



Performing Arts Connections Australia

G-26-498129 - Arts Projects for Organisations

Amount Granted: \$50,624.55

Creative Australia Officer: Sarah O'Malley

Please note: Applications close at 3pm AEDT (2.30pm South Australia; 2pm Queensland; 1.30pm Northern Territory; 12 noon Western Australia), Tuesday 3 March 2026.

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▼ Organisation Information

Organisation: Performing Arts Connections Australia

Primary Contact: Katherine Connor

Primary Signatory: Katherine Connor

Please check organisation contact details (will appear on saving this form)

Please note: the following contact details are not included with your application - we display them here so you can check they are up to date.

Address:	Level 2 533 Hay Street PERTH Western Australia 6000
Primary contact email:	katherine@paca.org.au
Organisation phone:	08 9221 8992

If any of the details above are incorrect or missing, please click **Save** and update **Organisation | Contact Information** by clicking the menu item on the left of the screen.

Has your organisation applied to Creative Australia before? Yes

How did you first find out about this opportunity? :

Creative Australia email

Please provide more details about that communication channel if relevant (for example: which social media account, a specific event, which website etc):

Protocols

Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts

Applicants working with First Nations artists, communities, or subject matter are required to adhere to the First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property Protocols published by Creative Australia as a condition of funding. To review the protocols, go to: <https://www.creative.gov.au/programs-and-resources/Protocols-for-using-First-Nations-Cultural-and-Intellectual-Property-in-the-Arts/>, or contact Creative Australia and speak to an Artists Services officer.

Under these Protocols you must provide evidence of appropriate support or permissions from First Nations participants, communities, organisations or Elders. You may also be asked to provide confirmations of First Nations identity for all key people cited as First Nations in your application, or other information relating to these Protocols. Should your application be funded, any failure to provide relevant confirmations or other information when formally requested will be considered a breach of the conditions of our funding agreement. We may request the return of grant monies to Creative Australia.

I am / the organisation is aware of Creative Australia's First Nations Protocols and agree to adhere to them as a condition of funding.

Yes

Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

Does your activity provide services directly to children, or involve contact with children as a usual part of these activities? :

No

The Commonwealth Child Safe Framework is a whole-of-government policy that sets minimum standards for child safe practices within Commonwealth entities. Creative Australia must ensure that the child safety requirements set out in the Framework are met by the individuals and organisations we fund.

At a minimum, all successful applicants are required to comply with all Australian law relating to employing or engaging people who work or volunteer with children. This includes working with children checks and mandatory reporting.

Successful organisations who do provide services directly to children, or whose funded activities involve contact with children, will additionally be required to implement the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#). These Principles reflect good practice that many organisations will already be working to.

▼ Panel Selection & Language

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants can choose to have their application assessed by our First Nations panel, which is made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and cultural practitioners representing all art forms. Alternatively, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants may choose to have their application assessed by one of our other arts practice panels.

Which arts practice panel would you like to assess this application? :

Theatre

Are you planning to complete any part of this application (e.g. answers to questions, support material, letters of support) in a language other than English? : No

▼ Application

Project Title: Please record the title of your project in no more than 100 characters.

Tour Producer Training support program

Project Summary: Summarise your project here, noting you can provide more detail later in the application. Use no more than 800 characters.

This project co-invests in empowering independent artists, producers, and small companies to turn their work into sustainable national tours. Through PAC Australia's expert-led Tour Producer Training and mentorship, participants gain practical skills, industry knowledge, and build relationships with presenters and peers.

Across 2026–27, two cohorts will complete eight online sessions plus an in-person intensive and attend the APAX Arts Market and connect with presenters and alumni with mentor support.

By removing financial and knowledge barriers, the program ensures practitioners can confidently navigate touring, expand audiences across Australia, and strengthen the sector — creating lasting impact for artists, communities, and the national performing arts ecosystem.

