**Strategic Infrastructure Fund**
**Guidelines**

**Introduction**The arts and cultural sector has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions on indoor performances and mass gatherings. The Queensland Government acknowledges the importance of enabling continued access to arts and cultural activities in a way that is compatible with health considerations and that limits the spread of COVID-19. **What is the Strategic Infrastructure Fund?**

The *Strategic Infrastructure Fund* is a limited-life matched funding program that will support not for profit arts and cultural organisations to upgrade facilities or undertake an infrastructure project that has broad benefit across a range of partners or the arts and cultural sector.

Through this funding, we aim to assist Queensland-based not for profit arts and cultural organisations in financing infrastructure works and upgrades that will strengthen their resilience and capacity to deliver arts experiences to their audiences and communities.

Applications will open on 11 August 2020 and will close on 31 August 2020. Arts Queensland encourages applications from arts and cultural organisations with shovel-ready projects with design and building works approvals in place, or from applicants with infrastructure projects underway that will be completed prior to 30 June 2021.

Applicants will be advised of outcomes by 25 September 2020.

This funding is intended to support immediate activity or expand upon commenced activity that will deliver increased access to performances, exhibitions and workshops.

All funds requested must be matched by a cash contribution.

**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 Youth Strategy* and *The* *National Arts and Disability Strategy*. Applications which include the following target groups as creators, participants or audiences will strengthen the implementation of Queensland Government commitments:

* Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples
* people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, including Australian South Sea Islanders
* older people (over 55 years old)
* young people
* people with disability\*.

\*Note that 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 you can apply for**

The *Strategic Infrastructure* *Fund* provides support for shovel-ready infrastructure projects delivered by not for profit **arts and cultural organisations**. Funding is for the creation of new infrastructure, the upgrade of existing infrastructure, or significant equipment purchase where there is demonstrated benefit across a number of organisations and stakeholders.

When preparing your application, you should consider the following assessment criteria

* **Need**: Is there demonstrated need for the new or upgraded infrastructure? Is evidence provided of partnerships with land owners or engagement with local councils for required approvals?
* **Impact:** How will the funding contribute towards equitable access to arts and cultural for all members of the community? How will the funding support the ongoing or career development of artists and arts workers?
* **Viability:** Is there organisational capacity to manage the delivery of infrastructure project? Articulate how the organisation has considered future management and maintenance costs of the new or upgraded facilities? How will the investment contribute towards a viable business model for the applicant?

**Who can apply?**
The Strategic Infrastructure Fund is designed to support Queensland’s not for profit arts and cultural sector during the recovery phase of COVID-19. It seeks to deliver lasting improvements to cultural infrastructure that strengthens organisational resilience and capacity, and improves audience and community access to arts experiences.

**To be eligible**, organisations must:

* be a Queensland based not for profit organisation that is recognised as primarily delivering arts and cultural products and services, including recognised Indigenous Arts Centres funded through the multi-year Backing Indigenous Arts funding program.
* have an active Queensland-registered Australian Business Number (ABN) that is in the name of the applicant
* have satisfied the reporting requirements of any previous Arts Queensland funding
* have an infrastructure project that is either;
	+ shovel ready - in the latter stages of project planning, design and approvals
	+ currently being delivered with scope for enhanced community or arts and cultural sector access
	+ seeking funding to finalise an infrastructure project to enhance sector and community access to performances or exhibitions.

Applications will be deemed **ineligible** if:

* they are submitted after the published application closing date
* they are incomplete or do not contain all compulsory support material including relevant development or building approvals
* the application seeks more than 50% of total cash expenditure of the project.
* the application does not demonstrate secured matched cash contribution.
* The project budget includes requests for costs such as businesses cases, feasibility studies, in-kind works, routine maintenance, operational costs, art supplies, consumables, office supplies or office equipment and loose furniture.
* The applicant is recognised as a Major Performing Arts Organisation by the state government.
* the applicant is a current Arts Queensland employee or previous employee who ceased employment less than six months prior to the application closing date
* the applicant is a state government entity or state owned entity, a local council or a local council owned or controlled entity or a federal government entity (except for recognised Indigenous Arts Centres as described in the eligible section).
* the applicant is an employee of an Arts Statutory Body or the Department of Environment and Science, unless the application includes a covering letter from the applicant’s employee detailing the applicant’s role and employment details, a statement that the application does not relate to carrying out duties of their role and how any potential conflict of interest will be addressed.

**How much you can apply for?**
Applicants to the Strategic Infrastructure Fund can apply for up to $300,000. You must demonstrate that the AQ funding is at most 50% of the total cash expenditure of the project (excluding any inkind works). Applicants must demonstrate secured matched cash contribution.

Funding requests must be evidenced by detailed project budgets accompanied by the relevant design drawings and plans, approval of building activity to occur from land owner or building owner, relevant local council or approval authority.

**How to apply**
To apply online, visit the following web link <https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/strategic-infrastructure-fund> to access the application form, and submit your application by the relevant closing date.

**How will your application be assessed?**

1. Applications will be checked by Arts Queensland staff against the eligibity criteria
2. Eligible applications will be assessed by Arts Queensland staff with relevant sector and arts and cultural infrastructure delivery knowledge and may include verification by staff from other government departments.
3. A final moderation of outcomes will occur with a recommendation provided to the Minister for the Arts.
4. Funding will be approved by the Minister for the Arts up to the budget limit of the program.

You may be approved for a value below your requested amount. The decisions approved by the Minister for the Arts in this fund are firm and final.

**What to attach**
A complete application must include your application form and all compulsory support material in the correct format. Support material is important to provide evidence of the information and claims in your application.

**Compulsory**

* A letter outlining endorsement of the project from the applicant’s chair.
* Building and or land owner approval for the project to occur.
* Description of project and proposed benefits to organisation and community.
* Project plan and project management outline.
* Detailed design drawings, building plans and associated planning documents.
* Project budgets in excel format only
* Demonstration of secured matched cash contribution
* Demonstration of organisational capacity to fund the future management and maintenance requirements for new or upgraded facilities
* Demonstration of the financial sustainability of the applicant once the project is delivered and the proposed benefits are realised.

**Where can I find support in preparing my application?**
Applicants can find FAQs (frequently asked questions), Information for Applicants, and other information from <https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/strategic-infrastructure-fund>

**Contact us:**

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

Email: investment@arts.qld.gov.au

Website: [www.arts.qld.gov.au](http://www.arts.qld.gov.au)

**Translating and interpreting services**Applications may be submitted in any language. If you have difficulty understanding this information and would like to talk to staff in your first language:

• telephone the Translating and Interpreting service on 13 14 50 during business hours

• contact Arts Queensland about speaking with an interpreter.

**What are the acquittal and reporting requirements for successful applicants?**

Funding recipients will be required to submit an outcome report to Arts Queensland as agreed at contracting. The outcome report collects information about outputs and outcomes, including artistic, cultural, social and economic returns on investment.