

Volunteer Awards 2010



Program announced for the Regional Arts Australia Volunteer Awards 2010

The Regional Arts Australia Volunteer Awards recognise, reward and encourage regionally-based artists and cultural volunteers who have made a substantial contribution to the arts in regional communities in Australia.

The awards will be presented at **Junction 2010 – connecting the future**, Regional Arts Australia's national conference to be held in Launceston, Tasmania from 26-29 August 2009.

Nominations open on 19 February and close on 26 March 2010.

Nominate yourself or someone you know who has made a difference in your community. Young people are particularly encouraged to apply.

The Regional Arts Australia Volunteer Awards Program is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body, through its Community Partnerships Section.

Award categories

Sustained Contribution

To recognise and reward a regionally based arts volunteer who has made a significant contribution to the arts in regional Australia over a period of five years or more.

Outstanding contribution

To recognise and reward a regionally based arts volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to an arts project, event, organisation or community in regional Australia. Young people are particularly encouraged to nominate.

Award benefits

Award recipients will receive:

- A commissioned artwork by a regional artist engraved with the recipient's name
- A framed certificate signed by the President of Regional Arts Australia and CEO of the Australia Council for the Arts

- Public recognition through a high profile award presentation event and the media and communication channels available through RAA and its member agencies
- A complimentary registration for Junction 2010 – connecting the future, the RAA national conference in Launceston from 26-29 August 2009 and tickets to the conference dinner
- Complimentary travel and accommodation for Junction 2010

Eligibility criteria

Regional

Nominees must either be a resident in regional Australia or have been a resident in regional Australia when they made their contribution to the arts. Each RAA member agency will be responsible for defining “regional” in their state/territory.

Voluntary

The nominee must be a volunteer in relation to the particular contribution being acknowledged. This does not entirely exclude paid artists, arts workers and employees of arts organisations as long as the nominee has engaged in substantial volunteer work beyond the scope of their paid role. The definition of “substantial” will be at the discretion of the selection committee in each state.

Citizenship or residency

- The nominee must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.
- Proof of citizenship or residency may be required.
- Nominations of temporary residents may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Age

- Nominees for both award categories must be at least 18 years of age (as at 27 August 2010)
- There is no age criterion for either category, although young people are particularly encouraged to apply, especially to the Outstanding Contribution category.

Association with Regional Arts Australia

Regionally-based arts and cultural volunteers who have an existing association with Regional Arts Australia are not excluded from nomination, as long as they meet the above eligibility criterion. However, past and present RAA board members are not eligible for a period of five years after leaving the board.

Further information

Further details will be available when nominations open in February 2010. Join the RAA mailing list at www.regionalarts.com.au/raa1/join-the-mailing-list.asp to stay updated.

Enquiries to Jo McDonald, Project Officer, Regional Arts Australia, ph: 08 8444 0428, mobile: 0402 070 021, email joanne.mcdonald@countryarts.org.au