



MEDIA RELEASE

18 November 2010

Regional Arts Fund delivers 16 major new projects in NSW \$247,999 in funding for new projects across regional NSW

The Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development, Local Government and Minister for the Arts, the Hon Simon Crean MP, announced a total of \$247,999 will go towards 16 new projects in regional, rural and remote New South Wales in 2011 through the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund.

The list of successful projects encompasses a broad spectrum of art forms including film, music, physical theatre, circus, literature, visual arts, craft, photography and theatre. Communities across the state – from Moulamein, Deniliquin and Conargo in the south west, Gwabegar in the north west, to Mullumbimby in the north and Bermagui in the south – will benefit from this funding.

'With 62 applications received and over \$1 million requested, this round of the Regional Arts Fund was very competitive and the panel commented that decisions on funding were very difficult due to the high standard of most applications,' said Elizabeth Rogers, CEO of Regional Arts NSW. 'This round again demonstrated the range and depth of arts and cultural projects and initiatives in regional NSW and the importance of the Regional Arts Fund to these communities. There were 16 successful applicants, ten of which had applied to the fund for the first time. Among the projects funded were five from Indigenous communities, two involving young people and two working with people with disabilities.'

Examples of the projects funded include:

- **Multi Task Human Resource Foundation's *Tra La La Blip*** – a socially inclusive electronic music program for people with disabilities, utilising cutting edge techniques and equipment to develop skills in sound art, music production, field recording, collaboration and live performance.
- **Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre's *Aboriginal Performing Arts Program Cultural Trainee*** – a 12 month mentoring program for a local Aboriginal person to develop their skills in theatre administration and event management, providing on the job learning and assisting the consolidation of the Centre's Aboriginal Performing Arts Program.
- **South West Art's *ACRE Filmmakers in Residence* project** in Moulamein and Conargo, creating short documentaries on the towns' resilience in the face of the current drought to be toured alongside two similar documentaries produced in Victoria.
- **River of Art's *Oral Histories through Art*** where Indigenous and non-Indigenous community artists will develop a symbolic language to express their stories, create visual artwork based on these symbols and exhibit their work at the annual River of Art Festival in Moruya.

A full list of funded projects is attached.

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government initiative to support sustainable, community-based cultural development in regional, remote and isolated areas in Australia. The funding is targeted at activities that will have long term cultural, economic and social benefits, that develop partnerships and cultural networks and that provide skills development opportunities.

Regional Arts NSW is the peak body for regional arts activity in NSW, and manages the Fund in New South Wales on behalf of the Australian Government. Assistance is available across all art forms in a range of categories.

**For further information contact Annette Eassie:
Tel 02 9270 2502 Email fundingmanager@regionalartsnsw.com.au**



Regional Arts Fund NSW - List of Projects Funded 2010

New Initiatives

Bellingen Readers and Writers Festival Y1: **\$18,500.00**
Bellingen Readers and Writers Festival Y2: **\$14,830.00**
Region: Mid North Coast

Writers' costs for development of an annual festival of Australian writing that engages and inspires participants of all ages and backgrounds in the written word and promotes regional cultural development. It will be exclusively devoted to Australian and regional writing with a focus on innovation and youth.

Deniliquin Council Y1: **\$12,695.00**
Three Days (A Day in the Life of Deniliquin)
Region: South West

A three stage photographic project incorporating skills development workshops with young people and the community, a community photographic event documenting participants' lives over a 24 hour period and three exhibition events utilising the web, image projections in an art space and outdoor street prints.

Edgy Art Inc Y1: **\$10,000.00**
Sculpture on the Edge
Region: South East

School workshops, artist presentations and exhibitions as part of the "Sculpture on the Edge" outdoor sculpture event in Bermagui.

Great Lakes Community Resources Y1: **\$14,820.00**
Art Heart
Region: Mid North Coast

Annual workshop program for youth identified 'at risk' involving visual arts workshops and mentoring by a youth worker and local police. The program will run for 3 hours per week for 8 weeks of each school term, culminating in a graduation ceremony and public exhibition.

