



# ARTS ORGANISATIONS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Funding for 2023-2026



## Introduction

The Arts Organisations Program (AOP) provides funding to a diverse portfolio of small-to-medium organisations that contribute to a sustainable and thriving arts and cultural sector in South Australia and support the goals of the *Arts and Culture Plan South Australia 2019-2024*.

AOP funding enables arts organisations to:

- deliver arts experiences for South Australians as audiences through performances, exhibitions, and publications
- commission and develop new work, in collaboration with artists and other organisations
- create jobs, employment and income for artists, creatives, other arts workers (e.g. technical, administrative) and allied areas
- offer career pathways and development opportunities for artists
- offer access to the arts and participation opportunities for South Australians, including targeted communities
- build national and international profile
- leverage income from other sources, e.g. earned revenue (including touring and export), development and philanthropic income, other government (e.g. Federal) funding.

## Purpose and Goals of the AOP

### Purpose

To support a thriving ecology for arts and culture, which empowers South Australia's makers and creators, and enables arts and culture to enrich the lives of all South Australians.

### Goals

The program contributes to an ecology that:

- enriches the lives of South Australians with arts and cultural experiences
- empowers our makers, creators and presenters
- champions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture
- amplifies the signature strengths that define the character of the arts in the state.

Organisations deliver the Purpose and Goals of the AOP through one or more of the following key focus areas:

- artistic development (creating and presenting artistic outcomes of the highest calibre with vision and imagination)
- sector development (industry-wide initiatives, arts advocacy and supporting artists' careers)
- access to the arts for the broader South Australian community (opportunities for audiences, community engagement and participation)
- national and international leadership and profile.

## Program Structure

AOP funding is designed to support organisations at different stages of their development by offering three categories of funding as follows:

### Program Support (Up to \$50 000 per annum)

The Program Support category is designed to provide the capacity for smaller project funded organisations to realise their artistic ambitions and deliver projects and programs that meet the Purpose and Goals of the AOP.

The category offers a pathway to AOP funding, with organisations in receipt of Program Support for at least two years becoming eligible to *apply* for Annual Funding, subject to available funding.

Receipt of Program Support does not guarantee future Annual Funding. This will be subject to a peer assessed application process and available funding.

Applications will be by invitation to eligible organisations, subject to budget availability, following a targeted peer-led identification process held every two years commencing in 2022 for 2023 funding and offered again in 2024 for 2025 funding.

2023 will be the first-year funding is provided through this new program category, with a minimum of two years funding through the category required before eligibility to apply for Annual Funding is met.

Program Support recipients will be eligible to apply for all Arts and Culture Grants Program categories in 2023.

### Annual Funding (Up to \$100 000)

This category supports established small to medium-sized arts organisations that are part of the South Australian arts ecology.

Applications will only be accepted from organisations already in receipt of AOP Annual Funding.

Subject to budget availability, funded Program Support organisations will have the opportunity to apply for Annual Funding in 2024, for terms commencing in 2025, after completing two years as Program Support funded organisations.

Annual Funding recipients will be eligible to receive one *Projects – Independent Artists and Groups* grant per annum, as well as other grant categories as outlined in this guideline.

### Multi-Year Funding 2023-2026 (\$70 000 to \$450 000 per annum\*)

This category supports established small to medium-sized arts organisations that make up the South Australian arts ecology.

In 2022, applications will only be accepted from organisations already in receipt of AOP Multi-year Funding, or that have been in receipt of Annual Funding for at least two years.

Subject to budget availability, organisations in receipt of Annual Funding will have the opportunity to apply for Multi-year Funding in 2026, for terms commencing in 2027.

In 2024, at the halfway point of the multi-year term, a review will be conducted by a panel of peer assessors to ensure Multi-year funded organisations are continuing to operate in accordance with the Purpose and Goals of the AOP and their funding agreements.

This process may result in a variation to conditions outlined in the organisation's Funding Agreement. This may include increased reporting (e.g. providing quarterly or monthly financial statements) , a requirement to address specific performance issues within an agreed period, and/or notice that funding levels may be varied if these issues are not satisfactorily addressed.

*\*Multi-year Funding is capped at \$450 000 per annum (indexed for each subsequent year of the funding period).*

## Eligibility

All applicants for Program Support, Annual Funding and Multi-year Funding must be a South Australian-based legal entity, with a primary strategic focus on the development and/or presentation of high-quality arts programs, products and services. This may include Incorporated Associations, Australian Public Companies, Australian Private Companies and Aboriginal Corporations.

### Program Support

- New applicants will not have received AOP funding in the past.
- New applicants must have a track record of receiving at least three peer-assessed Project grants over the preceding three years, through Arts South Australia's Arts and Culture Grants Program or through the Department of Innovation and Skills' Music Development Office. This does not include Arts Recovery Fund grants.
- To count towards eligibility, these grants must have supported projects of a similar scale to the work the organisation plans to deliver with Program Support funding and have been acquitted satisfactorily.
- Program applicants will be invited to apply following a peer-led identification process.

### Annual and Multi-year Funding

- New applicants for Annual funding must have been in receipt of Program Support for at least two years at the time of application. (i.e. Program Support organisations funded in 2023 and 2024 will be able to apply for Annual funding in 2024 for 2025 funding.)
- New Applicants for Multi-year funding must have been in receipt of Annual Funding for at least two years at the time of application. (i.e. Organisations in receipt of Annual Funding in 2021 and 2022 are eligible to apply in 2022 for Multi-Year Funding 2023-2026.)

### Who is not eligible:

- Individuals
- Statutory Authorities
- Non-legal entities
- Organisations funded through the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework (NPAPF) formerly known as Major Performing Arts (MPA) Companies
- Local government entities

- Universities
- Non-arts and cultural organisations
- Organisations with a primary focus on screen, commercial streaming or television content development, gaming, film making or presentation
- Organisations with a primary commercial focus such as a commercial gallery, promotor, publisher or commercial venue
- Organisations whose primary purpose is the presentation of work by young people under the age of 26.

## Information for Applicants

- When applying for funding, applicants must ensure that the amount requested is realistic and substantiated in the application, in relation to the scale of the organisation's operations, artistic program, and previous levels of funding.
- Meeting the AOP Purpose and Goals, and past performance against the assessment criteria, will not entitle an organisation to funding beyond the current period. Each application will be assessed on its merits against the criteria in a competitive round with other applicants.
- Previously funded organisations that are not recommended for funding may be eligible for transition support, subject to available funds and conditions to be negotiated with Arts South Australia.
- All funded organisations will be required to enter into a Funding Agreement with Arts South Australia for the period of funding.

## Assessment Criteria

When assessing applications, peers will consider the extent to which the organisation's past performance and proposed program or business approach demonstrate (where relevant):

### Visionary leadership

May include:

- Vision and imagination of the artistic rationale and program, and artistic outcomes of the highest calibre
- Quality, relevance and innovation of previous and proposed program and/or service provision
- Track record, creative achievement and skill of leadership team and artists
- Development of the art form or area of practice
- Strategies for positioning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and artists at the centre of South Australia's arts and cultural landscape
- Contribution to South Australia's reputation for arts leadership at a national and international level.

### Strategic partnerships and collaboration

May include:

- Collaboration and commissioning between artists and organisations, and/or with communities and government

- Networks, collaborations and partnerships which optimise resources and amplify strengths and increase opportunities
- Agile and collaborative responses to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Embracing diversity**

May include:

- Opportunities for a wide range of South Australians, in metropolitan, regional and remote settings, to participate in arts experiences as audiences or artists
- Strategies for increasing access, social inclusion and diversity
- Pathways for participation and engagement with South Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities
- Inclusion and encouragement of new voices and approaches across all demographics
- Deeper engagement with, and involvement of, targeted communities and/or audiences and the delivery of artistic benefits.

### **Courageous experimentation**

May include:

- Commitment to experimentation, risk taking and bravery, together with strategies to manage risk and ensure ongoing organisation stability
- Incorporation of new ways of working and entrepreneurial thinking into operations
- Harnessing digital transformation and future technologies.

### **Sound business performance**

Must include:

- Strong financial performance and sound financial position (N.B.: While the impact of COVID-19 on financial performance will be taken into consideration, applicants must have a clear strategy for how they will work to ensure future viability)
- Realistic budget, and funding request, which is appropriate to the scale and impact of operations and proposed artistic program
- Diversification of income, resources and support (e.g. fundraising, sponsorships, partnerships, grants and other funding) secured from sources other than Arts South Australia at a level commensurate with the operations of the organisation
- Employment impact and/or strategies to create jobs and employment opportunities for South Australian artists and arts workers.

