

Annual Report

2025

REGIONAL
ARTS
WA



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.

Warning: Members of the Aboriginal and Islander communities are respectfully advised that this report contains names and images of people who have passed away. These people’s families have generously approved the use of this content.

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Cover image
Tracey Barnett performing at Balmy Nights, The Cannery Arts Centre, Esperance. Image by Rosie Henderson.

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Our Purpose

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

Mid West trip for RAWA Ambassador Program. Image by Raquel Aranda.

Our Vision

Connected and creative regional communities.

Amphitheatre crowds at the 2025 Nannup Music Festival. Image by Elliot Welsford – Isolated Photography.

Our Values

Leadership. Cultural Equity.
Integrity. Collaboration. Respect

Artwork at Yamaji Arts Centre, Geraldton. Image by Raquel Aranda.

Who We Are

Regional Arts WA (RAWA) is the peak body for regional arts in Western Australia.

Established in 1994, we support artists, arts workers, organisations and communities across regional WA. We do this by catalysing creative initiatives, strengthening the regional arts sector, and investing in and advocating for the value of arts and culture in regional life.

RAWA's staff and the Board are based across regional communities and Perth. Our growing membership of more than 600 individuals and organisations reflects the breadth, diversity and vitality of the regional arts community we represent.

2025 Achievements

\$1.75 million went to the regional arts sector through funding programs.

Secured a landmark three-year, **\$3.3 million** partnership with Minderoo Foundation for Thrive!

Expanded and strengthened the Regional Arts Network (RAN).

Launched the Social Fabric Cultural Equity Project in the Goldfields-Esperance region.

Delivered an arts summit in Geraldton in partnership with the Mid West Development Commission and local organisations.

RAWA membership grew 13% to 618 individuals and organisations.

Refreshed the website and launched a digital platform to connect the RAN.

Foreword

Some years leave an unmistakable imprint on an organisation. For Regional Arts WA, 2025 will be remembered as one of those defining years, a year of growth, connection, and renewed purpose.

In a state as vast and varied as Western Australia, strong relationships and true collaboration do not happen by chance. They are built slowly and intentionally, through trust, consistency, and a shared belief that regional creativity is not a luxury, but a vital force that shapes the social, cultural, and economic life of our state.

This year, RAWA continued to mature and evolve. As a proudly decentralised organisation – with half our staff and more than half our Board living in regional communities, we are becoming even more grounded in the places we serve. Our financial health remains strong, allowing us to distribute more than \$1.75 million in funding to the regional arts sector in 2025. These investments ensured that artists were remunerated, cultural expression flourished, and communities had the support they needed to tell their stories in ways meaningful to them.

Our achievements this year reflect a collective effort: clarity of purpose, strong values, and genuine collaboration with the people and places at the heart of regional arts.

A major milestone was the signing of a \$3.3 million, three year partnership with the Minderoo Foundation, a partner that has walked alongside us since 2019. This transformative support expands our capacity to deliver our *Thrive!* Framework and brings new momentum to the sector, opening space for fresh opportunities and bold ideas.

In our respective first and continuing years as Chair and CEO, we have spent considerable time on the road, attending local events, working directly with organisations, and listening deeply to the artists who keep creativity alive in even the most remote corners of WA. What we encounter consistently is a sector defined by collaboration, ingenuity, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to community and place.

In February, we partnered with the Mid West Development Commission to deliver the Mid West Creative Ecology Summit, where the late Charmaine Papertalk Green-Smith offered powerful reflections that continue to influence our thinking on cultural leadership, environmental care, and the civic role of artists.

From March to June, our Art + Climate Conversations, in collaboration with Regional Arts Network (RAN) members Arts Margaret River, Southern Edge Arts and Goolarri Media across the South West, Great Southern, and Kimberley – brought communities together to explore how creative practice can deepen understanding of environmental change. These gatherings highlighted the leadership of regional artists whose work is profoundly connected to Country.

Throughout the year, the expanded RAN of 20 organisations strengthened their communities, deepened partnerships, and developed new skills. The annual RAN gathering brought us all together, featuring sector conversations, including with the new Minister for Creative Industries, Hon. Simone McGurk MLA, and providing opportunities to share powerful impact stories from across the State.

The Social Fabric Equity Project continues to remind us of the value of community-led cultural development, especially with minoritised communities. Delivered in collaboration with local arts and First Nations organisations in Kalgoorlie and Esperance, it remains central to our purpose of cultural equity. Grounded in place and guided by local priorities, this work continues to strengthen health and wellbeing, belonging, and creativity.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Chair Oliver Bazzani and current Board of Directors for their steady leadership, insight, and commitment.

We thank the artists, organisations, and communities who continue to place their trust in RAWA. Your generosity in sharing your stories, your work, and your vision is the foundation of everything we do.

We also acknowledge our partners, collaborators and staff, whose dedication sustains every program and initiative. We are deeply grateful to our key funders for their ongoing belief in the value of regional creativity.

As we look out at a world marked by uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, rapid technological change, and rising fear and mistrust, we are reminded more than ever of the vital role the arts play in our collective wellbeing. Creators, artists, and communities across regional WA continue to demonstrate that art helps us make sense of the world, and imagine futures filled with hope, connection, and possibility.

Together, let's keep nurturing the creativity that binds us, strengthens us, and reminds us of the extraordinary potential within every community. Here's to a year ahead filled with courage, collaboration, and the transformative power of the arts.



Josephine Johnson
Chair



Dr Pilar Kasat
CEO

Advocacy and Engagement

This year, our advocacy was grounded in a strong belief in the vital role arts and culture play in shaping vibrant regional communities across Western Australia.

We worked to lift the visibility of regional arts, championing their contribution to local life, identity and connection. We aimed to increase the visibility of regional arts organisations and arts workers to build shared momentum around the need for more secure funding and stronger operational support.

Guided by the *Thrive!* Framework, our advocacy focused on creating opportunities for genuine collaboration and co-investment across government and philanthropy. At the heart of this work was a commitment to long-term thinking and shared responsibility, supporting local artists and place-based initiatives that deliver lasting community and industry impact. This approach was built on on-the-ground engagement and relationship-building across the State, with our CEO and staff maintaining a strong and visible presence in regional areas.

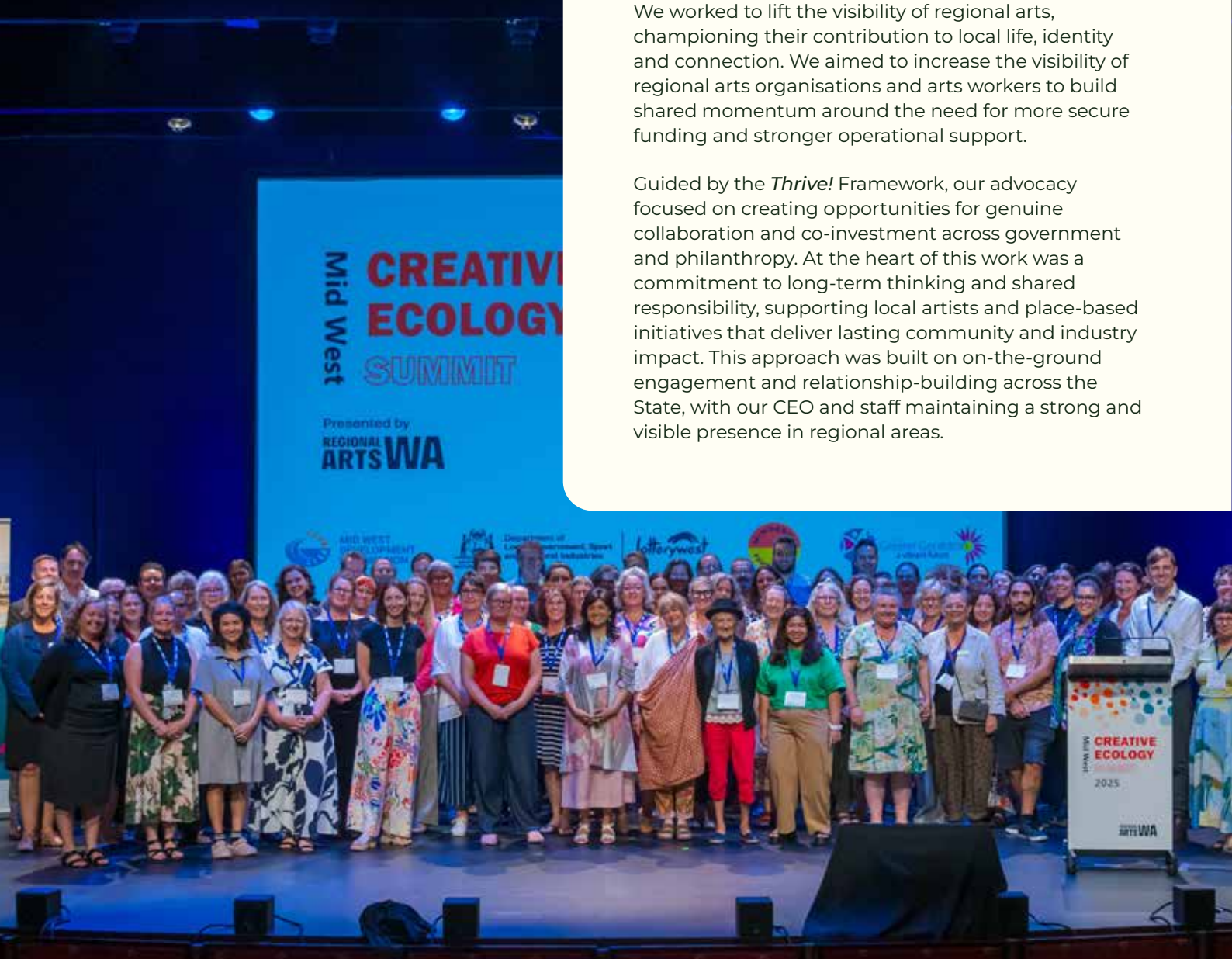
Our CEO and Chair continued to engage directly with State and Federal decision-makers, strengthening understanding of regional priorities through ongoing dialogue. This included meetings with Hon. Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Creative Industries; Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Regional Development; Hon. Julie Freeman MLC, Shadow Minister for Cultural Industries; and engagement with the office of Hon. Tony Burke MP, Federal Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and the Arts. Across all discussions, we consistently positioned regional arts as a key driver of regional development, employment, social cohesion and economic resilience.

