Theatre Works Grants Program 2013

Overview

Two of Western Australia’s small to medium theatre companies — Deckchair Theatre Company and Thin Ice Productions — voluntarily wound up their operations in 2012. The Minister for Culture and the Arts directed the Department of Culture and Arts (DCA) to reallocate the funding previously provided to those companies to support Western Australian theatre works in 2013 and 2014.

The Department is offering a one-off competitive funding round titled the ‘Theatre Works Grants Program’. It seeks to provide funding to WA’s small to medium theatre companies, independent theatre companies, independent theatre producers and individual theatre artists for the development and/or presentation of new Western Australian theatre works in 2013 and 2014. The funding pool will be $340,000.

In addition, a separate allocation of $40,000 has been made for a WA Play Festival. The DCA is currently negotiating with Stages WA for the implementation of this Festival, which will focus on unproduced WA theatre writing and other development opportunities for local playwrights and theatre workers. Further information will be provided in the near future.

The DCA will conduct a series of consultations with the sector to determine how the funding should be used in future years to support the Western Australian theatre sector.

Detailed guidelines are attached (Attachment 1).

What theatrical works will be eligible to be funded through the Theatre Works Grants Program?

The Theatre Works Grants Program is for:

- the development and/or production of unproduced Western Australian professional theatre works;
- unproduced Australian professional theatre works; or
- the reinterpretation of existing Western Australian or Australian professional theatre works.

The Program prioritises Western Australian playwriting and theatre development. It is anticipated that the funding will provide an opportunity for independent theatre producers, companies and individuals to demonstrate they have the capacity to deliver theatre works at a larger scale than normally available with their existing resources.

The Program offers three funding categories:

- Category One: Development. Up to $80,000 is available.
- Category Two: Development that culminates in a production. Up to $140,000 is available in this category.
- Category Three: Production only. Up to $120,000 is available in this category.

(Note: applicants applying to Category One may choose to present the project outcomes in a presentation format. However, this is not a requirement of this category.)
Who can apply?

Individual theatre artists, groups of theatre artists, independent theatre producers and incorporated independent theatre companies who are resident in Western Australia are eligible to apply.

Eligibility criteria

Refer to eligibility requirements on page 10 of the DCA Arts Grants Handbook. Rules governing ineligible activities apply to this program.


Collaborations are encouraged. These may include:

- Presenting partners.
- Auspice arrangements.
- Commissions for theatre writing, which must be supported by either a recurrently funded company or an independent theatre company.

For any of the above, the lead applicant must be resident in Western Australia.

Small to medium theatre companies recurrently funded by the DCA and/or the Australia Council for the Arts are only eligible to apply for Category One – Development. However, they can be a partner with an applicant in the commissioning of a theatre work, and/or to auspice an application, and/or as a presenting partner.

Applicants need to demonstrate a track record in the delivery of professionally produced theatre works, professional development projects or commissions for theatre writing. Commissions for theatre writing must be supported by a recurrently funded company or independent theatre company.

Major performing arts companies and recurrently funded theatre companies from outside Western Australia are not eligible to apply, except in partnership with a lead applicant for the commissioning of a theatre work, and/or to auspice an application, and/or as a presenting partner.

For collaborations involving partners from outside Western Australia, where an application is made under Category Two or Category Three, the production must be first presented in Western Australia. For Category One applications, the development must involve a Western Australian based playwright and, where applicable, Western Australian based theatre workers.

Support material

Applicants must follow the support material guidelines detailed on pages 14-16 of the DCA Arts Grants Handbook. Applicants to Category Two and Category Three must include a marketing plan (three-page maximum) for their project. Applicants to Category One should provide a communications plan.

Applicants are not required to provide a business plan.
Assessment criteria

Assessment will be based on artistic merit, planning and financial viability. Specific assessment criteria must be addressed.

Applicants wishing to reinterpret an existing theatre text must:
- propose a Western Australian or Australian theatre work;
- explain why the work is worth revisiting; and
- clearly articulate how they intend to reimagine the work.

Information session

The Department will hold an information session for prospective applicants.

Where: Art Gallery of WA Theatrette (opposite the main entry to the WA museum)
When: Wednesday 27 March 2013
Time: 10.00 am to 11.00 am

RSVP on 08 6552 7464 or to elaine.seymour@dca.wa.gov.au.

Deadlines and start dates

Proposals must be submitted by 5.00 pm on 24 May 2013.

Applicants may plan their projects in accordance with the dates outlined below.

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Perth Theatre Trust support for the Theatre Works Grants Program

The Perth Theatre Trust, DCA and AEG Ogden (Perth) will provide support to successful applicants who have applied to Categories Two or Three and plan to present their work in the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia’s Studio Underground or the Subiaco Arts Centre.

This support will include:
- Production support - relating to specific venue requirements and a detailed review of your production schedule to assist with planning and budget projections.
- Discounted front of house costs.
- Marketing support – support for the delivery of marketing budget and strategy, and with promotion through AEG Ogden and Ticketek (if applicable).

(Note: it is not a requirement of this funding program that applicants use the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia’s Studio Underground or the Subiaco Arts Centre.)

The DCA can provide assistance to people with disabilities and interpreting assistance in languages other than English. For further information please refer to pages four and six of the Arts Grants handbook.
Contact

For further information contact:

Elaine Seymour
Project Officer Performing Arts
Department of Culture and the Arts
Gordon Stephenson House, 140 William Street, PERTH WA 6000
A: PO Box 8349, PERTH BUSINESS CENTRE, WA 6849
P: +61 8 6552 7464
F: +61 8 6552 7306
E: elaine.seymour@dca.wa.gov.au
W: www.dca.wa.gov.au
Theatre Works Grants Program 2013

Detailed guidelines for applicants

How much funding is available?

A total of $340,000 is available.

What are the funding categories in the program?

The funding categories are:

- Category One: Development only. Up to $80,000 is available.
- Category Two: Development that culminates in a production. Up to $140,000 is available.
- Category Three: Production only. Up to $120,000 is available.

Who can apply?

Individual theatre artists, groups of theatre artists, independent theatre producers and incorporated independent theatre companies who are resident in Western Australia are eligible to apply.

Collaborations are encouraged. These may include:

- Presenting partners.
- Auspice arrangements.
- Commissions for theatre writing, which must be supported by either a recurrently funded company or an independent theatre company.

For any of the above, the lead applicant must be resident in Western Australia.

Small to medium theatre companies recurrently funded by the DCA and/or the Australia Council for the Arts are only eligible to apply for Category One – Development. However, they can be a partner with an applicant in the commissioning of a theatre work, and/or to auspice an application, and/or as a presenting partner.

Applicants need to demonstrate a track record in the delivery of professionally produced theatre works, professional development projects or commissions for theatre writing. Commissions for theatre writing must be supported by a recurrently funded company or independent theatre company.

Major performing arts companies and recurrently funded theatre companies from outside Western Australia are not eligible to apply, except in partnership with a lead applicant for the commissioning of a theatre work, and/or to auspice an application, and/or as a presenting partner.

For collaborations involving partners from outside Western Australia, where an application is made under Category Two or Category Three, the production must be first presented in Western Australia. For Category One applications, the development must involve a Western Australian based playwright and, where applicable, Western Australian based theatre workers.
What should I submit?

Applicants should submit up to four (4) A4 pages that provide details of their project. A separate and detailed budget must also be provided. For guidance on submitting your budget, refer to the DCA Arts Grants Application Pack at: [http://www.dca.wa.gov.au/funding/dca-grants/handbooks-and-forms](http://www.dca.wa.gov.au/funding/dca-grants/handbooks-and-forms)

What Projects are eligible for funding?

The Theatre Works Grants Program is for:
- the development and/or production of unproduced Western Australian professional theatre works;
- unproduced Australian professional theatre works; or
- the reinterpretation of existing Western Australian or Australian professional theatre works.

How is professional defined?

The panel will use the following as guidelines in their assessment process in determining if the application meets the ‘professional’ criteria:
- A production produced by a professional theatre company that is recurrently funded by the State Government and/or the Australia Council for the Arts.
- A theatre project that has received State Government and/or Australia Council for the Arts project funding and subsequently produced with support from a recurrently funded company, or through an independent theatre company.
- A theatre project that has received State Government and/or Australia Council for the Arts project funding and subsequently produced as an independent production by an individual or by an independent theatre company where professionals are recognised and provided with appropriate fees.
- A theatre development or theatre writing project that has received State Government and/or Australia Council for the Arts project funding to undertake a period of development where professional theatre workers are employed and provided with appropriate fees.
- A playwright who has been commissioned by a recognised recurrently funded company or an independent theatre company.

What activities can be undertaken in the development categories?

An application for either Category One or Category Two can include, but is not limited to:
- Exploration of cross-cultural and cross-art form story telling practices.
- Periods of exploration, collaboration, conversation and development that involve a playwright or playwrights and may involve a director, a designer and actors;
- One-on-one mentoring with a professional dramaturge.
- Further development of an existing script that has not been produced.
- Processes that use self-devised and/or improvisational techniques that may not necessarily result in a formal performance text.
- Adaptations of existing non-performance writing into performance texts.

Development categories cannot include master classes or similar skill development workshops for writers, directors, designers or actors.
In the production categories can I apply for more than one production?

It is possible to apply for more than one production in any one application. However, the Theatre Works Grants Program should not be viewed as a source of funding towards an annual program of activities.

Can I apply to more than one category?

No. Applicants can only apply to one category.

How many times can I apply?

Applicants can only apply once. This is a discrete one-off funding program, so existing DCA rules governing the number of applications that an applicant can make to a DCA program in any 12-month period have been set aside.

A recurrently funded company can be a collaborator on more than one application.

If my application to the Theatre Works Grants Program is successful can I apply for additional funding for this project from the Department of Culture and the Arts?

No. You can not apply to the Department for the same activity, or elements of the same activity.

If I have already applied to DCA for funding of a project can I apply to the Theatre Works Grants Program for the same project?

Yes. However, if your Theatre Works Grants Program application is successful that outcome will take precedence over your previous application. The previous application will then need to be withdrawn.

Do I have to have a commitment from a venue at the time of submission?

Yes. Applicants applying under either Category Two or Category Three must demonstrate that they have made a venue booking to present a production arising from the project. Where a rehearsal venue is required and is not part of any booking related to the performance venue, a booking confirmation at the rehearsal venue is required.

Perth Theatre Trust support and contacts for the Theatre Works Grants Program

The Perth Theatre Trust, DCA and AEG Ogden (Perth) will provide support services to successful applicants who have applied to Categories Two or Three and are seeking to present in the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia’s Studio Underground or the Subiaco Arts Centre.

This support will include:

- Production support - relating to specific venue requirements for the project and a detailed review of your production schedule to assist with planning and budget projections.
- Discounted front of house costs.
- Marketing support – support for the delivery of marketing budget and strategy, and with promotion through AEG Ogden and Ticketmaster (if applicable).
Contacts:
State Theatre Centre of WA: Alice Jorgenson. 8 6212 9200
Subiaco Arts Centre: Jessica Davey. 8 9380 3000

(Note: it is not a requirement of this funding program that applicants use the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia’s Studio Underground or the Subiaco Arts Centre.)

**How many times will the Program be offered?**

The Program will only be offered once in 2013. Successful projects will commence activity on or after 1 September 2013 and be completed and acquitted before 31 December 2014.

**What is the closing date for applications?**

Applications must be submitted on or before 24 May 2013 and delivered:

**By hand:**

Hand delivered applications must be delivered by 5pm sharp on the closing date to:

Department of Culture and the Arts
Level 2
Gordon Stephenson House
140 William Street
PERTH WA 6000

**By post:**

Postal applications must be postmarked on or before the closing date and sent to:

Department of Culture and the Arts
PO Box 8349
Perth Business Centre
PERTH WA 6849

(Note: DCA does not accept late or emailed applications.)

