**First Nations Art, Craft and Design: Transforming Marketplaces**

First Nations Art, Craft and Design: Transforming Marketplaces provides product development funding, and specialist guidance for Queensland based First Nations artists, artisans, designers, and organisations. The funding aims to support innovative growth models for increasing the production of high-quality artworks and products, creating wider distribution to audiences and increased supply.

The initiative is a key part of the Queensland Government’s [*Creative Together* 2020 – 2030](https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/creative-together) Roadmap for arts, culture and creativity in Queensland, which includes ‘Elevate First Nations arts’ as a priority. The initiative supports:

* First Nations artists, designers and arts organisations who have innovative art, craft or design product and are seeking to connect to national and/or international markets
* Increased production of authentic First Nations art, craft and design products for distribution and sale
* Strengthening online and digital platforms to increase the distribution of First Nations art, craft, or design product
* Projects that applicants can complete within 18 months

**What can you use the funding for?**

Individuals and organisations can apply for **up to $120,000** (excluding GST) for large scale projects and **up to $60,000** (excluding GST) for small scale projects in **either or both** of the following areas:

* **Retail and product development**

Work with a retail and product development expert to strengthen the supply, distribution, and sales of Queensland First Nations artists’ work.

* **Digital Capacity Building**

Work with a digital expert to increase online engagement with and sales of Queensland First Nations artists’ work.

Arts Queensland will provide access to a **Retail and/or Digital expert** (depending on the activity type) to work with each successful applicant. This expert will be at no cost to the applicant.

In collaboration with Arts Queensland, the First Nations Arts and Cultures Panel has developed the draft Cultural Engagement Framework – Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures in Queensland, which informs and guides respectful engagement with First Nations peoples, organisations, and communities. This framework will inform the engagement of the Retail and/or Digital experts assisting the delivery of this initiative.

**Who can apply?**

We encourage Queensland based First Nations individuals, collectives, organisations, and businesses that meet the following criteria to apply:

* Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people/s
* Organisations led and managed by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people/s
* A track record of the ethical creation, development and sales of arts, crafts, and design products
* Capacity to grow online and/or offline business to support increased production of art and raised income
* Ability and availability to work with a Retail and/or Digital expert to leverage ideas, opportunities and experience for the best support and outcomes.

Please note: Arts Queensland may request additional documentation to confirm eligibility.

**When can you apply?**

Applications open: 1 April 2022

Applications close: 4 pm, 11 May 2022

Eligible EOIs shortlisted by the Panel: 16 May 2022

Shortlisted applicants meet with Panel: 18 May – 24 May 2022

Funding announcement: mid-June 2022

For projects commencing: from 1 July 2022

Successful applicants meet with Expert/s: July 2022

Recipients must deliver the successful projects within 18 months of funding approval.

Note: AQ cannot fund retrospective activities. Your application will be ineligible if your activity start date is before the above-listed commencement date.

**How can you apply?**

Arts Queensland is seeking Expression of Interest (EOIs) from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants to participate in the initiative.

1) Arts Queensland accepts EOIs online through SmartyGrants <https://artsqueensland.smartygrants.com.au>, which must include:

* Proposal/project concept overview: We accept written or video/audio submissions.
* Basic timeframes/dates for project delivery within 18 months of funding approval.
* Project budget of expenditure showing commitment by the applicant of either financial or in-kind contribution to the project (template provided in SmartyGrants).

The Panel may consider projects with financial contribution from a company’s own reserves or another funding partner as more competitive.

2) Arts Queensland will undertake eligibility checking of EOIs submitted by the deadline.

3) The panel will assess and shortlist eligible EOIs. Arts Queensland will advise applicants of the results.

4) Arts Queensland will arrange individual conversation sessions for successfully shortlisted applicants with panel members to discuss their projects and answer any additional questions (no longer than 20 minutes).

5) The Panel make funding recommendations for approval by the Director-General, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy.

6) Arts Queensland will notify successful applicants. We will send successful applicants a funding agreement and a request for your payment details. If you do not return the signed funding agreement and payment details within 30 days, the funding offer will lapse and will no longer be available for you to accept. Arts Queensland will be in contact if special conditions have been set for your funding and/or you have been offered reduced funding.

