



(Melanie Stevens, 2025)

2025 SUCCESSFUL QUICK RESPONSE GRANT RECIPIENTS

FEBRUARY ROUND QUICK RESPONSE 2025

Toph Tri Cera

Toph Tri Cera will hold a solo exhibition at Crows Nest Art Gallery (part of the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery Network). This includes the installation and deinstallation of an interactive installation work, with an interactive and inclusive public programme and associated catalogue, including a professional essay.

Felicity Chapman

Felicity Chapman will travel to Geelong Victoria, and attend a 2-day technical millinery masterclass facilitated by internationally recognised milliner Rebecca Share. This course will allow her to take her arts practice to the next level – designing and creating unique high-quality fascinators, head pieces and bridal accessories, and diversifying income streams.

Katelyn-Jane Dunn

Photographic artist Katelyn-Jane Dunn will complete a three-week residency at Kyoto Paperoles, including three mentorship sessions with photobook editor Yumi Goto. This residency will finalise a photobook exploring grief and memory, to be exhibited at Artspace Mackay in 2026.

Queen Street Community Hall Yeppoon

"QueensFest" is a one day music event showcasing local and regional original musicians. It is a wonderful event for the community to come together and enjoy our amazing home grown talent and a great opportunity for musicians to perform and develop their skills supported by great sound and lighting technicians.

Melanie Stevens

This funding will support Melanie Steven's travel to the Artist in Residence Program at the Centre for Projection Art, Melbourne. The residency will develop their projection art skills, leading to digital screenings at Fed Square, Melbourne Fringe, and Cairns Festival. It will enhance their opportunities for future work and career development.

MARCH ROUND QUICK RESPONSE 2025

Flinders Shire Council

Moonda Nurra shares the Yirendali dreamtime story of the rainbow serpent and how she created the Country. Featuring language, puppetry, music, and dance, this project reunites the Yirandali Dance Group back on Country following displacement through colonisation, resulting in the first time the dancers have performed on their own Country.

Whitsundays Songwriter Festival

Whitsundays Songwriter Festival produces a 5-day Professional Songwriter Residency, an Emerging Songwriter Workshop and world-class Concert and Conversation Event for Queenslanders to tell Queensland stories through new musical works. Local songwriters are mentored by award-winning professionals to grow a new generation of world-class professional songwriters in the region.

Dancenorth Australia

Wisdom From The Margins is an ambitious multi-arts project that spans 2025 and 2026 to culminate in a performance at the Northern Australian Festival of the Arts. Dancenorth will provide professional development opportunities to students from the Townsville Flexible School to grow skills in dance and storytelling as developing artists.

Mitch King

Mitch King is touring Queensland, performing a series of shows to promote his latest single, 'Keep the Flame.' This tour will connect with audiences in his home state, bringing live original music to regional communities and strengthening his presence in the Australian music scene.

Charles Wiles

Charles Wiles will attend a Northern Queensland Artist residency, a 3 day retreat for regional artists. Bringing together a cohort of 12 artists from across Northern Queensland for an intensive weekend supported by three national mentors, the residency allows focus and support for artists to explore their project idea and arts practice.

Shakespeare Under the Stars Inc.

Shakespeare Under the Stars Inc. will present a new North Queensland written comedy set in the rural community of the Burdekin. The production will take place in Townsville, with the hope of further performances across North Queensland in the future.

APRIL ROUND QUICK RESPONSE 2025

Toby Fealy

Dedicated bass guitarist Toby Fealy, from rural Mareeba, has been accepted into Berklee's elite Five-Week Summer Program. This rare opportunity offers world-class tuition and industry exposure, vital for his career goal of studying bass at university and becoming a professional musician—opportunities unavailable in his remote regional community.

Keryn Lei Tutu

Location for professional development & experience, portfolio expansion and new audience networking opportunities both in Cairns and Western Australia for Keryn Lei Tutu and her daughter Makana. This includes flights and accommodation whilst in transit to/from shoot location.

Jacqueline Read

In a move towards traditional publication of her novel manuscript, skills development and networking, Jacqueline Read writing as Jacquelyn Joy, aims to secure a spot to attend the Romance Writers of Australia (RWA) Conference where she will pitch her now completed rom com manuscript to genre specific publishers and agents.

Charlotte Ellis

Visual arts and cultural immersion to support development in areas of fashion design and other visual arts for Charlotte Ellis.

Millmerran Arts Council

A series of community events will be held throughout June 2025 in Anzac Park, Millmerran, to celebrate the Rotunda's 100th anniversary. Activities include local musician performances at the Rotunda, a swing dance party, and entertainment by local schools—honouring history and fostering community spirit through music and celebration.