Tell us about your organisation. What artistic work does your organisation do? Focus on your organisation's creative activity that supports this application, who is involved and some highlights or achievements to date. Make this less than 2,400 characters. (around 450 words or 3-5 minutes of speech) :

For more than 30 years, PAC Australia has been a national leader in strengthening Australia's performing arts touring ecology. With a network of over 260 presenters, producers, touring companies and artists, we connect the sector, elevate standards, and build the relationships that bring arts experiences to communities across the country.

The Australian Performing Arts Exchange (APAX), our flagship event, is the largest annual national gathering of performing arts practitioners in Australia and a cornerstone of touring and market development. It is an essential mechanism for connecting presenters, artists and producers, planning future presentation opportunities and seeding new collaborations. In 2025 almost 450 people participated in APAX with 95% stating it was a valuable experience, and 94% ranking building relationships as their primary purpose for attending.

Since 2023, PAC Australia has delivered our industry-leading Tour Producer Training, seeded through the Local Giants partnership with Regional Arts Australia and Performing Lines. The program consists of 8 online sessions and an in-person intensive held the day prior to the APAX arts market. It has supported 91 independent artists, producers and companies to develop the professional skills required to create viable national tours.

We are deeply committed to supporting independent tour producers to enter national touring with confidence and professionalism. Pathways are complex, costly and often inaccessible. Our training accelerates learning that would otherwise take years to acquire, equipping producers with the skills, confidence and networks to enter the touring landscape professionally and sustainably.

2025 course feedback:

- 100% increased capacity in tour development
- 92% increased confidence in building presenter relationships and engage in arts markets
- 100% would recommend the training

As one participant shared:

"This was an extremely helpful course in deepening my understanding and insights as a tour producer... I will routinely be referencing this training and everything I learned."

Investing in producers strengthens the entire sector. When producers thrive, presenters connect more effectively with communities and audiences across Australia benefit.

Are you working with other artists or creatives? No

Don't lose your work! Click the **Save** button at the bottom of the screen then click the **Edit** button (top right of the screen) to continue.

What do you want to use the funding for? Describe what you will do, how and when you will do it. You can also say why you want to do this project and who is involved. Make this less than 5,600 characters. (around 1000 words 7-10 minutes of speech) :

This project harnesses the expertise of PAC Australia's national network of presenters and producers to deliver industry-leading training combined with supported access to APAX Arts Market. Over 18 months, it will support up to 30 independent producers, artists and small companies to build the skills, confidence and relationships required to develop sustainable national tours.

This fund will support:

- Contribution toward industry-recognised wages to attend the in-person intensive
- Complimentary APAX Arts Market registration
- Mentor/pathfinder to guide them through APAX
- In-person intensive event delivery costs (speakers, room hire & tech costs)

PACA's co-investment will support

- 8 x online training sessions
- Coordination of industry experts, relevant and current touring challenges and models, course readings, resources & templates and a acre-based approach to facilitation

Financial support from this fund will prioritise independent artists/producers, small companies, and organisations supporting First Nations, CALD and/or artists with disability to tour— particularly those with limited experience navigating national touring.

PAC Australia has consistently subsidised this training to keep the course fees down. With Creative Australia Arts Projects for Organisations Funding (2024–2025), we were able to further remove financial barriers by fully subsidising course fees, APAX Arts Market registration, a wage to attend the in-person intensive, and all program delivery costs. In 2025, this resulted in 100% attendance at the intensive and arts market observation — demonstrating that when barriers are removed, participation flourishes.

We now seek support to continue this high-quality training through a co-investment model. PAC Australia will fund the online component, and this request will ensure selected participants can attend the in-person intensive without financial hardship, covering a day's wage, APAX Arts Market registration, a producer mentor, and in-person delivery costs.

Navigating an arts market is a major milestone in tour development, but for unwaged artists and small companies, costs and unpaid labour can be prohibitive. They can also be overwhelming for or those who are not yet connected to presenters.

