



Northern
Territory
Government

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, THE ARTS AND SPORT

October 2008 Project Round

assessment report

ARTS NT

OCTOBER 2008 PROJECT ROUND ASSESSMENT REPORT

Introduction : :

This report provides general comments and statistical information relating to applications submitted to the October 2008 Project Round of the Northern Territory Arts Grants Program.

Aim of the Arts Grants Program : :

Vision:

A community where all Territorians have access to creative and cultural expression, experiences and opportunities through education, recreation or employment in a vibrant, valued and sustainable arts sector.

The Arts Grants Program offers artists, organisations and communities access to support for initiatives that further this vision, exploring, expressing and showcasing Northern Territory identity through arts and culture.



Assessment Process : :

Applications are assessed against set criteria and guidelines. Funding decisions are made by the Arts Grants Board which provided a transparent, accountable and “arms-length” peer assessment process for the allocation of Arts Grants Program project funding.

A revised Arts Grants Board structure was approved in 2007 and after inviting expressions of interest from members of the community, a Board was appointed by the Minister for Arts and Museums for a three-year term. Members may also be required to provide specialist arts advice to the Minister upon request. The role of the Arts Grants Board is to assess project applications for financial assistance from the Arts Grants Program across all art forms with the aim of supporting those proposals which meet the published criteria and which demonstrate the greatest potential to enhance and develop the artistic and cultural life of the Northern Territory. More information about the Arts Grants Board can be found at www.arts.nt.gov.au

The current members of the Arts Grants Board are:

Ms Rachel Clements (chair)
Ms Mary Anne Butler
Ms Josie Douglas
Mr Steve Eland
Mr Timothy Hill
Ms Lynette Nalyirri-Lewis
Mr Mark Smith
Mr Adrian Walter

Applications to the Project Round are assessed against the assessment criteria for the relevant category applied to. Each Board member is required to provide an individual rating against each of the criteria which are then collated to develop an overall rating. More information is contained in the Arts Grants Program Guidelines booklet including activities that are generally excluded from funding under the Arts Grants Program.

Arts NT is available to provide advice to applicants regarding applications to the Arts Grants Program Project Rounds. Applicants are strongly advised to contact a Program Officer at least several weeks before the Round closing date for assistance prior to submitting applications. If applicants are unsure and require additional assistance, they are also encouraged to make an appointment with the Arts Officer in Darwin or Alice Springs. All staff can be contacted by telephoning 8999 8981 or toll free on 1800 678 237.

A budget is set for each round and grants are awarded within funding limits.

Outcomes of the October 2008 Round : :

Available funding for the October 2008 Round totalled \$135,350 and did not include the Australian Government’s Regional Arts Fund categories which have one annual closing date of 15 March. 15 projects across the Territory were funded from 39 applications received, requesting a total of \$459,333. One additional application was withdrawn prior to assessment. The total amount of funding awarded was \$135,294. Full funding was approved for 8 applications.

A complete list of successful applications for the October 2008 Project Round is at **Appendix 1**.

Assessment Panel Comments :

The assessment meeting was held in Darwin on 3 and 4 December 2008. The following Arts NT staff attended all, or parts of, the meeting; Mr Michael Wells, Director Heritage and the Arts, Ms Hania Radvan, Program Manager, Ms Michelle Broun, Arts Officer and Ms Lorna Martin, Indigenous Arts Development Unit Project Officer. Ms Kate Martin, Grants Administration Officer and Ms Helen Pitts, Regional Arts Fund Administration Support Officer provided secretariat support.

Of the Arts Grants Board, only Ms Lynette Nalyirri-Lewis was unable to attend.

The Board has provided the following general comments relating to the October 2008 Round applications:

General

- All applicants should read the *Arts Grants Guidelines* booklet carefully and discuss their applications with a Program Officer prior to submitting. Some applications continue to be not clearly aligned with the category chosen.
- Applicants are reminded that **complete** applications must be received by the closing date in order to be eligible. Incomplete applications may be considered ineligible and returned to the applicant without assessment.
- In exceptional circumstances, and by prior agreement with Arts NT only, some **support** material may be accepted after the closing date.
- NT artists and organisations are also encouraged to apply to other funding bodies, in particular, the Australia Council for the Arts.