Kristine Ellis

Opportunity for Kristine Ellis to attend and immerse in diverse art practice at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

Matt Young

In this one-man memoir performance, LGBTQIA+ monologist and performer Matt Young (Graham's Dad from GAYBY BABY) shares the unbelievable true stories of becoming a parent, ten years after the release of the documentary that became part of Australian gay history. You can call him daddy...because he actually is one.

APRIL ROUND QUICK RESPONSE 2025 continued...

Northsite Contemporary Arts LTD

Aligned with a NorthSite x Asialink Arts x Sampaguita 23 Arts Collective project, sees Karen Reys to travel with her sister and fellow artist Susan Reys to Baguio City, meeting creative Indigenous community members and partaking in a 9-day self-discovery, research and hands-on art-making program 21 - 29 June 2025.

Katrina Starmer

Katrina Starmer's artwork was selected as a finalist for the Galah Regional Photography Prize and is currently exhibited in the New England Regional Art Museum. This project is a professional development opportunity.

Simon Van Der Spoel

Produced by Simon Van Der Spoel, an inspiring film showcasing the talent of a neurodivergent cast and crew. This story celebrates creativity, diversity, and self-expression, and challenges society's pathologising stereotypes that foreclose career possibilities for neurodivergent people. This inclusive film highlights the incredible potential for neurodivergent people to contribute innovative perspectives and creative problem-solving.

Jordan Neal

Dysregulated is Jordan Neal's second solo exhibition. The work is a series of resin discs preserving the artist's menstrual blood, collected over 12 monthly cycles. The intention of this work is to further understanding of menstruation and create a collection of visual data to represent an "average" cycle.

Jessica Grainer

Jessie K Music will be attending the Toronto International Indigenous Music Summit as a delegate to enhance her skills, understanding, and networks within the international Indigenous music industry. This will be achieved through keynotes, Elder talks, panels, round tables, and music showcases, providing a comprehensive learning and networking experience.

MAY ROUND QUICK RESPONSE 2025

Belinda Curry

Belinda Curry will attend an AABE Artist Book conference partnered with Artspace Libris Awards Exhibition, Artist Book Fair and The Blue Notebook Project, held over three days. This event includes twenty three local, national and international presenters across the printmaking industry. The conference will focus on contemporary and innovative artist book practices in Australia.

Chelsea Reis

'A Place on the Shelf' will enable the artist Chelsey Reis to take the next steps in her career as a newly-published author by equipping her with an entry-level website and social media accounts that promote her book and upcoming appearances in two literary festivals as an author, panellist and workshop facilitator.

Neil Moorhead

Photographer Neil Moorhead will create work for Geistlimen, an exhibition that metaphorically explores loneliness, isolation and the fragility of memory through images of abandoned, stark spaces using large-format, black & white pinhole photography.

Baylee Griffin

Baylee Griffin will exhibit new work in a curated group show at 'artisan' that has been brought together on short notice. This support offsets high freight costs from North Queensland, and enables their participation and visibility in a key urban arts space, allowing for vital professional development beyond their regional location.

Louise King

Louise King will attend and present at the 2025 AUSTA National Conference, Australia's leading professional development event for string educators. This opportunity will strengthen her practice through access to current research, national networks, and international expertise, directly benefiting her work as a regional teaching artist on the Sunshine Coast.

4 Hearts Creative Collective

Roots and Reverb is the immersive crescendo of our Fringe Festival—an electrifying night of soaring soprano vocals, bold indie-rock, and high-energy ska. Featuring high-calibre regional artists, this finale ignites our grassroots venue with powerful sound and performance. It celebrates diverse voices, and deepens the cultural heartbeat of Far North Queensland.

John Bradshaw

North Queensland artist Jon Avocado has been invited by Roskilde Festival to participate in the 'RFGraff Beautification and Mural Project' at the festival site in Roskilde, Denmark.

He will contribute as a volunteer artist, creating original mural artworks during the festival, working alongside diverse artists from around the world.

Cindy Vogels

Cindy Vogels will produce the opening show of the 2025 Australian Wearable Art Festival, expanding her FUTURE FRAGILE collection with a new work and collaborating with regional dancers, a choreographer, music producer and projection artist to deliver a high-impact, multi-arts runway performance that will provide skills development to the collaborators.

JUNE ROUND QUICK RESPONSE 2025

Tamara Molloy

An unforgettable night of Blak excellence as Tropical Blaze lights up the stage with FNQ's finest. This event champions fair pay for regional First Nations artists, supporting original music at an independent venue where professional recognition and financial respect are urgently needed.

