**First Night Showcase – Judith Wright Arts Centre**

**Guidelines for Expression of Interest**

**Introduction**

In June 2020, the Queensland Government announced an Arts and Culture Recovery Package of $22.5 million over two years to stabilise Queensland’s arts companies, secure employment for artists and arts workers and deliver COVID-safe cultural experiences for Queensland audiences.

The First Night Showcase Program is part of a suite of initiatives that recognise the significant impact of COVID-19 on artists, organisations and the temporary closure of many facilities including Judith Wright Arts Centre (JWAC) due to restrictions.

Named after the celebrated Australian poet and activist, the centre is a vibrant arts facility in Brisbane’s Fortitude Valley, which is owned and operated by the Queensland Government and managed by Arts Queensland.

JWAC focuses on supporting the small to medium arts and cultural sector in Queensland through provision of accessible accommodation and spaces for creative development and presentation. The centre houses ten arts and cultural tenants, and two commercial tenants and features a 300-seat performance space, multipurpose and rehearsal spaces, meeting rooms and art galleries.

What is the First Night Showcase Program?

Arts Queensland invites interested parties to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in the First Night Showcase Program. This program will support independent artists, early career artists, and arts organisations to activate JWAC through development and presentation of new visual and performing arts works, between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021.

*First Night Showcase Program* at JWAC aims to:

* champion the development and presentation of Queensland independent artists, early career artists, and arts organisations;
* support strong engagement and collaboration between independent artists and/or early career artists, and arts organisations;
* support the arts and cultural sector to activate and shape JWAC spaces and programs;
* provide a safe, inclusive centre for community members to meet, collaborate and share Queensland stories.

**Queensland Government commitments**

Arts Queensland is committed to realising the ambitions of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Economic Participation Framework, the Queensland Cultural Diversity Policy, the Queensland Multicultural Policy, the Queensland Youth Strategy and the National Arts and Disability Strategy.

Applications that include the following target groups as creators, participants or audiences will strengthen the implementation of Queensland Government commitments:

* Older people (over 55 years old);
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
* Australian South Sea Islander peoples;
* People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;
* Children and young people (0-25 years old);
* People with disability\*.

\*funding recipients are expected to meet legal obligations in relation to accessibility including access to web content.

Applicants are encouraged to explore how they might direct their activities to these specific target groups as well as to regional Queenslanders where appropriate.

**What can you apply for?**

Individuals, groups and organisations can apply for up to $30 000 cash funding, and JWAC in-kind venue support of up to $40 000. Applicants who are located more than 100km from the Brisbane CBD can apply for up to an additional $7 000 to cover their travel and accommodation costs only.

Applicants can use the funding to activate JWAC for:

* creative development projects with a short presentation season;
* a short season of stage-ready work;
* a program of workshops or masterclasses;
* a program of regular events, such as a performance series;
* a residency with public presentation outcomes;
* festivals or one off events;
* new digital works using the JWAC façade projection technology;
* an installation or exhibition of works in the JWAC foyers;
* staging of livestreamed or recorded works;
* educational activities or events.

# Who is eligible?

To be eligible, all applicants must:

* have an active Australian Business Number (ABN);
* be over 18 years of age or have the application co-signed by their legal guardian

confirming they will take responsibility for managing any funding that may be

offered to the applicant. In this case, the bank account will be in the name of the

legal guardian;

* have satisfied the reporting requirements of any previous Arts Queensland funding;
* be based in Queensland;
* show evidence of venue availability at JWAC, including in-kind support and hard costs in the project budget;
* be able to present proposed activity at JWAC between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021;
* not be a current employee of a state government agency;
* not be a current or former Arts Queensland employee who ceased employment less than six months before applying.

Arts Queensland also accepts applications made on your behalf by an auspice organisation based in Queensland. An auspicing body **must**:

* have an active ABN;
* have a bank account in the name of the auspicing body;
* agree to support an individual, organisation or group who is unable to make an application on their own behalf and manage any approved grant (further details below);
* agree to support an individual, organisation or group that meets the objectives of the auspicing body‘s constitution;
* submit the application in the name of the applicant (individual, organisation or group);
* be a small to medium arts/cultural organisation previously funded by Arts Queensland since 1 January 2019;
* must not submit another application to First Night Showcase JWAC for the same project.

EOIs will be deemed ineligible if:

* the EOI is incomplete;
* the EOI is received by Arts Queensland after the closing deadline;
* the EOI requests 100 per cent of project costs;
* the EOI does not provide quote/s for in-kind support and hard costs or provide evidence of JWAC space availability;
* funding is proposed to be used for:
	+ planning for or maintenance of infrastructure;
	+ capital or equipment purchase;
	+ fundraising activities, awards, competitions, eisteddfods or prizes
	+ costs associated with conferences, research or core business activities, including business start-up costs, administrative and other organisational costs not directly associated with the project or program. For assistance with business costs, visit the Queensland Government’s Business and Industry Portal;
	+ training, private tuition or study, or will contribute to course assessment. Professional development applications should be directed to the Individuals Fund;
	+ touring costs;
	+ filmmaking including the development and production of screen projects and interactive media. Filmmaking applications should be directed to Screen Queensland or Screen Australia
	+ any activities that are the responsibility of another specialist funding body.

Applicants who are recipients of core and/or administered funding through Arts Queensland must demonstrate how the activity differs from what the organisation is currently funded to deliver.

Applicants who have received funding from other Government sources must evidence these within their budget.

Tertiary educational institutions are eligible to apply, however an authorising officer of the institution must provide a statement to confirm the activity is outside of core business and does not receive direct financial support from the tertiary institution.

**Auspicing an application**

If the application is successful, the auspicing body will receive any funds allocated and is

responsible for the management of the project and the acquittal of grant funds. The

auspicing body sponsoring an application **must**:

* agree to accept legal and financial responsibility for the grant;
* agree with the applicant about how the grant will be managed;
* submit the application on behalf of an individual, group or organisation;
* if approved, manage all aspects of the terms and conditions;
* provide up-skilling, mentoring, governance and administration support to the

individual, group or organisation.

**EOI Submission Process**

The First Night Showcase Program at JWAC EOIs opens on 11 August 2020 and closes at 4pm AEST 8 September 2020.

**Step 1**

All applicants should make contact with Centre Management by no later than 25 August 2020, on telephone (07) 3872 9000 or email jwac@arts.qld.gov.au to confirm venue availability and obtain quotes for in-kind support and hard costs for their project budget. The final date for clarifications is 1 September 2020.

**Step 2**

Submit your EOI online at: <https://artsqueensland.smartygrants.com.au> by 4pm AEST 8 September 2020. Arts Queensland will check the EOI for eligibility. If we deem your EOI is ineligible, we will provide guidance on how to develop a more competitive submission.

**Step 3**

An external peer assessment panel will assess your EOI against the four assessment criteria below and make funding recommendations to the Minister for the Arts.

**Step 4**

The Minister for the Arts will consider the recommendations and make a final decision. We will notify applicants in October 2020.

**Assessment Criteria**

First Nights Showcase Program Assessment criteria ensure all applications are judged consistently and fairly through an independent panel assessment, and are as follows:

***Quality***

* demonstrated artistic achievement of key creatives and their capacity to contribute to a vibrant and accessible arts and cultural sector in Queensland;
* engages high calibre artists and arts workers and for First Nations projects ensures that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners are in key creative roles.

***Reach***

* provides access to, participation in and positive experiences of arts and culture for Queensland communities;
* responds to demand and has capacity to connect with and grow new audiences for JWAC.
* demonstrates collaboration and engagement with independent and/or early career artists, and arts organisations.

***Impact***

* creates employment and training opportunities for Queensland based independent and/or early career artists and arts workers;
* fosters local cultural and community benefits and brings value to the Queensland arts industry from utilising JWAC spaces and facilities.

***Viability***

* a viable, value-for-money proposal that is realistic for scale and impact of activities;
* demonstrated good planning and evaluation, including provision of evidence of cultural permission, where appropriate, for use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-owned content, stories and forms.

**How to manage a successful application**

**If you are approved for funding, for the purposes of delivery and acquittal of your activity, the Funding Agreement will be made up of;**

* + 1. The Guidelines pertaining to the grant fund as specified in the application
		2. The application, Letter of Offer and any schedules or attachment
		3. The Terms of Funding (Version 7) as found [here](https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/info-arts-funding-applicants/resource/ee0fd828-2464-4209-bc19-113dbd7474e5).

# Additional Information

Applicants can find FAQs (frequently asked questions) about the EOI <https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/first-night-showcase-judith-wright-arts-centre>

If you have questions about the EOI process or need technical assistance lodging your submission you can contact us:

JWAC Centre Management: (07) 3872 9000

Arts Queensland: (07) 3034 4016 or toll free 1800 175 531

Email: jwac@arts.qld.gov.au