

2019/20 RADF PROGRAM



Woven



The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Cairns Regional Council to support local arts and culture in Regional Queensland.



Cairns Esplanade Lagoon

Strategic Framework & Background

Cairns Regional Council's commitment to culture and the arts is clearly demonstrated through our continued delivery of world-class programming and the infrastructure and resources that stimulate and support creative and cultural activity. With community effort at its foundation, the city is rapidly earning a reputation as a hot spot for culture, creativity and the arts.

Adopted by Council in 2018, Council's *Strategy for Culture and the Arts 2022*, was developed via a progressive, place-based and participatory process. In developing the strategy, Council spoke with eighty-four community organisations and groups, involving more than two-hundred people from across nine distinct sectors: Tourism and Economic Development; Education; Performing Arts; Visual Arts; Presentation and Writing; Artist-Run Initiatives; Heritage and Museum; Screen Industry; and Advocacy and Arts Leaders.

Consultation was designed to:

- ▶ Gain a better understanding of the strengths, issues and scope of the arts and cultural environment in the Cairns region
- ▶ Build consensus and acceptance of the priorities
- ▶ Improve and develop responsive and relevant programs and services

These conversations have shaped the fundamental priorities and thematic framework of the strategic plan.

PRIORITY ONE

Infrastructure, resources and skills that support and stimulate the cultural and creative life of our community.

PRIORITY TWO

Culture, heritage and place are valued, shared, celebrated and promoted.

PRIORITY THREE

A robust cultural economy fuelled by an international reputation as a tropical, cultural and creative hub.

Our case for stronger investment in the 2019/20 RADF program, from Council as well as Arts Queensland, is underpinned by the following strategic objectives:

Strategy 1.4.1: Provide grants funding that builds and sustains the viability and productivity of community based organisations and enhances the capacity and capability of local arts, cultural and creative practitioners.

Action 3: Increase investment in the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) partnership with the Queensland Government, and reshape RADF to align with the strategic objectives of the strategy and the changing needs of the sector.

OVERVIEW

RADF Program 2019/20

As we shift into year two of our planning cycle, the 2019/20 RADF program is designed to build and consolidate our achievements, strengthen sector capacity and capability, and produce a broad range of diverse, multi-layered and multi-art form initiatives.

The proposed 2019/20 RADF program contains two core RADF program areas which are supported by Council's in-kind grants program. The in-kind grants are open to individuals as well as not-for-profit organisations and provide a significant boost to the RADF Community Grants program by supporting applicants with resources and capabilities to enhance their arts and cultural projects and activities.

The program is also underpinned by a strong evidence-based evaluative process through the State of the Arts research project (SoARTS) This ground-breaking partnership with JCU and CQU, now in its second year, has been designed to investigate the value and contribution of the cultural and creative sector to the wellbeing and economy of Cairns as we move through our 5-year planning cycle.

The 2019/20 RADF program will be a key focus in the research with specific attention on (a) City of the Arts Hero Project and (b) Flame.Arts Access program in order to produce case study reports and evidence-based evaluation and analysis on the social, economic and career-development value of these projects.

RADF PROGRAM 1: COMMUNITY FUNDING STREAMS

Major Rounds
City of the Arts Hero Project
Individual Professional Development
Small Arts Grants

RADF PROGRAM 2: MAJOR COUNCIL INITIATIVE

RADF 2019/20 Flame Arts Access Program:
Targeting People with Disability; Young People; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and creative practitioners

CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL'S IN-KIND GRANTS PROGRAM

Venue hire, Technical support, Resources and professional expertise



PROGRAM 1: Community Funding Streams

Category 1: Major Grant Round

The Major Grant Round will comprise two funding rounds with set closing dates. The program will target diverse arts streams and disciplines and will foster professional development, employment opportunities, cultural tourism, promotion, skill sharing and collaboration. Applications will be capped at \$10,000.

Category 2: City of the Arts Hero Project

This is a brand new addition to our annual program of major grants. The program will be administered via one funding round per year, and will provide funds for one large-scale hero project. Applications will be open to individuals, organisations or creative collaborators with a strong professional track record and show a strong investment from other funding sources. This major grant category will focus on:

- › A range of disciplines, with preference towards collaborations that engage multi art forms
- › The development of projects/products that:
 - produce high-quality and highly visible work
 - have an outcome with a regional, state or international profile
 - create strong legacies for those engaged in the project and foster long-term and positive outcomes
 - address RADF criteria for investment: Quality, Reach, Impact and Viability
 - address Cairns Regional Council's priorities for Culture and the Arts.

Applications will be capped at \$25,000.

Category 3: Quick Response: Individual Professional Development Program

Provides funds to artists and cultural workers to attend and engage in conferences, mentorships and master classes. Grants will be capped at \$1,000 for travel within Queensland, and up to \$1,500 for interstate and international travel costs.

Category 4: Quick Response: Small Arts Grant

Offers up to \$500 for artists to access a wide range of resources to support their arts practice, such as: art materials, catalogues, CD printing and promotions. This stream of funding has proven to be highly successful and an extremely valuable resource for local artists at a grassroots level.

The anticipated outcomes of the 2019/20 Community Funding Streams will:

- › support Queensland Government's commitment to build cultural capacity, cultural innovation and community pride
- › support the initiatives outlined in Council's new Strategy for Culture and the Arts 2022
- › enable diverse professional development and employment opportunities
- › support the planning, promotion and delivery of high-quality arts and cultural activities
- › deliver a diversity of creative, social, environmental and economic benefits for our local arts and cultural sector
- › provide a platform for cross-sector partnerships and collaboration
- › encourage and support cultural and creative excellence.



PROGRAM 2: Major Council Initiative

RADF 2019/20 Flame.Arts Access Program

Background

As part of our annual programing, Council's Cultural Services team continues to produce an outstanding range of programs, workshops and development activities that ultimately lead to professional, employment and community engagement outcomes.

Flame.Arts is a broad and encompassing program aimed to consolidate, rebrand, package and present individual creative activities as a unified program of mentorships, skills and career development across diverse creative disciplines and industries.

Designed to create pathways and conduits for emerging artists, Flame.Arts has been initiated in response to priorities identified in consultation with the local arts and cultural sector, wherein developing pathways for further education and employment in the creative industries, is recognised by the sector as one of the top five challenges that we face as a region.

By providing access to Council venues and facilities, networking, participatory cultural experiences and building skills and knowledge amongst participants, we aim to build a more vibrant and sustainable creative industry in our region and reinforce our reputation as the arts and cultural capital of Northern Australia.

Project Scope

As a Major Initiative in the 2019/20 RADF program, Council wishes to partner with Arts Qld to expand the quality, reach, impact and viability of the broader Flame.Arts program by embedding a strategic and targeted focus to ensure tailored engagement by people with disability, young people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and creative practitioners.

Flame.Arts Access aims to create pathways to practice, career development and employment opportunities for artists who are often under-represented. The program will provide an implementation springboard for the strategic work currently being undertaken by Council as outlined in Section 5 of this report: Arts and Disability Strategy; Creative Strategy for Young People; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander projects.

Funds will be used to employ professional and appropriate facilitators, mentors, trainers and supportive teams experienced in working with the Flame.Arts Access three target groups.

FLAME.ARTS

MUSIC

VISUAL

SCREEN

STAGE

DESIGN

RADF 2019/20 Flame.Arts Access Program

Targeting:

- › People with Disability
- › Young People
- › Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander artists and creative practitioners

- › Leg-up Grants
- › Critical Thinkers Platform

Project Funding

Funds will target direct program costs, such as:

- › Artists' fees
- › Creative facilitators' fees
- › Travel and accommodation
- › Production and materials

Council will support this investment with significant in-kind, such as:

- › Venue hire
- › Ticketing
- › Technical equipment and expertise
- › Promotion and marketing
- › Internal project management, administration and facilitation
- › Research and evaluation.

RADF 2019/20 Flame.Arts Access program will also be supported by:

- › **Flame.Arts Access Leg-Up Grants**
Offering small grants for organisations and individuals to support the development of projects within our region as well as further afield. Grants will be capped at \$1000.
- › **Flame.Arts Access Critical Thinkers Platform**
The Critical Thinkers program will comprise up to two public forum sessions to inspire discussion, debate and a new way of thinking focusing on topics that address pathways to practice and creative participation.



The anticipated outcomes of the RADF 2019/20 Flame.Arts Access Program will:

- › support Queensland Government's commitment to build cultural capacity, cultural innovation and community pride
- › implement initiatives outlined in Council's new Strategy for Culture and the Arts 2022
- › consolidate and grow unique and viable partnerships designed to build the capacity and capability of young people, people with disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and creative practitioners
- › ensure targeted engagement in programs that encourage pathways to further participation, education and employment in the cultural and creative industries
- › provide equitable, accessible and affordable infrastructure, resources and cultural experiences
- › stimulate discussion and debate and new ways of thinking
- › develop evidence-based data that will guide future investment in programs, projects and resources.

Critical Factors supporting the proposal

The following key factors underpin and support new initiatives in this year's proposal by leveraging the significant body of work currently underway.

Young Creatives Strategy

As part of our current 2018/19 RADF partnership with Arts Qld, well respected Industry Leader, Lenine Bourke has been engaged by Council to drive and deliver the below body of work by September 2019:

Underway >>>

Strategic Research, Review and Consultation to define:

- Trends and issues
- Participation in arts and culture, employment and entrepreneurship
- Existing and potential pathways

To begin June 2019 >>>

Strategy setting - shaping key priorities, strategies and actions into a Young Creatives Strategy.

Arts and DisAbility Strategy

As part of our current 2018/19 RADF partnership with Arts Qld, Queensland's premier arts and disability advocate and service provider, Access Arts have been engaged by Council to deliver the below body of work by September 2019:

Underway >>>

Strategic Research, Review and Consultation to define:

- Best practice and policy development - Queensland, national and international models
- A network of key project partners to include disability service providers, TAFE; CQU; JCU and REACH
- Trends and issues
- Participation in the arts and culture, employment and entrepreneurship
- Existing and potential pathways

To begin June 2019 >>>

Strategy setting - shaping key priorities, strategies and actions into an Arts and DisAbility Strategy.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Projects

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and creative expression are at the heart of the vibrant and multi-layered narrative that shapes our region's identity. Council's *Strategy for Culture and the Arts 2022* commits to delivering a broad range of activities, programs and industry partnerships that will enhance effective and outcome-focused audience development along with cultural and creative professional development, collaboration and programming.

