



# GRANT ROUND INFORMATION PACK

## 2026 South Australia

### Arts Grant Round

#### ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY

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The Balnaves Foundation is a private philanthropic organisation established in 2006 by Neil Balnaves AO. The Foundation distributes \$5 million each year to Australian not-for-profit organisations working in the arts, health and education, with a focus on initiatives that benefit young people, First Nations peoples, and those facing disadvantage.

In 2026, the Foundation celebrates a significant milestone: 20 years of partnership and shared impact with more than 60 not-for-profit organisations over the past two decades.

To mark the Foundation's 20th anniversary, and in honour of the Balnaves family's South Australian roots, we are launching a special grant round with a focus on the future by building bold, lasting connections between young South Australians and the arts.

This grant round supports ambitious, multi-year arts projects that meaningfully engage young and emerging audiences in bold creative practice in South Australia through strong public programming. Grants of \$150,000–\$250,000 p.a. are available to organisations with the capacity to deliver multi-year work.

Funding is intended to support public engagement and participation. While some production costs may be eligible, this grant is not intended to fund the production of a work of art as its primary purpose.

#### KEY DATES

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##### Expressions of Interest:

- Open Monday 4 May 2026, 9:00 AM AEST
- Close Friday 5 June 2026, 5:00 PM AEST
- Outcomes communicated late June 2026

##### Proposal:

- Invitations to submit a Proposal issued Monday 29 June 2026
- Close Monday 27 July 2026, 5:00 PM AEST

##### Grants Announced:

- Late August 2026

## ELIGIBILITY

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### Who is eligible

Eligible applicants must be organisations holding both Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Item 1 and Tax Concession Charity (TCC) status, or those with an approved auspicing arrangement.

### Who is not eligible

The following are not eligible to apply:

- Individuals
- Organisations that are financially insolvent, under administration, or in the process of winding up
- Organisations with a compliance action against them by the ACNC
- Government agencies, departments, or statutory authorities,
  - This exclusion does not apply to entities operating primarily for the delivery of cultural or arts experiences (such as art galleries, theatres, museums, and libraries), regardless of their ownership or funding structure
- Schools, universities, or TAFEs

### Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

All successful applicants must comply with all Australian laws relating to employing or engaging people who work or volunteer with children. This includes working with children checks and mandatory reporting obligations. Successful organisations who provide services directly to children, or whose funded activities involve contact with children, will also be required to implement the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#).

### First Nations Cultural Protocols and Projects

The Balnaves Foundation recognises that First Nations peoples are the custodians and authorities of their own cultural material, stories, knowledge, and artistic traditions.

Projects involving First Nations cultural material should be First Nations-led and take into account First Nations perspectives.

If your organisation is not First Nations-led, and your project primarily serves First Nations people and/or communities, you must be able to demonstrate that First Nations creative sovereignty is reflected in the project governance and design. Projects that are extractive or tokenistic are not eligible for funding.

If your project does not primarily serve First Nations people and/or communities, the above criterion does not apply. However, if your project engages with First Nations cultural material regardless of audience, you should refer to Creative Australia's [Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts](#) when developing your project and application.

## GENERAL EXCLUSIONS

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### The following will not be considered for funding in this grant round:

- Projects based or delivered outside of South Australia
  - organisations based outside South Australia are welcome to apply if they can demonstrate the capacity to deliver the project within the state
- Retrospective funding requests
- Projects that are primarily fundraising campaigns
- Recurrent administrative, operational, or capital expenditure
  - operational costs that are directly related to, or reasonably apportioned to, the specific project will be considered

## SPECIFIC EXCLUSIONS

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### The following specific exclusions apply to this grant round:

- Projects that do not have a clearly defined arts component
- Projects where the development or production of a work of art is the primary purpose
  - projects with strong artistic ambition are encouraged, however the work must extend beyond production into public engagement or participation
- Single-year projects will not be considered
- Existing projects are generally not eligible
  - however, projects where funding would support a specific and clearly defined innovation, scaling, or development of an existing project will be considered

## CRITERIA

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**These criteria apply at both the Expression of Interest and Proposal stage. Submissions that do not meet these requirements will not proceed.**

### **Public Programming**

The project must include a meaningful public-facing component. This is not limited to ticketed performances or exhibitions. It may include free events, community activations, screenings, workshops, or other forms of public access. Applicants should describe how the public will encounter the work.

