**First Nations Commissioning Fund Snapshot**

**October 2020**

**Introduction**

First Nations Commissioning Fund is a program within the Queensland Government’s $22.5 million Arts and Cultural Recovery Package. Its purpose is to fund Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural practitioners, organisations, collectives or communities to commission and deliver uniquely Queensland Indigenous stories, arts and cultural experiences, products and celebrations by 30 September 2021.

Applicants could apply for up to $100,000 cash funding towards large-scale commissions and up to $30,000 cash funding towards small-scale commissions. Applications opened 20 July 2020 and closed on 20 August 2020.

**Outcomes**19 successful applications (33% success rate) secured total funding of $836,781.  
Public announcement of [successful grant recipients](https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/first-nations-commissioning-fund) were made on 5 October 2020.

**Summary**

Successful applicants were able to clearly demonstrate how their proposed activity responded to the First Nations Commissioning Fund’s objectives and the [published assessment criteria.](https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/first-nations-commissioning-fund)

**General Feedback**

All applications were assessed and moderated by a panel of independent First Nations peer assessors. The panel provided the following general feedback for applicants. Successful applicants:

* Clearly addressed the criteria and provided details on how the proposal would be achieved.
* Projects provided evidence of strong planning and First Nations key creatives.
* Submitted well prepared applications that were also grounded in appropriate cultural practices, protocols and permissions.
* ‍Included evidence of key partnerships, support and involvement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and community organisations.
* Demonstrated opportunities to provide employment for First Nations artists and arts workers.
* Displayed potential for broad reach and impact to many audiences in the region.
* Included all relevant materials to support the application.
* Were innovative and demonstrated strong artistic practice.