



# PRACTICE IN COMMUNITY

**Investing in artists working in regional Australia**

Frequently Asked Questions

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## **What is the Practice in Community program?**

Practice in Community supports regional artists to work deeply with their local communities through creative practice. It values process over product, investing in time, trust and relationships that help communities respond creatively to their own priorities. The program enables artists to embed their work in everyday life, strengthen social connection and contribute to long-term community wellbeing.

## **Who can apply?**

The program is open to individual artists who are Australian citizens or permanent residents, over 18, and living outside a Major City of Australia. Applicants need at least five years' experience working with communities through creative practice and must live within 100 kilometres of the community they plan to work with. The program is designed for independent artists rather than organisations or collectives, though collaboration with others is encouraged.

## **What does “living outside a Major City” mean?**

Eligibility is based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Structure. Artists living in Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote or Very Remote areas are eligible. You can quickly check your location eligibility here <https://regionalarts.com.au/practice-in-community/eligibility>. This ensures the program supports artists who live and work in regional and remote communities across Australia.

## **How much funding is available?**

Each grant provides \$160,000 over two years. Two rounds of funding will support a total of eleven artists.

## **How can it be used?**

Funding supports both the artist and their community-engaged practice. Half of the funds provide an artist fee (equivalent to a part-time wage) and the other half supports project delivery, such as materials, travel or engagement activities. This structure gives artists the flexibility to focus on creative work while resourcing community participation.

## **Can I apply for additional funding?**

Yes. We encourage artists to seek additional funding or partnerships to build on the support provided through Practice in Community. Leveraging funding from other sources can help expand your project, deepen community impact and extend the life of the work beyond the two-year program period. You'll just need to let Regional Arts Australia know if you secure other funding so we can ensure everything aligns with your project agreement.

## **What support will I receive if successful?**

Alongside financial support, artists receive mentoring, professional development and wellbeing assistance throughout the two years. Each artist also works with an evaluation specialist to design an approach that helps them understand and share the impact of their work. This support recognises that creative practice flourishes when artists are well resourced and connected.

## **What is Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD)?**

Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) is a collaborative and participatory practice that engages communities in creative activities that are meaningful to them. The process and participation are as important as any outcomes. The relationship between artist and community is central, creating opportunities for people to share stories, express identity and imagine futures together. Other terms that describe this kind of practice include community-

engaged practice, socially engaged practice or community-based arts — all share a commitment to collaboration, respect and shared authorship.

### **What kinds of projects are eligible?**

Projects must be community-led and place-based. They should grow from local priorities and involve collaboration between artists and community members. The program supports the development of creative work that has long-term benefit for a community rather than short-term presentation or one-off events.

### **Do I need a confirmed community partner to apply?**

At the Expression of Interest stage, you need to show that you have already established a relationship with at least one community partner. What we want to understand is whether there are people in the community who would invite, trust or support you to work with them. This is usually shown through a letter from a local organisation or group that demonstrates connection, credibility and mutual interest. If shortlisted, you will continue to develop this relationship as part of the project design.

### **Can I work with more than one community or across a region?**

Practice in Community focuses on depth rather than scale. You may connect with neighbouring groups or towns, but your primary focus should remain on one clearly defined community to ensure the work stays grounded and relationships are sustained.

### **I already have a fully developed project that's ready to go. Can I apply for funding to deliver it?**

The program is designed to support artists to co-design projects with communities. Proposals that are already fully developed are unlikely to be a good fit, as the emphasis is on shared discovery and collaboration rather than delivery of pre-planned work.

### **What is the evaluation component and will I be supported?**

Evaluation helps artists and communities understand what has changed through the work. Each artist is supported by an evaluation specialist to create a simple and relevant approach that fits the local context. This might include storytelling, photography, group discussions or other creative ways of reflecting on impact. The focus is on learning and sharing rather than reporting for its own sake.

### **What happens if my project changes direction once I'm working with the community?**

Change is expected. As relationships strengthen and priorities evolve, projects will naturally shift. You'll just need to discuss any major changes with Regional Arts Australia so your agreement and milestones can be updated if needed. Flexibility is part of the process.

### **How will my application be assessed?**

Applications are reviewed by an expert panel who consider the strength of your community connection, the quality and integrity of your artistic practice, the potential for social and cultural impact, the viability of your approach and your commitment to ethical and culturally safe practice. At the EOI stage, the panel focuses on your experience and relationship with community; at the full application and interview stages, they look at how you are developing that relationship and your readiness to begin.

### **Are there more stages to the application process?**

Yes. There are three stages: Expression of Interest, Full Application and Interview. This process allows artists to develop ideas in partnership with their communities rather than presenting a fixed project from the start.

### **Can I get help if I have access needs or disability?**

Yes. Regional Arts Australia is committed to accessibility. If you need assistance or adjustments to the process, please contact our Accessibility Coordinator at [access@regionalarts.com.au](mailto:access@regionalarts.com.au) or call (02) 5999 1215. We can provide information in alternative formats, extend timeframes or offer phone and video support to make the process easier.