

MUSIC PANEL

Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups

The Assessors gave the following advice to applicants:

- When working with First Nations artists or communities it is essential to provide evidence that you are engaging the appropriate cultural partners and adhering to cultural protocols. These may be provided by letters of support and demonstrated engagement with the relevant cultural protocols. Allow in your budget for the costs of cultural consultation and name the people and communities you will be engaging with. Contact Australia Council staff for guidance if you require more information.
- Make sure you are applying to the most appropriate grant category. If you are unsure, contact a grants officer for advice.
- Clearly describe your artistic vision for the project.
- Make sure your application is clear, well-articulated and succinct. Avoid repeating information. Use paragraphs and bullet points to make your application easier to read. Proofread it carefully.
- Don't assume any background knowledge about you or your area of practice. Explain your project as you would to someone who is not familiar with your work.
- Demonstrate the timeliness or time sensitivity of your project.
- Where relevant, provide evidence of strong partnerships.
- A large number of unconfirmed activities, participating artists, partnerships and co-funding raises concerns about the viability of your project. Where possible, you should confirm as many activities and partners as possible.
- Pay yourself and all artists involved in your project an industry standard wage.
- Provide a clear and transparent budget. Break down large sums and show how you have calculated different items and wages. Clearly indicate which project costs you intend to use the Australia Council grant for, and which costs will be covered by other funding sources.
- Consider your third elective assessment criterion choice carefully and address it in your application using the prompts provided on the application guidelines. If you are unsure which criterion to choose, speak to a grants officer for advice. Your application may be relevant to multiple criteria, but sometimes a stronger case can be made for one of them.
- Select your artistic support material carefully. It should be relevant to your project and support the written component of your application.
- Adhere to the support material limit guidelines.
- Provide relevant, compelling and well-presented support letters.
- Where possible, collate your support material, combining individual images or documents in a single PDF. Provide URLs that direct the peer assessors to the specific audio or audio-visual material you wish them to review. Avoid providing URLs to general pages such as home pages.
- If your project involves touring, consider applying to the Contemporary Music Touring Program. Speak to a grants officer for more information.

Arts Projects for Organisations

The assessors noted the high calibre of applications to the round.

The most competitive applications

- adhered to cultural protocols
- presented the authentic voice of any communities involved
- prioritised access and creative agency for all participants, including communities and emerging artists
- showed a commitment to diversity of participation
- were innovative in their approach to presentation
- addressed gender equality
- demonstrated a genuine need for the level of funding requested
- considered the proposal's environmental footprint.

Career Development for Individuals and Groups

Many applications to the round were more suited to Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups than to Career Development. Talk to a grants officer for help selecting the right category for your project.

The most competitive applications

- presented a clear and concise description of the desired project outcome
- showed a high level of artistic curiosity
- supplied high quality, easy to navigate audio and audio-visual support material
- were written in a style that captured the artist's voice and vision
- showed the potential of the project to develop Australian content
- were well reasoned and logical
- provided detailed budgets.

If your application involves working with First Nations communities or material, show that you are following cultural protocols. Show that the communities or artists involved have creative agency in the work. Set out your plans regarding cultural ownership of the work and its legacy, including ownership of its intellectual property.

If your project involves tertiary academic study, provide evidence that your activities extend further into other, non-academic areas. Council is unlikely to fund activities that are purely tertiary or educational in nature.