Strong relationships remain central to effective advocacy, and this year we deepened existing partnerships while forming new connections through collaboration and sector events. We maintained regular executive-level engagement with the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (CITS), with discussions spanning the implementation of Creative WA, funding reform, the future of the Regional Arts Sector Investment (RASI) program, workforce development, and the need for stronger regional data.

Pilar Kasat with Minister McGurk at the RAN Gathering. Image by RAWA.



RAWA's CEO also continued to represent the organisation on the WA Creative Industries Working Group and the Regional National Advisory Group, ensuring that regional voices and perspectives remained part of statewide and national policy conversations.



Mid West Creative Ecology Summit in Geraldton. Photo by Dragonfly Media.



Pilar Kasat, Vanessa Poelina, Clancy McDowell, Robyn Wells & Maree Lourey at the Broome launch of "We Walk Together" for the Radical Futures Regional Arts Triennial, Broome. Image by Halina Storm.

Sector Development & Strategic Projects

RAWA CEO and Chair with John Hartman and Penny Dakin from Minderoo Foundation. Image by Daniel Carson.



Sector Development

Thrive!

In July, RAWA announced a \$3.3 million, three-year partnership with Minderoo Foundation to support the delivery of *Thrive! Regional Arts, Culture & Creativity Framework 2025–2029*.

Launched in August 2024 with support from the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, *Thrive!* is RAWA's sector development strategy focused on strengthening regional arts and cultural organisations, and increasing regional vibrancy across Western Australia. The partnership builds on a successful collaboration that began in 2019 through the establishment of the RAN with Minderoo Foundation, The Ian Potter Foundation, and support from the Australian Government.

Over 70% of the investment is directed to industry connection, capacity building and piloting a new Creative Collaboration Fund (CCF) to accelerate statewide community impact.

Implementation commenced in July 2025, with the first year focused on addressing immediate needs and establishing legacy programs. A Needs and Opportunities Assessment began in December 2025 in partnership with RAN.

Organisation Sustainability

Regional Arts Network (RAN)

The RAN is a statewide network of not-for-profit arts and cultural organisations that provides peer support and works collectively to strengthen regional arts and culture across Western Australia.

In November 2024, the Network expanded to 20 organisations. RAWA convened the largest annual RAN gathering to date in June 2025, bringing together 40 creative leaders in Perth to strengthen relationships and deepen collaborative practice.

Location of the Regional Art Network Organisations

KIMBERLEY

- 1. Goolarri Media Enterprises
- 2. Kimberley Arts Network

PILBARA

- 3. The Junction Co.

GASCOYNE

- 4. Creality

MID WEST

- 5. North Midlands Project
- 6. Yamaji Art

WHEATBELT

- 7. Arts Narrogin
- 8. Gardiner Street Arts Collective
- 9. Wheatbelt Arts & Events

SOUTH WEST

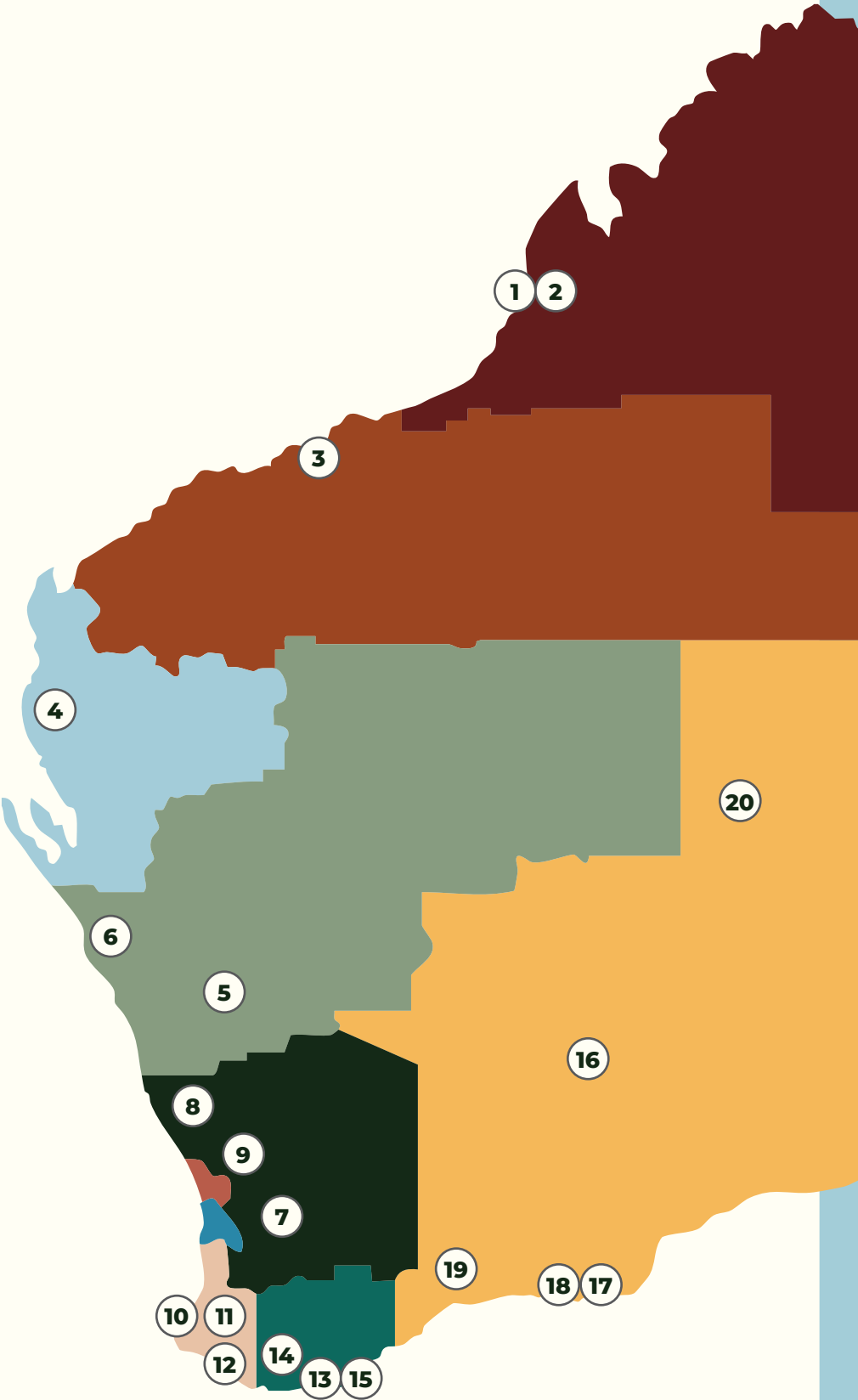
- 10. Arts Margaret River
- 11. Nannup Music Club
- 12. Southern Forest Arts

GREAT SOUTHERN

- 13. ArtSouthWA
- 14. Denmark Arts
- 15. Southern Edge Arts

GOLDFIELDS-ESPERANCE

- 16. Artgold
- 17. The Cannery Arts Centre
- 18. Esperance Community Arts
- 19. Rave About Arts
- 20. Wilurarra Creative



Facilitated by Nicole Beyer, the gathering program included meetings with Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Creative Industries, where members presented case studies demonstrating the cultural and economic impact of regional arts.

A major milestone was the launch of the RAN Intranet, a purpose-built digital platform enabling connection, resource-sharing, and collaboration. Development was led by RAWA's digital specialist, Meeum.

Monthly RAN Connect sessions continued, supporting knowledge-sharing, and collaboration, with guest speakers including:

- **Zohar Spatz**, Creative Australia
- **Lockie McDonald**, Australian Rural Leadership Foundation
- **Nicole Beyer**, Founding Executive Director of Theatre Network Australia

Through *Thrive!*, RAWA plans to accelerate statewide connection, professional development and capacity building with RAN organisations.

Governance Training

Enhanced governance capability was delivered across RAN organisations through a targeted governance capacity-building program. Dr David Gilchrist facilitated three group training sessions, complemented by tailored one-one-one governance clinics for five organisations. An additional four individual clinics were delivered by governance expert Penny Knight. Collectively, the program strengthened governance practices, reinforced organisational resilience, and supported long-term sustainability across participating organisations.



Regional Arts Network with Hon Simone McGurk MLA at the annual gathering, Perth. Image by RAWA.

Programs & Events

Sector Development activities in 2025 focused on supporting artists, creative workers, and organisations by providing opportunities for learning, collaboration, and growth - responding to both the immediate and long-term needs of Western Australia's regional arts community.

