7.16. RADF GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS 2026 2027

REPORT AUTHOR	Community Development Officer
EXECUTIVE	General Manager Corporate and Communities
DEPARTMENT	Corporate and Communities
TEAM	Community Services
DATE	27 October 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee's recommendations to fund three (3) applications totalling $15,000 as detailed in Table 1.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's 2026/27 Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Grants Program opened on 1 May 2026 and closed on 30 August 2026. During this time eight (8) applications were received.

The RADF Advisory Committee assessed the applications on 9 September 2026 against the RADF Program Guidelines and assessment criteria and recommended full funding for three (3) applications, totalling $15,000.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS / RESOLUTIONS

There are no previous Council considerations.

REPORT/BACKGROUND

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a partnership between the Queensland Government and local governments to support arts and cultural development in regional Queensland. RADF recognises the value of arts, culture and heritage in building inclusive, connected and vibrant communities and supports projects that align with local cultural priorities.

Council's 2026/27 RADF Grants Program opened on 1 May 2026 and closed on 30 August 2026. Applicants were able to apply for grants of up to $5,000.

The RADF Advisory Committee comprises three (3) community representatives and two (2) elected members, with the Community Development Officer acting as Chair. Committee members are required to comply with the RADF Committee Handbook and RADF Grant Guidelines, including declaring any conflicts of interest prior to assessing applications.

The RADF Advisory Committee recommends that Council:

Approve three (3) RADF applications for full funding, totaling $15,000. The recommended projects are outlined below.

Table 1.

Project Name	Funding Requested
NextGen Noise 2027: **A professional quality pop concert featuring emerging local teenage musicians, with all performers involved in decision making and organsing the event.**	$5,000
DAB Heritage Art Project: **A community art program developing skills through workshops, heritage-site sketching and public exhibitions.**	$5,000
Circle of Plenty Community Garden Mural Project: **A series of design and mural workshops with local youth and the wider community developing mural-making skills before creating a large-scale public mural at the Circle of Plenty.**	$5,000

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The 2026–2028 RADF Program has a total funding pool of $110,000, comprising $60,000 from Arts Queensland, allocated as $30,000 in 2026/27 and $30,000 in 2027/28, and a $50,000 contribution from Douglas Shire Council, allocated as $25,000 in 2026/27 and $25,000 in 2027/28.

The funding is allocated between the RADF Community Grants Program and Council-initiated RADF projects identified through the Douglas Shire Council 2026–2028 Arts Action Plan.

The total proposed expenditure in this report is $15,000 for three (3) RADF Community Grant allocations. The proposed expenditure is within the approved 2026/27 RADF funding allocation.

Program administration and reporting is provided in-kind by Council. The Community Development Officer administers the program and coordinates reporting, while the RADF Advisory Committee assesses applications and makes funding recommendations to Council.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The risks in relation to allocating public money through the RADF program are:

1. **Failure to Acquit Funds**

   Risk Management procedures in relation to outstanding RADF Outcome Reports will consist of the following:

- Requests for extension of project timelines and/or Outcome Report deadlines are to be submitted in writing to the Council officer administering the RADF program.

- In consultation with the RADF Committee, Council may grant extensions to project timelines and/or Outcome Report due dates on a case-by-case basis when requests are deemed justified.

- Council Officer contacts grantees who have obtained extensions on projects on a regular basis to monitor progress.

At times grantees may face circumstances beyond their control which impact project timelines, so Council officers will try to support artists and organisations in such situations to achieve the original outcomes of the awarded projects.

2. **Conflict**

There may be a risk of conflict arising between applicants and/or the RADF Committee, Council officers, or elected members.

- Applicants will be encouraged to contact the Community Development Officer about any disagreement or conflict with the grant application.

- Applicants will have the right to request a meeting with Council officers and RADF Committee members to obtain feedback about their application or to view the minutes of assessment meetings.

To mitigate the risk of conflict, minutes will clearly document RADF Committee comments with suggestions on where applications could be improved for future submissions.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no identified environmental implications associated with this report.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Arts funding helps celebrate local stories, culture, history and creativity, contributing to a stronger sense of place and community identity. It can showcase the unique character of a region and foster civic pride.

CORPORATE AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Liveability
To deliver community activities to promote safe, healthy, inclusive and socially engaged communities with an environmental conscious.
1.1 - *Deliver community initiatives that support healthy, inclusive and socially engaged communities.*
1.2 - *Encourage and grow creative opportunities across the arts.*
1.3 - *Be culturally sensitive, inclusive and improve Council's cultural competency.*
1.4 - *Promote inclusivity, connection and accessibility for individuals/people of all abilities.*

Operational Plan 2026-2027 Actions:

New project arisen during the financial year.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

- *Local Government Act 2009*

CONSULTATION

Internal Consultation:

- RADF Committee and organisation-wide email.

External Consultation:

- External engagement through consultant.
- Grant opportunities were promoted through Council's website and Facebook page, local media and posters displayed at Council venues.

CONCLUSION

The RADF Advisory Committee has assessed the eight (8) RADF applications against the RADF Program Guidelines and assessment criteria and provided recommendations for Council consideration.

The recommended projects support a range of arts and cultural initiatives across the Douglas Shire and align with the objectives of the RADF Program.

The total proposed funding of $15,000 is within the approved RADF funding allocations.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil