

Arts on Tour

The Backroads Initiative

Guidelines

The Backroads initiative connects communities throughout regional and remote NSW to small scale, high quality performing arts events. The initiative aims to extend and support the reach of professional productions to regional towns that do not have professional performing arts infrastructure as well as support small hall activation and the work of independent producers and artists.

Applicants can submit an application to:

- extend a regional tour to one or more non-professional venues in regional NSW;
- support a new tour to two or more non-professional venues in regional NSW.

Who can apply?

For the purposes of Backroads, applicants may be an individual or organisation who takes on the responsibility of presenting a professional production or performance in a non-professional venue, including financial management, fee negotiation, contracting, marketing and technical provisions. An applicant may be a:

- Regional arts organisation;
- Community group;
- Local council;
- Lead organisation representing a consortium of non-professional venues;
- Tour coordinator or Producer (defined as the person or organization who is taking the financial risk on the tour);
- Professional performing arts presenter coordinating a 'mini tour' to non-professional venues as part of a regional tour;
- Self-presenting artist or producer.

Community-run or non-professional venue

A community-run venue is defined as a venue that doesn't have a full-time paid member of staff (eg venue manager). Venues that offer opportunities for performing arts events over and above the core business (eg, a bar, café, club) will be considered.

Professional NSW production

A professional NSW production must involve predominantly NSW-based performing artists. Professional artists are those that have a career in their area of practice, who are likely to have received professional training, and who are remunerated for their work in line with industry standards. The production can be of any genre including, but not limited to, theatre, contemporary performance, music, cabaret and dance.

Regional NSW

Regional NSW is defined as the areas or regions outside Sydney and Western Sydney and includes the Central Coast, Hunter and Illawarra.

Funds Available

Backroads funds can be used to support up to 50% of the performance/delivery fee of a touring production.

Applicants can apply for:

- between \$500 and \$5,000 per application

Dates 2022

Backroads initiative applications open Tuesday 26 April, 2022

Backroads Webinar Tuesday 10 May, 2022

Our round closes on Wednesday 25 May, 2022 for projects between 1 August, 2022 and 31 December 2023

Applications must be submitted by 5.00pm (AEST) on the closing date. Late applications will not be assessed.

Assessment Criteria

- Proposal rationale, evidence of demand and benefit to audiences in the community;
- Quality and artistic merit of the production;
- Resourcing, including partnerships, planning, marketing and engagement strategies;
- Budget viability, appropriateness for scale and impact of production, provision for insurance and other liabilities.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be a NSW-based;
- Proposals must be to either extend a tour to one or more community-run venues, or propose a tour to two or more community-run venues in regional NSW;
- Proposals must be for a professional NSW production;
- Individual applicants must be Australian citizens or have permanent resident status in Australia AND have been resident in NSW for at least 12 months preceding the application date;
- Organisations must be based in NSW to be eligible to apply;
- Funds are not available for retrospective activities. Funds are only provided to undertake projects or activities that fall within the project period specified.

Applications

The link to the Backroads Application form is [HERE](#)

It is essential that applicants speak to Kate at Arts on Tour prior to submitting the application.

Assessment Process

You will receive an email acknowledgement from Arts on Tour when we receive your application.

Eligible Applications are peer assessed by an independent panel, facilitated by Arts on Tour. Please allow at least twelve weeks from the closing date before making enquiries.

Supporting Material

Applicants can provide supporting documentation with the application.

Successful Applicant Requirements - Acquittal

Grants must be expended as outlined in the application unless prior written permission to make a variation has been asked for and given by Arts on Tour. Successful applicants must submit an acquittal report as outlined in the application.

Enquiries

Contact Arts on Tour to discuss the Initiative on 02 8038 1882 / kate@artsontour.com.au

Key contact: Project Manager, Kate Gaul

Frequently asked Questions

Do I need to have an ABN to apply for the grant?

Yes. If you don't have an ABN, you can work with an administrator or auspicing organisation to manage the funds on your behalf.

What costs can the grant funds be used for?

The aim of the initiative is to support the presentation of professional productions in regional communities that are otherwise financially out of reach. Backroads funds can be used for up to 50% of the performance fee. For example, if the performance fee is \$5,000 for one performance, you can apply for \$2,500. It is envisaged that the remainder of the fee is covered by box office income or other grants/financial support, to be sourced by the community presenter.

I'm a community presenter and can see the value of this grant but don't know where to start. Where can I find out about touring productions and what resources I need to apply?

In the first instance you can talk to Arts on Tour and your regional arts organisation for advice and guidance. We also encourage you to work in partnership with other stakeholders in your region to assist with resourcing your presentation, such as your regional arts organisation or local council.

Can I apply for more than one production in one application?

No. Applicants must make a separate EOI for each production they wish to present. Multiple applications will be accepted.

Can I apply to present more than one performance of the production in the same venue?

Applications for more than one performance will be considered if the capacity for the production is small and therefore box office income is limited, and if there is evidence of significant demand and impact.

Does the production have to be new, and if not, can it have toured before?

There is no requirement for the production to be new or any restrictions on its touring history. However, if the production has toured to your specific venue before it may be less competitive. You can speak to Arts on Tour prior to applying for advice.

Are there any limits to how many times I can either apply for the initiative?

No. However, you cannot receive more than \$7,500 from this initiative in any one year.

I'd like to apply for funds to join a national tour that is pending Playing Australia and Arts NSW Performing Arts Touring funding. How does that work?

To join a national tour, community presenters may need to commit up to 24 months in advance. Applicants are required to speak to Arts on Tour prior to applying. If all eligibility criteria are met, Arts on Tour will endeavor to Backroads funds for the proposed presentations pending the success of Playing Australia and Create NSW touring funding and the national tour going ahead.

Do I have to be a not for profit organisation to apply, and what happens if the presentation exceeds expectations and makes a profit?

No, you do not have to be a registered not for profit organisation to apply. However, the priority of the initiative is to support projects that are otherwise not financially viable which will be evidenced in your application. The application also asks you to detail how you would invest unexpected profit from the presentation.

I'm a presenter in a town that has a professional performing arts venue. Why am I ineligible?

The priority of the Backroads initiative is to extend the reach of professional productions to towns and areas where there is no professional performing arts infrastructure.