

First Nations Fashion and Textiles Accelerator Fund – Guidelines

The First Nations Fashion and Textiles Accelerator Fund (the Fund) is a key program of the [First Nations Fashion and Textiles Plan](#), and supports delivery of [Grow 2022-2026](#), the Queensland Government's second action plan for [Creative Together 2020-2030](#).

This Fund seeks to support First Nations artists to share their stories, celebrate their cultural identity and maximise the economic potential of their art by translating it into fashion and fabric. It supports artists whose business focus is fashion and textiles as well as those for whom it is a part of their wider practice, with a focus on activities that grow commercial outcomes.

The Fund specifically seeks to support artists to connect with markets in the creation and distribution across three key categories:

- haute couture/wearable art
- ready to wear fashion collections
- fabric design and production.

This Fund complements other Arts Queensland's programs that support the development of new artwork and the sharing of First Nations arts and cultures, such as the First Nations Commissioning Fund.

Fund objectives

Supports Queensland-based First Nations artists working in fashion and textiles to share their stories, cultures and creative work by:

- expanding production through improved access to equipment and small-scale infrastructure
- innovating their creative and business practice through collaborations and skills exchanges to deliver high-quality fashion and textile products
- expanding into new markets nationally and internationally.

The Fund will prioritise those primarily working in clothing and textiles. Accessories and adornments may be part of larger fashion collections; however, they are unlikely to be supported as sole product lines through this Fund.

What the funding can be used for

Funding must be used for activities that directly relate to business growth outcomes.

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- equipment purchases or business collaborations that increase scale of production and distribution of fashion and textile products, e.g. screen-printing tables, sewing machines, or shared facilities and equipment
- new residencies by, or with, experts in the fashion and textile industry
- use of new digital technologies in the design, production or retailing of fashion and textile products
- new collaborations in the fashion and textile industry that:
 - increase retail knowledge and/or develop design or production skills
 - develop new collections that connect to new or expanded retail markets by elevating quality and/or extending product range
- significant national and international market development activities that are new for the applicant.

Funding cannot be used for what would be considered *Business As Usual* (BAU) for an applicant, i.e. activity that the applicant does regularly/normally as part of its business operations - e.g. attending a national market every year or developing a new collection of a similar scope to previous work.

Funding available

One-off project grants are available as follows:

- up to **\$30,000** (excluding GST) for projects that grow the applicant's fashion or textiles practice and business, e.g. skills development or residency programs, small-scale equipment purchase or market development activities. Projects must be completed within 12 months.
- up to **\$60,000** (excluding GST) for projects that demonstrate a significant commercial outcome for the applicant's fashion or textiles business, e.g. investment in larger scale infrastructure and equipment, developing shared facilities, or investment to grow product lines for wholesale and retail. Projects must be completed within two years.

Eligibility

Applications can be submitted by sole traders, social enterprises or Indigenous Arts Centres, as well as artist-led commercial businesses for activities that meet the purpose and objectives of the fund and meet the eligibility criteria below.

To be eligible, all applicants must:

- be a Queensland-based First Nations artist or a First Nations arts organisation/arts business that has demonstrated success in the First Nations fashion and textiles industry
 - For the purposes of the Fund, a First Nations arts organisation/arts business is one that is at least 50% owned and led by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, who have formal authority to make decisions in operations and governance of the organisation.
- have an active ABN with a business location in Queensland
- not have any overdue acquittal obligations for previous funding provided by Arts Queensland.

Applications that include the purchase of equipment or infrastructure upgrades must attach a supplier quote that includes:

- supplier details – Name, ABN, contact details and website URL
- details of the activity, description of service and proposed delivery date
- where possible, quotations must be a formal quote on business letterhead
- for planned online purchases, a screenshot showing the item costs and supplier's name is acceptable where a formal quote is not applicable.

Applicants may only receive one First Nations Fashion and Textile Accelerator Fund grant per financial year.

Eligible Costs

- a contribution to salaries for key roles that grow production outcomes (e.g. residencies, tutors, trainers)
- travel, accommodation and travel allowances for collaborations, residencies or showcasing opportunities
- fashion and textiles related materials and equipment (rented or purchased)
- minor infrastructure upgrades (including digital upgrades such as specialised print or production related software or rent to extend facilities/production capacity)
- fashion and textiles production costs

- costs to bring funded collections to market (photography, PR, models fees, hair and makeup) as part of an existing project
- freight and exhibiting costs for national and international showcases
- professional fees for legal advice relating to commissions and contracts.

Ineligible Costs

- BAU core operating costs, e.g. wages, insurance, utilities, rent on existing premises
- computer equipment and accessories
- administration, accountancy or legal costs (excluding those specifically mentioned above)
- activities that have already taken place, or will commence prior to funding confirmation
- goods or services that have been bought or ordered prior to funding confirmation
- activities that are already funded by Arts Queensland or other funding partners
- activities that would be considered business as usual for the applicant.

The lists of eligible and ineligible costs are not exhaustive and Arts Queensland reserves the right to determine costs to be ineligible if they don't meet the intention of the Fund.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria, which align with the [General Funding Guidelines](#) criteria:

High quality

- Track record of producing quality First Nations fashion and textile products
- Professionals involved (including collaborators or contractors) are highly skilled and well regarded
- The creative and/or business idea or concept is innovative and will deliver high quality First Nations fashion and textile products that share stories and culture
- Artistic content of work is centred on Country and Culture
- For market development activities, the opportunity must be new and national or international, with significant well-respected presenting partners.

Strong impact

- Demonstrates a clear link between the funded project and potential business growth
- Creates new employment, career development and/or skills development opportunities for First Nations artists, designers and arts workers
- Builds new markets and enhances the reputation for Queensland First Nations fashion and textiles.

Sustainable value

- Demonstrates value for money and sound governance, including having a robust framework for protecting Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property
- Demonstrates ethical business practices such as paying not less than industry award rates, adhering to cultural protocols, and having a fair and transparent system for paying artist royalties
- Proposed activity has a strong delivery plan including understanding potential risks and their management
- Will contribute to the sustainability and growth of the First Nations fashion and textile sector in Queensland.

Submitting your application

You can submit your application, along with project timeframe, budget, and support materials including letters of support, artist biographies/CVs, and examples of prior work, through SmartyGrants:

<https://artsqueensland.smartygrants.com.au>

You will be asked to demonstrate in the application how the activity will grow your business and contribute your longer-term market development plans.

In addition to the compulsory support material in the [General Funding Guidelines](#) you must also provide:

- an invitation from the host organisation (market development activities) or evidence of selection through a competitive process.

Applications must be submitted by the below listed Fund closing dates.

Key timeframes

Applications Close	Notification	Activity Start Date
2pm Tuesday 26 November 2024	Early February 2025	24 February 2025

For support with technical issues related to the online application, please contact an Arts Queensland Grants Officer on telephone (07) 3034 4016 or toll free 1800 175 531.

Note: Arts Queensland reserves the right to modify the Fund Guidelines at any time. Applicants will be notified of changes.

What you must do if you are successful

If you are approved for funding, you must:

- Start your grant funded activity within one month of entering into the funding agreement.
- Complete your grant funded activity within 12 months of receiving approval (up to \$30,000) or 24 months (up to \$60,000).
- Not pay for grant funded activities before entering into the funding agreement.
- Deliver the grant funded activity as per the funding agreement and the Fund and General Guidelines.
- Complete an outcome report when your activity has finished including providing receipts as required.

Once submitted, AQ will review and advise when your outcome report has been approved or if further information is required.