Key topics of focus for the year were:

- Community Arts and Cultural Development
- Governance
- Community Wellbeing
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience
- Cultural Equity

Mid West Creative Ecology Summit

Held on 6 February 2025 in Geraldton, the Mid West Creative Ecology Summit brought together the region's creative community for presentations, workshops, panel discussions and networking.

The program was developed with an advisory group including the Mid West Development Commission, City of Greater Geraldton, Geraldton Regional Art Gallery, Museum of Geraldton, Yamaji Art, North Midlands Project, and arts consultant Emmaline James.

Delivered in partnership with the Mid West Development Commission, the event was supported by the City of Greater Geraldton, Minderoo Foundation, and the WA Government.

Climate Conversations & Forums

The Local Conversation: Art, Culture + Climate series was delivered across Margaret River (7 March), Albany (27 March) and Derby (17–19 June) in collaboration with Arts Margaret River, Southern Edge Arts, and Goolarri Media.

Facilitated by Meri Fatin (WA Climate Leaders), the series explored place-based creative responses to climate change. In Derby, the West Kimberley Arts Forum Matuwarra Stories brought together First Nations artists and cultural leaders through panels and professional development workshops.

Together, these forums strengthened cross-sector dialogue and highlighted the role of arts in community-led climate resilience.

Late Dr Charmaine Papertalk Green-Smith presenting the keynote at the Mid West Creative Ecology Summit. Image by Dragonfly Media



Regional Arts Triennial – Radical Futures

RAWA supported Southern Forest Arts to employ regional artists and arts workers to lead community engagement activities ahead of WA Regional Arts Triennial 3: Radical Futures.

Between March–June, 442 participants from 15 communities across eight regions took part in 26 free activities, delivered by 19 artists and 14 arts workers, coordinated by 10 organisations.

The program reached diverse audiences (ages 5–80), including First Nations communities, culturally diverse participants, and people with disabilities, while enabling venues to trial new engagement approaches.

Participating communities included Broome, Kununurra, Port Hedland, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Esperance, Denmark, Margaret River, Busselton, and Moora.

The Triennial is supported by the WA Government, coordinated by Southern Forest Arts, with partners including ART ON THE MOVE, John Curtin Gallery, Regional Arts WA, GalleriesWest, and Kimberley Arts Network.

Speaker Series

ARTS AND ACCESSIBILITY PANEL 28 FEBRUARY

Hosted with DADAA and The Junction Co., this panel, facilitated by Anwem Handmer – focused on inclusive arts practice. Panelists included Paulette Jadzinski, Jane Bolton, Julie Barratt, Jacqueline Homer, and Valeria Scoponi. This event launched The Junction Co and DADAA’s Arts Accessibility 101 Guide, developed with DADAA.

COMMUNITY WELLBEING & SYSTEMS THINKING 18 MARCH

An online leadership session facilitated by Dr Shona Erskine addressed wellbeing, systems thinking, and reducing risks of burnout for regional arts workers.

GOOD ARTS, GOOD MENTAL HEALTH 23 JUNE

Dr Christina Davies presented findings from the Good Arts, Good Mental Health campaign, with a conversation about continued collaboration and data collection.

Next Level Connect

We brought together seven of the Next Level Fellowship recipients (young people aged 18–26) from 2024 and 2025 for a two-day experience focused on connection, learning, and collaboration.

Outback Prac – Work Integrated Learning

Launched in November, Outback Prac formalised RAWA’s extension of its pilot student placement program, connecting tertiary arts students with regional organisations.

This year, RAWA supported Lucy Tobin (WAAPA/ECU) to complete a placement with The Junction Co. at the Courthouse Gallery+Studio, and Isobel Finnie (WAAPA/ECU) to work with Arts Narrogin to coordinate creative incursions in Narrogin with WAYJO and Zero Emcee.

The program expanded in late 2025, with host agreements established with Edith Cowan University, University of WA, Curtin University, and growing interest from TAFE and regional organisations statewide.

Outback Prac is supported by the Regional Arts Fund, Minderoo Foundation and The Ian Potter Foundation.



2025 Next Level Connect cohort. Image by RAWA.

Social Fabric Equity Project Session in Esperance. Image by Rosie Henderson.



Strategic Projects

Social Fabric Equity Project

The Social Fabric Equity Project (2025 and 2026) is a region-wide cultural initiative aiming to strengthen social cohesion and expand equitable access to arts participation across the Goldfields–Esperance region. It responds to a time when many Australian communities are experiencing rising social and institutional racism.

Centering First Nations peoples and culturally diverse communities, the project uses cultural exchange, storytelling, and creative collaboration to surface untold narratives and amplify diverse voices.

In 2025 the project was delivered in partnership with Esperance Community Arts, Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation, and Tjuma Pulka Media Aboriginal Corporation. Social Fabric was supported by the Australian Government’s Regional Arts Fund, Minderoo Foundation, Lotterywest and Healthway. The program delivered a vibrant year of

activity, including 16 workshops and five public events, facilitated by 20 First Nations and culturally diverse artists. These activities reached 184 participants representing approximately 40 cultures, with an estimated audience of 1,251. Artforms spanned music, dance, poetry, food, and bush foods, painting, weaving, ceramics, wood burning, storytelling, and visual arts.

Alongside the public programming, 2025 also saw the establishment of a local advisory group to strengthen local networks and promote cultural opportunities. In addition, a partnership was formed with Edith Cowan University to research and implement culturally safe evaluation tools and resources, beginning with a community survey, and two place-based ‘yarning circle style’ focus groups in each community.

Together, these achievements have laid a strong foundation for the project’s continued work in 2026, building community connection and cultivating a more inclusive cultural landscape across the region.

Fish Trap Public Art Project in Albany

RAWA and the Western Australian Museum, supported by the Foundation for the WA Museum and Creative Australia, are developing a sculpture for the Museum of the Great Southern site in Albany.

In 2025, RAWA engaged local Nations facilitators to deliver eight creative workshops to 96 local participants. In addition, Menang consultants interviewed eight Traditional Owners from different family groups, capturing stories, histories, and knowledge associated with the fish traps. This culturally respectful engagement informed an artist brief.

RAWA contracted Corine van Hall of Indara Public Art to manage the public art commissioning process.

The sculpture will be developed in collaboration with Menang Elders and First Nations artists and celebrate the ancient Fish Traps along the Albany coastline, honouring Menang cultural heritage and providing an enduring educational resource for visitors and the community.

Future Regional Creative Workforce R&D

The Future Regional Creative Workforce Project is a research and development initiative examining workforce needs of regional arts organisations and exploring approaches to establish career pathways for tertiary students and graduates into WA’s regional arts sector.

The project has engaged stakeholders across tertiary education and the creative industries to inform practical, systems-based solutions, laying the foundation for a sustainable regional creative workforce in Western Australia and beyond.

This project is supported by Minderoo Foundation, The Ian Potter Foundation and the Regional Arts Fund, an Australian Government program that supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote communities in Australia. The Regional Arts Fund is managed by Regional Arts Australia on behalf of the Australian Government.



Participants weaving an artwork at the Taste of the World event, Esperance. Image by RAWA.



Lucy Tobin ECU Arts & Cultural Management student at her Outback Prac placement with Ashleigh Barr General Manager at The Junction Co., Port Hedland. Image courtesy of Courthouse Gallery + Studio.

