

Strategic Partnerships Fund - Guidelines

The Strategic Partnerships Fund (the Fund) is a key program of [Grow 2022-2026](#), the second action plan of the Queensland Government's [Creative Together 2020-2030](#), and is focused on leveraging Queensland Government investment into the state's arts sector through financial partnerships and collaborations, strengthening creative business growth, and creating inclusive, high-quality, creative experiences that will drive positive change for Queenslanders.

Fund objectives

- Grow new investment into Queensland's arts sector through co-investment and partnerships with all levels of government, business, community, and philanthropic sectors.
- Incentivise arts sector collaboration to drive sustainable arts business models and strengthen communities.
- Invest in Queensland arts companies to underwrite risk, encourage innovation, and increase access to new markets and audiences with a focus on driving business model growth
- Drive positive social and economic outcomes for Queenslanders and expand revenue streams for Queensland's arts sector through partnership and co-investment in arts-led programs
- Grow new employment and career development opportunities for Queensland artists, arts workers and organisations.

What the funding can be used for

The Fund will contribute to strategic partnerships between Queensland's arts and cultural sector and communities, non-arts sectors, philanthropists, corporations, and all levels of government. The fund has two streams:

- **Arts Business Growth** supports activities that:
 - Generate new co-investment opportunities into Queensland's arts sector
 - Grow sustainability outcomes for Queensland arts organisations by developing new business models and shareable resources, audiences, and markets
 - Increase the skills, business, and employment capacity of Queensland arts organisations
- **Arts Wellbeing and Impact** supports activities that:
 - Significantly leverage and extend the reach and impact of arts and cultural programs and initiatives in partnership with other sectors, in response to social and community priorities
 - Increase community access to arts and cultural participation opportunities that strengthen inclusion, wellbeing, belonging and connectedness
 - Increase employment opportunities for professional artists and artworkers and grows revenue streams for arts organisations

Funding available

Up to **\$200,000 per annum for both streams**, for projects and initiatives of up to three years' duration. Proposals seeking larger funding requests may be considered for initiatives that deliver significant regional arts employment outcomes.

Funding of **more than \$100,000 per annum** will only be approved for exceptional, large-scale initiatives with significant impact and co-investment.

Applications with a request of any size that bring co-investment of more than a third of the total project cost will be highly regarded.

Applicants to this fund must contact Arts Queensland before commencing an application to discuss their proposal and be sent a link to the application form.

Please note: Applications meeting all elements of the assessment criteria may be recommended for funding at a lower level than was requested in the funding proposal.

PLUS up to **\$60,000** towards a full-time industry placement for 12-months (or a pro rata equivalent for part-time) with a focus on arts management and/or arts production. The placement must be:

- built into the planned activity, and you must provide evidence of your intention for continued employment of the person or role
- supported by a holistic skills development program and a supervisor with appropriate experience
- paid at least minimum award wage and covered under employer's Workcover and superannuation.

Multi-year funded applicants approved for this extra funding will have the option to apply for an additional \$30,000 (or a pro rata equivalent) in Year 2 to continue employment of the placement if they can demonstrate the successful delivery of Year 1 and provide evidence of how they will transition to the continued employment of the person or role beyond the second year the project.

Eligibility

Please refer to the Arts Queensland [General Funding Guidelines](#) for general eligibility criteria and definitions.

In addition, the Fund requires that applicants must:

- **not** be individuals
- **not** be auspiced
- **not** receive Arts Queensland funding of more than \$1.5 million per annum
- be a Queensland based organisation with an ABN
- have confirmed investment towards project costs

If applying for funding for a placement:

- the applicant must have a proven track record in the provision of a safe workplace with skills development and on-the-job training capacity
- the placement must be a person permanently based in Queensland

Applicants may only receive one Strategic Partnerships grant per calendar year or biennially for two-year funding proposals. Applicants may only have one proposal under each funding stream under consideration at one time.

Ineligible costs

In addition to the items listed in the [General Funding Guidelines](#), you **cannot** apply for:

- costs associated with the applicant's or partner's usual business activities, including costs associated with core staff.

Assessment criteria

Peer assessors will assess applications against the following general criteria:

High quality

- Creative idea or concept is innovative and will deliver high quality arts and cultural work
- Professionals involved are highly skilled and well regarded
- Centres on collaborators and partners who will help create great cultural and social outcomes

Strong impact

- Creates new employment opportunities and skills development for Queensland artists and arts workers
- Builds new audiences and markets and reputation for Queensland arts and cultures
- Responds to community needs and delivers high impact social and economic outcomes that deliver government priorities including the principles of the [Cultural Engagement Framework](#)

Sustainable value

- Grows investment into Queensland’s arts and cultural sector, leveraging new funding and driving sustainable revenue streams
- Demonstrates value for money, sound governance, and ethical business practices, including paying amount not less than industry award rates, recommended or agreed minimum rates, and adhering to cultural protocols
- Proposed activity has a strong delivery plan including understanding potential risks and their management
- Builds sustainable arts business models that will contribute to the growth of Queensland’s arts and cultural sector

Submitting your application

All applicants to this fund must contact Arts Queensland before commencing an application to discuss their proposal and be sent a link to the application form. Please contact Director, Partnerships and Investment on 07 3034 4018.

The proposal may take any form but must include the following information in the proposal or supporting materials: project timeframe, budget, CVs or biographies for key personnel delivering the project, evidence of need/demand, evidence of partnerships, examples of prior work and appropriate cultural permissions.

All proposals must attach a **project evaluation plan** that includes the expected outcomes of the project or program and how they will be measured.

Arts Wellbeing and Impact proposals must also include letters of support from the communities or groups to which the activity is targeted.

Proposals for the Strategic Partnerships Fund will be assessed by the Fund Peer Assessor Panel (the Panel) on a rolling basis.

Arts Queensland recommends that projects have an **activity start date of approximately 12 weeks** from the date of submission.

Applications for projects over \$100,000 and those which the Panel consider to be of significant scale, impact or risk may be invited to a conversation with the Panel to discuss their proposal and answer any additional questions, prior to the Panel’s final recommendations for funding.

Arts Queensland strongly recommends that applicants take the timeframes below into consideration when planning their project as activity that takes place before a funding agreement is issued cannot be funded.

Timeframes

Stage	Submitting a proposal	Notification
Proposal submission	Rolling submission with proposals accepted at any point	Notification within 6 weeks of outcome either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application is approved• Application is not approved• Applicant is invited to present to the Panel.
Panel presentation	Within 3 weeks of invitation	Notification within 3 weeks of Panel recommendations

For support with technical issues related to the online application, please contact an Arts Queensland Grants Officer on telephone (07) 3034 4016 or toll free 1800 175 531 or email investment@arts.qld.gov.au.

Note: Arts Queensland reserves the right to modify the Fund Guidelines at any time. Applicants will be notified of changes.