

6.4. RADF REVIEW AND 2024 PROGRAM

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DEPARTMENT People and Community Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Endorses the 2023-2024 Regional Arts Development Fund application to Arts Queensland for \$30,000, based on Council's contribution of \$25,000;**
2. **Endorses the allocation of unexpended 2021-2022 RADF funds of \$12,165.35 to the 2023-2024 Program.**
3. **Endorses the allocation of unexpended 2022-2023 RADF funds of \$55,000 to the 2023-2024 Program.**
4. **Delegates authority under s 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise all associated matters, including the development of the application to Arts Queensland, development of local RADF Guidelines and the application form.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is delivered as a partnership between the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and local governments across the State. RADF promotes the role and value of arts, culture and heritage as key drivers of diverse and inclusive communities and strong regions, and invests in local arts and cultural priorities as determined by local communities.

A review of the RADF Program 2019-2023 identified trends, gaps, opportunities, and strengths of previous programs and these have informed the program design and development for the 2023-2024 year.

Unexpended RADF funds from financial year 2021-2022 of \$12,165.35 and 2022-2023 of \$55,000 have been rolled over to the 2023-2024 budget of \$55,000. Total RADF funds available for the 2023-2024 RADF Program are \$122,164.35.

The 2023-2024 RADF Program includes both:

1. Council initiated projects and
2. Community grants programs

The 2023-2024 RADF program has been designed to:

1. Encourage applications that deliver more broadly across Council objectives
2. Address opportunities of inclusivity and diversity

The 2023-2024 RADF Program addresses four key themes identified as priorities and opportunities of the Douglas Shire, these are:

1. Connecting to Place
2. Eco-creativity & Sustainability
3. Vibrant Places & Spaces
4. Collaboration & Advocacy

The 2023-2024 RADF program and budget allocations are:

Allocation	Project / Program	%	\$
Community Arts Grants	Round 1, Round 2	52%	\$63,164.35
	Creators Program	8%	\$10,000.00
Council Initiated Projects	Public Art, Placemaking projects, RASN Initiatives, Training & Development	40%	\$49,000.00
Total		100%	\$122,164.35

BACKGROUND

RADF is a flexible fund inclusive of all relevant artform areas including visual art, craft and design, music, dance, writing, dramatic and physical theatre, media art, film and television, multi-arts, festivals, public art, community cultural development, and heritage and collections including museums, galleries and libraries.

The RADF Program design criteria defined by Arts Queensland includes:

Quality

- Produces or contributes to high quality arts and cultural initiatives for local communities.
- Proven capacity to effectively support and deliver arts and cultural services.

Reach

- Provides access to and engagement in arts and culture for diverse communities, practitioners, participants and audiences.
- Evidence of local demand for proposed program/s.
- Demonstrates community and stakeholder involvement in RADF priority setting, decision making and evaluation.

Impact

- Demonstrates cultural, artistic, social or economic returns on investment.
- Supports one or more of the Queensland Government objectives for the community including safeguarding our health, supporting jobs, backing small business, making it for Queensland, building Queensland, growing our regions, investing in skills, backing our frontline services, protecting the environment.

Viability

- Evidence of good planning for strong governance and management of RADF at a local level.
- Evidence of partnership capacity with partners including business and government.

COMMENTS

To determine the best use of RADF investment to achieve the objectives of the fund, in ways most relevant to our local community, Council also considered:

- If the combination of the existing local grants program and council-initiated projects, will best meet local needs and demand;
- If the RADF allocation is best spread across a range of smaller activities, or directed to a bigger initiative;
- Opportunities to collaborate with neighbouring councils to address shared priorities such as increasing liveability or cultural tourism; and
- Opportunities to leverage investment to attract partners for larger projects such as cultural infrastructure, significant events, public art or place-making activities.

The 2023-2024 RADF program reflects the objectives of Council and the community's desires whilst addressing the gaps identified in the RADF program review of RADF projects between 2019 and 2023.

The 2023-2024 RADF program also aims to deliver more broadly across Council's objectives for Arts and Culture in addition to growing and enhancing Cultural Tourism, Placemaking and Public Art, while addressing the need for greater diversity and inclusivity.

The 2023-2024 RADF Program:

1. Council Initiated RADF Projects
 - a. Community led public art and placemaking initiatives
 - b. Training and development
 - c. Regional Arts Services Network (RASN) Initiatives
2. Community Arts Grants delivered via:
 - a. Round One
 - b. Round Two
 - c. Creators Program

PROPOSAL

The proposal is for Council to endorse the 2023-2024 Regional Arts Development Fund program comprising both Community Grants Rounds and Council Initiated Projects with the following budget allocations as tabled:

Table 1: 2023-2024 RADF Program Allocation

Allocation		% Allocated	\$ Allocated
Community Arts Grants	Round 1, Round 2	52%	\$63,164.35
	Creators Program	8%	\$10,000.00
Council Initiated Projects		40%	\$49,000.00
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FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with Council's RADF program are allocated in the budget for the 2023-2024 financial year.