Kayla-May Cosgrove

Gladstone artist songwriter and producer, Kmaay will travel to Rathdowney Hinterlands (regional SE Qld) to attend I Heart Songwriting Club's songwriting retreat 19-22 July with 12 other songwriters from around Australia to develop co-writing and collaboration skills and write 5 songs.

Millmerran Academy of Performing Arts, Inc. – MAPA

Queensland Ballet's five-day Regional Engagement Tour in Millmerran offers inclusive workshops for all ages, focusing on local kindies, schools, and aged care. This unique opportunity connects our community with the State's Ballet Company, promoting skill-building, wellbeing, and lasting community connection through the power of dance.

Avi Amesbury

Avi Amesbury will present her practice-led research paper at Wedge The Australian Ceramics Triennale, curate and showcase my work in the International Academy of Ceramics (IAC) members' exhibition presented in association with the Triennale, and engage in other opportunities while in Western Australia in September-October 2025.

Inge Gajczak

Inge Gajczak will participate in a workshop that will commence with an indoor session where participants will receive instruction on appropriate camera settings, astrophotography techniques and planning for night photography. The attendees will then travel to Greenmount for an on-location workshop learning the on-field aspects like composing, optimising settings and focusing on capturing the Milky Way.

Tall Trees Art Inc

The annual Tall Trees Art Exhibition is a much anticipated community event that sees art and music and much more take over the main street of the picturesque village of Cooran in the Noosa Hinterland for two days in September which attracts around 3,000 visitors.

James Ogden

The Observer is a roving cosmic eye that weaves silently through space and time, reflecting the world through its retina. Blending street theatre, puppetry, projection, and poetic symbolism, it invites moments for curiosity and connection, gently blurring the line between observer and observed, audience and performer. The build will take place in Jillian Zamora's home studio. The costume will be constructed around a lightweight aluminium backpack frame and sculpted with foam, fabric, and custom-built components. A compact action camera and battery-powered screen will be integrated to display real-time video. James will lead the project, managing the design, construction, performance, and documentation. Jillian, with her background in theatre costuming, will assist with fabrication, and Marnee will support both the build and live performance. Throughout the process, they'll share behind-the-scenes content via YouTube and social media, growing audience connection and supporting public arts engagement.

JULY ROUND QUICK RESPONSE 2025

Brooke Roberts

Townsville based country artist Josie will travel to Brisbane with three local band/team members to showcase at BIGSOUND 2025. Josie will attend keynotes, panels, networking events, and participate in a minimum of three delegate meetings to build industry connections and represent North Queensland on a national stage. This opportunity allows Josie and her team to perform a professional showcase of their live act in front of national and international industry leaders. This is including but not limited to: labels, agents, radio, and festival programmers.

Across the week at BIGSOUND, Josie and her band will attend several keynote talks, panel discussions, delegate networking events, and Josie will take part in at least three one-on-one meetings with industry professionals as curated by the QMusic team.

These activities will greatly support vital career development for Josie, and unlock industry access that is rarely available to regional artists.

Townsville Writers and Publishers Centre

Townsville Writers and Publishers Centre will run a suite of four writing workshops; two facilitated by Melaina Faranda in Townsville and on Magnetic Island; and two facilitated by Alyson Walton in Townsville. The first Melaina Faranda workshop topic will be 'Learn How to Reel Your Readers In - Top Fiction and Memoir Tips to Make Your Stories Impossible to Put Down!' in Townsville on Thursday September the 25th. The second Melaina Faranda workshop will build on the previous one and will be full day 'Get Unstuck and Ignite Your Writing!' on Magnetic Island, Saturday October 4. The first of Alyson Walton's workshops, 'Exploring Word And Setting Up Your Document', is aimed at providing beginners with basic formatting skill. The second workshop, following on from the first, 'How to format your book using Word and save you money' is aimed at advanced Word users and is also facilitated by Alyson Walton.

David Flower

Flametree Gathering is a 3 day boutique music, arts and wellness festival held at Lake Proserpine. It showcases original live music, visual art and workshops, fostering connection, creativity and environmental awareness while supporting the arts, local businesses and fundraising for Eco Barge Clean Seas Turtle Rehabilitation Centre. This year's gathering will take place at Lake Proserpine on council-managed land, providing a stunning and accessible backdrop for attendees to connect with each other and the natural environment. The program features local and regional musicians, local visual artists, wellness practitioners, circus workshops, family-friendly games, and opportunities for community collaboration. They are engaging local contractors for security, staging, marquee, and will offer a variety of camping and local food options to support a comfortable and sustainable experience.

David Pyke

The pianoforte piece by David Pyke will appear on Ghost Dance, published by Phasma Music-Europe and distributed internationally via Naxos. Featuring 13 composers, the album includes 300 CDs for promotion and composer use. Royalties are collected through APRA/AMCOS, of which the composer is a registered member. The piano version of this work serves as both a standalone concert piece and a promotional vehicle for the full string orchestra version. A high-quality published recording will provide a valuable asset for promoting the piece to festivals, media producers, orchestras, and music platforms. David plans to use the recording to generate broader interest in the work, including local and regional screenings, collaborative film projects, and ultimately, a live orchestral premiere of the full version. This project brings attention to a unique and beautiful natural feature of the Douglas Shire, reinforcing the region's artistic identity through a classical music lens.

Tania Ault

Tania Ault has been invited to exhibit a series of triptychs at the prestigious Sculptures by the Sea Bondi 2025 in NSW. She is receiving assistance with materials and transport. By creating three triptychs of Earth, Water and Sky with each featuring large mirrors (wobbly mirrors) that distorts the reflection of the viewer, Tania not only reminds us that we walk, swim and stand on indigenous land but she celebrates the delight, exuberance and joy that her people bring to the community. Tania is looking to commission 9 bespoke canvases that will stand autonomously in groups of three for her to apply the iconography of her practise in acrylic paint to recount the role her totem, the Silver Brolga (Dillinga), plays in the landscape.

These panels will then be transported to Bondi for inclusion in the internationally acclaimed exhibition "Sculptures by the Sea, Bondi 2025".

Pittsworth District Alliance

The Pittsworth District Alliance is proud to support eight emerging filmmakers with disability from Annie's House/The Hub to attend the Focus on Ability Film Festival in Brisbane. This opportunity celebrates regional talent, inclusion, and creative expression. Funding will cover essential travel for the participants. The Pittsworth District Alliance (PDA) has developed this project in close partnership with Annie's House and The Hub Programs for Purpose, both of which are disability-focused organisations with deep, ongoing relationships with the primary beneficiaries—people with disability living in the Pittsworth region. The idea for this project was born from conversations with participants themselves, who were thrilled to have their creative work selected for the Focus on Ability Film Festival, but also anxious about how they would afford to attend. The desire to be present at the screening—to celebrate their achievements, meet other creatives, and see their work on the big screen—was expressed clearly and with great excitement.

Cairns Art Society

For the very popular annual Cairns event "Carnival on Collins" on Sunday 7th September, the Cairns Art Society volunteers will man a marquee on the Botanic Gardens lawns displaying local artists works for sale. The display of member's art works will increase their audiences and the Society's participation will attract new artists to join and encourage existing members to collaborate. The Cairns Regional Council Creative Life Department has contacted the Cairns Art Society (CAS) and invited us to participate in the Carnival on Collins, on Sunday 7th September 2025 and has reserved space for us. This is a very popular annual event, celebrating tropical life and showcasing local arts and culture.

Kuweni Dias Mendis

Riverscope by Kuweni Dias Mendis explores belonging, migrant identity, and regeneration through community collaboration. As artist-in-residence at Kingston Butter Factory, Kuweni has worked with Logan's diverse communities through workshops and research. This phase will culminate in a new performance work, reflecting shared stories of place and identity, presented at Logan Art Gallery and Softwash. The project will also include Indigenous cultural consultation, the development of partnerships, and the expansion of networks within Logan's culturally rich and diverse communities and also with artist, cultural workers, curators and academics from Brisbane and surrounding regions. The work to be developed will be presented on the 6th of September as part of the closing ceremony of Riverscope exhibition at the Logan Art Gallery.

Jack Patrick Mullins

THE HAND THAT FEEDS is a new, original play produced by and written by 19-year-old Jack Mullins to be performed in Toowoomba in October, 2025. The play previously SOLD OUT in October, 2024 and received acclaim and, thus, has been given the opportunity to be remounted - bigger and better. The play explores themes such as friendship, loneliness, vulnerability and the beauty to be found in, simply, existing. The opportunity presented by Toowoomba's Empire Theatre, following the work's success in 2024, was to rework the play into a larger space as a developed, professional work. Much of the 2024 Creative Team returned alongside new creatives to aid in the work's upscaling. Rehearsals commenced in July, 2025 and the play is to be performed from October 2nd to October 3rd in the Armitage Centre, Toowoomba.

AUGUST ROUND QUICK RESPONSE 2025

Maddison O'Brien

The Desert Pantomime is a regional folk recording project by Maddi O'Brien in collaboration with local musicians. The project will produce a professional album of original songs, raise Maddi's profile as a Queensland regional artist, share distinctly Australian stories, and culminate in a launch performance with planned regional shows. This project builds on a long-term working relationship with producer Finn Rhodes and will be their third collaborative project. Their continued partnership has resulted in strong creative trust, continued development of professional skills (i.e. production, tour management etc.) and established local networks—enriching to community and essential in delivering a high-quality record. Finn is a world-renowned artist touring Europe in early 2026. Completing the work within this timeframe ensures cohesive arrangements, efficient session work, and full collaborative involvement in production and mixes prior to his departure.