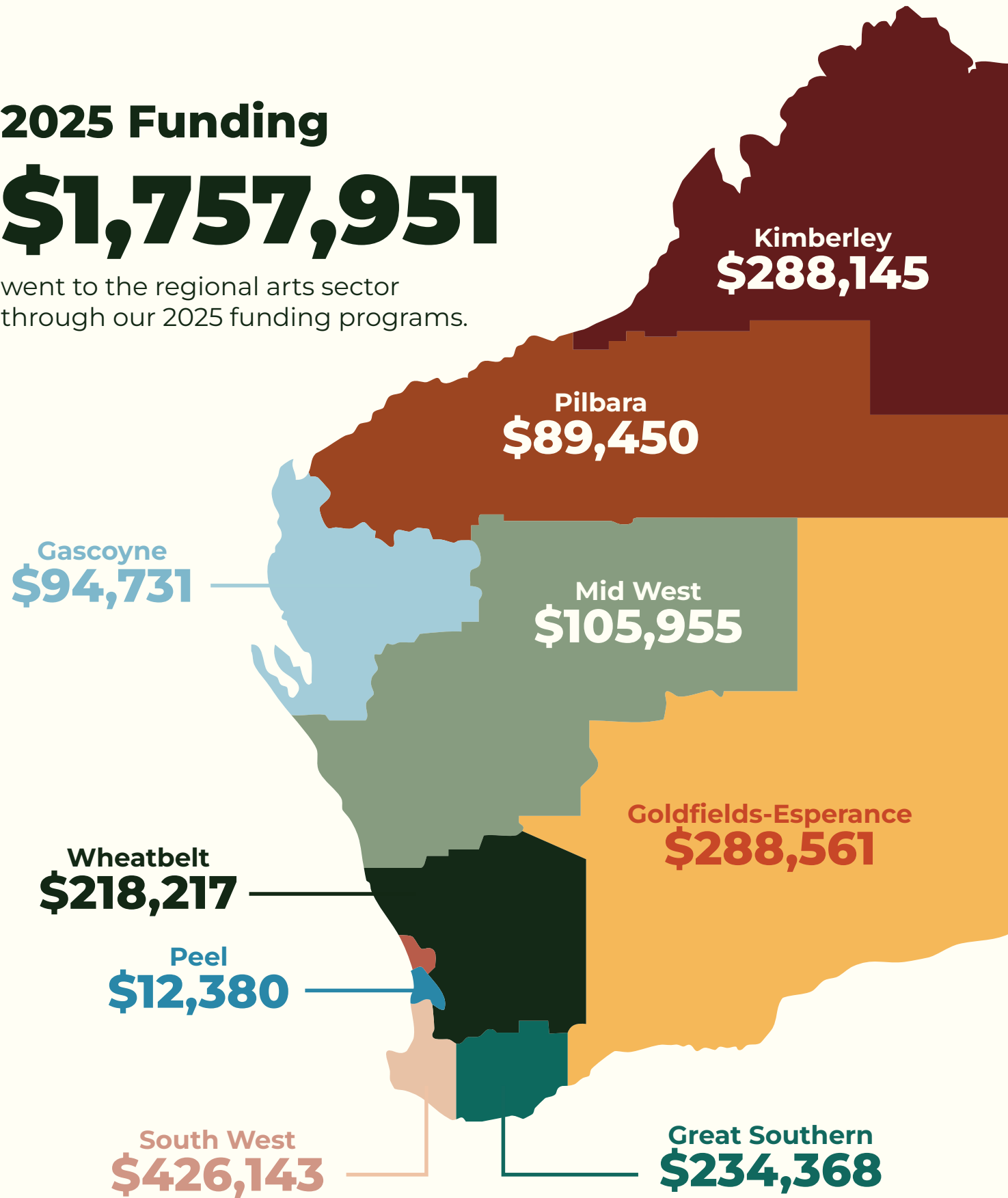
Funding Programs & Investment



2025 Funding

\$1,757,951

went to the regional arts sector through our 2025 funding programs.



Grant

Assessment Pool

Most RAWA funding programs are peer-assessed by an independent, external panel of artists, practitioners, or arts workers from across WA.

Interstate panellists are able to assess Regional Arts Fund programs.

In 2025, new assessors were invited to join the RAWA Assessor Pool, with the Board approving a refreshed pool of 48 assessors. We would like to thank the following assessors who were called upon this year.

KIMBERLEY

Cathy Cummins
Gwen Knox
Katie Breckon

PILBARA

Greg Taylor

MID WEST

Late Dr Charmaine Papertalk Green-Smith
Gabby Butler

WHEATBELT

Andrea Gray
Bradley Flet
Emilee Rippon

SOUTH WEST

Chloe Flockart
Phaedra Watts

GREAT SOUTHERN

Rita Bush
Shandell Cummings

GOLDFIELDS-ESPERANCE

Dureen Bolton

PEEL

Meg Shields
Ruby Liddelow
Xanthe Turner

INTERSTATE

Nathaniel Andrew



Community participant creating a sand labyrinth with artist Naomie Hatherley for 'Ebb+ Flow' project, Kimberley Arts Network. Image by Halina Storm.

WA Government Supported Grant Programs

Three RAWA grant programs are funded by the WA Government, through the Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program (RACIP), managed by the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport, with support from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Regional Arts Sector Investment

Multi-year funding to regional arts organisations.

Photo of new sculpture in Understory Garden Gallery - Vintage Bush Truck by Janine McAullay Bott. Image by Fiona Sinclair.

Next Gen Arts Grants

Supporting arts activities for regional young people aged 12-18 years.

2025 Janika Hunt Artwork #1 - Wilurarra Creative's 20 Year Celebration, in Mirlirtjarra Warburton. Image by artist.

Next Level Fellowships

Support emerging regional artists, aged 18-26 to develop and sustain an arts career.

Next Level Fellow, Jacob Mangan. Image courtesy of City of Greater Geraldton.



Regional Arts Sector Investment

The Regional Arts Sector Investment (RASI) program is critical to support liveability, cultural access and community connection across regional Western Australia by providing stable, multi-year operational funding. The funding enables regional arts organisations to embed arts and culture in everyday community life and operate as local cultural hubs.

QUICK STATS	
211,131 Total Reach (Audience & Participants)	
4,355 Total Number of Activities	1031 Total Volunteers
180 Total WA Employment	167 (93%) of WA Employment was Regional
1348 Total WA Artist Employment	790 (59%) of WA Artists were Regional

Funding was awarded in July 2024 through an open, competitive process, with current recipients funded for three years to June 2027. This stability allows organisations to plan strategically, respond to local needs and deliver consistent programs across multiple communities. In February 2025, recipients also received a one-off WA Government funding boost of \$309,250 to assist with rising costs and increasing demand.

RASI funding supports local employment, essential operating costs and the delivery of sustained, high-quality programs. Importantly, it enables ongoing service rather than short-term project outcomes, ensuring continued access to cultural experiences, creative participation, learning pathways and professional development in regional communities. Funded organisations deliver festivals, exhibitions, residencies and workshops including the **Nannup Music Festival**, **Broome Fringe Festival**, **Margaret River Readers and Writers Festival**, **Ballardong First** (York), **Kaarla Wirren** (Albany), **SoundEscape Festival** (Ravensthorpe) and the **WA Regional Arts Triennial 3: Radical Futures** (Statewide).

Collectively, these organisations strengthen regional Western Australia through First Nations leadership, youth engagement, artist development and community participation, reinforcing local identity and community connection.

KIMBERLEY
Kimberley Arts Network
\$50,000 PER ANNUM
PILBARA
The Junction Co.
\$25,000 PER ANNUM
GASCOYNE
Creality
\$35,000 PER ANNUM
MID WEST
Yamaji Art
\$35,000 PER ANNUM

WHEATBELT
Arts Narrogin
\$40,000 PER ANNUM
Gardiner Street Arts Collective
\$25,000 PER ANNUM
Wheatbelt Arts & Events
\$25,000 PER ANNUM
SOUTH WEST
Arts Margaret River
\$50,000 PER ANNUM
Nannup Music Club
\$65,000 PER ANNUM
Southern Forest Arts
\$65,000 PER ANNUM
GREAT SOUTHERN
ArtSouthWA
\$15,000 PER ANNUM
Denmark Arts
\$25,000 PER ANNUM
Southern Edge Arts
\$35,000 PER ANNUM
GOLDFIELDS-ESPERANCE
The Cannery Arts Centre
\$50,000 PER ANNUM
Esperance Community Arts
\$25,000 PER ANNUM
Rave About Arts
\$50,000 PER ANNUM
Wilurarra Creative
\$65,000 PER ANNUM

Next Gen Arts

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 \$5,000 were available in two rounds for 2025.

QUICK STATS

\$44,133 Funding Allocated	\$131,347 Funding Requested
10 Applications Approved	37 Applications Received

Pemberton Community Resource Centre

\$5,000 | SOUTH WEST

The Pemberton Community Resource Centre delivered an accessible youth arts program for teens, offering workshops and mentorships with local artists. By removing cost and transportation barriers, the project fostered creativity, skill-building, and community connections through inclusive cultural activities.

Avon Valley Arts Inc.

\$5,000 | WHEATBELT

Sketchbook Club offered an after-school creative space for youth to explore personal art projects in a relaxed setting. Providing professional materials, it encouraged self-expression, peer connections, and wellbeing through unstructured experimentation with drawing, painting, collage, and crafts.

Xanthe Turner

\$4,089 | PEEL

This project offered four plein air painting workshops for youth (12-18), building skills from sketching basics to outdoor composition and light studies. Participants received take-home materials and a pathway to the Plein Air Down Under festival, while fostering youth leadership through peer-led sessions.

Jillian Crisp

\$5,000 | GOLDFIELDS-ESPERANCE

Studio Rookie offered youth (Years 7-12) a 3-part music production workshop series covering studio setup, recording, and mixing. Using industry-standard equipment, it built technical skills, fostered collaboration, and inspired creative expression.



Boyup Brook Community Mental Health Action Team. Image by Colin Hales.

Avon Valley Arts Inc., Sketchbook Club. Image by Lindsay Newland.



Balingup Arts and Culture Hub

\$5,000 | SOUTH WEST

The BACH Winter School offered a 3-day intensive for 15 young singer-songwriters (13–18) in Balingup, mentored by three professional musicians. Participants learned songwriting, recording, and music industry skills, followed by five monthly workshops and a December showcase.

Shannon Barraclough

\$5,000 | KIMBERLEY

Broome artist Shannon Barraclough led a seven-part textiles workshop for at-risk youth. Participants explored screen and block printing, experimental drawing, and design, connecting with Country to inspire creativity and wellbeing. The program included career insights and concluded with an exhibition celebrating identity, healing, and artistic growth.

Kellerberrin Community Resource Centre

\$694 | WHEATBELT

A hands-on Acrylic Resin Workshop for youth aged 12–18 ran at Kellerberrin CRC during the January holidays. Led by Sheree Lowe, participants learned resin techniques to create unique items.

Ian Hill

\$5,000 | SOUTH WEST

Radio Margaret River and Margaret River Senior High School trained students to create 100 short audio segments for FM and online broadcast. Students researched, wrote, and produced content, gaining media skills while exploring diverse topics.

Shire of Lake Grace

\$5,000 | WHEATBELT

A youth art program in Lake Grace offered six workshops led by artist Kerrie Argent, using recycled materials from local waste facilities.