### **Young and Emerging Audiences at the Centre**

Young and emerging audiences up to the age of 35 must be central to the project, not simply as audience members. This may include them as co-creators, collaborators, participants, or decision-makers. Applicants should clearly describe how they are involved and what that involvement means for the project.

We recognise that establishing a meaningful connection to the arts can happen at any stage of life. This grant round welcomes projects that engage people up to the age of 35 who are still finding their place in arts practice and participation.

### **Artistic Ambition**

The project must demonstrate a clear point of view and a willingness to take creative risks. We are looking for projects that are bold, contemporary, and experimental, that challenge the boundaries of a practice, ask difficult questions, or push at what is possible. Applicants should articulate what makes this project exciting, why now, and what is at stake artistically.

### **Multi-Year Scope**

The project must extend across a minimum of two years and no more than five years, with three years considered optimal. We hope that projects will have a life beyond our funding period. Renewal of funding may be considered for projects that demonstrate strong outcomes; however, this will be considered on merit and is not guaranteed. The Balnaves Foundation does not fund in perpetuity. Applicants should describe what they aim to achieve during the funding period and what success looks like at its conclusion.

### **A Note on Scale and Capacity**

Grants of \$150,000–\$250,000 are available. We expect applicants to demonstrate organisational capacity, clear budgeting, and a realistic delivery plan. Ambition is encouraged but it should be grounded.

## **IMPORTANT TO KNOW**

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**Funding Period** This grant round supports funding periods of two to five years, with three years considered optimal. For projects that demonstrate strong outcomes, it is not uncommon for the Foundation to renew at the end of the funding period. However, The Balnaves Foundation does not provide ongoing funding in perpetuity. Renewal is not guaranteed and will be considered on merit.

**Project Commencement** Funded projects must commence by 1 June 2027. If your organisation anticipates any difficulty meeting this requirement, we encourage you to consider this carefully before applying.

**Conflict of Interest** Organisations with a known connection to The Balnaves Foundation staff or its Trustees must declare this at the time of application. The Foundation reserves the right to manage any conflict of interest as it sees fit.

**Co-Funding** The Balnaves Foundation must be the project's largest single philanthropic funder, contributing at least 50% of total funding or the greatest share where multiple funders are involved. Applicants should clearly indicate any additional funding sources in their submission.

**Reapplication** If your EOI is not shortlisted, we encourage you to reflect on whether your project has evolved or changed significantly before reapplying. Unsuccessful applicants are welcome to submit a new EOI through the Foundation's general grants process 12 months after the closing date of this round.

**Funding as a Proportion of Revenue** As a guide, the funding requested from The Balnaves Foundation should not exceed 15% of your organisation's total annual revenue. Applications where the requested funding represents a disproportionately high percentage of an organisation's revenue may raise concerns during assessment, as this can indicate a level of financial dependency that is not in the best interests of either the organisation or the project. If your funding request exceeds 15% of your organisation's total annual revenue, you will have the opportunity to explain why this level of funding is appropriate in your EOI.

**Feedback** The Balnaves Foundation is unable to provide feedback on unsuccessful Expressions of Interest. Feedback will be available to applicants who are invited to submit a Proposal but are ultimately unsuccessful.

**Reporting** Funded organisations will be required to report on their project. Reporting requirements will be determined in consultation with The Balnaves Foundation and tailored to the scope and parameters of the funded project.

#### **A note on AI**

We recognise that AI tools are increasingly part of everyday work. You are welcome to use them to assist with your application, however, please ensure your submission is a true and accurate reflection of your organisation, the intended project, and your capacity to deliver it.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

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**This grant round will have a two-stage process. Stage 1 is via an Expression of Interest; Stage 2 is by invite only to submit a Proposal.**

#### **Stage 1 – Expression of Interest:**

1. Check that your organisation meets the eligibility requirements.
2. Review all information available on The Balnaves Foundation website, including this document and the FAQs, to ensure your project aligns with the program's objectives.
3. Submit an Expression of Interest via the Foundation's website.
4. All EOIs are reviewed. You will be notified of the outcome of your EOI via email or contacted if further information is required.

#### **Stage 2 – Proposal (by invitation only):**

5. If your EOI progresses to the next stage, you will be invited to submit a Proposal. This will require a more detailed description of your project, a budget, and supporting documentation.