

# LA BOITE

ANALYSIS OF FUNDING STIMULUS

# INTRO

La Boite exists within an essential ecosystem of Queensland artists, arts workers, facilitators and creators. Each individual contributes to an industry that enriches the cultural and artistic landscape of Queensland. The devastating effects of COVID-19 on the Arts, therefore, are felt by all of us. The industry suffers for those who have lost income, opportunity and a creative outlet.

For La Boite and the thousands of individuals and organisations that call Queensland home, this is a time of critical uncertainty. Support and guidance from major funding bodies across the country is essential for our survival in 2020 and our transition beyond.

What follows is a summary of the new and adjusted measures offered by Arts Queensland, The Australia Council for the Arts to bolster the industry at this time. We have also included a brief overview of the support announced by the Federal Government that is relevant to those that operate within our industry.

# ARTS QUEENSLAND

Arts Queensland Funding updates inclusive of initial announcements on March 18 and the recently welcome announcement on March 24.

**Please note.** Arts Queensland is undertaking a process of engagement with the arts sector to fully understand the current and potential impacts, and how best we can assist Queensland's cultural institutions, arts companies, artists and arts workers. This will be a continuing conversation on the short and longer term implications as this public health issue unfolds.

## GRANT ROUNDS\*

### INDIVIDUALS

- The current round of [Individuals Fund](#) grants will be boosted to \$500,000
- Expanded criteria to include building digital skills, creative development, small project activities, digital delivery of works
- Extended closing date: Now 21 April 2020
- Updated guidelines and applications available from 27 March 2020

### QUEENSLAND ARTS SHOWCASE PROGRAM ([QASP](#))

- Increased funding of \$2 million for QASP
- Expanded criteria to include digital content creation, creative development, digital delivery
- Funding caps increased to \$80,000 for QASP Arts Ignite and Arts Impact
- Funding cap increased to \$120,000 for QASP Arts Illuminate
- New streamlined application process
- All approved QASP grants will remain available and recipients have the opportunity to postpone or reframe activity to accommodate changed circumstances
- Updated guidelines and applications available from 27 March 2020

\*n.b notification dates of applications to both rounds are still TBC

# ARTS QUEENSLAND

## REPORTING

1. Arts Queensland will be offering reporting and other grant condition relief to organisations with existing Queensland Government funding arrangements.

These include:

- Removing requirements on meeting audience KPIs
- Bringing forward payments
- Delaying or removing reporting requirements
- Varying the purposes and outcomes of funding
- Extending timelines for projects
- Allowing organisations to use money provided for a deliverable to be repurposed to pay essential bills such as wages, rent or utilities.

Organisations are encouraged to speak with their program officer about options that can provide flexible support during these difficult times

2. Arts Queensland will be progressing contract variations in due course.

### CURRENTLY FUNDED THROUGH FOUR YEAR ORGANISATION FUND (2016 - 2020)

- All four year funding through the Organisations Fund have had an extension of core funding for 12 months
- All four year funded organisation have their April 2020 reporting pushed to end of May 2020
- Arts Queensland will be progressing contract variations in due course

### APPLICATIONS FOUR YEAR ORGANISATION FUND (2021 - 2024)

- Application for upcoming 2021 - 24 Organisation Funding round has been suspended

### TENANTS OF QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

- Arts Queensland to waive rental payments for tenants based in Queensland Government Arts facilities through to December 2020
- Arts Queensland will be progressing contract variations in due course.

# AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

Australia Council Funding updates inclusive of initial announcements on March 18 and the recently welcome announcement on March 25

## GRANT ROUNDS

### SUSPENDING INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

With immediate effect, Australia Council have suspended many of our investment programs currently or due to open including:

- Career Development Grants for Individuals and Groups, closing date 2 June
- Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups, closing date 2 June
- Australia Council Fellowships, closing date 2 June
- Arts Projects – Organisations, closing date 2 June
- Playing Australia: Regional Performing Arts Touring Fund – closing date 2 June
- Contemporary Music Touring Program (CMTP) – closing date 2 June
- International Arts Strategy Outcomes Fund, closing date 19 May
- National Arts and Disability Awards 2019-21, closing date 7 April
- Arts and Disability Mentoring Initiative 2019-21, closing date 7 April
- Rights Fund for Literature, closing date 28 April
- Translation Fund for Literature, closing date 28 April
- Travel Fund for Literature, no closing date



# AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

## GRANT ROUNDS

### NEW FUNDING PROGRAM INITIATIVES

At the end of April, there will be an announcement of new programs to the value of \$5mil to provide immediate relief to Australian artists, arts workers and arts organisations.

### ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Online learning series and Sector Roundtables Creative Connections, an online webinar series for the cultural sector, offering practical, accessible and useful professional development will be recorded and published on the Australia Council website for public engagement and wider reach. Australia Council will also be implementing additional roundtables to work with the sector to codesign responses to COVID-19. More information to come.

### FIRST NATIONS

Each Friday from 2pm-3pm Australia Council will host a focussed First Nations' roundtable for artists, creatives and organisations for updates and discussion of the implications of COVID-19 for our First Nations independent and small to medium sector, live performance and public gatherings. You can watch past roundtables and register for upcoming ones [here](#).

### DIGITAL SUPPORT SOLUTIONS

On Monday 23 March Facebook Group Arts and creative industries: digital support was launched as part of an ongoing digital support solution.

# AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

## REPORTING

Both the Australia Council for the Arts and the Office for the Arts have been given discretion under Commonwealth Grant Rules to provide reporting and other grant condition relief to organisations with existing Australian Government funding arrangements.

These include

- Removing requirements on meeting audience KPIs
- Bringing forward payments
- Delaying or removing reporting requirements
- Varying the purposes and outcomes of funding
- Extending timelines for projects
- Allowing organisations to use money provided for a deliverable to be repurposed to pay essential bills such as wages, rent or utilities.

Organisations are encouraged to speak with their program officer about options that can provide flexible support during these difficult times

CURRENTLY FUNDED THROUGH FOUR YEAR ORGANISATION FUND (2016 - 2020)

- April 2020 reporting will be postponed to end of May 2020

APPLICATIONS FOUR YEAR ORGANISATION FUND (2021 - 2024)

- Outcomes for Four Year Funding Applications (2021 - 2024) will be notified Monday 30 March 2020

# AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

FEDERAL FUNDING: On 12 March 2020 the Federal Government announced a \$17bn coronavirus stimulus package followed by further announcements on 22 March 2020, with a second major stimulus package valued at \$66bn and more than \$200bn in emergency banking measures

## WHAT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED SO FAR?

### INDIVIDUALS

1. From 31 March, those with social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders (including seniors, people receiving family tax benefit and Newstart recipients) receive a \$750 payment – tax free
2. For the next 6 months, income support recipients will receive the full amount of the \$550 coronavirus supplement on top of their payment each fortnight. This includes existing and new recipients of the jobseeker payment, youth allowance jobseeker, parenting payment, farm household allowance and special benefit. The government will waive asset tests and waiting periods to access the payment.
3. Sole traders and the self-employed, impacted by the economic downturn by the coronavirus, will be able to access the jobseeker payment and the coronavirus supplement. Applicants must make a declaration through Centrelink.
4. People affected by COVID-19 will be able to draw on their superannuation, tax-free: up to \$10,000 of their super now, within the 2019-20 financial year, and a further \$10,000 after 1 July, within the 2020-21 financial year.

You must apply via [mygov](https://mygov.gov.au).

See here for eligibility requirements  
[https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact\\_sheet-Income\\_Support\\_for\\_Individuals.pdf](https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Income_Support_for_Individuals.pdf)



# AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

## WHAT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED SO FAR?

### SMALL TO MEDIUM BUSINESSES

1. Small and medium-sized businesses will receive up to \$25,000 to cover the costs of employee wages and salaries, paid by the Australian Taxation Office based on tax withheld. This will happen automatically based on the business activity statements lodged by the business.
2. Businesses with a turnover of less than \$500m will be offered \$3.9bn in incentives to spend.
3. The Government is providing between \$20,000 - \$100,000 to eligible S2M businesses and not-for-profits that employ people with an annual turnover of less than \$50mil., with a minimum payment of \$20,000. The amount will be paid automatically by the Australian Taxation Office based on the business's monthly or quarterly business activity statements.