

Live Music Venue Business Grants - 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 Live Music Venue Business Grants (the Fund) provides support to live music venues (500 pax or less) to respond to shifting audience demands and increased operating costs by strengthening their capacity to attract audiences and diversify income streams.

Fund objectives

The Fund works to strengthen live music venues in Queensland. It places focus on growing and diversifying the business models of live music venues and enhancing their future viability by:

- Incentivising venues to consider creative ways to attract new patrons, partnerships or collaborations that grow new profitable income streams
- Supporting new and innovative approaches that improve operational efficiency, extend opening hours and reduce costs
- Improving the patron experience through venue and equipment upgrades.

Funding available

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

- **Stream 1: up to \$50,000** to offset the costs of trialling alternative venue use outside of standard business hours that could lead to new revenue streams, i.e. daytime or Monday and Tuesday nights etc.

Or

- **Stream 2: up to \$100,000** to support equipment purchases or venue improvements that
 - increase accessibility, venue capacity or patron experience (including sound proofing, air conditioning and ventilation)
 - increase the earning potential and profit from current operations or new activities
 - reduce existing operating costs such as hire fees, insurance or security, or by improving energy efficiency.

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.

You must provide evidence of matched funding (1:1), which can include cash and in-kind. The funded activity must take place between within 12 months of funding being secured, or 24 months for infrastructure projects requesting over \$50,000.

You can only apply to one stream in this grant round, either stream 1 or 2.

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)
- 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 round to the Live Music Venue Business Grant.

* *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 Live Music Venue Business Grant;*
- *You can include in-kind contributions. For example, the value of free or discounted equipment, materials, venue space, professional services (e.g., legal, architectural) and/or the labour of volunteers;*
- *You can include as part of in-kind the value of staff wages to manage or deliver the activity, that you would be paying for as part of your existing operations.*

Ineligible costs

You cannot use funding secured through this program for business as usual operating costs, such as:

- Staff costs associated with existing operations and opening hours
- Existing rent, insurance or utilities costs

or for the following costs:

- Food and beverage purchases
- Artist fees or programming costs
- Activities that have already taken place, or will commence prior to funding confirmation
- Goods or services that have been bought or ordered prior to funding confirmation
- Any other costs not directly associated with the delivery of the proposed activity.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

High quality

- Venue has a strong and well-regarded track record of delivering live original music
- Professionals involved (including contractors) are highly skilled and respected by industry stakeholders.

Strong impact

- Demonstrates how the activity will generate new income opportunities or cost savings for the venue
- Builds new audiences and markets for the venue, and by extension 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 a viable timeline and an understanding of potential risks and their management
- Evidence there will be a longer-term return on investment by supporting the venue's ongoing viability.

Submitting your application

You can upload applications, along with project timeframe, budget, and support materials including letters of support, contractor 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:

- A detailed budget outlining all costs as well as matched funding (cash and in-kind)
- Quotes to support budget items
- Baseline venue usage or attendance statistics
- 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	Late June 2025	Activities commencing from 1 August 2025

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

Successful applications

If successful you will need to provide evidence of expenditure as part of your outcome reporting, and depending on your activity, your grant payments may be staggered to align with activity milestones.