**Sustain: MPA Recovery Support**

**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 Sustain: MPA Recovery Support?**
This funding is designed to assist organisations with additional financial support across the remainder of 2020 calendar year and into 2021, with priority given to organisations facing insolvency or unplanned employment losses.

Support delivered through this fund is intended to be considered in consultation with the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, as part of the Commonwealth Government’s response to meet the challenges faced by Major Performing Arts Organisations as a result of COVID-19 pandemic.

**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 eligible organisations that are known to be facing financial uncertainty as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, and are actively working on strategy for a sustainable future operating model

Priority will be given to organisations that are;

1. facing immediate solvency challenges
2. significantly reducing cash reserves to continue operations for 2020
3. forecasting to significantly reduce cash reserves (compared to end of year 2019 levels) to continue operations across 2021 assuming the current COVID 19 venue restrictions

To be invited, all applicants must:

* be recognised as a Major Performing Arts Company by the Queensland Government or be invited to apply to the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework
* 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
* be actively working with Arts Queensland in discussing material financial difficulties across 2020 and 2021

**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 an application form online via SmartyGrants.

**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 and how it is preparing for a post COVID-19 operating environment.
* A business case clearly and succinctly outlining:
	+ The historical challenges and the context for the current position of the organisation.
	+ The current risks to continued operations of the organisation across 2020 and 2021 and how the pandemic has impacted employment and programming activity.
	+ Requests for funding across a number of scenarios, and how this funding will enable continued sustainability of the organisation within each scenario.
	+ The scenarios presented should outline a base case balanced budget (based on existing reserves and available funding).
	+ The assumptions considered within each scenario and the achievable program delivery, audience reach and employment outcomes 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, any Queensland Government support clearly detailed across all relevant agencies and clearly outlined the programs this funding supports.
* The support provided by the Federal Government as a tripartite funding partner.

The scenarios should outline a base case, balanced budget on current funding levels, and then additional scenarios including additional funding.

**How will your application be assessed?**
Applications will be assessed by the 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.

* Your application will be discussed with the Commonwealth Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications and Australia Council for the Arts, ensuring both funding partners are contributing to a sustainable path forward.
* Your application may be independently verified for financial accuracy and to audit 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.

**General 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.