**Sustain: Recovery Support for Independent Arts Organisations**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

This document contains FAQs that apply to Arts Queensland’s *Sustain: Recovery Support for Independent Arts Organisations (Sustain: Independent Organisations)* funding program.

FAQs should be read in conjunction with the *Sustain: Independent Organisations* Program Guidelines, available from Arts Queensland’s website: [www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/sustain-funding](http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/sustain-funding)

**How do I apply?**

Applications can be submitted via the SmartyGrants online application form, available from: https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/funding.

You must register in the SmartyGrants system prior to commencing an application form.

AQ cannot accept emailed or hand-delivered applications.

**Where can I find help to complete my application?**

You can contact Arts Queensland by phoning (07) 3034 4016 or toll free 1800 175 531 or email investment@arts.qld.gov.au.

Arts Queensland has developed a suite of resources to assist you in completing funding applications, including tips for applying, budget samples and helpful checklists. You can find these on Arts Queensland’s Arts Acumen webpage: [www.arts.qld.gov.au/arts-acumen](http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/arts-acumen)

**Can I submit more than one Sustain: Independent Organisations application?**

No, you can only submit one application to Sustain: Independent Organisations for consideration.

**I have never received funding from Arts Queensland. Am I eligible to apply?**

You are not eligible to apply to *Sustain: Independent Organisations* if you have not received contestable funding from AQ since January 2018.

**I am an independent artist/sole trader.  Am I eligible to apply to *Sustain: Independent Organisations*?**

Individual artists or sole traders are not eligible to apply for funding through *Sustain: Independent Organisations*. Individuals are encouraged to consider other AQ funding programs that support creative outcomes, such as the [Queensland Arts Showcase Program](https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/funding/organisations/arts-showcase).

A partnership, group, or unincorporated entity with an ABN may be eligible to apply if there is a clear demonstration that support provided will contribute to meeting the Queensland Government priorities, and all eligibility requirements are met as outlined in the Guidelines.

**I received funding through the Live Music Venue Support program.  Am I eligible to apply to *Sustain: Independent Organisations*?**

Arts Queensland is delivering a range of programs through the Arts and Cultural Recovery Package to ensure support extends across the breadth of Queensland’s arts and cultural sector. Some of these, such as the Live Music Venue Support program, provide funding support for operational costs associated with re-opening within the current COVID-19 environment.

If you received funding through this program, you are eligible to apply to *Sustain: Independent Organisations*. Please note, however, that receipt of previous operational funding support, such as through the Live Music Venue Support program, will be taken into consideration when applications are assessed.

**How much can I apply for?**

You can apply for a maximum of $30,000 through *Sustain: Independent Organisations*.

In your application, you are required to describe the losses or impact your organisation has incurred as a result of the COVID19 pandemic, and to provide evidence of your need for support through the program.

Funding available through the *Sustain: Independent Organisations* program is intended to help to support organisations that do not currently receive multi-year operational funding through Arts Queensland to continue operations and delivery of arts and cultural outcomes.

**What can I use Sustain: Independent Organisations funding for?**

Funding awarded through the *Sustain: Independent Organisations* program can be used to cover any operational cost incurred between the application outcome date and 30 June 2021. This can include, but is not limited to, rental and staffing costs, artist fees, and marketing and promotional activity.

Funding will not be provided for the following:

* costs incurred prior to the application outcome date will not be supported
* activities that are eligible for support through other AQ funding programs, such as touring and project-based initiatives
* Infrastructure costs, routine maintenance or to acquire assets or equipment.

**How will my application be assessed?**

Applications to the *Sustain: Independent Organisations* program will be assessed against the Assessment Criteria outlined in the Program Guidelines.

It is anticipated that this program will be highly competitive. Successful organisations must be able to clearly demonstrate a strong capability in delivering artistic work and achieving cultural outcomes, as well as evidence of engagement with and commitment to Queensland artists, eﬀective partnerships, and audience engagement and demand.

As funding is anticipated to be highly competitive, it is important that you clearly address the Assessment Criteria and provide all required support material.

**How are assessors chosen?**

Applications are assessed by peers with industry experience and expertise.

Assessors must adhere to strict conflict-of-interest and confidentiality guidelines and are selected depending on the skills mix required for each program.

**My organisation’s turnover has not been significantly impacted as a result of the COVID19 pandemic. Am I eligible to apply?**

Loss of revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic is not an eligibility criteria for the Sustain: Independent Organisations program. Impacts associated with the events of 2020 are varied, and applicants can outline how the pandemic and associated restrictions have affected their organisation from both a financial and non-financial sense.

Organisations that can demonstrate adaptability to the events of 2020 and future operating environment should speak to this as part of the Viability Assessment Criterion.

**Why do you need my audited financial statements as part of the application?**

The *Sustain: Independent Organisations* program will support organisations’ operational costs, and, unlike other Arts Queensland grant programs, is not project-based funding. As result, we require a copy of your audited financial statements in order to have visibility of and understand your operational costs, including the scale of the organisation.

Financial statements will not be used to assess the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on your revenue position, although applicants are invited to refer these statements in the application form if relevant.

**When will I be notified of the funding outcome?**

You will receive formal notification, via email, of the funding outcome as soon as possible following assessment. We will endeavour to assess applications and confirm a funding decision within four weeks of the application closing date.

If successful, the advice will outline the next steps to progress payment. This includes finalisation of a funding agreement, provision of a tax invoice to AQ for the first instalment of grant funds and confirmation of Electronic Fund Transfer details.

**What are my obligations if my application is approved?**
If your application is approved, you will be required to:

* Comply with COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time of delivery.
* Comply with the terms and conditions of funding as outlined in the funding guidelines and application form.
* Collate clear and accurate reporting records of your activities to provide in your outcome report.