



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications**
Office for the Arts

Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund

Opening date:	9.00am AEDT (Canberra time) 31 August 2020
Closing date and time:	11.59pm AEDT (Canberra time) on 31 May 2022 , subject to the allocation of funds
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, please contact the RISE Fund team at: RISE@arts.gov.au
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Type of grant opportunity:	Open competitive

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1. Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund

The RISE Fund is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity contributes to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications' (the department) Outcome 6.1. The department works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs).¹



The grant opportunity opens

We publish the grant guidelines on GrantConnect at www.grants.gov.au



You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the application form and address all of the eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered for a grant.



We assess all grant applications

We assess the applications against eligibility criteria [and notify you if you are not eligible, if applicable]. We assess your eligible application against the assessment criteria and compare it to other applications, including an overall consideration of value for relevant money.



We make grant recommendations

We provide advice to the decision maker on the merits of each application.



Grant decisions are made

The decision maker decides which applications are successful.



We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.



We enter into a grant agreement

We will enter into a grant agreement with you if successful. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportional to the risks involved.



Delivery of grant

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.
If the grant activity is unable to proceed as outlined in the grant agreement you must advise the department of intent to reschedule or cancel the activity.



Evaluation of the program

We evaluate your specific grant activity and the program as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

¹ www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-guidelines

1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for grants under the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand RISE Fund program (the program).

Australia's creative and cultural industries provide significant employment and economic benefits as well as supporting cultural expression, community coherence, social wellbeing and reflecting unique Australian experiences and stories. On the most recent figures (in 2018-19), Australian cultural and creative activity contributed \$115 billion to our economy and cultural and creative industries employed over 645,000 Australians.

COVID-19 is having unprecedented effects on communities in Australia and around the world, including on creative and cultural activity. Many arts and entertainment businesses stopped activities due to COVID-19 restrictions, and revenue has been significantly, if not completely, reduced. Nevertheless, many costs are continuing and organisations have refunded many tickets for cancelled events. Furthermore, many arts and entertainment businesses have had to use their cash reserves and obtain loans during the pandemic to remain solvent, leaving little left to fund activities and events when they are able to re-open.

As the impact of the pandemic continues the sector has experienced further disruption as ongoing state government lockdowns and restrictions have caused further cancellations and/or rescheduling of activities, projects and events planned for COVID-safe delivery.

The program is intended to provide finance to assist in the presentation of cultural and creative projects, activities and events, and to rebuild confidence amongst investors, producers and consumers. This will support employment of artists and workers in the arts and entertainment sector, as well as in connected industries such as hospitality, accommodation, transport and freight. This will all contribute to rebuilding Australia's economy, as well as enhancing community wellbeing and access to cultural experiences across Australia, including in outer metropolitan, regional and remote areas².

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process is administered by the department through the online grants management system, SmartyGrants: <https://arts.smartygrants.com.au>.

Applicants are encouraged to read these guidelines in their entirety before filling out an application.

2. About the grant program

The program 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 program was announced as part of the *Creative Economy*

² 'Outer metropolitan, regional and remote areas' will be generated by the mapping tool in the application form.

Support Package and opened on 31 August 2020. The program will close to applications on 31 May 2022 11.59pm AEDT (Canberra time) at the latest, subject to allocation of funds.

The program is delivered as an open competitive grant opportunity. It will support the development, delivery and presentation of activities across all art forms to audiences across Australia. Projects that target audiences in outer metropolitan, regional and remote areas will also be taken into account, as well as projects that involve tours and use local regional production, services and support acts.

The objectives of the program are to:

- assist companies in the arts and entertainment sector to develop and present activities which have been disrupted by the COVID-19 restrictions
- deliver activities, opportunities and structural adjustments that have been developed in response to the COVID-19 restrictions, including innovative ways to deliver content and productions
- assist events and activities cancelled as a result of COVID-19 restrictions to be rescheduled by funding rescheduling costs
- provide increased employment opportunities, including retention of artists and skilled workers in the arts and entertainment sector and allied industries
- generate increased economic activity in the arts and entertainment sector and allied industries
- help build the longer-term financial sustainability of cultural and creative companies, including increased revenue-earning capacity
- provide creative and cultural experiences to audiences across Australia

The intended outcomes of the program are:

- cultural and creative projects, events and activities that would have been substantially less likely to proceed without investment support are presented, consistent with public health requirements and which may include digital delivery
- cultural and creative businesses are in a stronger position to remain financially viable
- multiple cultural and creative businesses and organisations (including promoters, artists, venues, management companies and booking agencies) are supported for the pre-production or development and delivery of arts projects, events and activities, providing increased employment opportunities and skills retention for artists and workers in this industry, as well as COVID-safe experiences for audiences
- there is increased access to cultural and creative experiences in outer metropolitan, regional and remote communities

We administer the program according to the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs).³

3. Grant amount and grant period

The Australian Government will provide a total of \$200 million over 2 years from 2020-21 for the program. Funding decisions will consider a balance across art forms and types of activity, geographic and community diversity, and generation of jobs. Applications that clearly demonstrate and seek direct investment for significant employment opportunities for artists, managers, crew and

³ www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-guidelines

other parts of the supply chain will be prioritised. The application form asks you a range of questions to identify this information.

The program opened on 31 August 2020 and closes to applications on 31 May 2022 at the latest, subject to allocation of funds. Applications will be accepted at any time between the opening and closing dates for the program, the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts will be provided with funding assessment recommendations in Batches from time to time. Additional assessment recommendations may be made to the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts outside of these timeframes only in exceptional circumstances. There is no allocated funding amount for each Batch. Batch closing dates will be published at www.arts.gov.au.

Applicants may submit more than one application to a Batch, however the same applicant cannot receive funding for more than one application in the same Batch, with the exception of auspicing bodies (see 7.2 for more information).

3.1 Grant amount

Grants generally range from \$25,000 up to \$2 million, depending on the scope of the grant activity and its complexity. Smaller or larger grant amounts will also be considered, including amounts over \$2 million where warranted as assessed on a case by case basis.

A financial contribution towards the grant activities is required, this can be your own contribution or from other sources and can include in-kind contributions. There is no minimum or maximum amount of co-contribution, but the level of contribution is expected to be relative to the nature and scale of the activity, and higher co-contributions, including from states and territories, will be advantageous to your application.

While both programs remain available you can apply for a RISE program grant and a Show Starter Loan.⁴ A combination of a program grant and Show Starter Loan cannot make up more than 50 per cent of the total budget of an activity or \$5 million, whichever is lesser. If you have received, a Show Starter Loan, you will need to consider the Loan's eligibility criteria and conditions in the context of your program grant application.

The program grant must not cover costs already being funded by, or intended to be funded by, any other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government source. You must include all other sources of finance for the activity in your indicative budget.

Applicants may apply for funding for costs associated with rescheduling an event, project or activity due to COVID-19 restrictions. This includes additional costs for rescheduled events that have already been supported through a RISE grant and projects that have not received RISE Fund support, to ensure the rescheduled event can proceed. Marketing costs for rescheduled projects are eligible, however only up to 40% of these costs may be supported.

3.2 Grant period

The maximum grant period for your activity is two years, starting from the date a grant agreement is executed.

If successful, you must complete your activity by the date specified in your grant agreement.

⁴ www.arts.gov.au/departmental-news/show-starter-loans

We will be flexible regarding uncertainties associated with, and cancellations caused by, COVID-19 restrictions. If your project, event or activity is affected by COVID-19 restrictions, we will work with you to reasonably and flexibly manage your funding agreement.

4. Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all the eligibility criteria.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible your primary purpose must be the arts and entertainment⁵ and you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be registered for the purposes of GST (if applicable)
- have an account with an Australian financial institution
- comply with all regulatory, industry and legal requirements in relation to copyright, licensing and employment
- be located in any part of Australia
- have a co-contribution towards the activity

and be one of the following entity types:

- incorporated organisations
- a local government or local government-owned entity
- a partnership
- a joint (consortia) application with a lead organisation⁶
- a not-for-profit organisation
- an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006⁷
- a Sole Trader

Individual business units and entities of state or territory governments with an arts or cultural heritage purpose (such as art galleries, museums or performing arts centres) are eligible to submit applications. Commonwealth, state and territory departments are not eligible.

4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- a Commonwealth, state or territory government agency or body (including government business enterprises⁸)
- an individual (unless you are a Sole Trader)
- an unincorporated association
- an overseas resident/organisation

⁵ See glossary for an explanation of 'arts and entertainment'.