Content

- Applications that clearly demonstrated artistic vibrancy and creative energy were rated highly.
- The project descriptions need to be short, clear and concise and in plain English.
- Budgets **must** be submitted in the approved application form format.
- Budgets were not detailed enough in many cases.
- Applicants should provide clear and realistic budgets and include budget notes with explanations of calculations.
- All applicants for projects that involve Indigenous activities, communities or people are reminded that they should ensure that they demonstrate that Indigenous protocols are followed, all intellectual property issues are resolved (including moral rights if relevant) and consent for the project confirmed with all Indigenous participants. Please complete the application checklist form when submitting your application. This may also require additional information to demonstrate/confirm actions and community support.
- Aboriginal people and communities are also reminded of the importance of completing this section. The Board does not make assumptions regarding a community's interest in, and support of, a project simply because the application may come from an individual residing there.

Support Material

- Applicants should not assume that their artwork is known to the Board.
- All applications must include current and relevant artistic support material, examples or documentation of art form as listed on the application form.
- Artistic support material should be limited to the maximums listed on the application form.
- Applicants should also ensure that the **support letters and participating artists forms** provided, are signed, current and refer to the application submitted. If the supporting documentation is not signed, the

panel is unable to confirm the commitment or involvement of an individual or organisation in the project or activity. If e-mailing support letters please ensure they are embedded to safeguard the content of the letter.

- Applicants should attach relevant and current CVs or Bios that summarise most relevant skills and experience. **CVs should be limited to one page of information.** Long CVs can be distracting and detrimental to the application.
- Applicants are advised that limits will be enforced from the March Round 2009.

The Board has also provided the following advice to future applicants:

Advice to applicants

- **Applicants who choose not to specifically address each assessment criterion will no longer be considered eligible. Such applications will be returned by Arts NT without assessment.**
- Applicants need to describe the process as well as the proposed outcome, i.e. applicants should describe clearly how the outcome/s will be achieved.
- That, where relevant, applicants focus more strongly on the proposed activity or project rather than summarising the full scope of the applicant organisation's program.
- Applicants must provide detailed breakdowns for large amounts listed in the budget – it is not enough to provide totals such as \$3,500 for materials – expenses should be itemised in greater detail.
- For line items of **\$1,000 or more quotes must be provided.**
- Where in kind figures are listed, calculations and notes to totals should be included in the budget notes.
- Support letters should be written by the community/person concerned, ones composed by the applicant and then distributed for signing are not effective.
- Support letters should confirm details listed elsewhere in the application eg. financial or in kind contribution to a project. All significant in kind contributions should be confirmed through a support letter (subject to the limits allowed).
- It is against Departmental policy for Business Units within the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport to provide letters of support for applicants (this includes, MAGNT, Araluen and the NT Library). NRETAS units may provide letters confirming their contribution to a project eg. venue confirmation.

The Board also confirmed continuation of the following changes:

- A strengthening of the value of artistic criteria at assessment.
- That all budgets **must** be presented on the form supplied. Other formats, whilst in themselves clear, make comparisons between applications difficult.
- **Budgets in other formats will no longer be considered eligible. Such applications will be returned by Arts NT without assessment.**
- That applicants be requested to submit applications in plain font only (such as Arial, Times New Roman or Courier) and in no less than 12 point size.
- Support letters are limited to a total of **five**. Applicants submitting more than that number will have excess letters returned without consultation. Applicants are therefore advised to submit only their strongest and most relevant support letters up to the approved limit.

Additionally, all applicants are reminded that failure to acquit previous grants provided by Arts NT through the Arts Grants Program will result in applications not being accepted. Applicants are encouraged to contact a Grants Administration Officer prior to the closing date to confirm their acquittal status.

Applicants are advised that as a result of continuing negotiations with the Australian Government in respect of the Regional Arts Fund, and NT policy priorities, several category changes will be made for 2009. Details will be available in February.

Statistical Information

NT CATEGORIES ONLY

Explanatory Notes

Following are definitions and explanatory notes for the information contained within this report.

