

Arts Mid North Coast SEED Grants Program Guidelines

Key Information

Applications Open: 15 June 2026

Applications Close: 24 July 2026

Funding Amount: \$500 - \$2500

For projects starting after 1 September 2026.

Projects must be completed by 31 August 2027.

Overview

The SEED Grants Program supports community-driven and place-based creative projects across the Mid North Coast. SEED provides flexible funding to support artists and communities to realise ideas, activate spaces, and grow creative practice.

Building on the legacy of the Country Arts Support Program (CASP), SEED Grants is a devolved funding program from the NSW Government via Create NSW managed by Arts Mid North Coast.

Funding is open to individuals, groups and not-for-profit organisations based in Arts Mid North Coast member LGAs: City of Coffs Harbour, Bellingen Shire, Nambucca Valley, Kempsey Shire and Port Macquarie-Hastings.

Program Objectives

The SEED Grants program aims to:

- Stimulate creative activity across the region
- Provide accessible funding opportunities
- Support artist-led and community-connected projects
- Foster inclusive and place-based arts practice
- Build capacity and visibility within the regional creative sector

Funding Available

Grants from \$500 up to \$2,500 are available for a variety of projects including:

- Workshops, mentoring, and skill development programs
- Performances, exhibitions, or showcases
- Public art or local creative activations
- Community arts and cultural events
- New work, presentations, or collaborations
- Cross-disciplinary or experimental initiatives

Who Can Apply

Applications are accepted from:

- Individual artists and practitioners
- Unincorporated community groups (with an auspice)
- Incorporated associations, Not-for-profit organisations and registered charities
- Aboriginal Corporations

This grant is intended to support grassroots, community-led arts activity. Applications from organisations whose primary purpose is education (e.g schools/education providers including P&Cs), commercial activity, or profit generation will not be considered.

Applicants must have a valid ABN and current Public Liability Insurance (or be able to purchase insurance before project commences).

Unincorporated groups without an ABN must apply via an auspice organisation that is a legally constituted not-for-profit entity with an ABN.

Eligible applicants and projects **must be based within Arts Mid North Coast member LGAs:** City of Coffs Harbour, Bellingen Shire, Nambucca Valley, Kempsey Shire, Port Macquarie-Hastings.

Applications outside these areas are not eligible.

If you have a current Arts Mid North CASP grant or outstanding acquittals, you are ineligible to apply.

What Can I apply for?

Examples of projects include:

- Workshops, mentoring, and skill development programs
- Performances, exhibitions, or showcases
- Public art or local creative activations
- Community arts and cultural events
- New work, presentations, or collaborations
- Cross-disciplinary or experimental initiatives

Funding can support:

- Artist fees (must align with industry standards where applicable e.g [NAVA rates of pay](#) or [Live Performance Awards](#))
- Materials and production costs
- Venue or equipment hire
- Workshop and engagement costs

Projects must:

- Demonstrate connection to community and place
- Be completed within 12 months of funding
- Include fair and appropriate artist payment

Co-contributions are encouraged but not required

What We Won't Fund

- Expenditure already incurred, including backpaying costs and loans
- Projects that have already commenced prior to funding approval
- Ongoing or existing programs that are part of regular business operations
- Capital purchases or infrastructure costs, including: equipment purchases, permanent fit-outs or building works.
- Activities that are carried out to satisfy the course requirements of an educational institution, such as a TAFE or university or delivery of a schools program
- Projects that do not compensate artists appropriately
- Programs that are only available to closed membership groups or a school cohort.
- Projects that do not have a community outcome.
- Projects delivered primarily outside the Mid North Coast region
- Applicants not based in eligible Mid North Coast LGAs

Strategic Priorities

Priority will be given to projects that align with one or more of the following:

1. Capacity Building & Professional Development

- Developing skills, networks, or career pathways
- Supporting artists at any stage of their practice
- Strengthening project delivery capability

2. Activation of Creative Spaces

- Use of underutilised or non-traditional spaces
- Public art, pop-ups, or creative place-making
- Bringing arts and culture into everyday community settings

3. Community Engagement

- Active participation from local communities
- Projects that build connection, identity, and cultural life
- Accessible and inclusive activities and experiences

4. Diversity & Inclusion

Strong encouragement for projects led by or engaging:

- First Nations artists and communities
- Young people
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities
- People with disability

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Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed by a panel including Arts Mid North staff, and Board Members. Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Artistic & Cultural Merit

Strength and originality of the idea
Relevance to the local context

2. Alignment with Priorities

Contribution to one or more strategic priority areas

3. Community Connection

Quality of engagement with audiences or participants
Inclusivity and accessibility

4. Viability

Clear plan and achievable timeline
Appropriate and realistic budget
Capacity of the applicant to deliver the project

5. Development & Impact

Benefits to the applicant or community
Potential for ongoing outcomes or broader impact

How to Apply

Applications will be open from 15 June 2026 and close 24 July 2026.

Submit your application online via: <https://artsmidnorthcoast.com/seed-grants/>

You will require: project description, budget, timeline and support material (e.g images and CV).

Need help?

Contact:

Olivia Parker, Executive Director

E: director@artsmidnorthcoast.org | P: 6658 9400



Arts Mid North Coast Seed Grants is a devolved funding program from the NSW Government via Create NSW and administered through Arts Mid North Coast.