

Regional Arts Fund

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government program that supports sustainable cultural development (in regional and remote communities in Australia)

ACT Applicant's Information Sheet

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Australian Government
Regional Arts Fund

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The Regional Arts Fund (RAF) is an ongoing program that provides approximately \$6 million per year to support artists and communities in regional and remote areas. RAF is part of the Australian Government's Arts and Cultural Development Program that supports participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expression.

The Regional Arts Fund is managed by Regional Arts Australia on behalf of the Australian Government. Regional Arts Australia contracts regional arts organisations (Regional Program Administrators) in each state and territory to deliver the program and award grants. artsACT is the Regional Program Administrator for ACT.

The [RAF Guidelines](#) allow for the ACT to run a modified version of RAF. The following information provides a brief overview of RAF and outlines the modified requirements for ACT applicants. If applying for RAF as an ACT applicant, please review this information in conjunction with the RAF Guidelines.

Purpose

The purpose of the RAF is to deliver funding to support the delivery of arts activities which activate partnerships and participation in the arts for marginalised regions and communities, and through doing so meet the objectives of the RAF:

- encourage and support sustainable economic, social and cultural outcomes in regional communities;
- develop partnerships and networks which leverage financial and/or in kind support for regional arts projects and encourage ongoing collaboration;
- develop audiences and broaden community engagement with the arts;
- increase employment and professional development opportunities for, and raise the profile of, regional and remote artists; and
- support quality and viability of artistic and cultural activity.

Funding process

Grants Available

RAF project funding is available through a targeted and competitive grant round, aimed at supporting high-quality arts projects aligned with the assessment criteria. RAF applicants from the ACT are eligible to seek annual grant funding of up to \$20,000 for activities commencing from 1 January the following year.

The total RAF available for ACT applicants in 2025-27 is approximately \$60,000 per annum.

Eligibility and Assessment Criteria

To be eligible for RAF, ACT applicants must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the RAF Guidelines and currently receive ACT Arts Organisation Investment funding. Activities occurring in metropolitan locations within the ACT are eligible for RAF, however priority will be given to activities focusing on arts and cultural initiatives benefiting communities in the Molonglo, Weston Creek, Woden, and Gungahlin regions, as these areas do not have dedicated arts facilities.

Applications that include partnerships with communities, groups, and artists from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, diverse gender identities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities or those living with disability, are strongly encouraged.

RAF applications will be assessed based on criteria outlined in *6.1 Addressing the assessment criteria* of the RAF Guidelines.

Grants Process and Administration

RAF will open to ACT applicants from 7 July and close 14 August, for activities starting from 1 January the following year.

To apply for funding under RAF, applicants must submit a grant application on the application form, which is available online through the [Regional Arts Australia SmartyGrants](#)

[portal](#). RAF applicants will receive an email from SmartyGrants acknowledging receipt of the application once it has been submitted.

artsACT will conduct an initial assessment of RAF applications against the eligibility criteria and notify applicants if they are not eligible.

Eligible RAF applications are then assessed on their merits against the assessment criteria and against other applications. Assessments are undertaken by artsACT and industry peers selected from Regional Arts Australia staff and/or National Assessor Pool.

Applicants will be advised by artsACT in writing of the application outcome generally within three months of the date the RAF project grant round closes for ACT applicants. If successful, applicants will be advised of any specific terms and conditions attached to the grant and then will be invited to enter into a grant agreement.

Successful applicants must submit a final report (acquittal report) within 40 business days of completion of the grant activity.

Contact

artsACT (RAF Regional Program Administrator for ACT) at artsACT@act.gov.au

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2025-27