⁶ The Australian Government recognises that some organisations may seek to form consortia in order to apply for a grant under the Program. Consortia are eligible to apply and the relevant conditions applicable to consortia are at 7.2 'Joint Applications'

⁷ www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2006A00124

⁸ See glossary for an explanation of government business enterprises

- an organisation that is at risk of insolvency
- an organisation not included in section 4.1.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

Funding is available to support cultural and creative projects, events or activities that, in the absence of this funding, would be substantially less likely to proceed (due to constrained availability of funding to the applicant as a consequence of COVID-19). This includes cultural and creative events, projects and activities that have been rescheduled due to COVID -19 restrictions, including projects already supported by a RISE Fund grant and projects that have not been supported to date through the RISE Fund. Applicants may only request up to 40% of the total anticipated marketing costs for a rescheduled project; this cap does not apply to other rescheduling costs.

The program will fund cultural and creative projects, events and activities, irrespective of scale, in all art forms, including cross-art form projects, with the exception of film and television productions and interactive games. Film and television productions have access to alternative support under the \$50 million Temporary Interruption Fund, \$400 million Location Incentive extension and can also seek funding from Screen Australia, the Government's primary agency for Australian screen activity. Eligible projects need to align clearly with the program objectives and assessment criteria.

Projects, events and activities must demonstrate that there is a funding need, contribute to job creation and skills retention, support Australian artists or performers (or their work), provide experiences to audiences, be of a nature that is likely to be popular with Australian audiences, and be financial viable.

The following kinds of activities and events are eligible for funding:

- cultural and creative projects, events or activities, including innovative ways to deliver, concerts, live music, theatre and other live performances, exhibitions, tours and online delivery including the development, pre-production and delivery of an event
- cultural and creative programming and promotion
- festivals
- hiring or purchasing essential equipment for events, this might include hiring sound or lighting equipment, site infrastructure, venues and technicians and labour associated with the event (*purchase of equipment will only be considered where it is demonstrated to be the only feasible option, and/or more cost effective than leasing.*)
- development of COVID-safe infrastructure and protocols⁹
- community outreach activities that are part of cultural and creative projects, events or activities, such as workshops
- capacity-building activities that link to the objectives and outcomes of the program, supporting an organisation to build long-term financial sustainability
- film festivals and film retrospectives
- rescheduling costs and remounting costs of an event or activity that was unable to proceed due to COVID-19 restrictions (for projects already supported under a RISE Fund grant, and those not already receiving RISE Fund support.)

⁹ See glossary for explanation of COVID-safe infrastructure and protocols

All aspects of a project, activity or event are eligible for funding (with the exception of items set out in section 5.4), including all staffing costs in relation to an event or activity, including highly skilled permanent, part time and casual employees and subcontractor entities for staging of eligible tours and events.

Applications should demonstrate that activities will provide benefits to Australian audiences, and the Australian cultural and creative industries, particularly in an environment where COVID-19 may limit the ability for audiences to go to live events for an unknown period of time.

5.2 Eligible locations

Your project, event or activity must take place in Australia.

5.3 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on activities agreed with the department in your grant agreement. Expenditure on grant activities must occur between the start date and end date of your grant agreement.

Any grant funds specified in your grant agreement for artists and suppliers must be paid to artists and suppliers as a priority, with a minimum of 33% paid within 30 days of the first instalment of the grant being received. Where suppliers or artists have not been determined at the time your funding agreement is executed, 33% of the grant funds must be paid within 30 days of the suppliers or artists entering into a legally binding arrangement with you.

If your event is or has been rescheduled due to COVID-19 restrictions, the department will work with you to update the timeline of your grant agreement.

5.4 What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant for the following activities:

- competitions and Eisteddfods
- film and television production (except for the filming of live performances, such as theatre and music performances, which is eligible)
- interactive games
- built or natural heritage projects
- performances by DJs (except for producer DJs, for example creating and producing original work, which is eligible)
- royalties for non-Australian artists
- purchase of land
- insurance and catering costs, and marketing costs that are not directly associated with the event or activity
- capital expenditure (including construction/capital works, refurbishment and renovations)
- costs associated with a project, activity or event, that have already been incurred
- business start-up costs
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- more than 40% of the marketing budget of a rescheduled project
- debt repayments

- costs already being funded by, or intended to be funded by other programs administered by the department, the Australia Council or Creative Partnerships Australia
- subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone and rent and business as usual activities
- overseas travel, visas, quarantine costs and international artist fees

6. The assessment criteria

We will assess your application against the program eligibility and assessment criteria, on a value for money basis, and within the available program budget (see sections 8.1 and 8.2). Templates for budgets, work plans and risk assessments are provided in the application form.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount requested.

