

Media Release

The Hon Martin Foley MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Equality
Minister for Creative Industries



Sunday, 26 April 2020

SURVIVAL PACKAGE TO HELP SAVE ARTS JOBS

The Victorian Government is helping to save hundreds of jobs in the state's independent creative and cultural sector while keeping Victorians connected through the coronavirus crisis.

A \$16.8 million survival package will provide immediate support to Victorian creative organisations and individuals to sustain employment, develop new works and provide opportunities for creative community participation.

Victoria's creative industries are a jobs powerhouse, contributing \$31 billion to the economy annually and employing 260,000 people – 8 per cent of the state's workforce.

Under the survival package, a \$13 million Strategic Investment Fund will be shared by almost 100 non-government arts and cultural organisations including festivals, performing arts companies, museums and galleries. These bodies employ almost 2,000 people and generate \$270 million for the Victorian economy each year.

Beneficiaries include Victorian icons La Mama Theatre and Heide Museum of Modern Art, festivals such as the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and the Melbourne Fringe, regional events like the Ballarat International Foto Biennale and Clunes Booktown Festival and First Peoples organisations Ilbjerri Theatre and Kaiela Arts.

The fund will help organisations to stabilise, continue their operations and keep people employed, commission local artists to develop new works, and deliver programs for their communities.

Separately, a new \$2.2 million initiative – Sustaining Creative Workers – will offer quick response grants for Victorian-based independent creatives and micro-organisations with at least five years of professional experience.

Grants of \$5,000 will be available for individuals, and \$10,000 for micro-organisations and businesses. An additional \$2,500 in access funding will be available for creatives with a disability, and disability-led organisations.

Creative Victoria's funding programs continue to provide vital support to the sector, enabling creatives to continue to work through the shutdown and develop new projects, undertake professional development and pilot online platforms and other initiatives to reach new audiences.

Almost \$1.6 million will be invested directly into the sector over the next three weeks through the VicArts Grants, Music Works, and Innovation in Marketing programs. Details of the latest grant recipients will be available at creative.vic.gov.au from midday on Monday, 27 April.

For the latest general information and advice on coronavirus, visit dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley

"Victoria is proudly the creative state. Even in these unprecedented times, our creatives continue to find ways to connect and inspire us – but they are doing it tough and they need our help."

"Ensuring that our cultural and creative sector gets through to the other side of this crisis will be critical to Victoria's economic, social and cultural recovery."

Media contact: Casey Lodge 0410 964 928 | casey.lodge@minstaff.vic.gov.au