

## **5.2. REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND (RADF) 2020-21 - FUNDS FOR GRANT PROGRAM**

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<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	People and Community Services

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council:**

- 1. Endorses the 2020-2021 Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) application for \$30,000 (GST Exc) in funding to Arts Queensland based on Council's contribution of \$15,000 (GST Exc); and**
- 2. Delegates authority to the 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.**

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### **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 2020-2021 funding by 4pm 2 April 2020. This report seeks Council's endorsement of the proposed funding amounts in the application submitted to Arts Queensland on 26 March 2020.

### **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 nearly 30 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 2020-21; Frequently Asked Questions 2020-21; and Tips for identifying community need and demand and developing RADF 2020-21 guidelines for local grant programs.

Council's 2019-2024 Corporate Plan, Arts Strategy 2017-2021, and Councillor briefing sessions were used to determine local priorities and guidelines for the 2020-2021 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 population and co-investment tiers in AQ's RADF Frequently Asked Questions 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.

Based on the 70/30 Ratio above, if Council contributes \$15,000 (GST Exc) to the RADF Program and requests \$30,000 from Arts Queensland, the 2020-21 RADF program could potentially be \$45,000 (GST Exc).

Councils In-kind Assistance program also provides local not for profit organisations with the opportunity to apply for waiving of hire fees for halls and parks for projects and activities.

Councils RADF 2020-2021 application to the State Government opened closed 4pm 2 April 2020, with assessment and moderation in April/May. Funding will be announced in July and contracted from August 2020.

It is envisaged Council's 2020-21 RADF program will open in the first half of the financial year.

The DSC RADF Grant program has been oversubscribed with applications for the past two years, resulting in worthwhile projects being partially funded or going un-funded.

2018-19 – 16 x Applications requesting \$68,649

2019-20 – 16 Applications requesting \$62,099

In the Douglas Shire Council Arts Strategy 2017-2021, it states:

### **Theme 2 - Support and Development**

Douglas Shire Council recognises it can play an important role in supporting activities of the community, connecting community and developing investment throughout the Shire.

**Commitment 6:** Increased Council investment in the arts sector.

Council's increased investment signals a focus on viewing the arts as an economic driver for the Shire.

- Incrementally increase Council investment in the arts sector over the next five years.
- Seek to increase the number and quality of RADF applications to pre-amalgamation levels.
- Demonstrate to State Government the necessity for an increase in RADF allocations.

### **PROPOSAL**

The proposal is for Council to:

1. endorse the 2020-2021 Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) application for \$30,000 (GST Exc) funding to Arts Queensland based on Council's contribution of \$15,000 (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 2020-2021 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, and as project milestones are achieved. Council officers will coordinate Council initiated 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 applications 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 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 2 - We will deliver programs and services that protect and enhance the liveability of our beautiful Shire.**

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

### Operational Plan 2019-2020 Actions:

Nil

## 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:

- 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:** Chief Executive Officer;  
Management Team;  
Grants Officer;  
Manager People & Community Services.

**External:** Arts Queensland Partnership Manager;  
Community.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Priorities, guidelines and forms for the 2019-2020 local RADF program were refined in response to community and Councillor feedback obtained by consultants in developing Council's Arts Strategy 2017-2024 and General Arts Policy during 2016-2017.

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, which is to accompany the Outcome Report/acquittal.

Social media comments will also be monitored on public art projects when completed and unveiled.

## ATTACHMENTS

Nil