

Growing Gigs Fund Guidelines – Round 2

Live music is a critical part of Queensland's arts and cultural vibrancy and makes important economic and social contributions across the State.

The Growing Gigs Fund (the Fund) provides support to the live music industry as it seeks to respond to shifting audience demands and increased operating costs, while supporting the livelihoods of Queensland musicians.

Fund objectives

The Fund works to support live music venues of 500 pax or less to program Queensland contemporary music artists and musicians by subsidising costs associated with presenting, including:

- Increasing paid performance opportunities for Queensland contemporary music artists
- Supporting venues in programming original live music
- Ensuring audiences can continue to connect with Queensland artists in live music venues.

Funding available

Queensland live music venues of up to 500 pax can apply for funding of:

- **between \$2,000 and \$15,000** to offset costs associated with performance fees for emerging and established Queensland artists and musicians as part of a venue's existing programming strategy

and:

- up to an additional **\$15,000** to support new programming that grows new performance opportunities for Queensland artists and expand audiences for the venue (for example holding a mini festival, programming a new music genre, or introducing regular all-ages gigs).

A live music venue is defined as a business whose primary function is to program or host original live music, or that has a significant area within their venue that regularly and frequently hosts ticketed live performances of original music, e.g. a pub with a staged area and a regular program of touring bands would be eligible, but a pub that has weekly live music as part of its dinner service would not.

Original live music is defined as live performances of music that is composed and written by the artist(s) performing (or is exclusively written for the artist/band by someone else). The artist or band may include 'covers' in their live performance, i.e. songs written or previously performed or recorded by other artists, but these should make up no more than half of the songs or pieces performed.

The fund will support single performances or a program of performances and the additional funding for new initiatives can support a single event or longer program.

You must provide matched funding (1:1), which can include cash and/or in-kind. The funded activity must take place within 12 months of funding being secured.

NOT A VENUE? Music promoters, band managers and artists are encouraged to apply to the [Touring Queensland Fund](#) for funding to support tours to live music venues.

Eligibility

Please refer to the Arts Queensland [General Funding Guidelines](#) for general eligibility criteria and definitions. In addition, to be eligible for funding your venue **must**:

- be based in Queensland and have a capacity of 500 pax or less
- meet the definition of a live music venue described above
- **not** contain gaming machines
- **not** be under notice that you are to be placed under external administration; petitioning for bankruptcy; or winding up/ deregistering an organisation/business.

To be eligible for funding your application **must**:

- **not** be auspiced
- provide evidence of confirmed non-Queensland Government investment* of at least 50% of the project costs (can be cash from your own business and/or other partners/funders, and/or in-kind)
- provide evidence that artists are being remunerated in line with the [Musicians Australia Minimum Fee](#) as set out in the Live Performance Australia Award
- **not** request funding for programming that has already been advertised
- include **all** compulsory support material.

We are interested in supporting applications from venues that present performances across all genres of original live music, including (but not limited to) rock, pop, electronic, punk, metal, hip-hop, jazz, indie and classical.

Applicants can only submit one application per venue to this funding round.

* *Non-Queensland Government investment:*

- *Funding or grants (confirmed and unconfirmed) from other Arts Queensland project funding, or other Queensland Government funding (e.g. small business grants, disaster assistance recovery grants) cannot be included in your application to the Growing Gigs Fund;*
- *You can include in-kind contributions. For example, the value of free or discounted equipment hire; venue space, and the value of marketing for the wider business that will now include the funded gigs.*
- *You can include as part of in-kind, the value of staff wages for programming, front of house or technical support that you would be paying for as part of your existing operations.*

Eligible costs

Arts Queensland funding can **only** be used for the following costs related to the funded activity:

- Queensland-based artist fees (including costs associated with artist management fees, artist travel, and fees for technicians directly hired by an artist)
- Costs associated with rehearsals and promotion for new programming initiatives only.

No other costs are eligible for funding.

Where a band has members from different states, the majority must be based in Queensland to be eligible for funding.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed a panel by of independent industry experts against the following criteria:

High quality

- The artist's/artists' work is high quality and their set is more than 50% original music
- Professionals involved are highly skilled and well-regarded

Strong impact

- Creates new employment opportunities for Queensland artists and arts workers
- Maintains or builds new audiences and markets for the venue and Queensland artists and musicians
- Responds to industry needs and helps deliver government priorities

Sustainable value

- Demonstrates value for money, sound governance, and ethical business practices, including paying industry award or industry recommended rates of pay and adhering to appropriate cultural protocols
- Proposed activity has a strong delivery plan including marketing and an understanding of potential risks and their management.

Submitting your application

You can upload applications, along with project timeframe, budget, and support materials including letters of support, artist biographies/CVs, examples of prior work and appropriate cultural permissions, through SmartyGrants: <https://artsqueensland.smartygrants.com.au>

In addition to the compulsory support material in the [General Funding Guidelines](#), you must also provide:

- An overview of planned programming including a list of proposed artists (indicative only) with a brief bio or link to their online information
- A detailed budget outlining artist fees as well as matched funding (cash and/or in-kind) including the estimated income from tickets and/or food and beverage sales
- Evidence your venue meets the definition of a live music venue e.g. website or Facebook page showing history of regular, frequent original music programming, OneMusic music reports, etc.
- A copy of a relevant licence or floor plan showing capacity of your venue
- A copy of your relevant operating licence – i.e. Liquor Licence, an Amplified Music Venue permit
- Current public liability insurance of at least \$20 million

We recommend you contact Arts Queensland to discuss your application before you submit it.

Applications must be submitted by the Fund closing dates:

Fund Closes	Notification	Activity Start Date
2pm Tuesday 6 May 2025	Mid-late June 2025	Activities commencing from 1 August 2025 and must take place within 12 months of funding being secured.

For support with technical issues related to the online application, please contact an Arts Queensland Grants Officer on telephone (07) 3034 4016 or toll free 1800 175 531 or email investment@arts.qld.gov.au