The following criteria are equally weighted.

Criterion 1

The degree to which the grant will contribute to achieving the objectives and outcomes of the program

This includes providing a demonstrated plan to develop and present cultural and creative projects, events or activities. This may include how an activity will:

- stage an arts or entertainment event in compliance with any health restrictions in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- provide increased employment opportunities and skills retention in the arts and entertainment and allied industries, for people in creative and non-creative roles
- generate increased economic activity in the arts and entertainment sector and allied industries (the extent to which your application demonstrates this will significantly influence its competitiveness compared with other proposals)
- reactivate the cultural and creative industries
- build community spirit, wellbeing and cohesion
- provide access to creative and cultural experiences that are inclusive and safe spaces for performers and audiences, including youth, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women, gender diverse artists and artists with disability
- provide access to creative and cultural experiences in outer metropolitan, regional and remote communities
- contribute to the long-term financial viability of the organisation

Criterion 2

The demonstrated expertise and capacity of the organisation to undertake the grant activity, including in a COVID-safe manner

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a work plan, including a breakdown of activities within a project and delivery timeframes
- prior experience in managing funds (for example your business) and/or acquitting government funding
- appropriate business or governance structures in place
- experience of artists and personnel undertaking the activity

- appropriate COVID-safe protocols in place
- appropriate risk management and flexibility built into a project to address possible additional changes to COVID-19 restrictions

Criterion 3

The demonstrated financial viability of the grant activity

This includes providing a budget that shows how the grant funding will be expended, and outlines any other income that will be used to support delivery of the activity.

You must demonstrate financial viability through the following:

- provide a balanced and realistic budget showing the requested grant amount and projected expenses, including other sources of government funding, details of what part of the activity will be funded by a Show Starter Loan (if applicable), and remuneration details for artists, performers and other workers in accordance with appropriate industrial awards and agreements (see <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/awards-and-agreements/awards/list-of-awards>)
- provide evidence of co-contributions to the activity, which may include:
 - cash or in-kind support, and could be an organisation's own contribution (for example, ticket sales), and/or support from any partners in the project
 - co-investment from other sources, including Commonwealth, state, territory or local government
- provide evidence of a track record of sound financial management in the form of current financial statements and a forecast budget for the activity or project, including artist and art worker fees, that has been approved by the applicant's accountant, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Executive Officer, Board or other relevant senior employee responsible for the business finances
- provide evidence of funding need, e.g. a statement or data about financial status
- value for money, as outlined in section 8.1

7. How to apply

Before applying, you must read these guidelines.

Any alterations and addenda¹⁰ will be published on GrantConnect at www.grants.gov.au and by registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

To apply you must:

- complete the online program application form in SmartyGrants at <https://arts.smartygrants.com.au>
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments
- submit your application during the period of the program.

You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the Criminal Code 1995¹¹ and we will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

The Australian Government will only accept a late application where an applicant has contacted the department to request late submission prior to the Batch closing date, and we have agreed to this in writing. Agreement can be made on the basis that the organisation is experiencing internet connectivity issues, extreme weather events, or other temporary extenuating administrative or governance issues.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact us immediately at RISE@arts.gov.au. We do not have to accept any additional information, nor requests from you to correct your application after the closing time.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time.

Applicants may submit more than one application to a Batch, but only one application can be successful in a Batch, with the exception of auspice bodies which can obtain funding for multiple organisations per Batch. You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents. Receipt of your application will be acknowledged via a SmartyGrants confirmation email along with an application reference number.

If you need further guidance on the application process or if you are unable to submit an application online, contact us at RISE@arts.gov.au.

7.1 Attachments to the application

We require the following documents with your application:

- evidence of support from the community (if relevant)

¹⁰ Alterations and addenda include but are not limited to: corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications, Questions and Answers (Q&A) documents and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents

¹¹ www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A04868

- support letters e.g. from industry, venues or government representatives
- evidence of artist confirmation or willingness to participate from the artist or manager, for key participating artists and/or headline acts.