The in-person intensive remains the most valuable part of the program— relationships are built, negotiations practised, and firsthand touring insights gained. In 2026, a mentorship program will pair participants with experienced practitioners to guide introductions, refine pitches, decode market systems, and support meaningful engagement, helping them confidently enter the national touring ecosystem.

This initiative responds directly to PAC Australia's 2022 national Arts Market research project to better understand the artists' experience investing in, navigating and benefiting from arts markets. It revealed:

- 75% of artists attending markets do so even without new work, valuing relationship-building.
- APAX is critical to national programming decisions.
- 100% cited financial cost (registration, travel and lost income) as the primary barrier to attendance.
- 100% agreed emerging companies face significant disadvantage due to the complexity and long-term nature of tour development.
- 50% reported choosing between creating new work or resourcing tour development.

The research confirmed three core insights:

1. in-person attendance at arts markets is vital to building lasting touring relationships and leveraging the investments already made, to extend the life of a work.
2. Attending arts markets and developing tours out of them costs artists both in unpaid wages, and in financial terms. These costs mean that other artistic projects cannot happen, either due to budget or resourcing.

3. Emerging producers face structural disadvantage without targeted support.

In response, PAC Australia designed the Tour Producer Training — delivered online and in person — to support participants both entering and exiting the arts market. More than 20 sector leaders contribute to the program, providing practical knowledge and direct connection to a cross-section of presenters and producers. Program overview is included in the support material.

Demand for this training program is high, and the independent sector have limited capacity to invest the time and finances in their own professional development. This funding enables emerging touring artists and producers, as well as small companies to undertake the professional development training, learn the core skills required to effectively develop national tours and leverage those skills attending APAX; ensuring high-quality outcomes for both the company and the presenters and communities they visit.

By investing in producers at a critical point in their development, this project strengthens the national touring ecosystem — enabling artists to reach new audiences, presenters to program with confidence, and communities across Australia to experience outstanding performing arts.

Key steps to deliver the project

2026

July: Confirm speakers & mentors; assess participants for financial support

September: Deliver in-person intensive and mentor program alongside APAX

October: Evaluate outcomes, refine for 2027

2027

March: Open applications ensure diversity, equity, regional representation and First Nations and CALD inclusion into the training program

May: Confirm speakers & mentors; assess participants for financial support

June–October: Deliver online sessions leading into the in-person intensive at APAX

December: Acquittal

Are you working with other partner organisations as part of this project? No

Don't lose your work! Click the **Save** button at the bottom of the screen then click the **Edit** button (top right of the screen) to continue.

Activity Details

Your funded activity starts on:

1 July 2026 and ends on **19 December 2027**

Activities:

Dates	Activity	Location	State/ Country	Confirmed
01 Jul 26 - 16 Jul 26	Confirm speakers and producer mentors; assess participants for financial support	PRESTON	Vic	No
07 Sep 26 - 09 Sep 26	In-person intensive & APAX ARTs Market	ALBION	Qld	Yes
21 Oct 26 - 29 Oct 26	Evaluate outcomes and refine for 2027	PRESTON	Vic	No
01 Mar 27 - 31 Mar 27	Open applications aligned with APAX program; prioritise pitched works and ensure diversity, equity, regional representation and First	PRESTON SOUTH	Vic	No

	Nations and CALD inclusion into the training program			
29 Oct 27 - 19 Dec 27	Deliver online sessions leading into the in-person intensive at APAX	PRESTON SOUTH	Vic	No
01 Jul 26 - 19 Dec 27	Deliver online sessions leading into the in-person intensive at APAX	PRESTON SOUTH	Vic	No
02 Aug 27 - 30 Sep 27	Deliver in-person intensive and mentor program alongside APAX	PRESTON SOUTH	Vic	No

Don't lose your work! Click the **Save** button at the bottom of the screen then click the **Edit** button (top right of the screen) to continue.

