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

**Introduction**

In June 2020, the Queensland Government announced an Arts and Cultural Recovery Package of $22.5 million over two years to stabilise Queensland’s arts companies, secure employment for artists and arts workers and deliver COVID-safe cultural experiences for Queensland audiences.

Queensland’s arts and cultural ecosystem is comprised of a range of not-for-profit and for-profit organisations, all of which play a vital role in contributing to the vibrancy of the creative landscape. *Sustain: Recovery Support for Independent Arts Organisations (Sustain: Independent Organisations)* is a funding program offered by Arts Queensland (AQ) to assist independent and emerging arts organisations that do not currently receive regular, operational funding from AQ, towards recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is intended that *Sustain: Independent Organisations* funding will support the continued operations of eligible arts organisations, ensuring the sector is in a strong position to return to full programming when it is safe to do so. Priority will be given to organisations that can demonstrate a vital role in Queensland’s arts and cultural ecosystem and that provide evidence of a strong track record in delivering arts and cultural outcomes.

**What is Sustain: Recovery Support for Independent Arts Organisations?**
Through *Sustain: Independent Organisations*, Arts Queensland will provide one-off grants to stabilise Queensland-based arts organisations that have lost significant income because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Program’s objectives are to:

1. Strengthen Queensland’s **arts and cultural ecosystem** following the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Support a range of independent and emerging arts organisations to continue to deliver **high quality arts and cultural outcomes**
3. Support **employment opportunities** for artists and arts workers following a significant period of disruption.

**Queensland Government commitments**

Arts Queensland is committed to realising the ambitions of the *Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Economic Participation Framework*, the *Queensland Cultural Diversity Policy, the Queensland Youth Strategy* and The *National Arts and Disability Strategy*.

Applications which include the following target groups as creators, participants or audiences will strengthen the implementation of Queensland Government commitments:

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
* people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, including Australian South Sea Islanders
* older people (over 55 years old)
* young people
* people with disability\*.

\*Note that funding recipients are expected to meet legal obligations in relation to accessibility including access to web content.

Applicants are encouraged to explore how they might direct their activities to these specific target groups as well as to regional Queenslanders where appropriate.

**Who can apply?**
*Sustain: Independent Organisations* funding is designed to support arts organisations that do not currently receive multi-year operational funding from AQ but have previously received AQ funding support since January 2018. This can include independent and emerging companies that operate on either a not-for-profit or a for-profit basis.

Companies that currently receive funding through the Organisations Fund 2017 – 2020 or other operational funding from AQ are not eligible to apply to *Sustain: Independent Organisations* as there is other targeted assistance for these organisations.

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 as outlined in these Guidelines.

To be eligible, applicants must:

* be successful in receiving contestable AQ funding since January 2018
* be an independent Queensland-based arts organisation that does not receive funding through the *Organisations Fund 2017 – 2020* or other multi-year operational funding support from AQ
* can demonstrate the organisation’s role in Queensland’s arts and cultural ecosystem
* can demonstrate, through organisational financial statements, a loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic
* have an active ABN and bank account in the name of the applicant organisation
* have satisfied the reporting requirements of all previous AQ funding.

**Only one application per registered ABN will be accepted.**

Applications will be deemed **ineligible** if they do not satisfy the above eligibility criteria or they:

* are a local council or a local council entity or an owned or wholly controlled entity of a local government authority as determined by AQ
* are an education, early learning or a tertiary entity or an owned or controlled entity as determined by AQ
* are incomplete or do not contain all compulsory support material.
* are not submitted via SmartyGrants by the advertised deadline. Note, extensions to the deadline will not be granted under any circumstances.
* include requests for infrastructure projects, routine maintenance or to acquire assets or equipment

We are unable to accept applications from individual artists to this program.

If you are unsure if you are eligible to apply for *Sustain: Independent Organisations*, please contact AQ.

