



MEDIA RELEASE

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Regional Arts Fund supports Central West arts projects

\$57,250 from the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund has been awarded to three Central West organisations for new arts projects in 2017.

The Regional Arts Fund (RAF) is a major – and highly competitive - source of funding for the arts in regional Australia.

Two of the projects, *Star Picket* by The CORRIDOR Project near Cowra and *Big Skies Collaboration*, a regional collaboration by organisations including Arts OutWest, use the arts to investigate themes around astronomy, including indigenous night sky stories. The Colour City Creatives' *MakerSpace* project brings in acclaimed dLux MediaArts to run a program encompassing art, science and environmental activities leading up to next year's Orange Youth Arts Festival.

Each of the funded projects is a collaboration, bringing together arts makers from the region and across the country with industry leaders and local communities.

"The obvious strength of all three of the successfully funded projects is that they have been set up as collaborations," Arts OutWest executive director Tracey Callinan said. "These are projects born out of long consultations, designed to dig deeply into ideas. They offer high level opportunities for the community to interact with industry leaders in the arts but also across fields like the sciences. The planned art making is ambitious, insightful and innovative; and each offers opportunities for arts makers in the region to learn new skills," Ms Callinan said.

Arts OutWest secured \$24,500 over two years for the 'Skywriters and the Art of Wiradjuri Constellations' component of *Big Skies Collaboration* on behalf of a consortium of partners including artists, arts organisations, Wiradjuri leaders and groups, astronomers, universities, the CSIRO Parkes Observatory and others.

Celebrating millennia of astronomies on the inland plains, *Big Skies Collaboration* will share stories about people's relationships with the cosmos, as experienced from Wiradjuri country in central western New South Wales. The Skywriters and the Art of Wiradjuri Constellations' part of the project uses writing and visual arts in partnership with major observatories, universities and local Wiradjuri leaders.

In the 2017 Regional Arts Fund round a total of \$434,050.30 will go towards supporting 22 new projects in regional, rural and remote New South Wales.

CEO of Regional Arts NSW, Elizabeth Rogers said, "the quality and diversity of the applications clearly demonstrate a high level of creative and innovative arts practice in our regional communities with some terrific projects from Aboriginal organisations. Once again, there were far more applications than could be funded and I congratulate those who were successful."



Details of the Regional Arts Fund supported projects:

The CORRIDOR Project

Project: STAR PICKET - \$25,000

The "STAR-PICKET" Project is a cross cultural collaboration involving 12 central west visual artists, curated by Indigenous and non-Indigenous art workers, leading to an exhibition. The artists will be investigating Indigenous night sky stories and mapping, visiting locations in the Central West NSW, Lake Mungo NSW and Cape York, leading to inter-arts interpretations of Indigenous seasonal farming practices, mythology and travel pathways based upon this traditional knowledge.

More about this project: <http://www.thecorridorproject.org/cuurent-projects/>

Arts OutWest

Project: *Big Skies Collaboration- skywriters and the art of Wiradjuri constellations Year 1 of 2 - \$12,250 for 2017 (\$24,500 over two years)*

Celebrating millennia of astronomies on the inland plains, *Big Skies* is a creative collaboration between arts practitioners, astronomers and local communities to share stories about people's relationships with the cosmos, as experienced from Wiradjuri country in central western New South Wales. The project uses writing and visual arts in partnership with major observatories, universities and local Wiradjuri leaders.

More about this project: <https://bigskiescollaboration.wordpress.com/about/>

Colour City Creatives Inc Orange

Project: *MakerSpace - \$20,000*

The *OrangeMakerSpace* will be set up as a hub to engage young people in self-directed learning, knowledge sharing and collaboration through participation in art, science and environmental activities. As part of the activation of this new space, dLux MediaArts will run a program of community consultations, demonstrations and skill development workshops led by media artists. The program will culminate in an exhibition of works as part of the 2017 Orange Youth Arts Festival.

More about this project: <http://cccartspace.blogspot.com.au/>

More details about the Regional Arts Fund, including a list of all 22 projects funded across NSW in 2017, at:

<http://regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/raf/>