



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries

In relation to: Business, Arts and Creative Industries and Arts Activity Funding list

Hearing: 19 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 48-49

Transcript provided: 28 November 2025

Answer Due: 5 December 2025

THE CHAIR: We welcome Mr Pettersson MLA again, but this time in his capacity as Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries, and officials.

For the officials, when you speak, could you please state your name and the capacity in which you appear for the Hansard record. You do not have to acknowledge the privilege statement. Please note that as witnesses, you are protected by parliamentary privilege and bound by its obligations. You must tell the truth. Giving false or misleading evidence will be treated as a serious matter and may be considered as contempt of the Assembly.

As we are not inviting opening statements, we will now proceed to questions. Minister, the last budget saw additional investment in arts funding. Has this funding started to flow to the arts community? If not, when is it expected to? If yes, what kind of projects is it supporting?

Mr Pettersson: Thank you, Mr Werner-Gibbings. ACT government is proud to support arts activity across this city in conjunction with the commonwealth government as well. Great news today, we are able to announce some of the detail on some of that arts activity funding that the ACT government has provided, and I will hand over to officials to go through some of those projects.

Ms Comacchino: Thanks minister. Teresa Comacchio, Acting Executive Branch Manager of Arts ACT.

THE CHAIR: Welcome.

Ms Comacchino: Thank you. So today it was announced that more than \$570,000 would be invested in the arts in the ACT through two funds. The first one is round two of arts activities' funding and that is funding between \$5,000 and \$50,000 for each recipient to individuals and organisations; and then secondly, through the regional arts fund, and this is funded by the commonwealth, but administered by us.

So the regional arts fund, there were three recipients in the ACT of funding. We have about \$60,000 available for that in 2025-26, and we really wanted applicants that would deliver activities that benefit areas of the ACT that do not receive a lot of arts activities, so in particular, we were focusing on Molonglo, Woden, Weston Creek, Gungahlin, and we also really wanted applicants that would be engaging with marginalised groups, including culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people with diverse gender identities, and people living with a disability.

So the three funded projects there were the Stella Company who will be delivering dance and movement classes for older Canberrans, particularly those of migrant backgrounds, and that will be delivered in Gungahlin, Phillip and Woden. They will be delivering those in the Woden Library; and Australian Dance Party who will be activating public spaces in Woden and Gungahlin; and then also Tuggeranong Community Arts Association received \$20,000 as well to deliver First Nations-led workshops in Tharwa.

The arts activities funding, there was \$513,000 awarded to 16 applicants, and again we were looking for a range of--

THE CHAIR: Is this the \$5,000 grants or the \$50,000 grants?

Ms Comacchino: \$5,000 to \$50,000.

THE CHAIR: Five to 50, right? Not zero to—

Ms Comacchino: Yes. So we were looking for a range of artforms there as well, so it might be dance, it might be literature, it might be visual arts, and we are also looking for engagement with diverse sections of the community. So examples of that are authors Darren Rix and Craig Cormick who just won ACT Book of the Year. We have provided them funding to support a new book that would re-examine John Batman's interactions with First Nations People. So this is a book that will be told through First Nations' perspectives, and so we are supporting with \$20,000 of that project.

Another great example is Gang Gang Café in Downer who will deliver the second edition of Sundowner, so a one day music festival, and that is really about inviting a range of artists to showcase what they do, so there will be visual arts installations, dance, DJ-ing, and then another great example is Jordan Best from Echo Theatre, and this is a production that is being developed here in Canberra with Canberran artists, but it is touring around Australia, or around New South Wales.

THE CHAIR: Thank you very much.

MS CARRICK: Thank you, chair. That is terrific. If you could provide that \$513,000 list of where primarily the money is going to.

Ms Comacchino: Yes.

Michael Pettersson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

16 applicants were successful through the 2025 Arts Activities \$5,000-\$50,000 Round 2 funding category. The full description of applicants is available here below:

Applicant	Grant Purpose	Amount	Artform	Applicant Region	Activity Region
Emma Batchelor	To support 'Bloomwaves': an experimental new literary work created in queer community	\$44,750	Literature	Gungahlin	Canberra Central
Jordan Best	To support the NSW tour of 'Bombshells', with Echo Theatre and Arts on Tour, featuring ACT based artists	\$28,577	Theatre	Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo	Other (Regional NSW)
Canberra Burlesque Academy Incorporated	To support accessibility-focused dance and performance mentorship programs for BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, disabled persons and allies	\$25,000	Dance	Gungahlin	Belconnen and Tuggeranong
Christopher Samuel Carroll	To stage the premiere production of a new theatre work, 'Commitment to the Cause', at Canberra Theatre Centre	\$45,086	Theatre	Canberra Central	Canberra Central
Craig Cormick and Darren Rix	To develop a new non-fiction book looking at First Nations' perspectives of John Batman and Australia's first treaty	\$20,000	Literature	Belconnen	Other (Melbourne, Sydney and Tasmania)
Brenda L Croft	For the creation of new work for solo exhibition at Goulburn Regional Art Gallery and scanning photographic archives	\$50,000	Visual Arts	Belconnen	Canberra Central and Other
Callie Doyle-Scott	To develop 'Soup for the Moon', a new fantasy novel focused on food and food history through a queer lens	\$32,384	Literature	Belconnen	No location specifically identified

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Gang Gang Cafe	To develop and promote 'Sundowner 2026', a one-day urban music and arts festival	\$50,000	Music	Canberra Central	Canberra Central
Tamara Henderson	To create a new glass sculpture for an immersive installation at Canberra Contemporary Art Space	\$30,000	Visual Arts	Canberra Central	Canberra Central
King Howe	To support the King Howe regional Australian tour, featuring Canberran supporting musicians	\$35,918	Music	Canberra Central	Other (Regional NSW and SA)
MangoMilk Productions	To edit a new documentary film about Slovenian/Italian cultural relationships	\$19,460	Screen	Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo	No location specifically identified
Music Theatre Projects Ltd	To support artists fees for a residency at The Street to develop and present readings of the new musical, 'Hornig and the Gadget'	\$20,000	Theatre	Other	Canberra Central
Musica Viva Australia	To support mentorship for emerging ACT musicians to support skill development, musicianship, collaboration and leadership	\$21,000	Music	Canberra Central	Canberra Central
Ujjwal Rai	To develop 'Maha Maya', a feature screenplay with a local writer and recognised industry professionals	\$25,000	Screen	Belconnen	No location specifically identified
Vivienne Rogis	To support the redevelopment and performance of 'The Whole Cake', a dance theatre work	\$16,219	Dance	Gungahlin	Gungahlin and Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo
SD Games PTY LTD	To support further development of 'Rocketcard Defence', a new tower defence digital game	\$50,000	Digital Games	Gungahlin	No location specifically identified

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'MP', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Date: 10.12.25

By the Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries, Michael Pettersson MLA