Lisa Clark

\$4,350 | GREAT SOUTHERN

Kira Clark, 16, led the production ‘Where Am I This Time?’ through Storybook Stage Company. The production involved 25 performers and 8 teens in backstage roles, all mentored by professionals.



Young Kambalda artists learning various techniques to paint a pair of stingrays, Shire of Coolgardie. Image by Meg Kent.

Next Level Fellowships

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 receive a set amount of \$8,000 for creative activities and professional development over one year. This program is open to individuals or small creative groups from regional and remote Western Australia, aged 18-26.

QUICK STATS

\$40,000

Funding Allocated

6

Applications
Approved

14

Applications
Received

Next Level Fellowships

Laura Sikes

SOUTH WEST

For The Light Between Worlds, Laura created photographic works for her first solo exhibition at Arts Narrogin. The process included studio and on-location shoots, mentorship from Astrid Volzke and Claire Billie Bushby, and a website documenting the project's evolution from concept to exhibition.

Emily O'Brien

GREAT SOUTHERN

Emily O'Brien's The Girl with the Colourful Mind was a dance work exploring autism, mental health, and self-acceptance. The fellowship expanded its production, supported by Assembly 197 and DADAA, with mentorship from Jessica Ruggera and Annette Carmichael. The theme was 'It's OK not to be OK.'

Karrak Gregory

SOUTH WEST

Karrak's project was for the production, release, and marketing of his debut 4-song EP, along with a music video for one track. It involved songwriting, recording, and visual storytelling, supported by marketing mentorship from Sinead O'Hara. The work explored personal narratives through music and imagery.

Next Level Fellowship Partnerships

In 2025, RAWA established three partnership fellowships in collaboration with Arts Margaret River, The Blue Room Theatre, and the City of Greater Geraldton (Geraldton Regional Art Gallery). These fellowships supported emerging artists and arts workers from regional Western Australia through tailored professional development opportunities.

Olivia Hartwig

SOUTH WEST

As the Next Level Arts Worker Fellow with Arts Margaret River, Olivia undertakes professional development within the literary sector in 2026. The fellowship allows her to gain hands-on experience with the Margaret River Readers & Writers Festival, developing skills in programming, artist liaison, and festival delivery.

Zoe Waterstrom Muller

PILBARA

Zoe Waterstrom Muller received the Young Performance Artist Fellowship at The Blue Room Theatre. As an artist based in Karratha, the fellowship supports the development of her multidisciplinary performance practice and strengthened community-led engagement through work undertaken in Boorloo/Perth.

Jacob Mangan

WHEATBELT

Jacob Mangan was awarded the RAWA Emerging Artist Fellowship at the City of Geraldton/Geraldton Regional Art Gallery's 2025 Mid West Arts Prize. His fellowship supports the creation of a portrait for submission to the Archibald Prize, alongside the development of a portable studio for his arts practice in Narembeen.

Australian Government Regional Arts Fund Program

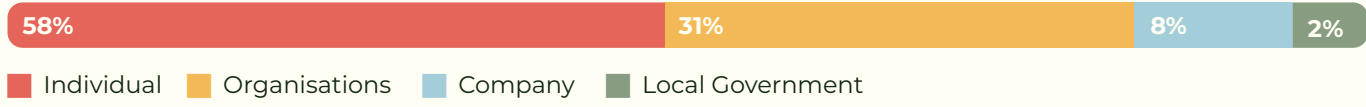
The Regional Arts Fund (RAF) is an Australian Government program that supports and promotes participation in, and access to, Australia’s arts and culture in regional, rural and remote Australia.

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

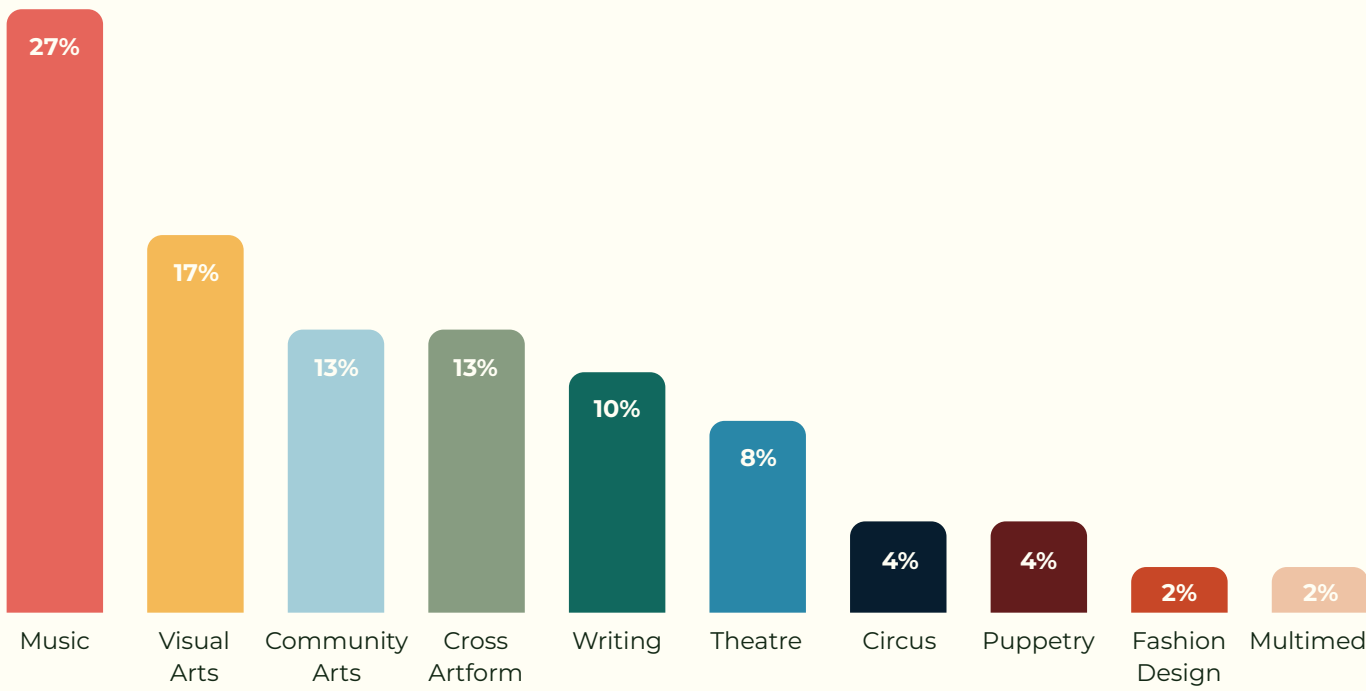
Regional Arts Fund 2025 Investment Summary



48 PROJECTS SUPPORTED



10 ARTFORMS SUPPORTED



TOP 3 PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES



Other categories of beneficiaries were: children and young people, people with disabilities, and culturally and linguistically diverse people.

Project Grants

RAF 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.

QUICK STATS	
\$429,457 Funding Allocated	\$1,500,265 Funding Requested
17 Applications Approved	62 Applications Received
27% Success Rate of Applications	

ROUND 1

Southern Edge Arts

\$30,000 | GREAT SOUTHERN

THE CREATION OF NOW 2025

An intergenerational performance project where children and young people are empowered to create ‘the world of now’ into which they invite their parents, family, and friends as collaborators and witnesses. Bringing together young people from the Great Southern, this large-scale work is created in partnership with community organisations and regional artists.

Nic Duncan

\$29,986 | GREAT SOUTHERN

BINALUP, MENANG | FIRST LIGHT, FIRST PEOPLE

A Menang-led collaboration between Elders and award-winning portrait photographer Nic Duncan highlights the positive contributions of Menang people in the Albany community. The project produces a series of portraits with recorded stories while mentoring an emerging Noongar photographer. This work features as part of “Albany 2026,” the city’s bicentenary celebrations.

Goolarri Media Enterprises

\$29,229 | KIMBERLEY

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Through Goolarri Media’s Indigenous Writers Program, three associate artists - playwright Melody Dia, writer/director Kimba Benjamin, and costume/assistant set designer Rika Hamaguchi - participate in a creative and skills development week with Ilbjerri Theatre Company in Melbourne. This opportunity takes place ahead of the 2026 premiere of the new play Because We’re Blak.

Camera Story

\$30,000 | KIMBERLEY

THE NEXT STEP

Next Step is a professional development project supporting First Nations artists Mary-Lou Divilli and Nuriah Jadai to refine their artistic practices and expand their skills in photography, painting, textiles, and printmaking. With mentorship from specialist art consultant Emilia Galatis, and Camera Story’s Sarah Landro, the artists develop new works that celebrate traditional storytelling through contemporary mediums.

Wheatbelt Arts and Events

\$26,055 | WHEATBELT

BALLARDONG MOORDITJ PROGRAM

An arts and crafts pilot program initiated and developed by York’s Ballardong community aims to build community capacity, enhance social and emotional well-being, and share cultural practices. The activities will culminate in First Nations arts events in 2026 and support the establishment of a new cultural centre in York.

Theatre Kimberley

\$26,786 | KIMBERLEY

SANDFLY ROAD SHOW

In collaboration with the award-winning creative powerhouse YUCK Circus, Theatre Kimberley creates a youth circus work that travels to remote partner schools in West Kimberley Aboriginal communities. Members of Broome’s Sandfly Circus Performance Troupe perform the work.

