



Australian Government
Regional Arts Fund



MEDIA RELEASE – June 2024

13 Northern Territory Artists and Organisations Receive Australian Government Funding

Darwin Community Arts is excited to announce that the Australian Government’s Regional Arts Fund will provide over \$280,000 for thirteen Northern Territory arts projects, to be delivered in regional and very remote locations. Projects funded include music, visual art exhibitions, and the development of new theatre and new dance works.

Australian Government Minister for the Arts, Tony Burke, congratulated the recipients and their contributions to Australia’s arts scene.

“The Regional Arts Fund not only helps ground-breaking arts projects come to life across Australia, but also helps generate employment in the arts – with this round to create over 500 employment opportunities for artists and arts workers in communities from Alice Springs to Longreach.

“A thriving cultural and creative arts sector is vital for the one third of Australians who live in our regions. We want more Australians to be able to experience and engage with the arts, wherever they live.”

Anna Weekes, Executive Officer of DCA says “this funding will provide valuable opportunities for artists in regional and remote communities to develop their artistic practice and build cultural networks within the Northern Territory and beyond. We are so pleased with the artistic and cultural integrity of the projects that the assessors chose, there is a broad range of art forms across numerous geographic locations in the Northern Territory.”

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government program that supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote communities in Australia. The program is managed by Regional Arts Australia and administered in the Northern Territory by Darwin Community Arts.

Full descriptions of projects and recipients follow.

Regional Arts Fund Project Grants – Round 1 2024 Recipients

Artback NT Inc, *True Story - Creative Development Project*: \$27,484

True Story is a co-curatorial effort between the producer, Artback NT, and the Art Centres representing the artists: Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists, Hermannsburg Potters, Iltja Ntjarra / Many Hands Art Centre, Tangentyere Artists, Tjanpi Desert Weavers, and Yarrenyty Altere Artists. The project will support the facilitation of skills development to make new work responding to the curatorial theme of stories that convey the everyday experience of the artists and their families, childhood memories and dreams, as well as the realities of remote travel, caring for Country, and the ongoing fight for recognition and human rights for inclusion. The exhibition will open at Tangentyere Artists in March 2025.

Ashleigh Musk, *Creative Development and Presentation of CRISÁLIDA*: \$7,500

The creative development and presentation of CRISÁLIDA, a multidisciplinary installation created by Ivan Trigo Miras and Ashleigh Musk. The installation will blend video, materials, live performance and sound to create a

sensorial experience, to be presented at the Desert Festival in Mparntwe/Alice Springs in September 2024.

Carlo Ansaldo, *Open Decks Pilot Program*: \$10,752.10

Open Decks is a pilot program empowering Darwin women, trans, and non-binary beginner DJs to rehearse and present public sets for free under the mentorship of similarly identified and experienced local DJs. Open Decks will grow and support a community of NT DJs from under-represented genders to perform their art in the overwhelmingly cismale-dominated field of electronic music. Open Decks forms the missing connection in Darwin between beginner workshop programs and performing as a paid DJ on show bills at NT festivals, clubs, pubs and events.

Corrugated Iron Youth Arts Inc, *SPRINGBOARD Circus & Physical Theatre Initiative*: \$30,000

Corrugated Iron Youth Arts, and Gravity & Other Myths will develop a new partnership to investigate the development of new artistic works of scale while building the capacity of circus artists. The partnership will address the pressing skills gap in the NT for skilled circus artists capable of navigating complex contexts unique to the NT.

Dr Sandra Thibodeaux, *Genius - 2025 Production*: \$30,000

Genius is a new Dark Comedy written by Sandra Thibodeaux, directed by Nicky Fearn, and co-produced by Thibodeaux, JUTE Theatre Company, and Simona Cosentini. Inspired by the life and work of painter Artemisia Gentileschi, Genius takes a knife to the persistent issue of harassment and abuse in the arts industry and wider culture, as highlighted by #MeToo. Long listed for the Griffin Award and shortlisted for the NT Literary Awards, Genius will be staged in 2025 with seasons in Darwin, Larrakia country, and Cairns/Gimuy, alongside a North QLD regional tour. The multi-artform project will provide a much-needed, extensive and cross-border opportunity for employment, promotion, and professional development for 20+ theatre practitioners of regional north Australia.

Gary Lang NT Dance Company, *The Creative Development of Baya Rakarum (The Forgotten One)*: \$30,000

Baya Rakarum (translates to 'the forgotten one' in Yolŋu Matha), is an adaptation of Giselle's 2nd Act into an Indigenous Australian context by NT Dance Company's Artistic Director Gary Lang, senior Larrakia choreographer. Based on the real life of Guypunjura, who was instrumental in the founding of a leading First Nations dance company and held a celebrated international dance career, Lang focuses on a time of betrayal after she is cast off by colleagues and family. A large-scale work, this creative development specifically explores the music composition, dramaturgy and choreography extending Lang's signature style of 'Aboriginal Ballet' with traditional manikay (song) and bungul (dance). The development will be delivered in Darwin and On Country in North-East Arnhem Land.

Indigenous Community Television Ltd, *ICTV's Festival of Remote Australian Indigenous Moving-Image Travel Bursary*: \$18,000

The Festival of Remote Australian Indigenous Moving-Image is a three-day professional development workshop program designed specifically for the needs of remote Australian Indigenous film and media makers. The bursary project will provide access to funding support for remote media organisations to travel from their community to Mparntwe to attend. Each night of the festival provides networking opportunities and film screenings for the public, followed by the ICTV Awards Night. This is a vital opportunity for isolated screen media practitioners to come together, learn, share skills in a peer learning setting and celebrate their artistic achievements.

Jordan Braver, *MPARNTWE STOMP: Physical Theatre Training & Performance Program*: \$6,981

Presenting MPARNTWE STOMP, a one-week physical theatre program delivered by internationally renowned company Zen Zen Zo. The program will run from Sat 28 Sept to Wed 2 Oct, and is targeted at regional artists, arts workers and educators across the Northern Territory. Mparntwe Stomp will be hosted by local Alice Spring emerging producer Jordan Braver, in conjunction with Red Hot Arts.

Mimal Land Management, *Strong Women for Healthy Country 2024 Forum Art Project*: \$30,000

The Strong Women for Healthy Country (SWHC) 2024 Forum Art Project is a workshop and artist collaboration between women from across the NT. This will be the 5th iteration of an ongoing cumulative arts project that has been progressively built upon year after year at each successive SWHC forum.

MusicNT, *Bush Bands Program - 20th Anniversary*: \$30,000

Bush Bands Program is a true collaboration across more than a dozen organisations with the shared goal of furthering Australian Indigenous musicians and musicianship. 10 acts from remote communities, including at least 2 female acts, are selected from applications tendered by artists and go on to participate in an intensive training and development camp followed by a performance in Alice Springs to an enthusiastic audience of over 3,000. The concert is broadcast live (ICTV) and one song from each act is uploaded on to YouTube, providing ongoing entertainment for music lovers and opportunities for ongoing exposure for participants & sponsors.

Red Hot Arts Inc, *Project Seed 2024-25*: \$28,200

Project Seed is an incubation and career development program for remote artists from Central Australia. Designed to support the development of new works for performance at Desert Festival, Project Seed offers financial, professional, and structural support to local artists (individuals or groups) to promote experimentation and innovation. It also fosters improved equity for remote communities by providing remote artists the opportunity to collaborate with industry mentors to assist with project, skills, and career development. Since 2022, Project Seed has invested over \$140,000 in remote Central Australian artists and supported the development of 42 new NT based works across diverse genres.

Tangentyere Artists, *Country to Couture: Ewyenper Atwatye Artists x Magpie Goose, Mparntwe to Larrakia via Meanjin*: \$9,453

Ewyenper Atwatye Artists collaboration with Magpie Goose has been selected for Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair's annual fashion event - Country to Couture. Ewyenper Atwatye Artists Tim McNamara and Stella McMillan will attend the event with Magpie Goose team - Amanda Hayman and Troy Casey - for the purposes of professional development and the opportunity to celebrate their success and its public reception.

Tara Rostron, *Ripple Effect Band at the Australian Women's Music Awards and Conference*: \$21,970

Ripple Effect Band, from Maningrida in West Arnhem Land, has been invited as special guests to the Australian Women's Music Awards and Conference. The band will perform at the awards and speak at the First Nation's Women's Forum. The performance aligns with the release plan for the band's next album, coming out in May. It is called Mayawa and is co-produced by Tara Rostron and Jodie Kell. The album features women throughout the production process. Attending the Australian Women's Music Awards and Conference will build and diversify the band's audience and develop valuable networks in the industry.

ENDS

Media contact: Leisa Govan - Darwin Community Arts Inc: 08 89619005