**What you can apply for**Applicants can apply for funding support for operational costs up to a maximum of $30,000.

**Note, retrospective costs will not be funded.**

*Sustain: Independent Organisations* will not provide funding for activities that are eligible for support through AQ funding programs, such as touring and project-based activity.

Funding applications that include requests for infrastructure projects, routine maintenance or to acquire assets or equipment will be ineligible.

When preparing your application, you should consider the following Assessment Criteria:

**Impact:**

* What is the role of your organisation in Queensland’s arts and cultural ecosystem?
* How does your organisation support artist employment and development?
* What are your organisation’s plans to further re-engage audiences and deliver program activities once COVID-related impacts have eased?

**Quality:**

* What is your organisation’s track record in delivering high quality arts and cultural outcomes?
* What evidence from audiences, artists, communities and / or experts demonstrates the value of your work?

**Viability:**

* What is the extent of income losses for your organisation as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic?
* How has your organisation responded to the current environment to ensure adaptability and future sustainability?
* How would funding help your organisation to be in a stronger position to resume normal operations following recovery from the COVID19 pandemic and associated impacts?

Please note, it is anticipated that *Sustain: Independent Organisations* funding will be highly contestable and applicants also should consider other sources of support for funding.

**How to apply**

Applications to *Sustain: Non-Funded Organisations* will open on 7 October 2020 and will close at **4.00pm on** **6 November 2020**.

To apply online, visit the following web link to access the application form, and submit your application by the closing date: <https://artsqueensland.smartygrants.com.au/>

Emailed or hand-delivered applications will not be accepted.

**Mandatory Support Material**

Support material is important to provide evidence of the information and claims in your application.

* Examples of work that demonstrate the quality of the programming and / or cultural outcomes of your organisation.
* A signed copy of your organisation’s most recent audited financial statements, including a profit and loss statement and balance sheet, and year-to-date statements that demonstrate the impact of COVID19 on revenue and / or costs. Financial statements must clearly identify other government support or COVID stimulus funding.

Your submission in Smartygrants must include your completed application form and all support material.

**How will your application be assessed?**
All eligible applications will be assessed by a peer assessment panel against the Assessment Criteria outlined in these Guidelines. Recommended applications will be provided to the Minister for the Arts for approval.

Applications meeting the Assessment Criteria may be reviewed in consultation with other relevant Queensland Government agencies, or with the Australia Council for the Arts where relevant. Assessment will include consideration of any government stimulus support provided.

The decisions made by the Minister for the Arts are firm and final. There is no avenue for appeal of decisions in this fund.

**What are the acquittal and reporting requirements?**

Funding recipients will be required to submit an outcome report to AQ via SmartyGrants, including a final budget showing expenditure of the grant funding.

The outcome report collects information about outputs and outcomes, including artistic, cultural, social and economic returns on investment.

Funding acknowledgement must be clear and separately identified within independently audited financial statements.

**Where can I find support in preparing my application?**

***Read the Sustain: Independent Organisations’ program documents:***

You can find *Sustain: Independent Organisations* Frequently Asked Questions, Information for Applicants, and other information from[www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/sustain-funding](http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/sustain-funding).

***Explore*** [***Arts Acumen***](http://artsengage.initiatives.qld.gov.au/arts-acumen?lnk=QS02LTQ4NzUtNQ)***:***

Arts Acumen is an online resource provided by Arts Queensland, which includes a range of information and opportunities to foster knowledge growth, connections and access to industry intelligence. Toolkits on application writing, budget preparation and selection criteria are available from: <http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/arts-acumen/resources/funding-application-writing>

***Contact us:***

Phone: (07) 3034 4016 or toll free 1800 175 531

Email: investment@arts.qld.gov.au.

Website: [www.arts.qld.gov.au](http://www.arts.qld.gov.au)

**Translating and interpreting services**
Applications may be submitted in any language. If you have difficulty understanding this information and would like to talk to staff in your first language:

* telephone the Translating and Interpreting service on 13 14 50 during business hours
* contact Arts Queensland about speaking with an interpreter.