Juluwaru Group Aboriginal Corporation

\$28,325 | PILBARA

25TH BIENNALE OF SYDNEY

Yindjibarndi Elder Wendy Hubert is invited to the 25th Biennale of Sydney (2026) to create a large-scale garden that celebrates ancestral knowledge. Focusing on native plants used for food, medicine, and ceremonial purposes, Wendy and five regional arts workers from Karratha travel to Sydney to install the exhibition, which becomes a space for communities to gather, learn, and yarn.

Jodie Thompson, Graffiti Stencilling Workshop, Ashburton. Image by Eleanor Lukale.



ROUND 2

Chloe Flockart

\$24,357 | WHEATBELT

GLASS REEF

Central Wheatbelt and South West artist Chloe Flockart is mentored by renowned Irish glass artist Andrea Spencer to develop Glass Reef, her first solo exhibition in Busselton. Using recycled glass to create sculptural reef structures, Chloe explores WA's fragile coral ecosystems. Supported by the City of Busselton, the exhibition showcases innovative, environmentally focused glasswork in a regional cultural precinct.

City of Busselton

\$30,000 | SOUTH WEST

BUSSTOP THEATRE PRODUCTION

Busstop is a landmark theatre production developed with the Wardandi community, sharing their living history on stage for the first time. Premiering in March 2026, it features acclaimed Noongar artists Lynette Narkle and Kelton Pell.

Daniel Christensen

\$18,626 | GASCOYNE

BLUEBONE TOUR OF THE SOUTH WEST

Exmouth band Bluebone embarks on a 10-show regional South West tour in February 2026 to promote their album of original music, Of Water and Dust. The tour includes two DIY music production workshops in Margaret River, supporting regional arts development and career growth through exposure and skill-sharing in minimalistic, high-quality music creation.

Denmark Arts

\$29,983 | GREAT SOUTHERN

BRAVE NEW WORKS FESTIVAL 2026

Brave New Works (BNW) is WA's only experimental community arts festival, running for 32 years. Held annually in March in Denmark, it supports regional artists through 40+ activities and 300 participants in 2026. BNW alternates in size to sustain two back-to-back festivals.

Goolarri Media Enterprises

\$30,000 | KIMBERLEY

BECAUSE WE'RE BLAK

Because We're Blak (BWB) is a bold new play by Nyul Nyul playwright Melody Dia, directed by Rachael Maza for Ilbijerri Theatre Company. Developed entirely in Broome, this 'blak dramedy' blends AV, sound, and visuals with a portable set. Premiering May 2026 at Gimme venue, BWB features a majority First Nations team, and tours to Fitzroy Crossing and Derby.

Heloise Roberts

\$3,000 | SOUTH WEST

BETWEEN TWO CAPES

Collaborative artists Heloise Roberts and Moira Fearby present Between Two Capes at the 2026 South West Biennial. Comprising 144 painted plywood tiles, the large-scale work links Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin. Using enamel and conte chalk, it explores memory, perception, and place.

Martine Perret

\$29,040 | SOUTH WEST

SALTWATER WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Saltwater Women is a multimedia exhibition sharing stories of ten women from Mid West coastal towns, highlighting their deep ties to the sea. It includes mentorship for Indigenous artist Nicole Dickerson and a Shine Emerging Women student, guided by Martine Perret. Hosted by the Museum of Geraldton in June/July 2027, it fosters regional creative growth and Indigenous representation.

Kimberley Arts Network

\$28,630 | KIMBERLEY

CERAMICS STUDIO ESTABLISHMENT

The Kimberley Arts Network establishes a Ceramics Studio Program to deliver high-quality, locally accessible ceramics experiences, while creating meaningful employment and creative development opportunities for regional arts workers.

Matthew Johnson

\$5,686 | PEEL

SUNDOWN NANNUP FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE

Gascoyne-based band Sundown travels to and perform at the 2026 Nannup Music Festival.

Waringarri Arts Aboriginal Corporation

\$29,754 | KIMBERLEY

GELENGAJBENGA-WOORR –
NEXT GENERATIONS PROJECT

The Gelengajbenga-Woorr Project supports emerging artists at Waringarri Aboriginal Arts through cultural activities, creative workshops, and career development. The Learning All Kinds of New Things initiative offers dynamic workshops to engage and empower new and young artists in creative exploration.



Mak Tama (Ummerah Battcher) and Nadya Adim work together on Ummerah's second Hot Wax Batik piece in sessions with Jacky Cheng for the Batik Revival Project. Image by Jacky Cheng.

Quick Response Grants

RAF 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.

QUICK STATS

\$97,560

Funding
Allocated

\$260,062

Funding
Requested

31

Applications
Approved

77

Applications
Received

40%

Success Rate of Applications

FEBURARY 2025

Adele Oliver

\$3,000 | KIMBERLEY

Adele Oliver was accepted into the 2025 DAG Sheep Station Autumn Songwriting Retreat in Nundle, NSW. The program offered workshops, mentorship, and collaboration with top Australian songwriters.

Tracy Leigh

\$2,830 | SOUTH WEST

A photography exhibition of 35 - 45 macro works exploring contextual separation from reality. Touring three regional galleries in 2025, it included digital displays, mentorship, and a mental health-focused community workshop centred on recovery and improved mental health outcomes.

Molly Schmidt

\$2,832.80 | GREAT SOUTHERN

Attending Newcastle Writer's Festival as a guest speaker and representative of WA, Molly joined panels on 'Coming of Age Stories' and 'On Love and Loneliness', discussing themes from her book, Salt River Road.

MARCH 2025

Mellen Burns

\$1,185.22 | GOLDFIELDS-ESPERANCE

Photography finalist, Mellen Burns attended the Galah Regional Photography Prize in Armidale NSW to network, participate in events, and gain industry insights.

APRIL 2025

Ravensthorpe Regional Arts Council

\$4,911 | GOLDFIELDS-ESPERANCE

Rave About Arts built a sustainable vocal program by mentoring regional artists through Paige Valentine, a renowned singer-songwriter. The initiative trained local facilitators in vocal technique, ensemble coaching, and workshop delivery.

Enterprize Partnerships WA

\$5,000 | SOUTH WEST

Piriwa, supported by EPWA and mentors, showcased a First Nations fashion collection at KAFTA in Broome. Eight women from Balgo attended runway shows, markets, and workshops, fostering economic empowerment and cultural expression.

MAY 2025

Cassy Turner

\$2,971 | GREAT SOUTHERN

Cassy attended the National Training Project at the prestigious Flying Fruit Fly Circus in NSW for a personalised mentorship program with elite circus coaches and performers.

Desert Wave Records

\$5,000 | PILBARA

Family Shoveller Band delivered a high-energy live performance at Whalebone Brewery in Exmouth and five interactive music workshops with students at Exmouth District High School and Baynton West Primary School.

Leola Robinson

\$3,000 | SOUTH WEST

Leola Robinson attended the 2025 Songwriters Retreat in Queensland, led by Francesca de Valence and Emma Bosworth. The retreat provided creative development, industry connections, and new co-written songs.

Idan Shoham

\$1,205 | GASCOYNE

Idan Shoham travelled to the Sound States mentorship program to strengthen his music career through industry mentoring and creative development.

Arts Narrogin Inc.

\$4,986 | WHEATBELT

Arts Narrogin staff attended APAX 2025 in Darwin for professional development and sector networking.

JUNE 2025

Linda Scotti

\$1,920 | GREAT SOUTHERN

A week-long Puppetry Masterclass in Fremantle provided hands-on training in puppet design, fabrication, and performance, enabling Linda to bring community-based puppetry to Denmark.

Joshua Button

\$880 | KIMBERLEY

Funding supported venue hire in Broome for a collaboration with Bernadette Trench-Thiedeman to animate a teaser for The Buttonverse, a visual storytelling project using Aboriginal language and accessibility tools.

Karen West

\$2,622.75 | SOUTH WEST

Karen West, a feature poet at the 2025 Perth Poetry Festival, performed four tim family's journey of language revival, musical storytelling, and cultural connection in a rare, powerful event.

Magabala Books

\$3,241 | KIMBERLEY

Magabala Books attended PULiiMA in Darwin, presenting authors Maree McCarthy Yoelu and Marie Munkara, with Skye Cusack representing the publisher, supporting authors on First Nations languages and culture.

Tracy Hill

\$1,600 | GOLDFIELDS-ESPERANCE

Tracy Hill attended an in-person masterclass with Spare Parts Puppet Theatre.

JULY 2025

Danielle Fitzgerald

\$3,000 | SOUTH WEST

Venus 8 is a documentary photo series on women and non-binary erotic labourers' pre-performance states. Selected for Head On Photo Festival 2025, it was exhibited at THS Gallery.

Vickie Wagner

\$3,000 | PILBARA

Vickie Wagner travelled to Darwin with Peter Salmon and Rekeshia Goodwin to present a keynote at Pullima and perform with Warralgurniya.

Carolina Furque

\$2,605 | PEEL

Carolina attended the 2025 LIBRIS Awards where her book I Am No Longer There, was a finalist.

AUGUST 2025

Yael Harris

\$3,000 | SOUTH WEST

Regional artist Yael Harris travelled to Sydney to rewrite her screenplay's second draft with mentor Di Drew.

Ngaanyatjarra Media

\$4,990 | GOLDFIELDS-ESPERANCE

NG Media supported Moonlight Reggae Band and Katrina Connelly at Bush Bands Business, providing travel, mentoring, and documentation to build skills, industry connections, and cultural storytelling through workshops and the Bush Bands Bash performance.