Statistical Information

Exchange and mobility - national and international

Do any of the proposed activities in your application include an international component or an interstate component? Yes, with or in other states or territories

Digital engagement

How will artists or other participants in your proposed activity work together? : Both face to face and via online/digital

How peers assess your application

Peers will review information you've provided in this application against our published assessment criteria. There are some choices you'll need to make so peers know how you'd like your application assessed.

Your application will be assessed against the options you select below:

1. I would like my application assessed against EITHER **Quality of artistic or cultural activities** OR **Quality of services for the arts**.

Choose from one of two possible options: Quality of services for the arts

2. **Viability** - all applications are reviewed against viability

3. **Impact** - all applications are reviewed against impact

For more information on these criteria [please refer to the guidelines](#).

What do you think will be the impact of funding on your creative activity? How will it help your creative practice, other people or your community? Note impacts include creative, social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits. Make this less than 2,400 characters. (around 450 words or 3-5 minutes of speech) :

This project addresses a critical need: equipping independent performing arts producers, artists and small companies with the skills, access and confidence to navigate the national marketplace and convert interest in their work into viable touring outcomes.

The 2020 National Touring Scan (Creative Australia) found that the touring sector's capacity is stretched, new models are needed, and arts markets such as APAX have become increasingly central to the cultural ecology. With tour coordination organisations at capacity, closing or going into liquidation, independent practitioners have carried much of the impact.

Touring also remains essential to a sustainable arts career, generating return on investment for new work, ongoing paid employment for creative teams, and connects diverse communities through meaningful cultural exchange.

This request of \$50,624.55 over two years—just \$1,687 per participant approximately—represents high-impact investment, returned exponentially through future touring opportunities that benefit the both the participant and artists connected to the production. One additional confirmed presentation per participant translates into weeks of paid employment and flow-on benefits for collaborating artists and venues.

The training program delivers industry best practice through expert facilitators and more than 20 sector leaders. Participants gain practical tools and templates that streamline tour development, alongside critical knowledge in cultural safety, mental health and wellbeing, environmental responsibility, and community engagement.

Mentorship embedded within the in-person intensive and APAX Arts Market ensures participants build genuine working relationships and deepen their understanding of regional touring contexts. They are guided through the language, systems and expectations of the market, transforming what can be an overwhelming experience into a strategic opportunity.

Equally important is the peer network formed through the program. Participants connect online and consolidate those relationships during the in-person intensive, approaching APAX as a supported cohort rather than in isolation. These networks endure well beyond the program.

By investing in independent producers at a pivotal moment, this project ensures high-quality Australian work continues to travel, connect and thrive.

Your Budget

Income & In-kind

Using the [+] button below, add lines of income and expenditure to your budget.

Item	Amount	Description	Con- firmed
Income generated from the project	\$8,000.00	Tour Producer Training course fees	No

Total Income: \$8,000.00

Item	Amount	Description
Administration costs	\$8,900.00	Admin / Insurance/Utilities etc. Phone/internet/online systems etc across two years
Other salaries, wages and fees	\$43,956.00	PACA Training Manager - 11 weeks FT for TPT @ \$48 ph + super
Travel and accommodation costs	\$5,000.00	Training Manager travel incl flights/accommodation/per diems/transfers - \$2500 per year

Total In-Kind Income: \$57,856.00

Total income (without in-kind): \$8,000.00

Total in-kind income: \$57,856.00

Please note, total income and total in-kind income above will calculate upon saving the form.