- *Applications Received* – No. of requests for funding support.
- *Grants Awarded* – No. of applications successful in receiving funding support.
- *No.* – The number of applications or Grants.
- *Value \$* - The dollar value of applications or Grants.
- Note: Percentages listed in Tables 1, 2, and 3 have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
- Note: October 2008 Round originally received 40 applications, however one was withdrawn and only 39 applications are acknowledged in all data

Table 1 – Total NT Applications Received and Grants Approved (From March 2006 to October 2008)

Applications by Number			
	Received	Approved	Success %
October 2008	39	15	38%
March 2008	40	10	25%
October 2007	62	11	18%
March 2007	48	13	27%
October 2006	57	13	23%
March 2006	51	21	41%
Applications by Amount (\$)			
	Received	Approved	Success %
October 2008	\$459,333	\$135,294	29%
March 2008	\$448,872	\$124,650	28%
October 2007	\$750,160	\$119,100	16%
March 2007	\$523,957	\$128,790	25%
October 2006	\$648,925	\$123,400	19%
March 2006	\$583,955	\$144,030	25%

Table 2 – NT Funding Requests – Up to \$5,000
(From March 2006 to October 2008)

Applications by Number			
	Received	Approved	Success %
October 2008	3	1	33%
March 2008	6	0	0%
October 2007	5	0	0%
March 2007	9	2	22%
October 2006	12	1	8%
March 2006	8	6	75%
Applications by Amount (\$)			
	Received	Approved	Success %
October 2008	\$13,483	\$5,000	37%
March 2008	\$19,323	\$0	0%
October 2007	\$20,175	\$0	0%
March 2007	\$33,285	\$5,800	17%
October 2006	\$52,532	\$5,000	10%
March 2006	\$39,400	\$26,000	66%

Table 3 – NT Funding Requests \$5,001 - \$15,000
(From March 2006 to October 2008)

Applications by Number			
	Received	Approved	Success %
October 2008	36	14	38%
March 2008	34	10	29%
October 2007	57	11	19%
March 2007	39	11	28%
October 2006	45	12	27%
March 2006	43	15	35%
Applications by Amount (\$)			
	Received	Approved	Success %
October 2008	\$445,850	\$130,294	29%
March 2008	\$426,549	\$124,650	29%
October 2007	\$729,985	\$119,100	16%
March 2007	\$490,672	\$122,990	25%
October 2006	\$596,393	\$118,400	20%
March 2006	\$544,555	\$118,030	22%

Note

Tables above represent applications to Northern Territory funding categories only. Previous assessment reports may also include totals for all categories including the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund managed by Arts NT.

NT CATEGORIES ONLY

Table 4 – Applications, Grants and Success Rate by Program Category – October 2008 Round

Program Category	Applications Received				Grants Awarded				Success Rate	
	No.	%	Value \$	%	No.	%	Value \$	%	Appl'ns funded by number%	Appl'ns funded by value %
Arts Development	21	53.8	\$242,298	52.7	9	60.0	\$81,044	59.9	42.9	33.5
Presentation & Promotion	18	46.2	\$217,035	47.3	6	40.0	\$54,250	40.1	33.3	25.0
TOTAL	39	100	\$459,333	100	15	100	\$135,294	100		

Chart 1 – Applications, Grants and Success Rate by Artform – October 2008 Round

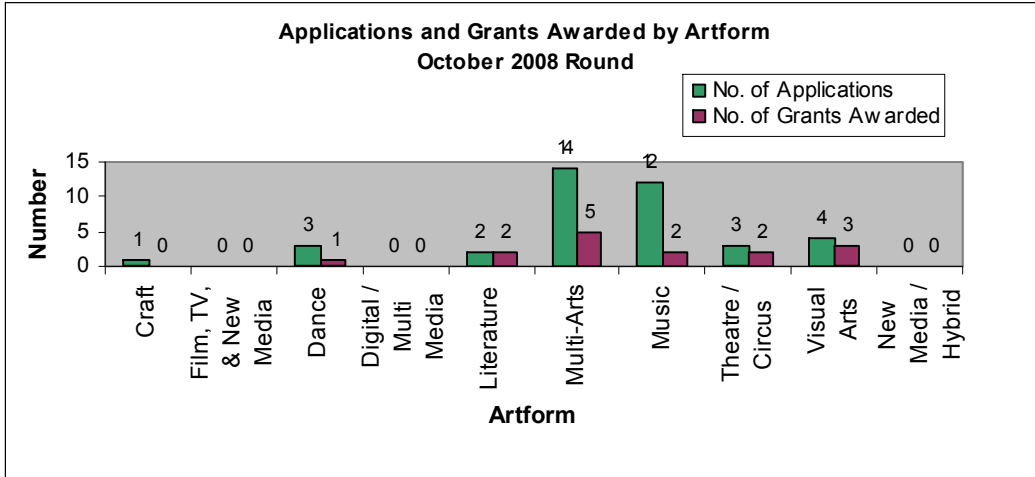


Chart 2 – Applications, Grants and Success Rate by Region of Activity – October 2008 Round