Charlotte White

\$3,000 | SOUTH WEST

Charlotte White attended the annual Essence of Hoi An Craftmanship Festival where she extended her skill base through a series of art and craft workshops.

Ersilla Tarantino

\$2,980 | MID WEST

Local artists host an interactive art trail in Geraldton, featuring open studios, workshops, talks, and tours of historic buildings.

Exmouth Youth Centre

\$3,900 | GASCOYNE

Kaboom Toons ran workshops at the Exmouth Youth Centre during the September/October school holidays.

Vickie Wagner at Warralgurniya's Darwin Railway Club Show. Image by Paz Tassone.



SEPTEMBER 2025

Amber Janowicz

\$2,370 | SOUTH WEST

Amber Janowicz, a writer and Honours student from Busselton, presented PMDD research at the Australasian Association of Writing Programs Conference and joined a panel on immersive regional storytelling.

OCTOBER 2025

Gary Benness

\$3,000 | SOUTH WEST

Musician Gary James represented WA at Tamworth's 12-day Senior Country Music Academy, gaining advanced training, mentorship, and industry connections to strengthen his career.

Dale Mallett

\$2530.02 | SOUTH WEST

Musician Dale Mallett rehearsed in Queensland with MUFASSA & The Summer Haze before performing at Woodford Folk Festival.

NOVEMBER 2025

Olivia Gamage

\$3000 | SOUTH WEST

Olivia Gamage (Olive Mae) performed original music at the 2026 Tamworth Country Music Festival, including opening for Golden Guitar nominee Gretta Ziller.

Broome Senior High School P&C

\$5,000 | KIMBERLEY

Broome Senior High School P&C supported 10 students and three staff to perform original music at Nannup Music Festival. The trip included school visits and WAAPA tours, fostering creative pathways and statewide musical connections.

Rika Hamaguchi

\$3,000 | KIMBERLEY

Rika Hamaguchi joined Perth Festival's two-week Festival Lab, immersing in performances, gallery visits, artist talks, and critical discussions led by Jeff Khan.

Bunbury Regional Theatre Inc

\$5,000 | SOUTH WEST

Bunbury Regional Theatre recreated Pat's Snack Bar as a free outdoor installation at BREC.

Visibility





Marketing, Communications, and Media

This year, RAWA focused on strengthening its media presence by increasing visibility across a range of platforms. Our communications focused on promoting key organisational milestones, highlighting our partnership with the Minderoo Foundation, and extending our reach to broader and more diverse audiences. These efforts resulted in strong coverage across national, state, and sector-specific media.

Key highlights included:

- Announcement of the Minderoo Foundation partnership featured in The Sydney Morning Herald, The Brisbane Times, The Age, WA Today, ArtsHub, and The West Australian.
- CEO Dr Pilar Kasat interviewed on ABC Drive Radio and ABC South West Radio.
- Galah Magazine republished our Artist of the Month feature on François Payet (October 2025).
- Pandemonium magazine republished our May Mental Health Month article and shared it via their e-newsletter.
- Healthway amplified the Mental Health Month article through its social media channels.

Digital Engagement

QUICK STATS

WEBSITE 25k users

This year, we launched a refreshed website designed to be easier to navigate, more accessible, and faster to use. With improved user experience and accessibility features, including enhanced contrast ratios, the site reached 25,000 users and recorded more than 62,000 page views.

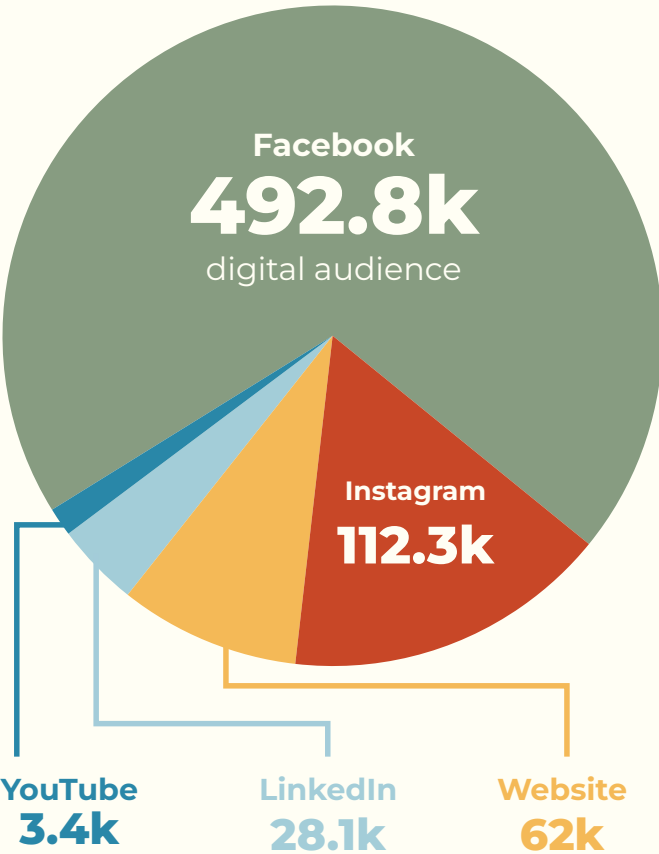
ENEWS 2,175 subscribers

FACEBOOK
9,140 followers
up 4% from 2024

INSTAGRAM
5,313 followers
up 25% from 2024

LINKEDIN
1,273 followers
up 42% from 2024

YOUTUBE
110 subscribers
up 4% from 2024



Paula Raworth attending the Gentle Gathering celebrating the opening of the Ngaluk Waangkiny exhibition in Narrogin. Image by Natalie Davey.

‘Where the Land Speaks, Art Listens’

QUICK STATS

FACEBOOK 7.1k views 142 likes 17 comments 65 shares	INSTAGRAM 16.4k views 341 likes 35 comments 24 shares
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PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

South West - Leon Pericles and Kate Debbo
Pilbara - Sarah Green
Wheatbelt - Michelle Kickett
Great Southern - Seirah Woodward
Goldfields-Esperance - Rani Fankha
Kimberley - Jacky Cheng
Peel - Deborah Zibah
Mid West - Kevin Merritt and Helen Ansell
Gascoyne - Raymond Edney

In June 2025, RAWA launched ‘Where the Land Speaks. Art Listens,’ a dynamic motion graphic featuring 11 artists from across Western Australia’s nine regional localities.

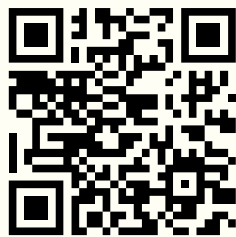
This collaborative visual experience celebrates the 60,000-year relationship between people and place, showcasing diverse artistic perspectives from First Nations, alongside artists bringing Swiss, Sri Lankan, Zimbabwean, South African, Malaysian-Chinese, Greek, Irish, and British heritage to the project.

The motion graphic was designed to bring broader visibility to diverse artists and across WA. The work, featured on RAWA’s website, is on a continuous playlist at Yagan Square and was showcased at a lightshow with the City of Bunbury over NAIDOC week, bringing this digital collaboration into physical spaces across Western Australia.

Where the Land Speaks, Art Listens animation plays at Yagan Square, Perth. Image by RAWA.



▼ Watch the video!



February Artist of the Month Helen Ansell painting Desert Bloom in the Mid West bush. Image courtesy of Helen Ansell.



Artist of the Month

RAWA champions regional artists by creating meaningful opportunities for artists to be seen, heard, and valued. In 2025, the Artist of the Month program highlighted the diversity and excellence of contemporary regional practice across Western Australia, amplifying artists’ voices beyond their local communities.

Through RTR FM Artbeat interviews, social media features, Instagram collaborations, and in-depth stories on the RAWA website stories and wider press, the program connected regional artists with broader audiences and industry networks. Strengthening regional artists and their vital role in WA’s cultural landscape.

FEBRUARY

Helen Ansell

VISUAL ART | MID WEST

Helen is a celebrated artist based in Mullewa. Influenced by her father, Don Miller, a passionate expert in Australian botany, Helen’s paintings are inspired by plants, animals, and her connection to the desert.

MARCH

Sky River

PUPPET MAKING & PERFORMANCE | SOUTH WEST

Sky River is a writer, producer and puppet maker whose work weaves environmental influences and mythology into theatrical experiences.

April Artist of the Month Seaside Dancers collective with Pundarra Performance Group and Coral Spawn Dancers. Image by RAWA.



APRIL

Coral Spawn Dancers

DANCE | GASCOYNE

Led by Carnarvon's own Cheryl Moncrieff, this dance group brings together performers from different language groups who all share blood ties to Baiyungu Country.

MAY

Molly Shmidt

WRITING | GREAT SOUTHERN

Winner of the 2022 Hungerford Award for her novel 'Salt River Road,' Molly's work stands out for her deep collaboration with Noongar Elders and commitment to authentic storytelling.

JUNE

Jenna Pickering

VISUAL ART | PILBARA

From the desert of Tom Price, Jenna Pickering paints hyper-realistic portraits on found objects like rusty tin cans and paperbark, and she adores the lines that come with age.



June Artist of the Month, Jenna Pickering. Image courtesy of artist.