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in-line with the instructions provided within the form. Templates will be provided where applicable. You should only attach the requested documents. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

Links to storage sites such as Dropbox, Google Drive or OneDrive cannot be accepted.

7.2 Applications through auspice bodies

If you are an ineligible organisation then you must arrange for a legal entity that meets the eligibility criteria in Section 4 to auspice your application. All activities undertaken must have the support and approval of the auspice body.

You and your auspice body must be aware that your auspice body will need to enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The auspice body will be responsible for meeting the obligations set out in the agreement as well as managing, reporting on and acquitting the funding.

Auspicing bodies are able to auspice and obtain funding for multiple organisations per Batch.

7.3 Joint (consortia)/partnership applications

We recognise that some organisations may want to join together in a partnership or as a group in a consortia to deliver a grant activity or project. In these circumstances, you must appoint a 'lead organisation'. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

Consortia applications must also identify all other members of the proposed group and include a letter of support from each of the organisations involved.

Each letter of support should include:

- details of the organisations involved
- an overview of how the organisations will work with the lead organisation and with each other to successfully complete the grant activity or project
- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the organisations will bring to the group
- the roles/responsibilities of the organisations and the resources they will contribute (if any)
- details of a nominated management level contact officer

If you are a successful consortia applicant, you must be able to demonstrate that you have a formal arrangement in place with all parties prior to execution of the agreement (for example through a contract or agreement). This is not required for partnership arrangements.

7.4 Timing of grant opportunity processes

You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates. The opening and closing dates are advertised on GrantConnect at www.grants.gov.au and the department's website at www.arts.gov.au.

Please note that late applications will only be accepted where there are exceptional and unanticipated circumstances and where the department has agreed in writing prior to the closing date.

There are no rounds and applications will be accepted at any time between the opening and closing dates for the program. Applications will be Batched for assessment and for recommendation to the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts. Additional assessment recommendations may be made outside of these Batches only in exceptional circumstances. There is no allocated funding amount for each Batch.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	4-6 weeks from the Batch closing date
Approval of outcomes of selection process	2-4 weeks from assessment of applications
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	2 weeks from approval of outcomes
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	2 weeks from approval of outcomes

7.5 Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, contact the program team at RISE@arts.gov.au.

8. The grant selection process

8.1 Assessment of grant applications

We review your application against the eligibility criteria. Only eligible applications will move to the next stage. We consider eligible applications through an open competitive grant process.

We assess applications against the assessment criteria (see Section 6) and against other applications. This includes taking into consideration a balance across art forms and types of activity, geographic and community diversity, and generation of jobs. We will also assess 'value for relevant money' to determine the best applications and the best combination of applications to recommend for funding that will deliver the intended outcomes of the program.¹²

We consider each application on its merits, including applications for assistance with rescheduling costs, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria
- how it compares to other applications
- the relative value of the grant sought
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the objectives and outcomes of the program.

8.2 Who will assess applications?

Experienced assessors will assess each application on its merit and compare it to other eligible applications. Assessors will be officials from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

¹² See glossary for an explanation of 'value for money'.

Assessors may seek additional information about you or your application. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even you do not nominate the sources as referees. Assessors may also consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business.

Following the completion of departmental assessments, the department may seek input and advice from:

- a Creative Economy Taskforce, composed of external experts appointed by the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts, and
- the Australia Council, the Government's principal arts funding body.

This may include sharing your application with the Australia Council.

The Creative Economy Taskforce is providing advice on sector recovery, focusing on ways to support revenue generation, innovation, arts tourism and the mental health and wellbeing benefits of the arts. The Creative Economy Taskforce is not provided with details of individual applications or applicants, but is provided with high level summary data on each assessment Batch, so as to provide strategic advice to the Minister.

We may also seek advice from relevant state and territory government agencies.

Anyone involved in the assessment process, including external bodies, will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRGs and declare any conflict of interest (as per section 13.2).

The department will provide the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts with recommendations on applications to approve for a grant.

8.3 Who will approve grants?

The Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts decides which grants to approve, taking into account the recommendations of the department and advice from the Creative Economy Taskforce and the Australia Council, and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program.

The Minister's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant (see section 13.1 for enquiries or complaints processes).

9. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

9.1 Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful, you may ask for feedback within four weeks of being advised of the outcome, by contacting RISE@arts.gov.au.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. We use the Simple Grant Agreement for this program (see description below).