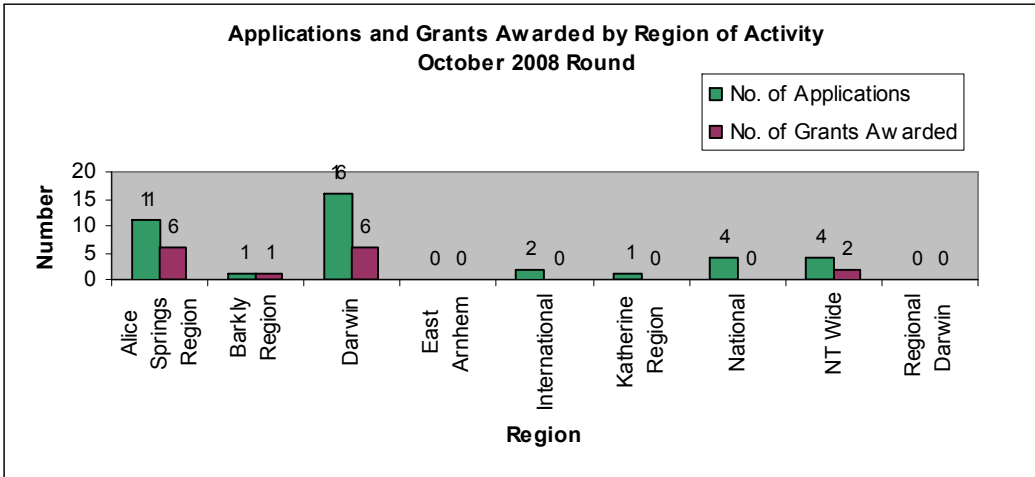
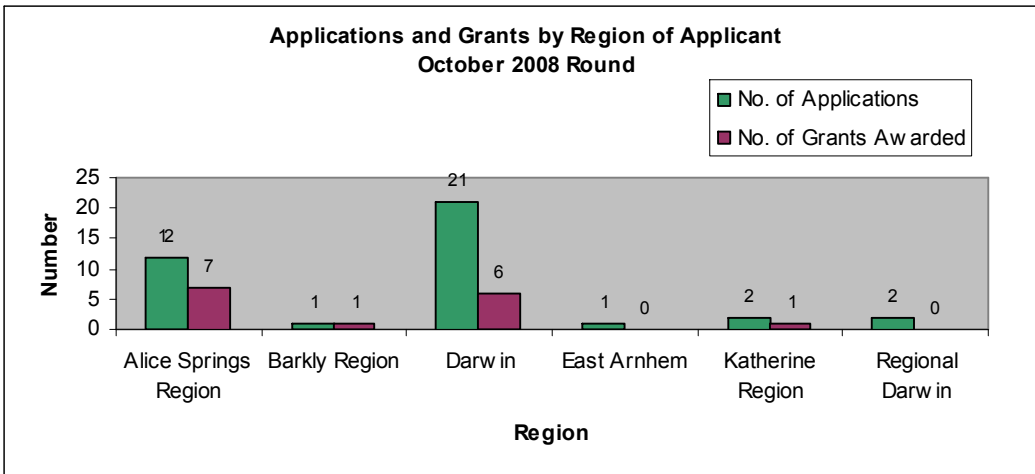


Chart 3 – Applications, Grants and Success Rate by Region of Applicant – October 2008 Round



ALL CATEGORIES (NT & RAF)

Explanatory Notes

Following are definitions and explanatory notes for the information contained within this report.

