

5.12. REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND (RADF) APPLICATION FOR FUNDING 2016-2017

REPORT AUTHOR(S): Helen Coulthard, Community & Economic Development Officer
MANAGER: Kerrie Hawkes, Executive Officer
DEPARTMENT: CEO Unit

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. endorses the 2016-2017 Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) application for funding to Arts Queensland based on Council's contribution of \$12,857 (GST Exc); and**
- 2. delegates authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to administer Council's RADF program including the development of the funding 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 (AQ) 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.

RADF investment is available to 59 eligible Queensland Councils on the proviso Councils have satisfied the reporting and financial requirements of any previous AQ funding. Councils have been invited to submit online applications for 2016-2017 funding by 3pm 2 June 2016. This report seeks Council's endorsement of the proposed funding application to Arts Queensland.

BACKGROUND

The State Government recognises local governments as key partners and co-investors in Queensland's arts and culture with councils playing a significant role in supporting arts and culture in the communities through: supporting and implementing arts and cultural programs, activities and events; providing employment and funding to local arts and cultural workers, practitioners and organisations; cultural planning for increased liveability and economic growth; and owning and managing local cultural facilities such as libraries.

The RADF objectives are to support arts and cultural activities that: provide public value for Queensland communities; build local cultural capacity, innovation and community pride; and deliver Queensland Government's objectives for the community.

RADF has been delivered as a state and local government partnership for 25 years and the program has evolved in recent years to provide each Council with the flexibility to tailor RADF programs to suit the identified priorities, opportunities and capacities of their local communities.

RADF programs delivered by councils may include:

Council initiated projects for: arts and cultural activities, projects and events; professional development opportunities for local artists and arts workers (mentorships, incubator programs and provision of space or services); and RADF committee training, marketing and promotion.

Local grants programs (open or specifically targeted) for: artists or arts and cultural workers for professional development activities, new works or projects; professional organisations and community groups for arts and cultural activities, projects or events; and quick response grants.

COMMENT

Council's funding application has been developed around the following AQ RADF support material: *Guidelines 2016-17*; *Frequently Asked Questions 2016*; and *Tips for identifying community need and demand and developing RADF 2016-17 guidelines for local grant programs*.

Council's 2014-2019 Corporate Plan, feedback from the annual Arts in Douglas community survey and the Councillor briefing session were used to determine local priorities and guidelines for the 2016-2017 local RADF program.

To determine the best use of RADF investment to achieve the objectives of the fund, in ways most relevant to our local communities, Council 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 scale of State Government investment in the RADF partnership will depend on the contribution made by Council and the RADF Assessment Panel's moderation and funding recommendation to the Minister for the Arts. The panel may recommend Council receive less funding than the amount requested in our application.

The amount Council can apply for is guided by the population and co-investment tiers in AQ's RADF *Frequently Asked Questions 2016* literature. Based on our Shire's population, Council is Tier 2 meaning Council is required to contribute 30% towards the RADF program with the State contributing 70%, to a maximum of \$30,000. Council may consider applying for funding above our population tier's maximum investment amount or ratio if we can provide strong justification including evidence our financial contribution is at a higher level than the defined percentage ratio, or we have secured partners who are investing in our local RADF program, and have demonstrated capacity for exceptional delivery of the RADF objectives.

RADF 2016-2017 applications opened 21 April 2016 and will close 3pm 2 June 2016, with assessment and moderation in June/July. Funding will be announced in August and contracted in September 2016. The funding contracting date will influence when our local 2016-2017 RADF Grants Program will open.

PROPOSAL

The proposal is for Council to:

1. endorse the 2016-2017 Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) application for funding to Arts Queensland based on Council's contribution of \$12,857 (GST Exc); and
2. delegate authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to administer Council's RADF program including the development of the funding application to Arts Queensland, development of local RADF Guidelines and the application form.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with Council's RADF program will be allocated in the budget for the 2016-2017 financial year.

A Council Officer is responsible for administering the RADF Program. The RADF Committee is responsible for assessing applications after the local RADF 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.

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

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 as to why an application should or should not be funded, with suggestions on where application could be improved for future submissions. In addition, surveys have been developed to gauge feedback from: people attending RADF information sessions; successful applicants; and RADF committee members to assist Council officers refine processes, presentation tools and other practices to improve the program.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: The RADF objectives, developed by Arts Queensland, are to support arts and cultural activities that provide public value for Queensland communities and deliver Queensland Government objectives for the community, including building regions and stimulating economic growth.

Environmental: Nil

Social: Other RADF objectives are to support arts and cultural activities that build local cultural capacity, innovation and community pride..

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2014-2019 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities

1.1.4 - Support and encourage a healthy, active and capable region through sporting, cultural and recreational opportunities, and community wellbeing initiatives.

1.1.5 - Support local non-profit community, sporting and cultural organisations to build their capacity.

1.2.4 - Network, advocate and partner with stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes.

1.3.3 - Foster and support the role of local artists, writers and performers to encourage community vibrancy and wellbeing.

1.3.4 Provide and enhance community facilities and opportunities that cater for the arts, recreational and cultural pursuits.

Theme 2 - Building a Sustainable Economic Base

2.3.1 - Promote the area for film opportunities.

2.3.2 - Investigate opportunities for sports and cultural tourism.

2.4.1 - Collaborate and support Indigenous communities to identify opportunities for social enterprise.

2.4.2 - Collaborate with communities in the north of the Shire to identify and pursue opportunities for increased tourism market share.

Theme 3 - Improve Environmental Performance

3.1.2 - Identify and implement opportunities to create vibrancy in high profile areas, such as Daintree Gateway and Mossman town centre.

Theme 4 - Engage, Plan, Partner

4.2.3 - Work with regional, state, national and international stakeholders to promote beneficial partnerships to support strong, resilient and sustainable communities.

Operational Plan 2015-2016 Actions:

CEO3 - Develop and implement an Arts Policy and Strategy.

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	Supporting communities and groups by advocating for certain actions from other organisations (usually other levels of government)
Agent	Delivering a program or activity for another organisation (usually another level of government)
Information Provider	Bringing people together to develop solutions to problems.
Part-Funder	Sharing the cost of a program or activity with other organisations.

CONSULTATION

- Internal:**
- Chief Executive Officer
 - General Manager Corporate Services
 - General Manager Operations
 - Library Coordinator
 - Executive Officer
 - Managers
 - Councillors - Workshop 13 May 2016
- External:**
- Arts Queensland Partnership Manager
 - Community

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In developing priorities and guidelines for the 2016-2017 local RADF program, the community was engaged through the Arts in Douglas survey which emailed to community, arts and cultural networks, RADF committee and was also available online and at Douglas Libraries and administration offices. The survey was promoted on Council's website and Facebook page, in a Media Release, Douglas Community Matters in the Port Douglas & Mossman Gazette 21 April edition and emails to individual artists, arts groups, cultural groups and organisations.

Community engagement is also conducted throughout the RADF program with surveys used to gauge feedback from: people attending RADF information sessions; successful applicants; and RADF committee members to assist Council officers refine processes, presentation tools and other practices to improve the program.

Applicants successfully receiving RADF grants will also be required to engage with the community to gather feedback from audiences, participants and partners on their completed project.