Completed March 2019 >>>

Performing Arts Residency: *Woven* – a critically acclaimed new work delivered through AustraNesia and Cultural Services performing arts residency model and launched at CPAC to a sell-out audience in March 2019.

Completed May 2019 >>>

Jina's Journey to be developed and presented through Cairns Children's Festival. Developed by Miriki Performing Arts and Cairns Regional Council, in consultation with Elders of the Yidin and Mamu nations. *Jina's Journey* shares an important message of discovery and adventure that bridges cultures and generations, for children and by children.

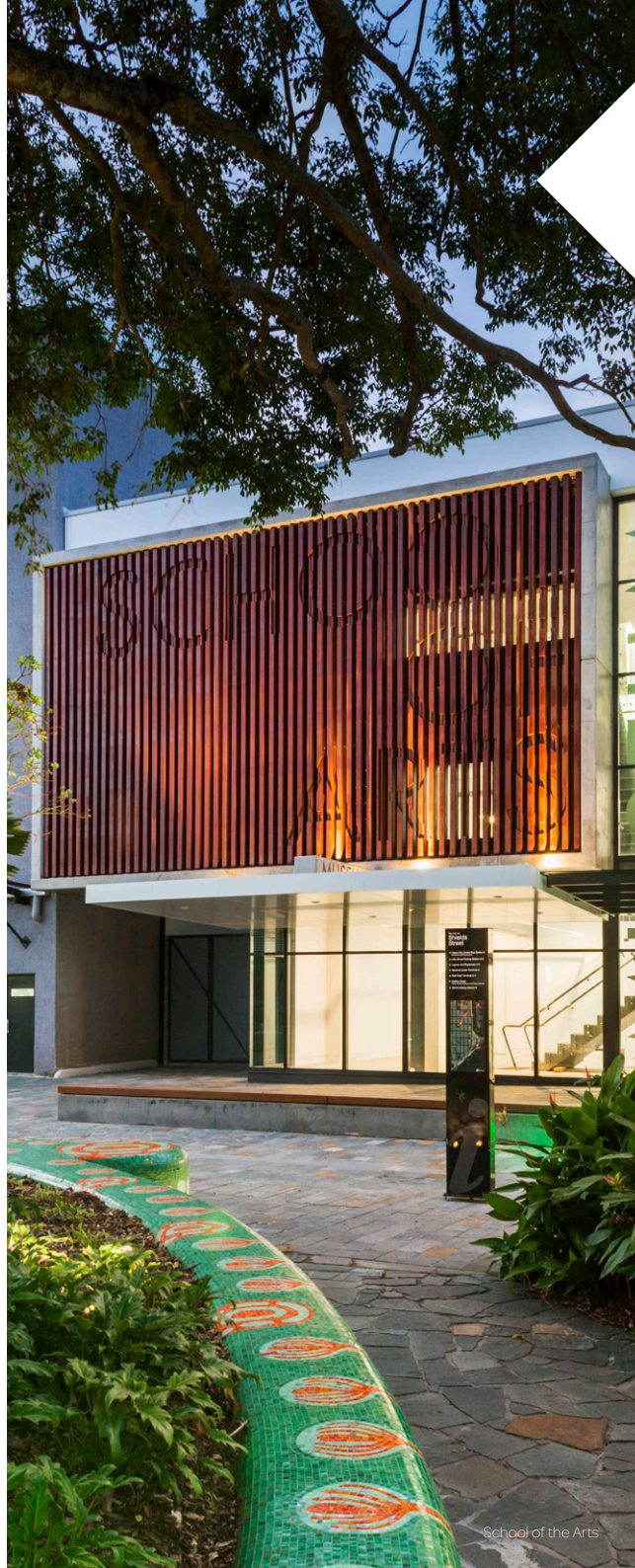
State of the Arts Research Project (SoARTs)

SoARTs is a ground-breaking collaboration between James Cook University (JCU) and Central Queensland University (CQU). As we move through the five-year strategic planning cycle, the research aims to investigate the value and contribution of the cultural and creative sector to the wellbeing and economy of Cairns.

Outputs >>>

The tangible outputs of the research will:

- produce an annual report card on the state of the arts in Cairns
- monitor and measure change and transformation in the sector over the next five-years
- provide evidence that will guide future decision-making and investment and support our reputation and standing as the arts and cultural capital of Northern Australia.



RADF Presentation and Promotion

Council's Cultural Services' communication, marketing and design team are in the process of developing a much stronger visual advocacy presence for our combined suite of grants, including: RADF; Arts and Cultural In-Kind Grant; and Arts and Cultural Infrastructure Grant.

Underway >>>

Streamlining, coordination, presentation and promotion of our grants program will be driven by a dedicated Cultural Services Arts and Cultural Grants Coordinator.