National Parks and Wildlife - Tumut Y1: **\$2,484.00**
Birrimal Waga Amphitheatre Aboriginal Cultural Murals
Region: Eastern Riverina

Creation of removable canvas murals depicting traditional totems and Indigenous themes, for use as a cultural backdrop for local Indigenous performances and cultural education programs delivered by the local Aboriginal community.

Nigyanni Indigenous Corporation Y1: **\$14,835.00**
Basket Weaving Training for Rural Women
Region: North West

Three artists will teach basket weaving in the small rural remote community of Gwabegar with focus on traditional and new styles of basket weaving. The sourcing, identification, collection, treatment and storage of local natural materials will be taught, ensuring all participants develop skills which enable them to continue to produce saleable artworks.

River of Art Inc Y1: **\$4,593.00**
Oral Histories through Art
Region: South East

Indigenous and non-Indigenous community artists will engage in workshops with local Aboriginal artist Loretta Parsley, developing a symbolic language to express their individual stories, cultural histories and experiences. From these symbols, each artist will create a piece of visual artwork that will be exhibited at the River of Art Festival in May 2011.

Tulgeen Group Y1: **\$20,000.00**
Art in the Garage – 3D Mural Project
Region: South East

Employment of a local artist to facilitate the transformation of 2D images into 3D forms by working collaboratively and through one-on-one instruction with artists with disabilities. A visiting professional mural artist will also be employed to train and mentor a local artist and oversee installations of a 3D mural at the group's new studio spaces.

West Wyalong Regional Music Inc.
Winter Wind and Strings School
Region: Eastern Riverina

Y1: **\$5,542.00**

Engagement of professional tutors from the Orange Regional Conservatorium to run a three day music workshop for local orchestral instrumental musicians, culminating in performance.

Partnerships

Forster Aboriginal Land Council
Tobwabba – developing skills
Region: Mid North Coast

Y1: **\$17,900.00**

Range of arts and cultural projects to be undertaken to re-invigorate Tobwabba Art and increase employment opportunities by developing the skills base of emerging and established artists. Cultural themes and significant community issues will be addressed through weaving, sculpture and woodworking workshops and opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous based groups to network.

Multi Task Human Resource Foundation Ltd
Tra La La Blip
Region: Northern Rivers

Y1: **\$20,000.00**

Socially inclusive electronic music program for people with disabilities, utilising cutting edge techniques and equipment to develop skills in sound art, music production, field recording, collaboration and live performance.

Residencies / Mentorships

Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre (BMEC)
Aboriginal Performing Arts Program Cultural Trainee
Region: Central West

Y1: **\$18,000.00**

BMEC will mentor a local Aboriginal person to develop their skills in theatre administration and event management over a twelve month period. This project will provide on the job learning and comes at a time when BMEC is consolidating its Aboriginal Performing Arts Program.

Fling Physical Theatre
I Wanna Be Residency
Region: South East

Y1: **\$20,000.00**

Residencies involving two artists, choreographer Adam Wheeler and Circus Trainer Jane Davis in the development and creation of a new performance project to be staged in Bega in July 2011 and later at the Merrigong Theatre in Wollongong during the Illawarra Children's Festival.

South West Arts
ACRE – Filmmakers in Residence
Region: South West

Y1: **\$16,000.00**

An artist-in-residency will be held in each of the towns of Moulemein and Conargo with two different filmmakers, involving the community in creating short documentaries on the towns' resilience in the face of the current drought. These films will tour towns in Victoria and NSW and be shown alongside two similar documentaries produced in Victoria.

Spaghetti Circus Inc.
'For the love of Circus!'
Region: Northern Rivers

Y1: **\$18,800.00**

This project consists of a 'Circus Camp' and a 'Circus School'. The Camp is a mentoring program that links emerging circus performers from four small regional youth circuses with world renowned circus professionals. The School is a skills development program involving circus classes at two local schools.

The Cad Factory
The Cad Factory Rural Residency Program
Region: Eastern Riverina

Y1: **\$19,000.00**

Establishment of a rural residency program with four professional artists per year in residence for two weeks at the Old Birrego School House, creating work in response to the land and cultural and social landscapes. Each residency will cover various disciplines and engage with regional communities of Wagga Wagga, Leeton, Narrandera, Boree Creek and Griffith.