
MEDIA RELEASE

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\$624,650 Announced for Regional Artists and Communities in Victoria

Boost Renewal Grants have been awarded in Victoria to five applicants, receiving \$624,650 in funding through the Australian Government's highly competitive Regional Arts Fund Recovery Boost, delivered in Victoria by Regional Arts Victoria. These Renewal grants will provide up to three years of funding to support regional communities that have strong partnerships and demonstrated long term outcomes, with a sustainable future-positioning focus.

Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, said the Morrison Government's investment in the long-term development and sustainability of regional arts is crucial for the recovery of Victoria's cultural and creative sector.

"We understand the extreme disruption to the arts and cultural sector in Victoria from the pandemic, which is why the Government acted quickly to introduce our \$10 million targeted measure, as part of the Relief and Recovery Fund," Minister Fletcher said.

"I am pleased to see these five projects receive \$624,650, which will provide opportunities for artists and arts workers, including those in regional communities, to develop new work, strengthen partnerships, build sustainable networks and develop cross-border relationships."

CEO of Regional Arts Victoria, Joe Toohey said that this funding has been an important step in the recovery process for many regional communities.

"We asked applicants to the Renewal Program to consider what role creativity might play in the longer-term recovery of their communities. The five successful projects are a clear demonstration of this ambition, and I congratulate them all for their leadership.

It is exciting to see the breadth of locally focused, strategic initiatives that will be taking place over the next three years. Creatives and communities from Mildura to Warrnambool and across to Lake Tyers Beach will be supported to rebuild following the impacts of COVID-19."

Please see attached for a full list of all recipients and project descriptions.

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund Recovery Boost is a \$10 million targeted measure announced by the Australian Government in 2020 as part of the Relief and Recovery Fund. It responds to the difficulties experienced by regional artists, arts organisations and communities who have been heavily impacted by COVID-19. The fund meets the strategic priorities of supporting participation in and access to the arts and encouraging greater private sector support for the arts. The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund is provided through Regional Arts Australia. In Victoria, the Regional Arts Fund is administered by Regional Arts Victoria according to the objectives and general eligibility determined by the Australian Government.

Information regarding upcoming rounds will be made available via rav.net.au

For more information on Renewal funded applicants, please contact:

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RENEWAL SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Float Incorporated

Lake Tyers Beach
\$125,000

FLOAT AIR @ GIPPSLAND LAKES - an arts residency trail on the Gippsland Lakes

FLOAT Artists In Residence (AIR) will build on the success of East Gippsland's floating art studio, FLOAT, an established residence moored on Lake Tyers that has been hosting artists since 2018. This project will establish a network of artist-ready venues across the Gippsland Lakes. Over three years Float Incorporated will plan, build partnerships, develop and then launch multiple venues in the region to be utilised as artists-in-residence spaces. The FLOAT AIR arts trail will operate as a social enterprise that grows creative and experiential tourism opportunities for local artists.

Arts Mildura

Mildura
\$124,650

Borders- Regenerating creative practices along the Murray River

Arts Mildura will deliver *Borders*, a creative inquiry into vitalising people and place, which will explore the relationship between creative, cross border communities in Victoria and New South Wales along the Murray River. Artists from regional Victoria and NSW will explore the impacts of Covid-19 border closures on their communities. Reinstating the value of rivers as meetings places and ecologies, the Borders team will foster an environment aimed at renewing creative practices in the regions. Unfolding across four communities (Albury/Wodonga, Echuca/Moama, Swan Hill region and Mildura) arts organisations will join to engage regional artists from both sides of the border.

Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV) - Shepparton and Bendigo

Shepparton and Bendigo
\$125,000

Out of the Box - Intercultural Regional Arts Network

Funding will support the development of *Out of the Box*, a new intercultural arts network to connect cultural workers and artists of colour in Shepparton, Bendigo and online. This network will enable these artists to demonstrate diverse forms of cultural production and will build skills, knowledge and opportunities that reflects a contemporary, multicultural vision for regional Victoria. Funding will allow a Cultural Facilitator to work across partnerships with young digital content producers, accessing platforms for sharing content online. Out of the Box will renew confidence, build sustainability for regional artists of colour, and develop new models of learning and practice.

Horsham Rural City Council

Horsham

\$125,000

People, Projects, Place - a creative boost for the Wotjobaluk Nations

People, Projects, Place will support the peoples of the Wotjobaluk Nations, to achieve their cultural and creative ambitions working with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council. The project will strengthen partnerships, addressing the impacts of Covid-19, experienced by First Nations people. Funding will support new creative networks/services and skill development for Traditional Owner artists improving cross cultural knowledge, and awareness for non-Indigenous partners. This will become a bridge between First Nations people and local Council and artists/arts groups. Horsham Council will provide mentoring, including the provision of a network of creative professionals to collaborate when invited supporting the Indigenous community.

Warrnambool Art Gallery

Warrnambool

\$125,000

Maar Nation Gallery & Cultural Engagement

Funding will support the employment of a Curator of Cultural Engagement at the Maar Nation Gallery, Warrnambool Art Gallery to implement programs, exhibitions and workshops. This role will engage with the community, connecting them to Aboriginal-led exhibitions and activations that are safe and accessible, inspiring people to visit, boosting business participation and engagement. Working with the established Maar Nation Steering Committee of Aboriginal Elders and Cultural leaders, and Gallery staff, the Curator will build meaningful connections with Traditional Owners Groups and communities to optimise the use of the Maar Nation Gallery space responding to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.