**Is there a specific application form?**

No. However, all applicants are required to complete and include the following pages from the standard DCA arts grants application form:
- Page one;
- Section Six – Declaration; and
- Section Six – Working with Children annexure.


Your program will be ‘Performing Arts’, category will be ‘Development’ and discipline will be ‘Theatre’.
How will my application be assessed?

Applications will be assessed by an independent panel of theatre experts and champions. The panel may include members of the Australia Council for the Arts’ Theatre Board and local and national theatre professionals.

Assessment criteria

The panel will assess applications against the following criteria:

- What is the project you are proposing to undertake and how do you plan to undertake it?
- Who are the key creative and administrative personnel involved in the project and who are your project partners?
- What is the timeline for your project?
- Intellectual Property. It is your responsibility to ensure you have acquired all relevant permissions to use any work involved in your project. Refer to page 58 of DCA’s Arts Grants Handbook.
- If your project does have a presentation outcome, what is the target audience and what are your strategies for audience engagement, distribution and/or promotion?
- How will you know your project has been successful?

Panel priorities

The panel will focus on the following key areas.

Artistic Merit - Production

- If the proposed work involves a production of a performance text, is it an unproduced text and by a Western Australian playwright?
- What are the merits of the proposed work in terms of:
  (a) narrative
  (b) style
  (c) content
- What processes or methodologies, including for projects that use self-devised techniques, will be undertaken to prepare the work for an audience?
- Why is this the preferred process or methodology?
- If the work is a reinterpretation, was the original work by a Western Australian based playwright or an Australian playwright?
- Why was this source material chosen and how will it engage a theatre audience?
- Does the application demonstrate that the creative team possesses the level of artistic skill and experience necessary to complete the project?

Artistic Merit – Development

- Where the proposal is for an adaptation of existing non-performance writing into a performance text is the source material by a Western Australia writer?
- Why was this source material chosen and how will it engage a theatre audience?
- If the development involves an exploration of cross-cultural story telling practice is there evidence of community support for the project and appropriate consultation?
- Where further development of an unproduced performance text is proposed, is that text by a Western Australia playwright?
Good planning

- If the work process uses self-devised or improvisational techniques that may not result in a formal performance text, how have questions regarding artist acknowledgement and future performance rights been resolved?
- Are all members of the creative/administrative teams Western Australian? If not, does the application justify why team members from outside of Western Australia have been employed?
- Where attracting an audience is an outcome, is there a detailed marketing plan? Is it realistic when considering the project’s content and/or theatrical style?
- Does the promotional planning show a mature approach? Does it identify its target audience and how it will reach it?
- Has a venue booking been made and has the venue provided written support for the project? Is the venue management offering additional support?

Financial responsibility

- Are there other sources of income?
- Is earned income (e.g. ticket sales) realistic when examined against the marketing plan?
- Is earned income realistic when considering the content and/or theatrical style of the production?
- Is the average ticket price realistic? Is it overestimated to assist with budget projections rather than being at a price point that this particular work is likely to sustain?
- If there is in-kind support included has it been appropriately reflected in the budget and have the in-kind supporters provided confirmation of their support?
- Have wages and fees been included and are they appropriate?

Can my project be auspiced by a third party?

Yes. This is possible but it is not a requirement. If there is an auspice partner refer to page 10 of the DCA Arts Grants Handbook and page 29 - Section Six (Auspice Agreement) of the DCA Arts Grants Application Pack.

Can I bring in theatre workers from outside of the State?

Using Western Australian based theatre workers is desirable. This Program is aimed at providing development opportunities for local theatre workers and priority will be given to projects that demonstrate that commitment. A clear rationale should be provided if theatre workers from outside Western Australia are required.

Deadlines and start dates

Proposals must be submitted by 5pm on 24 May 2013. Applicants may plan to start their projects in accordance with the dates below.

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Successful applicants
After notification in July, successful applicants will be issued with the DCA’s “Standard Conditions for Grants” contract. This document will set out the contractual relationship between the applicant and the DCA for the funding of your activity. Applicants will be required to acquit their grant within 13 weeks of the project completion date. Refer to the DCA Arts Grants Handbook for information regarding acquittals.