



2026 Grants & Philanthropic Funding

First Nations

Updated: April 2026

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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.

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND ARTS PROGRAM

Australian Government - Office for the Arts

Funds: Funding of approximately \$48 million

Closes: Check website for next round

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>

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND

Arts Queensland

Funds: Visual Arts Market Development Stream – up to \$30,000 for projects up to one year. Additional funding of up to \$10,000 is available to support costs with increasing access for artists and/or audiences with disability.

Closes: Opens 11 May 2026, closes 22 June 2026

Purpose: The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Development Fund provides one-off grants to support the development and presentation of new creative performing arts work by Queensland-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, arts companies, groups and organisations, and promote exceptional arts and cultural work to wider audiences and markets. It also seeks to connect exceptional visual artists and their work to international audiences and markets.

Eligible applicants: Organisations, groups and individuals applying for this grant must:

- be based in Queensland
- be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, group and/or organisation
- not have received funding in the previous round of the Fund (or First Nations Commissioning Fund Round 6)
- not have received more than \$1 million per annum in grants from Arts Queensland in the last 12 months.

Eligible projects: Showcases or exhibitions of works at high profile international galleries or museums, or at recognised international markets to which you have been invited. Eligible costs include:

- Crating, freight, installation costs and equipment hire
- Economy-class travel, accommodation, travel allowances, visas, registration fees, travel insurance
- Development of material to amplify impact of attending the market and extended promotion during and after market participation (e.g. promotional video, catalogue).

Contact: Phone: 1800 175 531 Email: investment@arts.qld.gov.au

Website: <https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding-opportunities/funding/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-arts-development-fund>

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. 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: 1 June 2026

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: <https://aboriginal.org.au/grants/>

ARTS PROJECTS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS

Creative Australia

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

Closes: 1 September 2026

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.

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: 1 September 2026

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.

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-organisations/>

ARTS BUSINESS: FIRST NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND

Creative Australia

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

Closes: Check website for next round.

Purpose: Arts Business: First Nations Development Fund provides grants from \$10,000 to \$50,000 to build sustainable business practices and support economic and social development opportunities. The opportunity is open to arts and culture First Nations individuals, groups, and micro-organisations.

Eligible applicants: The individual must:

- be a First Nations artist
- be an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident
- be residing in Australia
- be a Sole Trader.

The Group must:

The Group must:

- be all First Nations artists
- be an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident
- be residing in Australia
- be a Sole Trader for the group or a group partnership.

The Organisation must:

- be a First Nations-led small business or micro-organisation that has no more than 5 FTE (full time equivalent) staff
- be based in Australia.

Eligible projects: Grants can be used for professional and workforce development, governance training, capacity building, marketing, seed funding, strategic planning, and building digital capabilities.

Contact: Phone: 02 9215 9145 Email: tammy.close@creative.gov.au

Website: <https://creative.gov.au/investments-opportunities/arts-business-first-nations-development-fund>

HOME GROWN – QUEENSLAND'S DESTINATION EVENTS FUND

Tourism and Events Queensland

Funds: \$15,000 - \$40,000 per year (Destination Signature Events and Destination Indigenous Events); \$40,000 - \$100,000 (Destination Significant Events); Up to \$25,000 per year (matched or exceeded by Events Local Council or RTO) (Destination Kickstarter Events)

Closes: TBC October 2026 (round 2)

Purpose: The Homegrown - Queensland's Destination Events Fund (Homegrown) helps connect events with the unique destinations they call home, ensuring the benefits of these events are felt far and wide across the State. Previously known as the Queensland Destination Events Program, Homegrown has supported more than 1,000 events with more than \$25 million in funding.

Eligible applicants: Destination Signature Events must –

- Have been staged at least twice previously (within the last three years) and demonstrate they attract visitors from outside their local government area.

Destination Significant Events must –

- Have been staged for at least three times previously (within the last four years) and must demonstrate their ability to attract overnight visitors from intrastate and interstate. Events must have previously received TEQ support.

Destination Indigenous Events must –

- Have been staged at least twice previously (within the last three years) and have previously received TEQ support and be able to demonstrate success of achievement tourism outcomes.

Destination Kickstarter Events must –

- Be new (first year of operation or inactive for at least three years) and align with Homegrown objectives to attract out-of-region visitor and boost the local visit economy. Applicants must get written confirmation from the Event's Local Council or Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) that their cash investment is matched or exceeded before applying.

Eligible costs: Marketing costs, event program enhancements, event growth development plan, short-term specialised personnel, hire of temporary infrastructure.

Ineligible events: Industry events, commemorations, holiday events, religious events, political events, multi-cultural events, events with the primary purpose of raising funds for charity, regional race meetings, community shows, markets, national/state championships, event series that rotate to other destinations and/or are held multiple times a year, events that are staged as part of a tour, virtual events, firework displays.

Ineligible costs: Insurance or legal fees, capital expenditures or equipment purchases, prize money or competition prizes, sanctioning fees, general administration or sundry expenses, livestreaming services, website development or enhancement, Welcome to Country ceremonies, business related costs (staff salaries, printing, graphic design, postage expenses, audiovisual equipment, sound, lighting, staging, marquees, fencing, toilets, security).

Contact: Phone: 07 3535 3535 Email: events@queensland.com

Website: <https://teq.queensland.com/au/en/industry/what-we-do/queensland-events/queensland-events-funding/destination-event-funding?redirect=Events/Events-Support/Queensland-Destination-Events-Program>