

## 7.7. RADF ROUND TWO 2025-26 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Community Development Officer
<b>MANAGER</b>	Manager Community Services
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Corporate and Communities
<b>DATE</b>	16 June 2026

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves:

1. **The Regional Arts Development Fund Advisory Committee funding recommendations for six (6) applications totalling \$54,400 (excl. GST), as detailed in Table 1;**
2. **Funding for the Regional Arts Development Fund Advisory Committee's proposed special project, 150 Years – Faces of People Who Helped Shape the Douglas Shire, in the amount of \$11,340 in 2025/26 and \$17,360 in 2026/27;**
3. **The appointment of two (2) new Regional Arts Development Fund Advisory Committee members;**
4. **The engagement of a consultant to deliver the Douglas Shire Council 2026–2028 Arts Action Plan, totalling \$10,000 (excl. GST) funded from existing Regional Arts Development Fund budget; and**
5. **Delegates authority under *Section 257 (1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, finalise and execute any matters associated with the administration of the Regional Arts Development Fund.**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's 2025/26 Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Round Two Local Grants Program opened on 1 March 2026 and closed on 30 April 2026. A total of 10 applications were received. The RADF Advisory Committee met on 13 May 2026 to assess the applications against the RADF guidelines and assessment criteria.

Following assessment, the Committee recommended that six (6) of the 10 applications receive full funding, totalling \$54,400 (excl. GST), from the available funding pool of \$89,149.

In addition, the Committee has proposed funding for a special commemorative project titled 150 Years – Faces of People Who Helped Shape the Douglas Shire, a public art mosaic project to be delivered by the Douglas Shire Historical Society and a local artist. The proposed funding allocation is \$11,340 in 2025/26, with a subsequent allocation of \$17,360 proposed in 2026/27.

The Committee also recommends the appointment of two (2) new volunteer RADF Advisory Committee members and the engagement of a consultant to develop the Douglas Shire Council 2026–2028 Arts Action Plan, at a cost of \$10,000 (excl. GST).

The total proposed expenditure across the RADF grants program, Arts Action Plan and special community project is \$85,740. Funding is available within the total RADF budget allocation of \$89,149, which includes unexpended funds carried-forward from 2023/24 and 2024/25.

## PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS / RESOLUTIONS

Not applicable.

## 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 2025/26 RADF Round Two Local Grants Program opened on 1 March 2026 and closed on 30 April 2026. As this was a "super round", applicants were able to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 (excl. GST). In preparation for the funding round, Council facilitated a grant writing workshop in February 2026 to support local artists, organisations and community members in developing competitive applications and improving understanding of the RADF guidelines and assessment process.

The current RADF Advisory Committee comprises of a community representative and two (2) elected members, with the RADF Liaison 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 the assessment of applications. One (1) Committee member was unable to attend the assessment meeting.

The next RADF funding round is currently open and will close on 30 August 2026.

The RADF Committee proposes that Council:

1. Approves six (6) RADF applications for full funding, totalling \$54,400 (excl. GST). The recommended projects are outlined below.

Table 1.

Project Name	Funding Requested
<b>Call of the Running Tide - The Littoral Zone (CRT)</b>	\$10,000
<b>The Booth Juice Podcast</b>	\$10,000
<b>From Land to Sea: Kuku Yalanji Pilot</b>	\$10,000
<b>The Daintree Blockade - eBook and Audio Book</b>	\$9,900
<b>VAST - Crochet Installation</b>	\$10,000
<b>Mosaic Faces of History on Resource Centre Wall</b>	\$4,500

2. Approves phases two (2) and three (3) of the commemorative project titled *150 Years – Faces of People Who Helped Shape the Douglas Shire*. The project is a public art mosaic initiative to be delivered by the Douglas Shire Historical Society in collaboration with local artists. The proposed funding allocation is \$11,340 in 2025/26, with a further allocation of \$17,360 proposed in 2026/27 to complete the project.
3. Approves the appointment of two (2) new volunteer RADF Advisory Committee members to strengthen community representation and sector expertise on the Committee.
4. Approves the recommendation to engage a consultant to develop the Douglas Shire Council 2026–2028 Arts Action Plan, at a total cost of \$10,000 (excl. GST) for the development and community consultation required to create the action plan. The proposed Arts Action Plan will assist Council in identifying strategic priorities and opportunities for arts and cultural development across the Shire.

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the 2025/26 Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Program has been allocated within Council's operational budget to 30 June 2026. The total available RADF budget is \$89,149, comprising \$30,000 from Arts Queensland, \$25,000 from Council, and \$34,149 in unexpended funds carried forward from previous RADF programs.

The total proposed expenditure in this report is \$85,740, including RADF grant allocations, the 150th anniversary mosaic project and the Arts Action Plan consultant. Sufficient funding is available within the approved budget.

Administrative and program delivery support is provided in-kind by Council. The Community Development Officer administers the program and coordinates reporting, while the RADF Advisory Committee assesses applications and provides 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 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.**

#### Operational Plan 2025-2026 Actions:

1.2.1 - Develop an Arts and Culture Program for 2025/26 and 2026/27.

### LEGISLATION AND POLICY

- *Local Government Act 2009*

### CONSULTATION

- Consultation was undertaken with the RADF Advisory Committee, which assessed all items included in this report.
- Council's RADF Program and Expressions of Interest for new Committee members were promoted through Council's website, social media, local media, community networks and direct communication with arts and cultural stakeholders. A grant writing workshop also supported applicants.

- The Request for Quote for the Douglas Shire Council 2026–2028 Arts Action Plan was distributed through Council’s arts and culture networks and community mailing lists.

## **CONCLUSION**

The RADF Advisory Committee has assessed all applications in accordance with the RADF Program Guidelines and Eligibility Criteria and provided recommendations for Council consideration. The recommended projects support a diverse range of arts, cultural and community initiatives that contribute to the creative, social and cultural development of the Douglas Shire.

The recommendations also support strategic cultural development through the proposed commemorative mosaic project, appointment of new volunteer RADF Advisory Committee members, and development of the Douglas Shire Council 2026–2028 Arts Action Plan.

Sufficient funding is available within the approved RADF budget allocation to deliver the proposed initiatives.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil