

Frequently Asked Questions

About the Organisations Fund 2022 - 2025

The Organisations Fund 2022 – 2025 (the Fund) is a key part of Queensland Government investment in the arts and cultural sector. The Fund provides multi-year operational funding to Queensland-based organisations that demonstrate a critical role in the sector.

As a part of the application process, all applicants must certify that they have read the Fund Guidelines as a mandatory component, so please ensure you read the Fund Guidelines in the first instance.

Key dates

Expressions of Interest (EOI) Open:	19 January 2021
EOI Close:	22 February 2021, 4pm
EOI Outcomes Notified:	23 April 2021
Full Applications Open:	30 April 2021
Full Applications Close:	28 May 2021
Fund Outcomes Announced:	By 31 August 2021

Who is eligible to apply?

The arts sector consists of a diversity of organisation types and business structures, and program eligibility criteria reflects this across two funding bands (Band 1 and Band 2).

Please refer to the Fund Guidelines for more information regarding eligibility and the two funding bands.

Is the Fund open to new applicants?

Yes. Applications are welcome from organisations with a track record of program or service delivery that meet the Fund's eligibility criteria.

Applicants will need to demonstrate a critical role in Queensland's arts and cultural sector, demonstrate a strong track record of arts and cultural program or service delivery, best practice governance and leadership, a strong alignment to delivering government priorities including *Creative Together 2020-2030*, as well as potential for ongoing sustainability.

Please read the Fund Guidelines for more information.

What is new in this iteration of the Organisations Fund?

The 2022 – 2025 Fund eligibility criteria reflects two funding bands (Band 1 and Band 2). Arts Queensland has expanded eligibility within Band 1 to include high quality arts organisations outside of the established not-for-profit model.

The 2022 – 2025 Fund will align with the priorities set out in *Creative Together 2020 – 2030*, <https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/creative-together> including to:

- Elevate First Nations arts
- Activate Queensland's local places and global digital spaces
- Drive social change across the state
- Strengthen Queensland communities
- Share our stories and celebrate our storytellers

Applicant organisations across both bands must demonstrate a critical role in the sector.

Please read the Fund Guidelines for more information.

How does my organisation apply to the Fund?

Applications will be submitted online at:

<https://artsqueensland.smartygrants.com.au/OrgFund2022-2025>

Incomplete applications or those received after 4pm, 22 February 2021 may be deemed ineligible and will not be assessed.

For support with technical issues related to the online application, please contact an Arts Queensland Grants Officer by email at investment@arts.qld.gov.au or phone (07) 3034 4016 or toll free 1800 175 531.

UPDATED: How does my organisation report their current financial position profit and loss (income and expenditure) in the expression of interest form?

On page 14 of the expression of interest application form organisations are required to report on their current financial position – profit and loss (income and expenditure), figures pertaining to this section of the form for 2021 or 2021/22 should summarise the latest full year forecasts to the end of the organisations financial year.

Who is assessing the applications?

Applications will be assessed by the independent Organisations Fund Assessment Panel.

Information about the membership of the panel will be kept confidential during the assessment process to avoid conflicts of interest for panel members. Panel membership will be released at the end of the assessment process to promote transparency in government processes.

Please read the Fund Guidelines for more information regarding the assessment process.

How does the assessment process work?

There are two stages to the application assessment process:

Stage One

1. Expressions of Interest (EOI) are submitted online.
2. Applications are checked by Arts Queensland for eligibility.
3. The Assessment Panel assesses eligible EOIs against the assessment criteria based on art form and industry expertise.
4. The Assessment Panel will meet to undertake a moderation of assessment outcomes, and will make recommendations for applicants to progress to Stage Two – Full Application.
5. The Assessment Panel's recommendations for progression to Stage Two are provided to a Departmental representative for approval.
6. All applicants will be notified of outcomes.