Each agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. We will use a schedule to outline the specific grant requirements. Any additional conditions attached to the grant will be identified in the grant offer or during the grant agreement negotiations.

We aim to negotiate agreements with you within 30 days of the grant approval. If there are unreasonable delays by you in finalising a grant agreement, the grant offer may be withdrawn and the grant may be awarded to a different applicant.

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. You must not make financial commitments until the Commonwealth has executed a grant agreement.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

Simple Grant Agreement

There will be 30 days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth ('execute' means both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement). During this time, we will work with you to finalise details. The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period.

We base the approval of your grant and grant agreement on the information you provide in your application. You may request changes to the grant agreement. However, we will review any required changes to these details to ensure they do not affect the grant as approved by the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts.

10.2 How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount to be paid
- eligible expenditure covered by the grant
- any financial contributions you have committed to make
- any in-kind contributions
- any financial contribution provided by a third party.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

We will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payment, either partial or in full, will be made on execution of the agreement, with any subsequent payments subject to satisfactory progress on the grant activity or project. Unless otherwise agreed by us, we must receive and accept documents including but not limited to periodic reports, before subsequent milestone payments will be made. Payments will not be made where the grantee has a breach or overdue acquittal relating to previous grant funding.

Disbursement of your grant funds to third parties identified in your funding agreement is required prior to the staging of your project, event or activity, rather than withholding payments until after the event. The grant agreement specifies that it is a requirement to pass a minimum of 33% of the allocated funding in your agreed budget for artists and suppliers to the relevant artist and suppliers

within 30 days of receiving the first instalment of the grant. Where suppliers and artists are not known when you enter into your funding agreement, 33% of the allocated funding must be paid within 30 days of you entering into a legally binding agreement with the artist or supplier. This is to ensure funds are paid to artists and suppliers to support them prior to the event.

You will be required to report how and when you spent the grant funds at the completion of the grant activity or project.

10.3 Grants Payments and GST

Payments will be made as set out in the grant agreement. If you are registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST),¹³ where applicable, we will add GST to your grant payment.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office at www.ato.gov.au. We cannot provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

10.4 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse highlighted the need for organisations to adopt child safe practices including appropriate screening of staff, mandatory reporting and adoption of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The Australian Government committed to a new Commonwealth-wide framework to protect children and young people it is responsible for – the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (CCSF).

The Australian Government is considering appropriate ways to apply the requirements of the CCSF to grant recipients. A child safety clause is likely to be included in a grant agreement where the Commonwealth considers the grant is for:

- services directly to children; or
- activities that involve contact with children that is a usual part of, and more than incidental to, the grant activity.

A child safety clause may also be included in the grant agreement if the Commonwealth considers the grant activity involves children more broadly.

The successful applicant will be required to comply with all child safety obligations included in the grant agreement published with this grant opportunity or notified to the successful applicant prior to execution of the grant agreement. Irrespective of the child safety obligations in the grant agreement, you must always comply with your state and territory legislative requirements for working with children and mandatory reporting.

11. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by Section 5.3 of the CGRGs.

Your grant may also be announced by the Government, the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts and/or by your local Member of Parliament.

¹³ www.ato.gov.au/Business/GST/Registering-for-GST

12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your grant activity, event, project or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your grant, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses, including email
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately. You must also advise us in advance of an inability to meet timeframes for your grant activity, project or reporting, as agreed in your grant agreement.

You must notify us of events relating to your grant and provide an opportunity for the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts or his representative to attend.

12.2 Reporting

You must submit reports in-line with the grant agreement. We will provide templates for these reports. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed milestones and outcomes
- contributions of participants directly related to the grant activity
- expenditure of the grant.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount. The grant agreement will specify when progress (if applicable) and final reports are required.

Progress reports [If applicable]

Progress reports must:

- include evidence of your progress towards completion of agreed activities and outcomes
- show the total eligible expenditure incurred to date
- include evidence of expenditure
- be submitted by the report due date (you can submit reports ahead of time if you have completed relevant activities).

You must discuss any reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

Ad-hoc reports

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your grant. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the grant activity or project, or to demonstrate that payments have been made to suppliers and artists. We will require you to respond in writing.

Final report

When you complete the grant activity or project, you must submit a final report.

Final reports must:

- be submitted in the agreed format in the grant agreement
- identify if and how outcomes have been achieved
- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred
- be submitted within the agreed timeframe in the grant agreement.