Lizzy Stanfield Flores

Spanish(ish) is a new Australian work about connection, culture, and community. This immersive, interactive show presents one woman's journey to discover who she is and almost was. An exciting journey through the highs and lows of finally owning who you are - in all your complexities. This production of Spanish(ish) will be a part of The Empire Theatre's Homegrown Program. This means that the Empire Theatre will host the performance for two nights at a discounted venue hire rate. This funding will cover the cost of rehearsals and performances for the artists to ensure they are being paid for their work and time fairly. Their pay will be aligned with the Live Performance Award rate to make sure all creatives are paid ethically.

Emma Che Raethke

Walkie Talkies in our Neighbourhood is a creative participatory experience for children (aged 7 to 12 years) to 'adventure together' in green spaces. Emma will develop the work with a core artistic team and then test the work with 2 very different demographics of 7-12-year-olds. This project supports social cohesion, wellbeing, and access to cultural life by inviting children into shared, playful encounters in their local environment. It activates underused public spaces, encouraging families and communities to see them as sites for connection and imagination. In doing so, it contributes to positive health and well-being outcomes. Research shows: "Engagement in youth arts supports young people's social and emotional development, providing protective factors against poor mental health." (The Patternmakers, 2021). By fostering a sense of belonging and connection to place, Walkie Talkies has the potential to establish a legacy of cultural participation that strengthens both community identity and the future vibrancy of local creative industries.

Vicki Katthagen

Townsville photographic artist Vicki Katthagen will refine advanced digital editing skills with Dr Les Walking to produce museum-standard prints for her 'Lightborne' exhibition at Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts. The project unites technical mastery and artistic vision, ensuring works of exceptional clarity, tonal depth, and enduring visual impact. Vicki will complete two targeted online courses, Crafting a Digital Print and The B&W Digital Image, with Dr Les Walking, a nationally respected photographic educator. The training combines streamed course content, live tutorials, and personalised consultations, allowing her to apply new workflows and techniques to my exhibition images immediately. This approach will elevate the technical precision, tonal richness, and artistic impact of the final printed works.

Aaron Fa'Áoso

Creating a short documentary about Spirit of the Crocodile, a novel for young readers set in today's Torres Strait, the film will showcase the book's community, culture, climate change challenges and location. In March 2025, Australian publisher Allen & Unwin released Spirit of the Crocodile, a novel for readers aged 8-14, co-written by Aaron Fa'Áoso and Michelle Scott Tucker. Focused on Saibai Island, it is one of only very few novels – for children or adults – set in the Torres Strait. Aaron will make a 15 minute documentary about Spirit of the Crocodile – showcasing the Sabai Island locations, culture and climate change challenges included in the novel. Visuals of Saibai's unique landscapes will be interspersed with interviews featuring local elders and educators. The documentary will explore the profound connection between the land, its stories, and the community.

Queensland Regional Piano Initiative

Duelling Pianos have been awarded funding for a regional QLD composer, Robert Melbourne to attend their showcase of their complete two-piano compositions at the Sydney Opera House on 17 September 2025. As a regional organisation, they think it is important to encourage their regional artists to showcase on the world stage and have the same opportunities as metropolitan artists. The funds will fly their regional composer, Robert Melbourne, to Sydney so he can attend:

**the two rehearsals with our concert pianists;

**the recording session;

**the concert premiere, give an artist talk to the audience and meet with invited VIP Guests.

Khalida De Ridder

Khalida De Ridder will use 3 weeks in September-October to develop skills and plan a programme with the Oresund Quartet - a Quartet of significant artists from Sweden and Denmark with herself as the fourth permanent member, representing Australia. Rehearsals consist of 4 hour rehearsals three times a week, and in addition significant individual preparation necessary to further develop skills. They will develop a programme, and as a collective work on necessary appropriation of harmonic voicing, timbre, intonation and rhythm. Having already performed several concerts with the Quartet in Denmark and Sweden, they aim to bring their art to Far Northern Queensland in 2026/7, creating a collaboration between three countries and greater public outreach. They will also meet with composers and other producers.