Expenses

Item	Amount	Description
Project and production costs	\$8,000.00	Online course costs Tour Producer Training online speaker fees
Project and production costs	\$3,000.00	In-person intensive x 2 Venue Hire (based on previous hire rates of \$1500/day x 2 years)
Project and production costs	\$2,600.00	In-person intensive x 2 Tech staff & hire - 2 techs x \$65 ph x 2 intensives (based on Darwin Entertainment Centre (AANT) rates for technical staff)
Artists salaries, wages and fees	\$2,500.00	In-person intensive x 2 Speaker Fees (based on \$250 x 5 speakers x 2 years)
Artists salaries, wages and fees	\$14,250.00	in-person intensive x 2 Event registration (based on 30 participants at \$475 average registration cost) - Arts Market only
Artists salaries, wages and fees	\$12,831.00	in-person intensive x 2 One-days wage for identified participants to offset lost income. Based on TNA Independent Artists Benchmarking - \$42.77 ph when participating in funded project.
Artists salaries, wages and fees	\$10,000.00	In-person intensive x 2 Practitioner Mentor (\$5k x 2 years)
Administration costs	\$5,443.55	Project administration costs - Contribution to wages and online admin costs across both years

Total Expenses: \$58,624.55

Total expenses (without in-kind): \$58,624.55

Total in-kind expenses: \$57,856.00

Please note, total expenses and total in-kind expenses above will calculate upon saving the form.

Don't lose your work! Click the **Save** button at the bottom of the screen then click the **Edit** button (top right of the screen) to continue.

Budget Summary

Here is a summary of your budget.

We have calculated your Creative Australia grant request based on the shortfall between your projected expenses and your projected income.

Total income: \$65,856.00

Total expenses: \$116,480.55

Creative Australia grant request: \$50,624.55

Please note, the field above calculates upon saving the form.

Statistical Data Summary

Main arts practice	Theatre
Arts practice genre	First Nations, Community engaged practice, Collaborative/devised theatre, Physical theatre, Circus, Contemporary performance
Main purpose	Developing skills/capacity
Activity type/s	Capacity building (individuals), Capacity building (organisations), Community engagement, Developing networks/partnerships, Mentorship
Expected number of new works created	0
Creative control	No specific group
Primary audience	No specific group
Interstate component	Participants travel across state/territory borders
Digital Engagement	Both face to face and via online/digital

Don't lose your work! Click the **Save** button at the bottom of the screen then click the **Edit** button (top right of the screen) to continue.

▼ Support Material

You should submit support material with your application. The peer assessors may review this support material to help them gain a better sense of your project.

We do not accept application-related support material submitted via post. Application-related material received by post will not be assessed and will be returned to the sender. If you think you will have difficulty submitting your support material online, or need advice on what type of material to submit, please [contact Artists Services](#).

There are four types of support material you may submit:

1. Artistic support material

This should include relevant, recent examples of your artistic or cultural work.

2. Biographies and CVs

You can include a brief bio or curriculum vitae (CV) for key artists, personnel or other collaborators involved in your project. Brief bios or CV information should be presented as a single document no longer than two A4 pages in total.

3. Letters of support

Individuals, groups or organisations can write letters in support of your project. A support letter should explain how the project or activity will benefit you, other artists or arts professionals, participants or the broader community. It can also detail the support or involvement of key project partners, or evidence of consultation.

All applications involving First Nations artists, communities or subject matter must adhere to these Protocols, provide evidence of this in their application and support material. [More information on the First Nations Protocols is available here](#).

4. Letters of confirmation

If your application involves an international presentation, you must provide letters of confirmation from your presenting partners, such as festivals and venues. Each letter must include confirmation of any invitations, partners fees or contributions to the activity, whether cash or in-kind.

Please provide a single link to all letters or scan the letters into one PDF file and attach to your application.

What is the best way to provide support material?

Our preferred method of receiving support material is via URLs (weblinks). You can provide up to three URLs (weblinks) that link to content that is relevant to your proposal. This may include video, audio, images, or written material. These URLs can include a total of:

- 10 minutes of video and/or audio recording
- 10 images
- 10 pages of written material (for example, excerpts of literary writing).

Please note: Our peer assessors will not access any URLs that require them to log in or sign up to a platform. Please do not provide links to Spotify or other applications that require users to log in or pay for access. If you are linking to media files that are private or password protected like Vimeo, please provide the password in the password field below.