7) Arts Queensland will link successful applicants with the Retail and/or Digital expert who will arrange an appropriate time to meet and discuss strategy.

**Assessment Criteria**

During assessment and shortlisting, the Panel will consider how the EOI:

**Impact**

* Clearly defines the problem/s relating to Retail and Product Development or Digital Capacity Building the applicant seeks to address.
* Demonstrates the applicant’s commitment and capacity to consider advice and adapt approaches to achieve the desired outcome.
* Provides clear evidence of the capacity to sustain and grow arts business and employment opportunities for First Nations peoples.
* Demonstrates that the project directly delivers an appropriate portion of total funding to First Nations individuals, artists, and businesses.

**Viability**

* Evidences ethical practices and appropriate cultural permission/s for the project/s, including for the use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-owned contents and forms.
* Demonstrates operational capacity to deliver the project/s, including accurate financial project budget/costs appropriate to the scale and impact of the proposed project/s, and best practice business planning, governance, and evaluation.
* Provides evidence of strategies and ability to attract revenue from sources other than Arts Queensland.
* Shows the capacity to work with and respond to the advice of the Retail and/or Digital expert.

**Auspicing of applications**

Arts Queensland accepts applications EOIs to the initiative made on your behalf by a Queensland-based auspice organisation.

* Auspicing of applications aids in building capacity across the sector and enables access to grant funding for:
* applicants without an ABN
* new applicants and/or emerging artists/arts workers seeking to upskill in applying for grant funding.
* Funding requested can include a fee for the auspice organisation as part of the project costs up to a maximum of $3,000 (exclusive of GST). This fee is to assist the auspice organisation with administering the grant. It must be relevant to the service that they will provide to the applicant, which may include but is not limited to the administration of the grant funds, accounting, funding acquittal, evaluation, and marketing skills development.
* Arts Queensland does not restrict the number of applications organisations may auspice.
* The auspice organisation will need to approve any changes required to a funding arrangement in writing.
* If an applicant begins an application in SmartyGrants under their email address, they must contact Arts Queensland to change the online user to the auspice organisation’s email. The auspice organisation must submit the application and agree to the certification at the end of the application form.

**The auspice organisation must**

* Be a Queensland-based organisation.
* Have an active ABN and bank account in the name of the auspice organisation.
* Be a small to medium arts/cultural organisation previously funded by Arts Queensland since 1 January 2019, an Arts Owned Company (AOC) or an Arts Statutory Body (ASB).
* Provide a signed letter by the authorised officer agreeing to support the applicant (who may be an individual, organisation or group who cannot make an application on their own) and manage any approved grant (further details below). The letter must detail the support they will provide to the applicant and certify that the auspice organisation will be responsible for ensuring the applicant receives the funding and applies it toward the funded project efficiently and per the terms of the funding.
* Agree to support the applicant, including performing the funded project and complying with the funding agreement.
* Submit the application on behalf of the applicant (individual, organisation, or group) and complete the certification on the application and acquittal forms.
* Have satisfied the reporting requirements of any previous Arts Queensland funding.

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

Read the available documents relating to the Initiative, including Frequently Asked Questions, Information for Applicants, Terms of Funding v8, and other information from<https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/>.

**Explore Arts Acumen**

Arts Acumen is an online resource Arts Queensland provides, including information and opportunities to foster knowledge growth, connections, and access to industry intelligence. Toolkits on application writing, budget preparation and selection criteria are available from [www.arts.qld.gov.au/arts-acumen](http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/arts-acumen).

For support with technical issues related to the online application, please contact an Arts Queensland Grants Officer by telephone at (07) 3034 4016 or toll-free at 1800 175 531 or by email [at investment@arts.qld.gov.au](mailto:investment@arts.qld.gov.au).

**Contact us**

Arts Queensland will provide support wherever it can to applicants. Business hours are 9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday.

Phone: (07) 4047 4905

Email: investment@arts.qld.gov.au

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

**Translating and interpreting services**

You may submit applications 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.