

Sustain 2021-2022 Recovery Fund

Introduction

The arts and cultural sector has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through associated lockdowns and restrictions on indoor performances and major events. The Queensland Government acknowledges the significant changes required of arts and cultural organisations to enable continued access to activities in a way that is compatible with health directions and that limits the spread of COVID19.

What is Sustain 2021-2022 Recovery Fund?

This program aims to support Queensland based applicants delivering major arts and cultural activities who are significantly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions (from 1 July to 31 December 2021) and as a result are facing material employment losses, insolvency or going concern issues which has led to a depletion of available cash reserves the organisations keeps on hand to service short term and long term operational needs.

Eligible applicants are entities approved or in receipt of peer assessed multi-year funding or regular project funding (eg more than one successful application over two consecutive years) through Queensland Arts Showcase Program (QASP) and touring programs by Arts Queensland.

Support will be provided to alleviate unrecoverable costs incurred as a result of cancellations for entities whose primary operational focus is to: deliver artistic outcomes, grow employment opportunities for creative and cultural workers, engage communities and are recognised as delivering on government priorities including arts and cultural objectives, employment and community outcomes.

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 peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, including Australian South Sea Islanders
- older people (over 55 years old)
- young people

- people with disability*
- people who live in regional Queensland

*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.

Eligibility

Only organisations who meet the following eligibility criteria will be considered:

Eligible applicants:

- Queensland-based entities approved or in receipt of previously peer assessed multi-year funding or regular project funding (e.g. more than one successful application over two consecutive years) through QASP and touring programs by Arts Queensland.
- Recognised as an organisation that has had its core program delivery negatively impacted by COVID-19 and are facing significant cancellation related costs
- Facing severe financial difficulties (material employment losses, insolvency) across the 2021-22 Financial Year that will impact on their status as a going concern as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.
- Able to demonstrate the depletion in cash reserves which is impacting on the organisations ability to service short term and long term operational needs and programming.
- Demonstrate that they are actively working on strategy for a sustainable future operating model for their organisation.
- Have satisfied the reporting requirements of any previous Arts Queensland funding.

Organisations will **not** be eligible if:

- Arts Queensland has reasonable confidence there is a sustainable path for the organisation, based on materials provided, including through any 2021 reporting and reasonable forecasting for 2022 inclusive of the announced Federal Government stimulus measures as at 29 July 2021
- the applicant is a current Arts Queensland employee or previous employee who ceased employment less than six months prior to the application closing date
- the applicant is an employee of an Arts Statutory Body or the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy, unless the application includes a covering letter from the applicant's employee detailing the applicant's role and employment details, a statement that the application does not relate to carrying out duties of their role and how any potential conflict of interest will be addressed

- the applicant is an Arts Owned Company or Statutory Body
- the applicant is receiving funding as a Major Performing Arts (MPA) Framework or National Performing Arts Framework (NPAF) organisation.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Risk of insolvency as a result of COVID-19

- Identify the risk of insolvency to your organisation due to a direct link between the COVID-19 public health restrictions.
- demonstrate all action taken to manage your organisation's financial position (eg cost reduction measures, sound artistic and financial management and governance, reasonable use of cash reserves)

Likelihood of ongoing viability

- demonstrate how the amount requested will reduce risk for the organisation
- articulate a clear strategy for an ongoing sustainable operating model

Impact of your organisation to Queensland's arts and cultural sector

- address the significance of your organisation, through employment of artists and arts workers
- address the benefit of your organisation to your community and Queensland's arts and cultural sector more broadly

How much you can apply for?

There is a cap of \$200 000 for each application as the objective of this fund is to provide assistance to multiple organisations. An analysis of the business case and financial data will determine appropriate funding recommendations for each of the applicants.

Applicants can apply for funding support to be delivered across the remainder of 2021.

All requests for funding must be discussed with an AQ Officer prior to submission and accompanied by a business case and appropriate supporting documentation to the funding request.

How to apply

An applicant is required to submit the business case and application form details online via SmartyGrants. An AQ Officer will provide relevant information to applicants.

What to attach

A complete application in SmartyGrants must include your application form and all compulsory support material in the correct format. Support material is important to provide evidence of the information and claims in your application.

Arts Queensland reserves the right to reopen application forms and request further information to clarify elements of an application.

Compulsory - applications that do not include all compulsory support material will be ineligible.

- Formal letter from the Chair to the Deputy Director-General, Arts Queensland, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy outlining the request and the actions the company has undertaken to resolve its current operating position, program and/ or activities and how it is preparing for a post COVID-19 operating environment.
- A business case which addresses the assessment criteria, outlining, clearly and succinctly:
 - The operational challenges and the context for the current operating position of the organisation compared to against the typical operating model.
 - The current risks to the continued operations of the organisation across the 2021-22 financial year and how the pandemic has impacted on employment (for your own organisation and any contracted workers), core programming activity and depleted cash reserves.
 - The strategy for an ongoing sustainable future operating model for the organisation and how this funding will enable the continued operations of the organisation.
- Board approved attachments in the correct format supporting the application including financial documents, cash flow statements, profit and loss and balance sheet forecasts (submitted in excel format only) as well as audited statements.
- Where relevant, additional Federal or Queensland Government support should also be clearly detailed including the program activities this funding supports.

How will my application be assessed?

- All applications will undergo a financial assessment by Arts Queensland Officers including:
 - A detailed financial review of cash flow statements, profit and loss and balance sheet forecasts and audited statements.

- Where relevant, your application may be discussed with other State Government departments and/or the Australia Council for the Arts.
- Your application will be independently reviewed and funding recommendations made by a panel of Chief Financial Officers from Arts Statutory Bodies (ASBs).
- Your application will be reviewed by a panel of specialist and experienced arts industry professionals who will undertake a financial assessment, against the assessment criteria, as it relates to their knowledge of your organisation, its impact and place in the arts and cultural sector to determine funding recommendations.
- Funding approvals are made by the Director-General, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy.

Applicants may be approved for a value below your requested amount. The decisions made by the Director-General are firm and final. There is no avenue for appeal of decisions in this fund.

Where can I find support in preparing my application?

Invited applicants are encouraged to call an AQ Officer on 3034 4110 or via email on investment@arts.qld.gov.au.

Arts Queensland Contact Details:

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

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

Website: www.arts.qld.gov.au

What are the acquittal and reporting requirements for successful applicants?

Funding recipients will be required to submit an outcome report to Arts Queensland. 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.