JULY

Nuriah Jadai

MULTIDISCIPLINARY | KIMBERLEY

When it comes to working across mediums, Nuriah has almost every base covered with drawing, photography, painting, fashion and furniture making all in her wheelhouse. She also sold a piece to the Minister for Creative Industries at PICA's Revealed last year.

JULY

Lloyd Kwilla

VISUAL ART | KIMBERLEY

Lloyd is a celebrated Martu painter who experiments with natural pigments collected from the landscape; black from the burned trees, white from hill country, and red from the river.

JULY

Late Dr Charmaine Papertalk Green-Smith & George Criddle

SILENT LISTENING EXHIBITION | MID WEST

Charmaine and George's exhibition is the result of a five-year collaboration that shares opposite sides of the colonial frontier and creates a space where difficult conversations can open up.

AUGUST

Kimberley Benjamin

FILMMAKING | KIMBERLEY

Talented Yawaru, Bardi and Kija writer and director Kimberley Benjamin recently won the Maota People's Choice Award for her short documentary.



July Artist of the Month Lloyd Kwilla. Image by Rachel Claire.

SEPTEMBER

Francois Payet

JEWELLERY DESIGN | SOUTH WEST

Francois Payet, one half of the ‘Payet Brothers’ is a humble and talented jewellery designer who has participated in the Margaret River Open Studios since its inception.

OCTOBER

Tina Carmody

MULTIDISCIPLINARY | GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE

Tina is a classically trained musician, a two-time City of Kalgoorlie Boulder Art Prize winner, and an artist working across everything from 1.5 tonne tree trunk sculptures to hand painted pens headed for Federal Parliament.

NOVEMBER

Lauren Elise Kennedy

VISUAL ART | MID WEST

Lauren’s painting of WA’s landscapes are raw and full of motion. She has claimed the Hangers Prize at the Glover Art Prize, and swept the overall prize at Heart of the Bush in 2023.

DECEMBER

Danny Christensen

MUSIC | GASCOYNE

Danny is a bassist who has lived 10 years in Broome, five in Exmouth, and is now leading the band Blue Bone Music on a tour of the South West for summer.

September Artist of the Month Francois Payet. Image by Matthew Moyle (Umi Creative).



Lauren Elise Kennedy in her Geraldton studio. Image by Raquel Aranda.

Lucky Oceans at the 2025 York Festival. Image by Lincoln Mackinnon.



Regional Arts WA Ambassador Program

QUICK STATS

65
images captured

1
promo video

Launched in September 2025, the Regional Arts WA Ambassador Program was established to strengthen visibility of regional arts, culture, and creativity by ensuring that Western Australia’s regional festivals, programs and events are captured and promoted widely.

By partnering with talented visual storytellers who deeply understand the regions, the program captures authentic moments that celebrate the vibrancy of regional WA, while building the profiles of emerging creatives.

Our 2025 Ambassadors were Lincoln Mackinnon who documented York Festival, Raquel Aranda, who captured stories of women in the Mid West for International Day of Rural Women, and Rosie Henderson, who documented the Balmy Nights event in Esperance.

In 2026, we will continue to invest in photographers and videographers to produce high-quality visual content that promotes regional artists, encourages visitation to cultural events, and strengthens the public profiles of artists across regional Western Australia.

Meet Our Team



RAWA Board members pictured, Mohammed 'Ayo Busari' not shown. Image by Taya Reid.

Board of Directors

Oliver Bazzani
Chair (term ended May)

Josephine Johnson
Chair (appointed May)

Lesley Wilkinson
Deputy Chair

Clancy McDowell
Secretary

David Wall
Treasurer

Abby Carter

Jacky Cheng

Jennifer Halton

Kaiya Ashworth

Lauren Greatorex

Mohammed 'Ayo Busari'

Rosie Sitorus

RAWA thanks outgoing Chair Oliver Bazzani for his commitment and passion for the organisation and the regional arts sector over his two terms on the Board.

Team

STAFF

Dr Pilar Kasat
Chief Executive Officer

Catherine Driver
General Manager

Alysha Saunders
Manager Strategy & Partnerships

Valeria Scoponi
Network Coordinator (from February)
Coordinator Sector Development (from July)

Stacie Standen
Operations Officer (from September)

Janine Oxenham
First Nations Officer

Natalie de Rozario
Project Officer Equity

Mireia Gonazalez
Project Officer Social Fabric

Hannah Chambers
Investment Coordinator

Carla Steele
Investment Coordinator

Megan Lemon
Project Officer – Network & Investment

Sophie Mathewson
Content & Communications Lead (from February)

Annie McFie
Project Manager Industry Development
(from October)

Melannie Lai
Communications Officer (from October)

Finance Manager
Martin Tunley (Contractor)

STAFF FAREWELLED

Gemma Robbins
Network Coordinator (until February)

Jaala Kuempfli
Operations Officer (until September)

Emmaline James
Project Officer Arts Development (until February)

RAWA acknowledges and thanks long-term staff member Gemma Robbins, who left the organisation this year after ten years of meaningful contribution to the regional arts sector, particularly through the Regional Arts Network.

WORK EXPERIENCE INTERNS

Daniela Garbin
University of Notre Dame

Connor Matthiessen
Edith Cowan University/WAAPA student

Annual Financial Statements

Regional Arts WA continued to demonstrate financial strength and stability in 2025, recording an operating surplus for the third consecutive year. This outcome reflects prudent financial management, careful cost control, and the organisation's success in securing and sustaining a diverse range of funding sources.

A significant milestone during the year was the commencement of a new \$3.3 million, three-year funding agreement with the Minderoo Foundation, further strengthening RAWA's capacity for long-term planning and investment in regional communities. This was complemented by the continuation of multi-year funding arrangements with the Western Australian and Australian governments, alongside support from Healthway, Lotterywest, Creative Australia, and The Ian Potter Foundation. Together, these funding streams provide a stable and resilient financial base.

The year focused on the consistent delivery of existing contracts while progressing the early stages of the Minderoo partnership. The organisation is tracking above expectations in delivering the 2024–2026 Strategic Plan, with the majority of planned activities achieved.

Financial governance was further strengthened in 2025 through the introduction of a Fraud Control Plan, the development of guidance papers on retained surplus and indirect costs, and a review of the Finance Policy. Maintaining a strong financial position enables RAWA to manage risk effectively while meeting contractual obligations, remaining responsive to sector needs, and investing in the sustainability and growth of regional arts across Western Australia.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
Revenue	\$	\$
Grant and philanthropic income	1,624,392	1,481,916
Non-grant income	148,857	64,733
Expenses		
Employee benefits expense	(1,072,501)	(859,518)
Community projects / investment program	(73,915)	(194,000)
Program, production and touring	(346,145)	(117,786)
Marketing and promotion	(31,680)	(18,424)
Infrastructure costs	(235,475)	(284,983)
	13,533	71,938
Surplus before income tax expense		
Income tax expense	—	—
Net Surplus for the year	13,533	71,938
Devolved grant and philanthropic funding income	1,717,871	1,530,496
Community projects / investment program	(1,717,871)	(1,530,496)
Net devolved funding	—	—
Total comprehensive income for the year	13,533	71,938

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS	\$	\$
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,152,513	1,932,000
Short-term investments	1,400,000	—
Trade and other receivables	—	106,332
Other	38,067	28,510
Total current assets	2,590,580	2,066,842
Non-current assets		
Right of use assets	1,892	6,332
Property, plant and equipment	19,021	16,204
Total non-current assets	20,913	22,536
TOTAL ASSETS	2,611,493	2,089,378
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	103,454	254,151
Grants and income in advance	2,021,845	1,353,055
Lease liabilities	3,832	3,832
Employee benefits	103,658	112,025
Total current liabilities	2,232,789	1,723,063
Non-current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	1,430	5,635
Employee benefits	14,544	11,483
Total non-current liabilities	15,974	17,118
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,248,763	1,740,181
NET ASSETS	362,730	349,197
EQUITY		
Retained surpluses	362,730	349,197
TOTAL EQUITY	362,730	349,197

Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
Cash flows from operating activities	\$	\$
Grant receipts and other funding (inclusive of GST)	4,607,806	4,389,714
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)	(4,037,058)	(3,183,150)
Interest received	61,617	38,174
Interest and other finance costs paid	(509)	(243)
Net cash generated from operating activities	631,856	1,244,495
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(7,138)	(6,881)
Investment in term deposit	(1,400,000)	—
Net cash used in investing activities	(1,407,138)	(6,881)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Repayments of lease liabilities	(4,205)	(4,077)
Net cash used in financing activities	(4,205)	(4,077)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(779,487)	1,233,537
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	1,932,000	698,463
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	1,152,513	1,932,000



Artwork at Yamaji Art Centre, Geraldton. Image by Raquel Aranda.

Partners

The support and collaboration of our partners play a vital role in strengthening our work and enhancing arts and cultural outcomes across regional Western Australia.

Funding Partners



Philanthropic Partners



Project Delivery Partners

SOCIAL FABRIC EQUITY PROJECT

Esperance Community Arts
Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation
Tjuma Pulka Media Aboriginal Corporation

MID WEST CREATIVE ECOLOGY SUMMIT

Queens Park Theatre
Yamaji Art
Regional Sounds
Dragonfly Media
Euphorium
Kick Solutions
The Gerald
Emmaline James

ALBANY FISH TRAP SCULPTURE PROJECT

Museum of the Great Southern
Indarra Public Art
Awesome Aboriginal Consultancy
Gorenang Moortabiin Aboriginal Corporation

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