SEPTEMBER ROUND QUICK RESPONSE 2025

Amanda Bennetts

Amanda Bennetts has been awarded the highly competitive MediaArt Salzburg25 residency, where she will create new work exploring Salzburg's wellness sites through biometric data and technology. This residency offers a unique opportunity to research and create two new films that reimagine Salzburg's historic wellness sites, including salt mines and alpine aquifers, through biosensor data and experimental uses of technology inspired by wellness practices. As an artist with disability, access to residencies of this calibre is vital to sustaining her practice and ensuring inclusion in international networks. Amanda will integrate advanced wearable biometric sensors (heart rate and brainwave activity) with open-source environmental data (air quality, noise, webcam streams) to capture and visualise lived experiences as she navigates Salzburg. This sensory mapping will generate new digital narratives that interrogate traditional notions of wellness and challenge contemporary ideas of the quantified self. Amanda's flights and travel insurance are supported through this grant.

Luke Briscoe

Luke Briscoe will tour and promote the EarthKin EP locally and help assist with maintaining their promotional tools such as websites and feature articles in nationally recognised newspapers and online arts magazines. EarthKin is a First Nations Soul, Funk and Jazz band and they will be working with youth to bring on the next generation of young artists in the region and provide an opportunity for the younger generation of EarthKin to perform. The purpose of EarthKin is to pass on songs to the next generation and provide an inlet into the industry. The grant will contribute to the promotion and performance at the Tanks Arts Centre in Cairns to help launch the EarthKin EP at the end of October. This will include engaging a local PR professional to help with promoting their upcoming shows.

Clermont Artslink Inc

Clermont Artslink Inc seeks support for committee members to attend the Queensland Tourism Awards and Mackay Isaac Tourism Awards. Participation provides immediate access to cultural tourism professional development, networking, and skills growth opportunities. Attendance will build capacity, expand partnerships, and strengthen their ability to deliver regional arts and events. Attending will allow their team to:

- *Hear the latest trends shaping demand, product and workforce.
- *Discover innovations and practical ideas we can bring back to Clermont.
- *Build high-value connections across regions, sectors and government.
- *Celebrate and showcase regional arts and events on a state stage.

This project represents an immediate, time-sensitive professional development opportunity that could not have been planned for in earlier funding rounds. It will deliver long-lasting benefits for the Wombat Festival, their volunteers, and the wider Isaac arts community by expanding their capacity, connections, and confidence as regional cultural tourism leaders.

Jenny Wynter

The comedy tour is confirmed and cannot be rescheduled due to venue bookings and performer availability across nine remote Queensland towns. The filming opportunity is time-sensitive as it coincides with this rare touring circuit through very remote areas. Alternative funding rounds would miss this unique documentation opportunity of authentic community interaction in locations rarely featured in media. The project arose when we secured tour funding but lacked resources for professional documentation that could showcase these communities to broader audiences.

CBFE Inc

The Red Seed Project is a collaborative intercultural art making and story-telling project for Kuku Yalanji Jalbu (women) in the Douglas Shire in Far North Queensland, facilitated by cbfe.inc. As red seeds and personal objects are arranged on walls of an empty shopfront, stories will be shared and recorded. The project will run over a 10-week period. During the workshops, seeds will be attached to the gallery walls using blue tack, forming a continuous, flowing line throughout the space. Participants will also be invited to bring small personal objects to contribute— such as seed pods, fishing hooks, or broken jewellery— items that carry personal meaning but no monetary value. Following the workshops, the installation will open to the public for the remaining weeks, creating a cultural space where visitors can engage with Yalanji women's stories and objects.

Megan Lee

Reflections is a co-designed exhibition featuring 25 Sunshine Coast artists, exploring environmental change and the enduring connections to place. Funding will support professional curation of the exhibition, and a twilight opening event to engage a broad audience in art, storytelling, and culture, fostering dialogue between the arts and environment sectors. The exhibition brings together diverse perspectives—including First Nations artists, artists with disabilities, and artists of all experience levels—to explore environmental change and our enduring connections to place. Through this project, artists have engaged with local knowledge holders and environmental organisations, including Kabi Kabi Elders and knowledge holders, Barung Landcare, and the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, ensuring that the project is grounded in cultural learning and ecological awareness. This collaborative foundation has created a meaningful platform for knowledge exchange, connection, and creative exploration.

OCTOBER ROUND QUICK RESPONSE 2025

Jordan Herrod

Pretty Things Dance Studio's 2025 concert, Human Nature vs the Era of AI, will showcase 68 young dancers in a full-length production at Tully State High School. Through dance and storytelling, the event builds youth confidence and creativity while providing over 500 community members with an engaging cultural experience. The reach and impact of this project will extend beyond a single performance. For their students, the concert is a transformative experience, building confidence, resilience, teamwork, and discipline through months of training and rehearsals. For the wider community, it is one of the few large-scale cultural events accessible locally, reducing the need to travel to Cairns or Townsville for professional arts experiences.

