

Media Release

30/01/2023

REGIONAL ARTS RECEIVE AN UPLIFT OF \$8.5 MILLION TO THE REGIONAL ARTS FUND OVER 4 YEARS

REGIONAL ARTS AUSTRALIA RECEIVE A BIRTHDAY PRESENT IN THE NATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY

As the national voice for arts in regional Australia, Regional Arts Australia has been facilitating opportunities, increasing access, maintaining collaborative relationships, and providing timely support across art forms and across landscapes for 80 years.

In 1943 our founder Miss Dorothy Helmrich, affectionately known as Dot, envisaged a nation where people living in regional, rural, and remote Australia could contribute to, participate in, and enjoy the arts on equal level to those living in metropolitan areas

Now, more than ever, creative individuals and organisations in regional Australia have the capacity to contribute to finding solutions to the big challenges around climate change, health and well-being and prosperity. In its 80th year, RAA remains dedicated to supporting the rich and diverse voices of these creative, cultural and community ecosystems. RAA works to ensure equity of access to participation in creative practice wherever someone lives, works or studies.

The launch of the **National Cultural Policy – Revive** today announced an **ongoing uplift to the Regional Arts Fund of \$8.5 million over 4 years**. This increased investment benefits short- and long-term professional development and capacity building programs, and the development of new works across all arts forms, through regional, rural and remote Australia.

Regional Arts Australia has managed the Regional Arts Fund for over 20 years, currently valued at \$13m over 4 years, on behalf of the Australian Government. The fund is an extensive national regional arts grants program, delivered in partnership with state and territory program administrators. For many years, it has been, and continues to be, one of the most successful avenues for delivering targeted programs, devised by, and meeting the needs of regional Australian communities.

Regional Arts Australia looks forward to working with our national colleagues, as we co-design and support ongoing creative practice across regional, rural and remote Australia.

We applaud the launch of a National Cultural Policy and commend the government for their commitment to the arts and creative industries. We look forward to working with Minister Burke and the Department on its implementation. We thank the Australian Government for partnering with us to achieve this.

“I can’t separate the arts from life ... they are the same”
– Miss Dorothy Helmrich OBE, founder Regional Arts Australia

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QUOTES

“Regional Arts Australia and its state and territory members and partners have significant experience in the management of arts-based programs in their regions. With this additional investment, we will prioritise a program that will respond to the immediate needs of regional artists, organisations and communities across the country. In addition, these funds provide an opportunity to explore new ways to build a robust and sustainable regional arts sector for the future. We will continue to connect with creative institutions, First Nations organisations and build cross-industry partnerships in health, education, tourism and jobs, to contribute to the wellbeing and cultural vitality of regional and remote Australia.”

- Dr Simon Spain, Chair, Regional Arts Australia

"RAA has a critical role in contemporary regional culture, to facilitate ideas and engage across the creative and artistic sector and to open doors and join the dots. In my daily work I am often reminded how diverse and extraordinary creative practice is. I am privileged to work side by side so many colleagues in an organisation that at its heart supports artistic practice and creative engagement in regional Australia. How amazing we can mark 80 years as we look towards the next decades."

- Ros Abercrombie, Executive Director, Regional Arts Australia

IMAGE CREDIT

National Cultural Policy Launch event (left to right): Kitty Taylor (Co-Director, RANT Arts), Hon Tony Burke MP, Ros Abercrombie (Executive Director, Regional Arts Australia), Alysha Herrmann, Nathan Tucker (Co-Director, RANT Arts), Dr Tracey Callinan (Chief Executive Officer, Regional Arts NSW).

LINKS

80 year campaign link: pledgeadot.raisely.com

Regional Arts Fund: regionalarts.com.au/regional-arts-fund/about-regional-arts-fund

Regional Arts Australia: regionalarts.com.au

National Cultural Policy – Revive: www.arts.gov.au/what-we-do/national-cultural-policy

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