May include:

- Development of local, national and/or international markets, and new ways to engage with those markets, to achieve economic benefits.

## **Application Requirements**

### **Program Support**

Applicants will be required to submit the following via the Smarty Grants system:

<b>Organisation Overview</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief description of your organisation including your main areas of focus and how you fit within the South Australian Arts ecology.</li> </ul>
<b>Vision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A description of how Program Support will assist your organisation to achieve its future ambitions.</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief outline of how your organisation aligns with the AOP purpose and objectives and responds to the assessment criteria.</li> </ul>
<b>Artistic Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A description of your program for 2023 including project outlines and details of key creative personnel. Indicate which projects still require grant funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Achievements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A year-to-date list of key achievements for 2022. (Organisations that are up to date with their Monthly Activity Reports are not required to provide this information separately).</li> </ul>
<b>Financial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A detailed budget for 2023.</li> <li>• Profit and Loss Statement as at 30 June 2022.</li> </ul>
<b>Organisation Structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of Board members and key artistic staff.</li> </ul>

Program Support recipients will be eligible to apply for grants in all Arts and Culture Grants Program categories in 2023.

### Annual Funding

Applicants will be required to submit the following via the Smarty Grants system:

<b>Organisation Overview</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief description of your organisation including your main areas of focus and how you fit within the South Australian Arts ecology.</li> </ul>
<b>Vision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your organisation's vision for 2023 and how Annual Funding will help you achieve this.</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief outline how your organisation aligns with the AOP purpose and objectives, and responds to the assessment criteria</li> </ul>
<b>Artistic Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A description of your program for 2023, including project outlines and details of key creative personnel.</li> </ul>
<b>Benchmark</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominate one national and one international organisation as aspirational benchmarks of artistic quality and business practice.</li> </ul>

<b>Achievements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A year-to-date list of key achievements for 2022. (Organisations that are up to date with their Monthly Activity Reports are not required to provide this information separately).</li> </ul>
<b>Financial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A detailed budget for 2023.</li> <li>• Profit and Loss Statement as at 30 June 2022.</li> </ul>
<b>Organisation Structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of Board members and key artistic staff.</li> </ul>

Annual Funding recipients will be eligible to apply for grants in the following Arts and Culture Grants Program categories in 2023:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Grants
- Richard Llewellyn Deaf and Disability Grants
- Market Development
- Projects – Independent Artists and Groups (only one grant per annum)
- Projects – Community
- Projects – Public Art and Design
- Projects – Touring Support
- Major Projects – Major Commission
- Major Projects – Public Art and Design Major Commission
- Major Projects – Collaboration
- Special programs and initiatives.

### Multi-year Funding

Applicants will be required to submit the following via the Smarty Grants system:

<p><b>Strategic Plan</b></p> <p>Strategic Plan covering 2023 to 2026, which includes as a minimum the following information:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief description of your organisation including your main areas of focus and your vision for the future.</li> <li>• A description of your program for 2023 including project outlines and details of key creative personnel.</li> <li>• A brief description of your forward plans for 2024-2026.</li> <li>• KPIs that include (as a minimum):             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• goals that respond to the AOP purpose, objectives and assessment criteria</li> <li>• an end of year result that is less than a 5% variation between budgeted and actual result</li> <li>• number and type of audience engagement, service support and sector development activities and forecast number of attendances at these activities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A description of how your organisation is responding strategically to the COVID challenges into the future.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Core Application Questions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does your organisation demonstrate visionary leadership?</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does your organisation collaborate with other arts organisations and/or partners in the broader community?</li> <li>• How is your organisation addressing diversity through your practice?</li> <li>• Provide examples of your organisation’s approach to experimentation and risk taking.</li> <li>• Provide details of how your organisation is demonstrating sound business performance, e.g. diversifying its income, resources and support, creating jobs and employment opportunities for South Australian artists and arts workers.</li> </ul>
<b>Benchmark</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominate one national and one international organisation as aspirational benchmarks of artistic quality and business practice.</li> </ul>
<b>Achievements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A year-to-date list of key achievements for 2022. (Organisations that are up to date with their Monthly Activity Reports are not required to provide this information separately).</li> </ul>
<b>Organisation Structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of Board members and key artistic staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Financial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed budget for 2023</li> <li>• Profit and Loss Statement as at 30 June 2022 and end of year forecast.</li> </ul>

Multi-year Funding recipients are eligible to apply for grants in the following Arts and Culture Grants Program categories in 2023\*:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Grants
- Richard Llewellyn Deaf and Disability Grants
- Market Development
- Projects – Community
- Projects – Public Art and Design
- Projects – Touring Support
- Major Projects – Major Commission
- Major Projects – Public Art and Design Major Commission
- Major Projects – Collaboration
- Special programs and initiatives.