FNQ Aviation Museum

The Beaufort Legacy Mural will transform a 15 m × 4 m wall at the FNQ Aviation Museum into a striking large-scale artwork. This community-led project develops creative skills, celebrates aviation heritage, and fosters intergenerational connections through storytelling and active public engagement. Local and emerging young adult artists will be invited to contribute to two key elements: Aircraft Artwork – Painted on an aircraft-shaped aluminium sheet for added depth and realism. Mural Background – Painted directly onto the Colorbond steel Trimdek shed, creating an immersive historical scene. Up to six paid trainees from the Mareeba Community Centre will participate, gaining hands-on experience in mural painting, design interpretation, surface preparation, and safe work practices. This practical training, guided by experienced muralist Ross Franzi, provides a rare opportunity for local emerging artists to develop skills and confidence in a professional project.

Tim Ellis

Tim Ellis' 2025 exhibition of paintings, 'Glimpses', first shown at Cairns Art Gallery in January 2025, will be touring to Tablelands Regional Gallery, in Atherton, and Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, in Townsville from January 2026 to June 2026. Through 2024 he created a collection of twelve large scale paintings in acrylics that he called 'Glimpses', depicting brief moments in time glimpsed in passing. The collection was shown at Cairns Art Gallery for 6 weeks in early 2025. Tim approached Tablelands Regional Gallery, in Atherton (a nearby town), and Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, in Townsville, who accepted his exhibition into their 2026 program. From mid-January to mid-March, it will be in Atherton, then from mid-April to mid-June it will be in Townsville, and he is seeking funds to assist with the artwork transportation costs.

Bundaberg Quilters Inc

The production of a textile art quilt depicting the Bundaberg Region, with the centre point the Burnett River. 25 artists have developed and provided a textile block that describes an activity, point of interest, landmark, or geographic item in the region. The quilt now measures 2 metre by 1 metre. Bundaberg Quilters Inc hold a biennial quilt exhibition, in August, and this quilt was assembled just in time to be hung for the members and public to admire. The next steps in the process is to compile and publish a book outlining the process undertaken, credit the artists, coordinators and describe the techniques used. A draft of the book is prepared, photos have been taken, an outline of how Bundaberg Quilters would like it to present is available. From here they will work with a publisher to print the book, show the quilt to the public and launch the book.

Ryan Blaich

Queensland-based artist and music producer Ryan Cruise will attend the exclusive Mix with the Masters program in Paris, studying directly under Grammy-nominated engineer Bainz (Gunna, Young Thug, Doja Cat). This immersive mentorship will elevate his technical and creative expertise, strengthening Queensland's representation in global contemporary music. Upon return, Ryan will:

1. Conduct skill-sharing sessions and workshops within the Queensland creative community, focusing on contemporary production, sonic identity, and independent artist development.
2. Implement learned techniques into professional projects, elevating the quality and competitiveness of regional music outputs.
3. Strengthen international networks to create future collaboration and export opportunities for Queensland creatives.

By enabling participation in this globally recognised mentorship, the Regional Arts Fund will empower a Queensland artist to gain world-class industry training, expand global reach, and reinvest these skills locally—fuelling innovation, professional growth, and cultural contribution within the regional arts sector.

Sharka Bosakova

Sharka Bosakova transforms modular 3D-printed jewellery into immersive architectural installation at Salamanca Arts Centre's Lightbox (6–30 November 2025). Grant funds enable an extended presence delivering artist talk, maintaining and evolving the installation onsite, building networks in Hobart and delivering workshop to rural students at Collinsvale Primary. 'Wearable Experiences' transforms Salamanca Arts Centre's Lightbox into a 24/7 immersive installation. Bosakova expands her modular 3D-printed jewellery into architectural form through kinetic, light-responsive design. The work connects Sunshine Coast practice with national audiences while exploring materiality, movement and spatial transformation. Installation development begins mid-October. The artist designs and fabricates site-specific components: aluminium mesh structures, UV-responsive objects, LED and UV lighting systems. These materials interact with 3D-printed modular forms, extending jewellery language beyond body scale into architectural intervention. Regular site visits enable installation, testing, documentation and calibration for maximum visual impact across day and night conditions.

NOVEMBER ROUND QUICK RESPONSE 2025

Mackenzie Dennis

Mackenzie May has been selected as a finalist for the Toyota Star Maker Grand Finals, one of Australia's most high-profile country music events. This represents a major step forward in her professional development as a musician, providing national exposure, industry mentoring, and the chance to perform alongside leading artists. To make the most of this opportunity, she needs to be present and actively engaged throughout the entire Tamworth Country Music Festival from 17 January to 25 January. Over the festival week, she will participate in rehearsals, media calls, scheduled performances, networking events, the Golden Guitar Awards, and the Grand Final itself. Being onsite for the full duration is essential, as schedules are often dynamic and require flexibility, and preparation. She will use this experience to strengthen her performance skills, build industry relationships, and expand her audience reach.

