**Sustain: Festivals Recovery**

**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 COVID19.

**What is Sustain: Festivals Recovery?**
The program aims to provide time limited support to organisations significantly impacted as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, whose primary operational focus is delivering a large scale festival with a turnover exceeding $10 million in 2019. Applicants will be organisations already receiving multi-year Organisations Funding 2017 - 2020 through Arts Queensland.

Organisations will be invited to apply for additional financial support across the remainder of 2020 calendar year and into 2021. Priority will be given to organisations facing insolvency or material employment losses in the short term.

Invited organisations will be recognised as delivering on government priorities including arts and cultural objectives, employment and cultural tourism outcomes.

Festivals that are funded through the Organisations Fund and have an annual turnover of less than $10 million are eligible to apply for Sustain: Organisations Fund 2017-2020 Recovery Support

**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\*
* people who live in regional Queensland

\*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.

**Who will be invited?**
Arts Queensland will invite applications from organisations currently funded through the Organisations Fund 2017 - 2020 with a primary focus on delivering a festival that are known to be facing financial uncertainty as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

To be invited, all applicants must:

* be approved for funding by Arts Queensland through the Organisations Fund 2017 – 2020.
* be recognised as organisation that primarily delivers a festival
* have satisfied the reporting requirements of any previous Arts Queensland funding
* be known to be facing material financial difficulties across 2020 and 2021
* be actively working on strategy for a sustainable future operating model
* have a turnover of more than $10 million in 2019.

Organisations will **not** be invited if:

* delivery of a festival is not the primary focus of the organisation
* Arts Queensland has a reasonable belief that there is a sustainable path for the organisation, based on materials provided through 2020 reporting and reasonable forecasting for 2021 inclusive of the announced Federal Government stimulus measures as at 29 July 2020.
* 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 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.
* The applicant is an Arts Owned Company or Statutory Body

**How much you can apply for?**
There is no cap for funding requests.

Applicants can apply for funding support to be delivered across the remainder of 2020 and 2021 calendar years.

All requests for funding must be initially discussed with the fund program manager prior to submission and accompanied by a business case appropriate to the funding request.

**How to apply once invited**

An invited applicant is required to submit the business case and application form details online via SmartyGrants. The program manager will provide relevant information to invited applicants.

**What to attach**

A complete application in SmartyGrants 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.

Arts Queensland reserves the right to reopen application forms and request further information to clarify elements of an application.

**Compulsory** - applications that do not include all compulsory support material will be ineligible.

* Formal letter from the Chair to the Deputy Director-General, Arts and Heritage, outlining the request and the steps the company has undertaken to reshape the company, its program offering and how it is preparing for a post COVID-19 operating environment.
* A business case outlining, clearly and succinctly:
	+ The historical challenges and the context for the current position of the organisation.
	+ The cultural tourism context and impact of the festival
	+ The current risks to continued operations of the organisation across 2020 and 2021 and how the pandemic has impacted employment (for your own organisation and any contracted workers) and programming activity.
	+ Requests for funding, including the model for delivery for the remainder of 2020 and any relevant scenarios for 2021 delivery, and how this funding will enable continued sustainability of the organisation within each scenario.
	+ The assumptions considered within each 2021 festival scenario and the achievable program delivery, audience reach and employment outcomes (for your own organisation and any contracted workers) achieved through each funding scenario.
	+ an outline of the longer term vision to achieve a sustainable business model in a post COVID-19 environment.
* Board approved attachments in the correct format supporting the application including financial documents and forecasts for each scenario submitted in excel format only.

Where relevant, additional Queensland Government support should also be clearly detailed including the program activities this funding supports

**How will my application be assessed?**

Applications will be assessed by the fund program manager with review from an Arts Queensland analyst with prior knowledge of the financial position of the applicant and the applicant’s client manager.

* Where relevant, your application may be discussed with other State Government departments and/or the Australia Council for the Arts as it relates to their knowledge of your organisation, its place in the arts and cultural sector and your impact.
* Your application may be independently verified for financial accuracy and to verify Arts Queensland’s findings.
* Applications meeting the criteria will be reviewed by an Arts Queensland delegate in consultation with other relevant Queensland Government agencies.
* Funding approvals are made by the Minister for the Arts.

Applicants may be approved for a value below your requested amount. The decisions made by the Minister for the Arts are firm and final. There is no avenue for appeal of decisions in this fund.

**Where can I find support in preparing my application?**

Invited applicants are encouraged to call the program manager on 3034 4110 or via email oninvestment@arts.qld.gov.au.

**Arts Queensland Contact Details:**

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)

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

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

Funding acknowledgement must be clear and separately identified within independently audited financial statements.