

Regional Assembly - Cohort #2 Program Guidelines 2023-24



Australian Government

Regional Arts Fund

The Regional Arts Fund

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian federal government program that supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote communities in Australia. The Regional Arts Fund is designed to benefit regional and remote arts practitioners, arts workers, audiences and communities. The program is managed nationally by Regional Arts Australia.

What is the Regional Assembly Program?

The Regional Assembly program is a strategic project, supported by the Regional Arts Fund and managed by Regional Arts Australia (RAA). It is designed to build artistic communities across geographic distances, when living and working remotely is coupled with a desire to nurture and develop international connections.

The program is designed as an artist-led program, responsive to the needs of practitioners and the creative ecosystem in which they work. RAA invites ten professional practitioners to assemble ten times over one year, through a secure online platform hosted by RAA. The assembly sessions will be facilitated by a RAA Project Coordinator but defined by the needs and interests of the group. Sessions may generate other sessions, provocations can be picked up for deeper exploration, and esteemed guests will be invited to contribute to the program.

The program will support artists from across regional Australia, as well as practitioners from Asia and the Pacific. This cohort will include artists, writers and makers from a wide diversity of fields, working at the crossroads of philosophy, art, and activism.

Each member of the Regional Assembly will receive a fee of \$4,500 (AUD) to participate in the program.

Participants, podcasts and the publication from the inaugural cohort can be viewed here:

<https://regionalarts.com.au/programs/regional-assembly>

Objectives of the Regional Assembly Program

The Program objectives are to:

- Connect artists and cultural practitioners working in regional and remote geographies in Australia, Asia, and the Pacific
- Elevate the profile of artists, creative practitioners and their practice,
- Provide professional development opportunities for cross-disciplinary artists, and
- Develop a creative community¹, build connection and generate exchange.

Eligibility Criteria

All Applicants:

Regional Assembly is open to practitioners at all stages of their careers, but particularly those with a solid creative practice already established. We are interested in bringing together practitioners who are looking for creative growth and exchange but have already forged an independent body of work over a number of years with regional or national recognition through the publication or public presentation of their work.

All applicants must provide evidence of past work and demonstrate how participation in this program will extend the boundaries of their practice.

Australian Applicants:

- Must have an ABN (registered to their name and location) or have an auspice organisation manage their grant.
- Must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident living and working in regional Australia.
- Must reside at an address classified as regional using the Modified Monash Model Map². The applicant address must be from classification MMM 2 - MMM7.
- May apply to both the Fellowship and the Regional Assembly programs, but only one program place would be offered to a successful applicant.

International Applicants:

- Must demonstrate that their practice is based outside of a capital city and/or away from significant cultural resources.

¹ The term “community” refers to both geographical communities and communities of practice.

² To check how your address is classified visit the Doctor Connect Locator Map: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/health-workforce-locator/health-workforce-locator> Select Modified Monash Model 2019 and search your address.

- Must demonstrate the creative benefits of connecting to, and forming peer-to-peer relationships with artists in Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

What will the Regional Assembly Program **not** support?

- Applications from Australian applicants residing in MMM1 locations.
- Applicants whose practice principally benefits a major city or metropolitan location.
- Applicants whose practice does not substantially align with the objectives of the program.
- Academic activity, including wages or course work that is required as part of any tertiary academic program. It is expected that applicants are not currently enrolled in tertiary academic institution whilst applying to be part of the Regional Assembly.
- Applicants who have any outstanding reports, acquittals or serious breaches relating to any Australian Government funding.

Assessment Criteria

All Expressions of Interest will be assessed on the degree to which they meet the program objectives, as listed on page 2 of this document.

The Peer Review Panel will be seeking to build a cohort with a cross section of artform, practice and geographic location.

Applicants are encouraged to provide support material that demonstrates support from any organisation(s), individual(s) or institution(s) which support the applicant's participation in the program and examples of the applicant's professional achievement, including artistic and portfolio support material.

Assessment Process

Applications will be reviewed by a national Peer Review Panel, with consideration to these guidelines and assessment criteria. These decisions are final. No conversations will be entered into with the Peer Review Panel or RAA about the outcomes. Written feedback can be provided to applicants upon request.

Successful Applicants

Names and contact details of successful applicants will be provided to the Federal Minister for the Arts, members of Parliament and Department staff along with descriptions of the projects to be supported. Applicants will be required to provide their approval for this release of information as part of the application process.

RAA will work with recipients to identify appropriate platforms and channels for sharing the project as it develops. Participants will be requested to outline their ideas for documentation and sharing as part of the application process.

All participants must acknowledge the support of Regional Arts Australia and the Regional Arts Fund in all media releases and promotional activities, with the logos and text provided.

Each participant will be required to provide a feedback form at completion of the program. Regional Arts Australia will provide the form and advice on this process.

How to Apply

All applications are to be submitted online using the SmartyGrants system.

<https://regionalarts.smartygrants.com.au/RegionalAssembly2023>

Timing

EOI Submission Opening date: 9.00am (AEDT) Monday 6th March 2023

EOI Submission Closing date: 5.00pm (AEDT) Monday 3rd April 2023.

Regional Assembly: June 2023 – June 2024.

All acquittals must be completed by 30 August 2024.

Other Information

Successful participants will receive a contract which will detail the payment schedule. Participants will be paid upon receipt of a single invoice. Participants should seek independent tax advice in relation to their own financial situation to determine whether the project fee will be assessable as income. Further information is available from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) by calling 13 28 66 or by referring to their website www.ato.gov.au

Program Contact

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