



Sidney Myer Fund and James and Diana Ramsay Foundation Collaborate to Support South Australia's Independent Artists

On Tuesday 14 March 2017, the Sidney Myer Fund and the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation announced that their co-funded Capacity Building Program for South Australian artists and small to medium arts organisations was open for application.

The program will provide grants of up to \$50,000 split into two equal payments over two years for independent South Australian companies and collectives. Last year, the program supported Queensland and Northern Territory artists and its geographic focus will shift again next year.

This is the first collaborative funding project between the Sidney Myer Fund and the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation. Recognising the scale of the unmet need in the independent sector and the ongoing uncertainty regarding government funding programs, the Fund and Foundation are pleased to announce that grants will be awarded in June 2017.

The program will distribute \$250,000 in the coming grant round.

The Capacity Building Program will strengthen and grow the independent arts and cultural sector in Australia by granting money to ensembles, collectives and groups that are highly connected within their sector, and producing excellent work. Funds will be awarded untied – to be applied as the recipients see fit in the course of their everyday activities.

More information about the program can be found on the Sidney Myer Fund's or the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation's website. Applications to the program are now open and will close at midnight (end of the day) on 9 April 2017.

myerfoundation.org.au

jdrfoundation.com.au

Sidney Myer Fund and James and Diana Ramsay Foundation South Australian Capacity Building Program Program Guidelines and Eligibility

This program -- exclusively for South Australian artists and SME eligible arts organisations -- will distribute \$250,000.

This program will provide organisations with one grant in two instalments. Grants will be made between \$20,000 and \$50,000, over two financial years, to support the recipients' core activities and capacity building initiatives.

This program seeks to strengthen and grow the independent arts and cultural sector in Australia by granting money to ensembles, collectives, groups and DGR1 organisations that are highly connected within their sector, and producing excellent work.

The Program to Date

The 2015 iteration of the program distributed \$250,000 to ensembles, collectives, and groups based in Victoria and Tasmania.

In 2016 the Sidney Myer Fund and Tim Fairfax Family Foundation collaborated to distribute \$500,000 in support of Queensland and Northern Territory artists and arts organisations.

2017 Criteria and Eligibility

The current round of the program is open to South Australian performing and visual arts organisations, ensembles, or collectives who

- i. Are producing excellent work
- ii. Have presented at least one season of work since December 2015
- iii. Are highly connected within their network
- iv. Have an annual turnover of less than \$1.5 million dollars.

This program will assess applications based on their body of work and their 'connectivity' within the sector. 'Connectivity' describes an applicant's relationship with other groups, artists and organisations within the sector.

By granting money according to these criteria this program hopes to see impact of the grant felt as broadly beyond the individual recipient as possible.

Application Process

Alongside the submission of contact details, applicants will detail their production and creative history. Applications will open on 13 March 2016 and close at the end of the day on 9 April 2016.

Selection Process

Applicants to this program will be assessed by Sidney Myer Fund and James and Diana Ramsay Foundation in consultation with sector experts.



Timeline

Applications for the 2017 program will open on 14 March 2017 and close on 9 April 2017. Decisions will be advised in June 2017.

Feedback

No feedback on individual applications, successful or otherwise, will be provided.

Sidney Myer Fund and James and Diana Ramsay Foundation
Capacity Building Program
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is any arts organisation eligible to apply for this program?

This is a program for the small-to-medium sector of the South Australian arts sector. This program will accept applications from arts organisations with a turnover of less than \$1.5 million per year.

2. Can I apply to this program as an individual?

No. This program is for ensembles, collectives, groups and organisations.

3. I'm an individual, who works with the same artists regularly, but we're not a 'group'; we don't have a name. Can I apply?

Yes. You don't need to be a formally constituted 'group', but you do need to be able to prove that you work in such a manner. Your peers should recognise that you work with the same artists regularly. Your timeline of activity should clearly detail how you work with the same individuals repeatedly (at least more than twice).

4. I work with one other artist. We're a duo. Can we apply?

Yes.

5. Why can't musicians and screen-based artists apply?

This program's focus has been narrowed to increase its impact in a particular sector.

6. We don't have DGR1 status – can we still apply?

Yes, you can. Successful application to the program isn't contingent on DGR status.

7. What does 'highly connected' mean and why is that one of the criteria?

'Connectivity' refers to the applicant's relationship to the rest of the sector. Instead of visualising the sector as constituted by artists and organisations working in particular art forms, this program views the sector as a network. In doing so, this program will provide support to those points within the network that are more connected to more other points. That is, to those groups who have evident relationships with other artists and organisations.

The group receiving the grant will directly benefit from the funds allocated, while the remainder of the sector stands the best chance of benefitting from the grant because of the important role the recipient plays within the network – as indicated by their high degree of 'connectivity.'

8. What counts as a ‘season of work’?

That will be different for artists working in different art forms and different presentation formats. It is up to you to define via your timeline of activity. Your response should be consistent with what the majority of the sector would understand as appropriate for your art form and your practice.

9. Who are the sector experts assessing applications?

Details regarding the assessment panel will be released alongside the announcement of grant recipients.

10. Can I see the application form before applications open?

No, the application form will be available once applications open on 14 March 2017. Last year’s application form requested a timeline of activity from applicants alongside their contact details.

11. Which states will be eligible for funding next year?

Information regarding future iterations of the program will be announced later in 2017.