Jordan Neal

The 40 Under 40 Exhibition and Art Prize is an arts exhibition to be held in Cooroy in February 2026. This project gives a diverse range of 40 artists under the age of 40 an opportunity to showcase their work to their community and develop connections to build their careers. The 2026 exhibition will take over all three gallery spaces in the Cooroy Butter Factory Arts Centre, allowing for large scale artworks, including installations. With three mid-career, contemporary artists on the selection panel, the 2026 exhibition will present more conceptual, contemporary and provocative art to the community; another rare opportunity for artists on the Sunshine Coast. This event not only showcases the 40 exhibiting artists to the community, but also provides opportunity for local musicians to perform. The event also brings together local food vendors and breweries to create an exciting arts event for the hinterland town of Cooroy.

Shanay Manitzky

Shanay Manitzky's Dear Diary workshops will activate Gatakers Artspace with immersive artmaking sessions for adults and children. Delivered inside the Dear Diary exhibition, the workshops provide accessible creative experiences and meaningful community engagement for participants across the Fraser Coast. Designed for both adults and children, the workshops will offer hands-on artmaking experiences that explore personal reflection and creative expression. Delivering the workshops inside the exhibition allows participants to draw inspiration directly from the Dear Diary artworks as they explore reflective prompts, build colour palettes and create their own painted responses connected to themes of emotion, memory and personal expression. Each workshop will begin with a guided introduction to the exhibition, highlighting how visual storytelling, colour and symbolism are used throughout the Dear Diary series. Participants will then take part in a structured creative activity using accessible drawing and painting materials.

Nicholas Di Gregorio

Tiny Vinyl Sessions is a grassroots music and podcast series showcasing regional musicians from the Whitsundays and North Queensland through live-performance videos and candid interviews, released on a consistent fortnightly schedule to build audiences, connect artists and celebrate the region's vibrant music community. Tiny Vinyl Sessions strengthens the region's creative voice by giving artists a dedicated, accessible platform. It supports community connection by showcasing local talent and collaborating with regional venues and audiences. The series also builds technical and creative capacity locally, enabling future partnerships and expansion across Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. Over a 12-month period, ten new sessions will be filmed and released fortnightly. Each episode will feature three live songs and a conversation exploring the realities of life as an independent artist.

4 Hearts Creative Collective

Secret Sessions brings five magical, mystery-filled nights to Cairns/ Gimuy. Audiences step into a world of hidden talent, lush vibes, and surprise high-calibre acts revealed only when the lights go up. Intimate, immersive, and full of heart - celebrating local and touring artists through our "green" season. These events are designed to be accessible to all, encouraging the community to venture out during the quieter green season while also offering visiting tourists a rare chance to experience authentic, original FNQ music culture. Each night includes part funding support/ part cash funding from Elixir Music House for a professional sound technician and targeted marketing, ensuring high production value, safe delivery, and strong audience reach. Marketing efforts will focus on genre, vibe, and atmosphere-without revealing artists-leveraging intrigue to drive attendance while maintaining the core identity of Secret Sessions.

Kelly Shann

Work Horse explores the vital role of horses in remote Australia, highlighting their cultural, historical, and social significance in regional communities. Through personal stories, the project celebrates resilience, connection, and heritage while supporting local arts and storytelling in remote Queensland. Using a method that is a blend of observational filmmaking and sensitive storytelling, Kelly Shann will film short, focused sequences that reveal the deep bond between humans and horses at this pivotal time, using natural light and minimal disruption to the animals. The requested funding will cover travel, accommodation, and logistical expenses for the crew, enabling us to secure this critical footage without compromising quality or timing. By capturing these rare and delicate moments on film, Work Horse will tell an important regional story through a compelling visual arts lens, reinforcing the value of regional cultural storytelling.

James Kerwin

The goal of the project is to do a 3-day creative development for a 30 minute solo mime show with a highly experienced clown and mime director from Brisbane, Andrew Cory. James will do a 3-day creative development to generate material for a 30-minute solo mime show to follow on previous mime training completed this year and two performances at the Brisbane Clown Cabaret. The plan to achieve this is by employing a specialist clown and movement director, Andrew Cory. Participated in the clown weekend workshop led by Andrew and he mentored in the creation of the two short acts which were performed this year. The aim is to have a strong first draft of the show by the end of the period with him. James has applied to the Empire Theatre's Homegrown program in the hope to have a workspace venue to achieve this.