**Backing Indigenous Arts – Performing Arts**

**Next Stage Guidelines - funding of up to $150,000 over two years per applicant**

Next Stage aims to build business and artistic capacity within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts sector in Far North Queensland.

A focus of Next Stage is to build new audiences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts product including regular programming of new performance work at the Centre of Contemporary Arts Cairns, and enhanced engagement within Far North Queensland Indigenous communities.

**What can the funding be used for?**

Core funding (over two years) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts collectives or organisations who have a track record in initiating and producing successful performance work and are committed to the development of Indigenous performing artists and arts workers.

Funded capacity building strategies may include:

• consolidating business structure and personnel, e.g. contribution to ongoing salaries

• advancing ambitious projects to production-ready stage

• building new business opportunities or diversifying business activities in response to the cultural tourism market potential in Far North Queensland

• developing new business alliances, and industry and marketplace relationships

• any other reasonable business development costs (note that costs associated with infrastructure, office set-up, equipment, purchases etc. will be eligible only if, and to the extent that, they directly contribute to capacity building activities that are integral to the application).

Successful applicants are required to focus on governance and business planning that supports sustainability — $10,000 must be allocated towards the development of a comprehensive business plan and $10,000 must be allocated towards establishing best-practice governance.

**Eligibility**

The applicant must be an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts group or company that:

* is based in Far North Queensland (from Cairns, north to the Torres Strait and west to the Gulf Country) with the core business objective of producing and presenting Indigenous performing arts and the development of Indigenous performing artists and arts workers
* has been in business for at least 12 months prior to the application deadline (this may include time operating as a sole trader or a collective, but the business must be incorporated and set up as a company at the time of application)
* has an active strategic and/or business plan in place
* has an Australian Business Number (ABN)
* has satisfied the reporting requirements of any previous Arts Queensland funding
* does not request more than 35 per cent of activity costs from this fund
* does not receive core funding from Arts Queensland
* can provide the Centre of Contemporary Arts Cairns with first option to premiere new works
* will commence activity proposed for funding no sooner than eight weeks after the fund closing date.

**Assessment criteria**

**Quality**

* A slate of high quality projects or new performance work in development.

**Impact**

• Capacity to contribute to strengthening the organisation and the sector in Far North Queensland.

**Reach**

* Demonstrated potential to develop new partnerships, audiences and market-connections.
* Capacity to premiere new work in 2018 or 2019 at the Centre of Contemporary Arts Cairns, and present the work in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and/or Indigenous cultural events in Far North Queensland.

**Viability**

* A viable, value for money proposal that is realistic for scale and impact of activity.
* Demonstrated commitment to business planning, best practice governance, and evaluation.

**When can I apply?**

Next Stage opens for applications Wednesday 24 January 2018 and closes
Thursday 8 March 2018, with outcomes announced in April 2018.

The application form for Next Stage can be accessed at: https://artsqueensland.smartygrants.com.au.

**Submitting your application**

The preferred method for submitting your application is online at:

https://artsqueensland.smartygrants.com.au

For support with technical issues related to the online application, please contact an Arts Queensland Grants Officer on telephone (07) 3034 4016 or toll free 1800 175 531.

If circumstances prevent you from being able to provide your application in this format please contact the Development Manager, BIA Performing Arts, on telephone (07) 4088 1015 or toll free 1800 175 531, or email danelle.nicol@arts.qld.gov.au.

Incomplete or late applications will be deemed ineligible and will not be assessed.

You will receive an email notifying you that your application has been received.

If you have not received an acknowledgment within five days of submitting your application please contact an Arts Queensland Grants Officer on telephone
(07) 3034 4016 or toll free 1800 175 531.