Other accepted file formats

If you cannot supply support material via URLs, you may upload support material to your application in the following formats:

- Video (MP4, QuickTime, and Windows Media)
- Audio (MP3 and Windows Media)
- Images (JPEG and PowerPoint)
- Written material (Word and PDF).

If you can't provide URLs, please use the [+] button in the '**Uploaded Support Material**' section below to attach support material to your application.

URL 1:

Password, if applicable:

Description:

URL 2:

Password, if applicable:

Description:

URL 3:

Password, if applicable:

Description:

UPLOADED SUPPORT MATERIAL

LOS_Kristen Maloney.pdf



Letters of support

Added by Katherine Connor at 2:57 PM on 3 March 2026



LOS_GUTS.pdf



Letters of support

Added by Katherine Connor at 2:57 PM on 3 March 2026



Tour Producer Training program overview.pdf



Written material (Word and PDF)

Added by Katherine Connor at 2:57 PM on 3 March 2026

Certification

I have the authority to submit this application and by submitting this application acknowledge and agree to the following:

1. The statements in this application are true to the best of my knowledge and the supporting material is my own work or the work of the artists named in this application.

2. Funding decisions

I understand that if my application is successful, details of my funding will be published on the Creative Australia website including, but not limited to, my name. I understand my application may not be funded, or may be funded at a different amount than my grant request.

3. Support material

Creative Australia has a licence to reproduce and communicate the support material submitted for the purpose of assessing my application. If any support material submitted includes the copyright of another person, I have obtained this permission from the owner of that copyright.

4. Members of parliament

If this application is approved, I consent to the media and/or members of parliament being given information about the funded project and I may be contacted directly by them.

5. Creative Australia information and advice

I am responsible for any actions and decisions that I have taken based on information and advice given to me by Creative Australia staff and that the actions and decisions I have taken in preparing this application are not the responsibility of Creative Australia.

6. Submitting your application

- 1) I understand that if I submit my application outside of office hours (Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm Australian Eastern Time) there will be no technical support or administrative support available;
- 2) if I cannot submit my application by the published closing date and time Creative Australia will not accept a late application;
- 3) if I submit my application after the online system stops accepting applications to the current closing date, the application will be submitted to the subsequent closing date for that category;
- 4) in the case of a dispute regarding the submission of my application, Creative Australia will require evidence in the form of an auto-generated email confirming successful submission of my application, or screenshots with the time and date visible. If I cannot produce this evidence Creative Australia will deem the application not submitted.

7. Changes to my application

I acknowledge I am able to update the 'Activities' and 'Collaborators' details of my application after I have submitted it.

I further acknowledge I will not be able to modify, correct or update any other part of my application once I have submitted it. Creative Australia is not obliged to accept any material submitted by me after the closing date or take such material into consideration when assessing my application.

8. Recipient or administrator details

I will not be able to alter or change the recipient or administrator details I have nominated in this application form except in exceptional circumstances, and only at the discretion of Creative Australia.

9. I understand feedback on my application may be limited to general comments on the category assessed, and that there may be no specific feedback on my application.

10. Personal Information: By submitting this application you agree to Creative Australia collecting personal information about you. You also agree you have permission to provide personal information about other individuals included in this application.

We collect personal information for the purpose of delivering our services, specifically:

- To assist Creative Australia in fulfilling its functions under Section 11 of the Creative Australia Act 2023, by administering grants and funding to artists and arts organisations
- To assist in ensuring equitable access to funding programs and during the peer assessment of those programs
- To evaluate success, benefits and outcomes of funding programs
- To meet statutory reporting obligations (particularly in relation to access and participation)

This may include sensitive information, such as information about your health, demographic, race, sexuality or professional memberships, where necessary, to ensure your health and safety and to provide our services. By providing this information, you confirm that you have read and consent to the processing of your personal information in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#)