

Backing Indigenous Arts Indigenous Art Centre Multi-Year Funding Program 2023–24 to 2025–26 Guidelines

Established in 2007, the Queensland Government's Backing Indigenous Arts (BIA) initiative helps build ethical and sustainable Queensland-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industries by supporting a development pipeline from creation to market. This initiative aligns with the Elevate First Nations Arts priority of [Creative Together 2020–2030: A 10-year Roadmap for arts, culture and creativity in Queensland](#), and its second action plan [Grow 2022–2026](#).

Through BIA, the Queensland Government invests in the core operations and activities delivered through the state's Indigenous Art Centres (IACs) network. IACs provide creative and community spaces and are crucial in enabling cultural maintenance within First Nations communities and sharing the culture of our communities within our state, Australia and offshore.

The BIA IAC Multi-Year Funding Program has the following objectives:

- strengthen Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art centres and organisations
- support local communities' access to high-quality visual arts and cultural activities
- support career opportunities for First Nations artists and arts workers
- grow new markets for First Nations arts and cultural products
- increase First Nations artists' share of Indigenous art sales revenue.

What is an IAC?

IACs are visual arts organisations or peak bodies recognised and respected by their community as an organisation which increases:

- the ethical production of First Nations arts
- economic outcomes for First Nations communities
- professional development opportunities for First Nations artists and arts workers.

Who is eligible?

Delivered through a targeted strategy, the BIA IAC Multi-Year Funding Program for 2023-24 to 2025-26 is accessible to the following organisations:

- IACs who are previous recipients of core funding through the BIA IAC Multi-Year Funding Program for 2019-20 to 2022-23
- IACs identified and invited by Arts Queensland.

Additionally, eligible organisations must be Queensland-based and at least 50% owned and led by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, who have the formal authority to make decisions about the operations and governance of the organisation, such as:

- a First Nations-owned business
- a First Nations Not-For-Profit Organisation

- an Indigenous Local Council.

See the Glossary for definitions of the above.

To be eligible, the organisation must:

- have satisfied all reporting and acquittal requirements relating to previous BIA IAC Multi-Year Funding Programs and any other Arts Queensland funding
- submit their strategic plan, governance framework, 2023-24 activity plan, 2023-24 to 2024-25 budget forecasts, and 2021-22 audited financials by the closing date (see the Submission Process section below for further details)
- not seek funding for 100% of the organisation's costs from Arts Queensland.

Note that Arts Queensland can only fund activities that occur after the date both parties have signed the funding agreement.

What can organisations use the funding for?

BIA IAC multi-year funding is to support the following:

- operational costs for the delivery of arts and cultural services and activities
- professional services costs related to governance, management, or the marketing and promotion of the IAC's programs and products
- initiatives that generate economic opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and arts workers.

Are there other funding opportunities to support BIA IAC projects?

Recipients of BIA IAC Multi-Year Funding can also access the BIA IAC Strategic Development Project Fund, supported through *Grow 2022–2026*, to undertake growth initiatives aligned with their strategic plan. Application to this funding is through a separate process.

Application Process for Funding 2023-24 to 2025-26

(1) Submission process for IACs that are previous recipients through the BIA IAC Multi-year 2019 – 2023 Program.

Step 1

Organisations must fully acquit all prior Arts Queensland funding before making their submission. Please contact one of the BIA Partnerships and Investment Managers:

- Ivy Hill, phone 0487 542 124 or email Ivy.Hill@arts.qld.gov.au, or
- Joann Russo, phone 0417 270 842 or email Joann.Russo@arts.qld.gov.au

Ivy or Joann will discuss the required documents and provide a SmartyGrants submission link.

Step 2

Organisations can upload their submission via SmartyGrants from Monday, 25 September 2023. Submissions close at 2:00pm on Friday, 20 October 2023.

Step 3

From Monday, 30 October 2023, an Arts Queensland officer will arrange an appointment to negotiate the mutually agreed KPIs for the new funding agreement.

Step 4

Arts Queensland will issue the new funding agreements from Monday, 30 October 2023, to the IACs for consideration and signing, which IACs must return to Arts Queensland for countersigning within 30 days, or the offer will expire.

(2) Submission process for IACs supported through short-term funding contracts since 2020 or invited by Arts Queensland to make a new submission.

Step 1

Arts Queensland will invite the organisation to engage with BIA Partnerships and Investment Managers:

- Ivy Hill, phone 0487 542 124 or email Ivy.Hill@arts.qld.gov.au, or
- Joann Russo, phone 0417 270 842 or email Joann.Russo@arts.qld.gov.au

Ivy or Joann will:

- confirm through community engagement the value the IAC provides to its community
- discuss the current activities delivered by the IAC and its future plans
- identify other funding opportunities that might be available to the IAC to strengthen its development
- confirm governance and management support for the IAC's operations to determine its readiness for funding support.

Step 2

Upon confirming readiness for funding, Ivy or Joann will discuss the required documents and provide a SmartyGrants link to enable the IAC to upload their submission.

Step 3

Arts Queensland will review the documentation submitted and seek funding approval from the Delegate.

Step 4

Following funding approval, an Arts Queensland officer will arrange an appointment with the new IAC to negotiate the mutually agreed KPIs before issuing a funding agreement to the IAC for consideration and signing. The IAC must return the signed agreement to Arts Queensland for countersigning within 30 days, or the offer will expire.

Uploading your submission

Please upload your submission online using the SmartyGrants link provided by Arts Queensland.

For any technical issues regarding the online submission, please contact an Arts Queensland Grants Officer by telephone at (07) 3034 4016 or toll-free 1800 175 531.

After successfully uploading your submission, you should receive an automatic email notification within 24 hours confirming that Arts Queensland received it. If you do not, please contact an Arts Queensland Grants Officer using the contact details above.

If circumstances prevent you from uploading your submission to SmartyGrants and you need to discuss other options, please contact one of the BIA Partnerships and Investment Managers using the contact details in the Submission Process section.