

MEDIA RELEASE
Monday 1 July 2019



New funding for festivals and artists in Victoria



Image by Richard Baxter. *Iron Horse Drive In, Newstead* by The Village Festival of New Performance, Inc.

The Regional Arts Fund in Victoria now has **two new categories** to benefit festivals and artists.

Small Festivals Grants

Small Festivals Grants will allow small, volunteer-run festivals with an arts focus, to apply for up to \$6,000 to employ a regionally based arts professional to assist in program development, coordination of an event or mentoring and skills development for the festival committee. This funding is a result of feedback from regional communities concerned about the sustainability of their festivals and the potential for volunteer burnout. The fund is a one-off amount to assist festival committees establish a sustainable vision for their event.

Fellowships

The Regional Arts Fund Fellowship program is intended to assist artists and groups to undertake a self-directed program and period of work that builds their capacity to sustain a career in regional Victoria. An amount of \$20,000 will be awarded to an individual to undertake a range of activities including residency opportunities, the creation of new work, research and development, skills development and experimentation. One Fellowship per year will be awarded to artists that can demonstrate a period of practice and experience so the Fellowship may assist in extending the boundaries of their practice.

“These two new categories have come from direct feedback from our regional arts communities,” says **Joe Toohey**, Regional Arts Victoria Executive Director.

“Artists are an important part of the ecology of our state and many creatives and events are pushing boundaries with their work, so we’re excited to be able to support that more specifically in the fund.”

The new categories open when round two of the Regional Arts Fund goes live on Monday 1 July. The closing date for applications will be Monday 19 August.

For more information about Round 2 please contact:

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Regional Arts Victoria is the peak body for regional artists and arts organisations in Victoria and the leading organisation for regional creative practice in Victoria. Through partnerships, programming and projects, we develop creative practice all over Victoria.

The Australian Government’s **Regional Arts Fund** supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote Australia. The Fund meets the strategic priorities of supporting participation in and access to the arts and encouraging greater private sector support for the arts.

In Victoria, the **Regional Arts Fund is administered by Regional Arts Victoria** according to the objectives and general eligibility determined by the Australian Government.

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Liz Zito and Joe Toohey are available for interview upon request.

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