

Connecting Places

Small Halls Mentorships



REGIONAL
ARTS
VICTORIA

About Connecting Places

Regional Arts Victoria's Connecting Places programs support **creative** communities.

They are designed for arts committees, small community halls, neighbourhood houses and other regional community organisations, both emerging and established, to collaborate with regional artists. Together, they build skills, confidence and strong community connections.

RAV knows that small halls are the beating heart of regional communities.

KEY INFORMATION

OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY PRESENTERS

Regional Arts Victoria is offering Community Presenters the chance to work with dedicated mentor. RAV will match successful applicants with mentors whose experience can support areas such as marketing, governance, programming, planning and more. The mentorship will lead up to a real-life performance presentation by a Community Presenter.

There are four Small Halls Mentorships available, each providing for payment of a mentor and financial contribution towards the cost of a live performance.

Community Presenters are organisations which arrange for performances or other creative experiences in regional communities. They include hall management committees, arts societies and organisations which hire local venues for events (see eligibility details in the guidelines below).

THE DETAILS

Who it's for: Community Presenters

Number of mentorships available: Four

Program dates: May 2026 – June 2027

What's involved:

- One-on-one mentorship with an experienced Community Presenter or someone else whose expertise will support the successful applicant.
- You can either nominate a preferred mentor, or RAV will help match you with a mentor.
- A performance of your choice in your local hall in 2027.
- Funding of \$4500 (\$3000 towards performance costs and \$1500 for mentor costs).
- Tailored skills development in programming, marketing, presentation and venue activation.
- Connection to a network of Community Presenters in your region, Victoria and beyond.

KEY DATES

Monday 9 March: Guidelines Released

Monday 23 March: Expressions of Interest (EOIs) open at 9am

Wednesday 1 April: Online Information Session held via Zoom at 5.30pm. Registrations required: [Click here](#)

Sunday 26 April: Expressions of Interest (EOIs) close at Midnight.

Thursday 21 May: Applicants notified of outcomes via email.

Week of 25-29 May: Program Commencement / First Meeting

Monday 1 June: Program Participants Announced

June 2026 - June 2027: Mentoring Sessions Delivered


June 2026 - June 2027: Three Monthly Check Ins with RAV

May 2027: Presentation of a show (This must occur before May 31 2027)

June 2027: Grant acquittal due

HOW TO APPLY

Applying for the Small Halls Mentorships

1. Applications must be submitted through application form: **[CLICK HERE](#)** 
2. You can **[download an application drafting tool here](#)**. This helps you prepare your answers before submitting. You will still need to copy and paste your answers into the application form via the link above in Item 1 when you apply.
3. If you already have a mentor in mind, you must include a completed **[Mentor Proposal Form](#)** in your supporting materials. The mentor must complete and sign this form.
4. We accept answers in different formats to support accessibility and different communication styles. For each written question, you can upload an audio or video recording of no more than three (3) minutes per answer instead of writing your answer.
5. If you have trouble uploading a file, you can share a Google Drive or Dropbox link to your response. Please make sure **touring@rav.net.au** can access the file.
6. You must answer every question. You can answer in writing, audio, video, or a mix of formats.
7. You must not go over the word count limit, but you can write less if you wish. If you are submitting an audio or video response, please make sure it stays within the time limit of three (3) minutes per answer.
8. If you have questions about the program or how to apply, an **information session** will be held online on **Wednesday 1 April at 5.30pm** and available to access on RAV's website after that date. **Registrations required: [Click here](#)**
9. If you have any questions, please **book a phone appointment** to discuss your application **email touring@rav.net.au** with your query. Bindi or Stephanie will be happy to help.
10. Applications close at midnight on **Sunday 26 April**. Late applications will not be accepted.

ELIGIBILITY

WHO CAN APPLY

This program is specifically designed to support regional Community Presenters who are seeking to build their programming, marketing and governance (eg succession planning and strategy) and skills. It is designed for organisations that are new to presenting or are developing their arts programming skills.

Community Presenters eligible for this program must meet ALL of the following criteria:

Location and Classification

- Located in regional Victoria, Australia and classified MMM2 or above (to check your classification, [please click here](#)).

Organisation Type

- An incorporated association OR be auspiced OR operating a for-profit entity with annual turnover of less than \$250,000.

Programming & Activity

- Able to demonstrate experience or interest in, presenting an annual program of professional performing arts activities, such as live performances, exhibitions, film screenings or cultural activities.
- Has the capacity to deliver at least one arts event by May 2027.

Venue and Community

- Operates in a small venue (e.g. community hall, neighbourhood house, mechanics institute, town hall, library or multipurpose space) .
- Venue capacity of fewer than 300 seats.
- Can demonstrate strong local community connection and audience engagement.

Funding

- Does not receive organisational or multi-year funding.