Stage Two

1. Invited applicants will submit a **Stage Two Full Application**
2. All applications are checked by Arts Queensland for eligibility.
3. The Assessment Panel assesses eligible applications against the assessment criteria based on art form and industry expertise.
4. The Assessment Panel will meet to undertake a moderation of assessment outcomes, and will make final recommendations for funding.
5. Final recommendations will be provided to the Minister for the Arts (or delegate) for approval of successful applications and funding levels.

For more information about the assessment process and assessment criteria please refer to the Fund Guidelines.

How will the assessment process ensure funding is distributed across the sector?

The Assessment Panel will moderate outcomes to ensure balance across art forms, geographic spread of organisations and government priority target groups.

It is expected that Arts Queensland will receive a high number of applications to the Fund, resulting in a highly competitive process.

What is Arts Queensland's role?

Arts Queensland staff will check eligibility against published eligibility criteria and will generate financial summaries based on application data to assist the peer assessment panel.

Arts Queensland staff will attend moderation meetings to:

- record the outcomes and moderated comments
- provide factual or background information to the assessment panel as required
- support the assessment panel in matters relating to Queensland Government policies and priorities.

Will government rental subsidies be taken into account when determining funding amounts?

Yes. If an organisation receives a government rental subsidy this will be considered when funding levels are recommended by the Assessment Panel.

How much can my organisation apply for?

Applications are invited from organisations that are seeking:

- from \$60,000 up to \$100,000 per annum for Band 1
- from \$100,000 upwards per annum for Band 2

Arts Queensland will not fund the majority of an organisation's cash expenditure. An essential component of all sustainable businesses is revenue diversity. As a guide, the average investment by Arts Queensland under the Organisations Fund 2017 - 2020 accounts for 25% of annual cash expenditure.

Will applicants be offered the total funding amount requested?

Not always. The Assessment Panel may recommend that an applicant receives less funding than the amount they have requested.

What is the anticipated application success rate of the Fund?

It is expected that Arts Queensland will receive a high number of applications requesting funding well in excess of the Fund budget, resulting in a highly competitive process.

The success rate for the 2017 - 2020 Fund was 59%, from eligible EOI's to funding approval.

Can I request feedback on my application during or after the assessment process?

All applicants may request verbal feedback on their application after being notified of funding outcomes. The Assessment Panel's feedback will focus on the assessment criteria and areas where the applicant can improve for future funding applications.

Written feedback will not be provided.

What happens if funding is approved?

Successful organisations will be required to enter into a funding agreement with Arts Queensland, which will include key performance outcomes based on the information in the application and the objectives of the Fund.

Funding recipients are required to submit progress and yearly outcome reports to Arts Queensland by the deadlines specified in the funding agreements.

What information or resources are available to assist with applications to the Organisations Fund?

Arts Queensland's [Arts Acumen](#) web page offers a range of tips and tools to assist with applications. These include:

- Resources to assist with completing a strategic plan
- Guides for best practice financial and business operations
- Resources to assist with grant writing

We recommend you follow the Arts Queensland Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/artsqueenslandAQ> and our website (www.arts.qld.gov.au) to make sure you receive timely updates and tools to support your Organisations Fund application.

Who can I contact to assist with queries about the Organisations Fund?

You can contact Arts Queensland by phoning (07) 3034 4016 or toll free 1800 175 531 or by emailing organisationsfund@arts.qld.gov.au.

Arts Queensland will also update these FAQs with relevant information or clarification subsequent to the Fund opening.

Why has Arts Queensland engaged a Probity Advisor and what is their role?

Arts Queensland is committed to ensuring the integrity of the Organisations Fund 2022 - 2025 assessment process and in ensuring all applications are provided fair and equitable consideration.

A Probity Advisor has been appointed to support the Fund application and assessment process.

Probity is important to the assessment process to ensure that government and the public can be confident that the Fund is managed in a manner that makes efficient, effective and ethical use of public money and resources.

The role of the Probity Advisor involves the provision of advice and assistance before and during the course of the assessment process to ensure the process of good governance and decision making.