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- *Grants Awarded* – No. of applications successful in receiving funding support.
- *No.* – The number of applications or Grants.
- *Value \$* - The dollar value of applications or Grants.
- Note: Percentages listed in Tables 1, 2, and 3 have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
- Note: October 2008 Round originally received 40 applications, however one was withdrawn and only 39 applications are acknowledged in all data

Table 1 – Total Applications Received and Grants Approved (From March 2006 to October 2008)

Applications by Number			
	Received	Approved	Success %
October 2008	39	15	38%
March 2008	57	20	35%
October 2007	62	11	18%
March 2007	74	26	35%
October 2006	83	26	31%
March 2006	76	35	46%
Applications by Amount (\$)			
	Received	Approved	Success %
October 2008	\$459,333	\$135,294	29%
March 2008	\$624,602	\$224,650	36%
October 2007	\$750,160	\$119,100	16%
March 2007	\$772,381	\$228,790	30%
October 2006	\$965,143	\$235,400	24%
March 2006	\$837,913	\$261,580	31%

Table 2 – Funding Requests – Up to \$5,000
(From March 2006 to October 2008)

Applications by Number			
	Received	Approved	Success %
October 2008	3	1	33%
March 2008	10	2	20%
October 2007	5	0	0%
March 2007	17	6	35%
October 2006	15	2	13%
March 2006	15	10	67%
Applications by Amount (\$)			
	Received	Approved	Success %
October 2008	\$13,483	\$5,000	37%
March 2008	\$35,783	\$6,760	19%
October 2007	\$20,175	\$0	0%
March 2007	\$67,741	\$20,550	30%
October 2006	\$61,992	\$8,500	14%
March 2006	\$72,747	\$45,647	63%

Table 3 – Funding Requests \$5,001 - \$15,000
(From March 2006 to October 2008)

Applications by Number			
	Received	Approved	Success %
October 2008	36	14	38%
March 2008	47	18	38%
October 2007	57	11	19%
March 2007	57	20	35%
October 2006	68	24	35%
March 2006	61	25	41%
Applications by Amount (\$)			
	Received	Approved	Success %
October 2008	\$445,850	\$130,294	29%
March 2008	\$588,819	\$217,890	37%
October 2007	\$729,985	\$119,100	16%
March 2007	\$704,640	\$208,240	30%
October 2006	\$903,151	\$226,900	25%
March 2006	\$765,166	\$215,933	28%

Appendix 1 – Successful Applications for October 2008 Round

NT CATEGORIES

Applicant	Title	Region	Art form	Amount Approved
ARTS DEVELOPMENT				
Alice Springs Beanie Festival	Community Beanie Making Workshops	Alice Springs Region	Indigenous Visual Arts & Craft	\$10,000
Butler, Mary Anne	A Love Story Without Judgement – Script Development	Alice Springs Region	Theatre	\$7,970
Lang, Gary	Goose Lagoon	Darwin	Indigenous Dance	\$10,000
Business Unusual Theatre	The Memory of Water	Darwin	Theatre	\$8,042
Happy Yess Community Arts Inc	Stage 6 Project	Darwin	Multi Arts	\$10,000
Northern Territory Writers' Centre Inc	Make A Scene	Darwin	Literature	\$15,000
Peattie, Catherine	Life and Art of Billy Benn Perrurie	Alice Springs Region	Indigenous Multi Arts	\$5,000
Wong, Min	Trans 2 Me	Darwin	Visual Art	\$5,032
Wutunurrurra Aboriginal Corporation	Wutunurrurra Community Exhibition	Alice Springs Region	Indigenous Visual Art	\$10,000
			SUB TOTAL	\$81,044
Applicant	Title	Region	Art form	Amount Approved
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION				
Simpson, Mardijah	A Second Anthology of Central Australian Writing	Alice Springs Region	Literature	\$8,000
Tranter, Steven James	Jagit – 2 nd Album	Alice Springs Region	Indigenous Music	\$15,000
Corrugated iron Youth Arts Inc	Play Time	Darwin	Multi Arts	\$10,000
Lofts, Pamela	Requiem for Another	Alice Springs Region	Multi Arts	\$4,300
Ngukurr Arts Aboriginal Corporation	Marranbala Country Exhibition	Katherine Region	Indigenous Multi Arts	\$7,000
O'Loughlin, Genevieve	Ronny Reinhard FUJIMOTO Project	Alice Springs Region	Music	\$9,950
			SUB TOTAL	\$54,250
			GRAND TOTAL	135,294