements & Image Credits

Cover: *Thunderstorm* rehearsal, Breaksea, Menang Elders
Ezzard Flowers & Averil Dean share stories with participants,
RAF Project Grant, Photo by Nic Duncan

Inside Cover: Helen Seiver & Desmond Taylor, *another way*, RAF
Project Grant, Photo by Samuel Tetlaw

Page 5: 30 year anniversary celebration at King Street Art
Centre 2024, Photos by Matt Biocich
Image 1: CEO Lotterywest & Healthway Colin Smith, CEO Dr Pilar
Kasat and RAWA Chair Oliver Bazzani
Image 2: Crowd
Image 3: Artist Abdul-Rahman Abdullah, RAWA Board Secretary
Clancy McDowell & Producer Jeremy Smith

Page 6: RAWA team with Regional Arts Network
representatives and special guests

Page 7: Lloyd Kwilla during mentorship with Joshua Yeldham,
RAF QRG, Photos by Melanie Hogan

Page 9: Georgia Carter, Senator Louise Pratt, & WAAPA student
Kristopher Long at *Kimberley Blak Pride Festival*, Photo by Phil
Thompson, Copyright Coolarri Media.

**Page 11: RAWA Staff & representatives from the each RAN
organisation**

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Colourful Creature Adventure*', RASI, The Junction Co., Photo by
Charismatic Photography

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Understory Art & Nature Trail, Northcliffe, RASI, Southern Forrest
Arts, Photo by Fiona Sinclair

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Supplied by artist

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Festival, Supplied by artist

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