\*While this suite of programs may change over time it is intended that multi-year funded organisations will be eligible to apply to a comparable range of programs during their funding term.

## Key Program Dates

Date	Application and Assessment Timeline
Monday 11 April	Program opens
5:00pm Monday 13 June 2022	Applications close
Friday 14 October	Outcomes advised
1 January 2023	New funding terms commence

## How to Apply

Eligible organisations should email [ASAGrants@sa.gov.au](mailto:ASAGrants@sa.gov.au) to arrange a meeting to discuss your application with your nominated Arts South Australia point of contact and to be sent a link to the SmartyGrants application form.

You will be unable to submit an application if you have an overdue acquittal. Email [ASAGrants@sa.gov.au](mailto:ASAGrants@sa.gov.au) if you are unsure.

Late applications will not be accepted.

## After you Apply

<b>Acknowledgment</b>	You will receive an automated email from Smarty Grants acknowledging submission of your application.
<b>Assessment</b>	<p>Applicants will be assessed on the written application.</p> <p>The peers may also consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ attendance at, and appraisals of events, performances, and exhibitions</li> <li>○ invited, external peer reviews</li> <li>○ industry reviews, videos and recordings, referee reports and other support material</li> <li>○ previous AOP annual acquittal reports, including audited reports and KPIs.</li> </ul> <p>A summary of funding outcomes will be available on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website following notification of applicants.</p>
<b>Approval, Notification and Advice</b>	All applicants will be notified of funding outcomes by email by 14 October 2022. Return of funding agreements and payment of invoices will be managed through Arts South Australia's online grants portal.

	Funding will be paid from 1 January 2023 in instalments as per funding agreement.
<b>Funding Agreement</b>	All funded organisations will be required to enter into a Funding Agreement with Arts South Australia for the period of funding.  Fixed level funding arrangements may be subject to change if the budget or policies of Arts South Australia are reduced or changed.
<b>Revised Program and Budget</b>  If required, a revised program and budget must be uploaded into Smarty Grants by the end of December 2022.	<p><b>Program Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A revised program and budget are not required.</li> </ul> <p><b>Annual Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A revised program and budget are required if the awarded amount is 75% or less than the amount requested.</li> </ul> <p><b>Multi-year Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A revised program and budget are required for year one of the funding period if the awarded amount is 75% or less than the amount requested.</li> <li>• A revised program and budget are due on 1 December of each subsequent year of the funding period for the term of the agreement.</li> </ul>
<b>Mid-term Review</b>	At the halfway point of the Multi-year term, a review will be conducted by a panel of peer assessors to ensure Multi-year funded organisations are continuing to operate in accordance with the Purpose and Goals of the AOP and their funding agreements. The review will be conducted by the peers using industry knowledge of performance and acquittal reports provided to date. Additional information may be requested at this time.
<b>Reporting</b>  All reports must be submitted through Smarty Grants.  All reports are due within four months of the end of each year of the funding period except for the Monthly update which is due on the first of each month.	<p><b>Program Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An artistic report, statistical report, and financial statements (Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet).</li> <li>• A description of how the Program Support funding assisted your operations.</li> <li>• Monthly update of current successes, opportunities, issues or projects.</li> </ul> <p><b>Annual Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An artistic report, statistical report, and financial statements (Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet).</li> <li>• Monthly update of current successes, opportunities, issues or projects.</li> </ul> <p><b>Multi-year Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artistic report.</li> <li>• Statistical report.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Audited financial statements (Profit and Loss and Balance sheet) for each year of the funding term.</li><li>• A report against the KPIs detailed in your Strategic Plan.</li><li>• A copy of your organisation's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.</li><li>• Monthly update of current successes, opportunities, issues or projects.</li></ul>
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**For more information:**

Please contact  
Arts South Australia

T 8463 5444

E [ASAGrants@sa.gov.au](mailto:ASAGrants@sa.gov.au)

W <https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/responsibilities/arts-and-culture/grants/arts-organisation-program>