A Council Officer is responsible for administering the RADF Program. The RADF Committee is responsible for assessing applications after the grants program round closes and providing funding recommendations, which are ratified by Council at an Ordinary Meeting.

A Council Officer will be responsible for transferring funds to successful applicants on the return of signed funding agreements, and as project milestones are achieved.

Council officers will coordinate Council initiated RADF projects and liaise with external stakeholders to deliver the initiatives.

Council Officers will workshop individual Council Initiated RADF projects, presenting to council meeting for ratification.

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 on 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, the RADF Committee, Council officers, or elected members. Applicants will be encouraged to contact the Council 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 comments with suggestions on where applications could be improved for future submissions.

In addition, surveys have been developed to gauge feedback from people attending RADF information sessions, from successful applicants and RADF committee members to assist Council officers in refining processes, presentation tools and other practices to improve the program.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Economic:** The RADF program is jointly funded by Arts Queensland and Council contributions.
- Environmental:** NIL
- Social:** The RADF program supports arts and cultural activities that provide public value for the Douglas Shire community, builds local and cultural capacity, cultural innovation, and community pride.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities

Douglas Shire Council embraces the diversity of our communities and values the contribution that all people make to the Shire. We recognise that it is a core strength of the region. We acknowledge our past so that it may guide us in the future. We recognise the wrongs done to our Indigenous community and we actively seek to reconcile so that we may all benefit from and enjoy our Shire. We acknowledge early European settlers who forged an agricultural base for our economy and we welcome all new arrivals as part of our broader community.

Goal 1 - *We will celebrate the diversity of our community and ensure that all infrastructure, programs, and services are underpinned with inclusiveness and accessibility*

Goal 2 - *We will deliver programs and services that protect and enhance the livability of our beautiful Shire.*

Goal 3 - *We will develop programs that promote health, well-being and safety in the community.*

Goal 4 - *We will promote arts and cultural programs and events that bring vibrancy to the community and compliment the tourist experience.*

Theme 2 - Fostering Sustainable Economic Growth

A robust economy is at the heart of a thriving community and enables investment in environmental protection. While our remoteness is a key attribute, it also presents challenges for attracting new business and investment. We must also meet the challenges of fierce competition in the tourism sector. Council will partner with industry to build, diversify and promote the Douglas economy. Council will design and deliver infrastructure, strategies and services that support the local economy and businesses.

Goal 2 - *We will work with partners to promote the Shire as the World's leading sustainable tropical destination and encourage business investment.*

Theme 3 - Leading Environmental Stewardship

Our visitors and residents deeply value the unparalleled environment in which we live. We recognise our responsibility in protecting and preserving our natural world for generations to come. We understand the strong link between the environment and the economy: they are interdependent.

Douglas Shire will be at the forefront of environmental protection by developing strategies, setting policies, and working with all stakeholders to become the envy of and to inspire locations across Australia and the World.

Goal 4 - We will partner with the community to educate and monitor.

Goal 5 - We will recognise the contribution that Traditional Owners make to the protection of the environment.

Theme 4 - Inclusive Engagement, Planning and Partnerships

In delivering for our communities, economy and environment, Douglas Shire will ensure open and transparent engagement and communication. We will develop robust strategic plans and we will partner with our community and key stakeholders.

Goal 1 - We will implement transparent decision making through inclusive community engagement and communication.

Goal 2 - We will develop forward looking strategies for the future of our communities and we will ensure balanced and appropriate planning decisions.

Operational Plan 2023-2024 Actions:

Legislative requirement.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances, and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Advocate	Council makes representation on behalf of the community on important issues, funding opportunities, projects, and programs. Council will use its influence to seek the best outcomes for the community.
Funder	Council often partly funds services, events or community organisations through grants, donations, subsidies, and in-kind support. Council will apply robust governance to ensure that such funding is fair and appropriate.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Douglas Shire Council's: *2014-2019 Corporate Plan, Douglas Arts Strategy 2017-2021, Douglas Shire Economic Development Strategy 2021-2024*, Council Grants Officer, Team Community & Economic Development.

Councillor workshops 28 November and 27 June 2023.

External: Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee, Arts Queensland, Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Liaison Officers Network, Regional Arts Services Network (RASN), Partnership Manager, Arts Queensland RADF Program Development & Cultural Framework Resources, Tourism Port Douglas Daintree.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The RADF program review includes input and feedback continuously conducted throughout the RADF program including participant, community & audience surveys, workshops & reports.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil