



2025 Grants & Philanthropic Funding

First Nations

Updated: February 2025

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About this resource

Museums & Galleries Queensland has compiled a listing of grant and philanthropic funding opportunities of interest to museums, galleries and other collecting institutions in Queensland.

Funds for 'First Nations' could include the following:

- Development of new exhibitions
- Audience engagement projects
- Language preservation and education
- Commissioning artworks
- Professional development or similar projects.

Disclaimer

This resource, created by Museums & Galleries Queensland, is intended as a starting point only and does not necessarily represent all levels or sources of funding available to any particular group. This information is also subject to change. Grant seekers should check the funding body's website and speak to a funding body representative before applying. This listing does not include: funding for film, television or radio projects; sponsorship opportunities; or funding for commercial/for-profit arts businesses.

FIRST NATIONS COMMISSIONING FUND

Arts Queensland

Funds: Up to \$70,000 for single year projects; up to \$150,000 for two-year projects

Closes: 17 March 2025

Purpose: This fund –

- supports the development and presentation of new work and cultural programs by individual First Nations artists, arts workers collectives and organisations.
- strengthens skills development and provides new employment opportunities for First Nations artists and arts workers.
- grows a pipeline of high-quality First Nations arts, cultural products, and experiences.

Eligible applicants: This fund require that applicants must –

- be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are artists or arts workers, or First Nations organisations or collectives based in Queensland. For The Fund, a First Nations organisation is at least 50% owned and led by Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who have formal authority to make decisions in the operations and governance of the organisation Strengthens skills development and provides new employment opportunities for First Nations artists and arts workers.
- not apply for 100% of the total project costs.
- not receive Arts Queensland funding of more than \$1.5 million per annum.

Eligible projects: The Fund supports applications from individuals and organisations for projects and programs at different stages of development and across multiple stages from creative development through to production, presentation, and distribution. For example, you can apply for just the creative development stage of a new work or apply to fund the project from its early stages through to a tour of the finished work.

Applicants can apply for –

- costs towards artistic collaboration with a nationally or internationally significant artist or company for an outcome in Queensland.

Contact: Phone: 07 3034 4016 Email: investment@arts.qld.gov.au

Website: <https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/aq-first-nations-commissioning-fund>

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND ARTS PROGRAM

Australian Government - Office for the Arts

Funds: Funding of approximately \$45 million is available for the 2026-27 round.

Closes: Check website for next round (expected to open October 2025)

Purpose: The Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA) program supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to express, preserve and maintain their cultures through languages and arts activities around Australia. The ILA program supports community-led organisations with grant funding administered through an annual competitive grant opportunity.

Eligible applicants: To be eligible you must be one of the following entity types:

- an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006
- an organisation established through specific Commonwealth or State or Territory legislation
- a company incorporated in Australia
- a company limited by guarantee
- an incorporated association
- a not-for-profit organisation
- a partnership
- a joint (consortia) application with a lead organisation
- a publicly funded research organisation
- a local government body or organisation that is funded by an Australian State/Territory government or one of its departments or agencies.

Eligible projects: Grant funding allocated through the ILA program supports activities that:

- Preserve, revitalise and sustain Indigenous languages; and
- Create, promote and celebrate Indigenous cultural expression.

Contact: Phone: 1800 006 922 Email: ila@arts.qld.gov.au

Website: <https://www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/indigenous-languages-and-arts-program>

INDIGENOUS VISUAL ARTS INDUSTRY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Australian Government - Office for the Arts

Funds: Funding of approximately \$27 million per annum is allocated through a closed non-competitive process. Approximately \$3.5 million per annum is available through an annual open competitive grant round.

Closes: Check website for next round

Purpose: The Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) program supports a professional, viable and ethical Indigenous visual arts industry with strong participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Some of Australia's most dynamic visual art is produced in Indigenous art centres, which enable artists to create new art, earn income, develop professional skills and connect to the art market. Funding is delivered to four primary types of organisation including:

- art centres, mostly in remote and very remote locations
- industry service organisations
- art fairs
- arts hubs, mostly in regional or urban locations.

The organisations funded through the program together form the infrastructure that provides artists with studio space, materials, art development opportunities, marketing and exhibition support, as well as a range of professional support and services for artists, art centre staff and Directors.

Eligible applicants: To be eligible for an IVAIS grant, your organisation must be one of the following entity types:

- an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006
- an entity established through specific Commonwealth or State or Territory legislation
- a company incorporated in Australia
- a company limited by guarantee
- an incorporated association
- a publicly funded research organisation
- state, territory or local government body

Eligible projects: Funding will be provided to organisations for activities that best contribute to delivery of the following Program outcomes:

- a professional, viable and ethical Indigenous visual arts industry that features strong participation and provides economic opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- the continued production, exhibition, critique, purchase and collection of Indigenous visual art.

Contact: Phone: 1800 006 922 Email: ivais@arts.gov.au

Website: <https://www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/indigenous-visual-arts-industry-support-program>

ABF GRANTS

Aboriginal Benefits Foundation Trust (ABF)

Funds: between \$500 and \$5,000

Closes: 3 March 2025

Purpose: The Foundation provides grants to assist Aboriginal communities and individuals by providing funds to support projects which advance the aims of the Foundation. Their current focus is on supporting art, literacy, education, health and cultural projects with a connection to Aboriginal art and/or artists.

Eligible applicants: The ABF only supports organisations or companies endorsed as a "Deductible Gift Recipient" (DGR). Evidence of this is a requirement for receiving our grants.

Eligible projects: With limited resources, ABF grants are typically given in the following categories:

1. Seeding grants:

- to research the relevance and value of new projects with a connection to Aboriginal art and/or artists – preference is given to small and intermediate sized projects that may be ineligible for support from other organisations.
- to facilitate schemes or projects with a connection to Aboriginal art and/or artists which are of benefit to Aboriginal health, welfare or education which have potential for wider application.

2. One-off grants in support of:

- health and wellbeing of artists and their families
- education through art projects which will benefit individual or community health and well being
- individuals and communities, with a connection to Aboriginal art and/or artists, to meet special needs

Contact: Email: theaboriginalbenefitsfoundationtrust@apspuf.com.au

Website: www.aboriginal.org.au

ARTS PROJECTS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS

Creative Australia

Funds: From \$10,000 to \$50,000

Closes: 4 March 2025, 2 September 2025

Purpose: This program funds a range of activities that deliver benefits to the arts sector and wider public, including national and international audiences and communities.

Eligible applicants: Only individuals and groups may apply to this category. You must be an Australian citizen or an Australian permanent resident, and a practicing artist or arts professional. Applications for funding to the First Nations panel must come from First Nations individuals or groups.

Ineligible applicants: You cannot apply for this grant if:

- you have already applied to this closing date for Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups
- you have an overdue grant report
- you owe money to Creative Australia
- you are an organisation.

Eligible projects: Funding is provided for a range of activities, for example:

- professional skills development, including mentoring and residencies
- the creation of new work
- practice based research
- creative development
- experimentation
- collaborations and exchanges
- touring
- festivals
- productions
- exhibitions
- performances
- publishing
- recording
- promotion and marketing
- market development activity
- activities that creatively engage communities.

Activities can take place nationally, internationally, online, or in a combination of in-person and online.

Ineligible projects: You can't apply for:

- projects or activities that do not involve or benefit Australian practicing artists or arts professionals
- projects or activities that do not have a clearly defined arts component
- projects that have already taken place the same
- activities engaging with First Nations content, artists and communities that do not adhere to our First Nations Cultural & Intellectual Property Protocols.

Contact: Phone: 02 9215 9000 Email: enquiries@creative.gov.au

Website: <https://creative.gov.au/investment-and-development/arts-projects-for-individuals-and-groups/>

ARTS PROJECTS ORGANISATIONS

Creative Australia

Funds: From \$20,000 to \$100,000

Closes: 4 March 2025, 2 September 2025

Purpose: This program funds a range of activities that deliver benefits to the arts sector and wider public, including national and international audiences and communities. Organisations that undertake arts programs, projects, or that provide services to artists, are welcome to apply. Organisations can propose a single project, a suite of projects or an annual program of activity.

Eligible applicants: Only organisations may apply to this category. Organisations that provide a service to the arts may apply. International organisations can apply for projects that benefit practicing Australian artists, their work or Australian audiences. Applications for funding to the First Nations panel must come from First Nations organisations.

Ineligible applicants: You cannot apply for this grant if:

- you have already applied to this closing date for Arts Projects for Organisations
- you have an overdue grant report
- you owe money to Creative Australia
- you are an individual or group
- you receive multi-year investment through the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework

Eligible projects: Funding is provided for a range of activities, for example:

- professional skills development, including mentoring and residencies
- the creation of new work
- practice based research
- creative development
- experimentation
- collaborations and exchanges
- touring
- festivals
- productions
- exhibitions
- performances
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- activities that creatively engage communities.

Activities can take place nationally, internationally, online, or in a combination of in-person and online.

Ineligible projects: You can't apply for:

- projects or activities that do not involve or benefit Australian practicing artists or arts professionals
- projects or activities that do not have a clearly defined arts component
- projects that have already taken place the same
- activities engaging with First Nations content, artists and communities that do not adhere to our First Nations Cultural & Intellectual Property Protocols.

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