12.3 Financial acquittal report

Depending on the value of the grant, and/or the risk level and complexity of your activity, we may ask you to provide:

- a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement, and if applicable, a report on any underspends of the grant money
- a financial acquittal report that verifies that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement. For grants over \$1 million, this should be in the form of an independently audited financial acquittal report.

12.4 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement. You can request a variation by contacting the program team at RISE@arts.gov.au before the grant agreement end date.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes. The department will confirm decisions on grant variations in writing.

12.5 Evaluation

We will evaluate the grant program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and reports for this purpose.

We may contact you up to one year after you finish your grant for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12.6 Acknowledgement

An Australian Government RISE logo, as specified in the grant agreement, must be used on materials related to grants under the program. Whenever the logo is used, the publication must also include the following acknowledgement:

Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative

The Australian Government and RISE Fund must be acknowledged at any publicly launched events or statements associated with the grant activity, including in media releases.

You must also notify us of events relating to your grant and provide an opportunity for the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts or his representative to attend.

13. Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRGs.

The department may change these guidelines from time-to-time. When this happens, the revised guidelines will be published on GrantConnect at www.grants.gov.au.

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

Any complaints, feedback or questions you have about grant decisions for this program should be sent to RISE@arts.gov.au.

If you do not agree with the way the department has handled your complaint, you may complain to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the department.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted at:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072
Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

13.2 Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program.

There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if department staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process
- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the department in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct (Section 13(7))¹⁴ of the *Public Service Act 1999*.¹⁵ Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

¹⁴ www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/psa1999152/s13.html

¹⁵ www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A00538

13.3 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the *Privacy Act 1988*¹⁶ and the Australian Privacy Principles.¹⁷ This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the department, would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Act.

13.4 Confidential Information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the three conditions below:

- you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
- the information is commercially sensitive
- revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively

¹⁶ www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A03712

¹⁷ www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/australian-privacy-principles

- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, and
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

13.5 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*¹⁸ (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail: Freedom of Information Coordinator
 Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and
 Communications
 GPO Box 594
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: foi@infrastructure.gov.au

¹⁸ www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A02562

14. Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	See subsection 12(2) of the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> . ¹⁹
administering entity	When an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes.
arts and entertainment	<p>Arts and entertainment entities are organisations whose major source of revenue or hours worked are in activities that involve at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the employment of cultural or creative workers* • the operation of venues or facilities often used to exhibit or showcase creative and cultural talent • the organisation of arts and entertainment activities. <p>*Creatives and support workers (for the purpose of the RISE Fund) are those who are engaged in either creative roles (such as artists, creative production roles) or in roles that support the arts and entertainment activity (such as technical or administrative roles).</p>
assessment criteria	Are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application rankings.
Batch	Applications are grouped for assessment and for recommendation to the Minister
commencement date	The expected start date for the grant activity.
Commonwealth entity	A Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act.
<i>Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)</i> ²⁰	Establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.

¹⁹ www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2013A00123

²⁰ www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-guidelines

Term	Definition
completion date	The expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by.
COVID-safe infrastructure and protocols	Measures to minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19, consistent with industry best practice and guidance provided by the National Cabinet, Safe Work Australia, National COVID-19 Commission Advisory Body and Australian Health Protection Principal Committee. Such measures should be reflected in an organisation's COVID-safe business plan.
date of effect	Can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
decision maker	The person who makes a decision to award a grant.
department	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.
eligibility criteria	Refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
Government business enterprises	A government business enterprise is a Commonwealth entity or Commonwealth company as defined in section 8 of the PGPA Act and prescribed in section 5 of the PGPA Rule.
grant	For the purposes of the CGRGs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under which relevant money²¹ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money²² is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth • which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	Refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
grant agreement	Sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement, and specifies the details of the grant.

²¹ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

²² Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
GrantConnect ²³	GrantConnect is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRGs.
grant opportunity	Refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	A 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
grantee	The individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
Portfolio Budget Statement Program (PBS)	Described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement, PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be Grant Programs. A PBS Program may have more than one Grant Program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
selection criteria	Comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
selection process	The method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.

²³ www.grants.gov.au

Term	Definition
value for money	<p>Value for money is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the quality of the project proposal and activities • fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives • that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government's outcomes being achieved • the potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.