

ORDINARY MEETING	23
21 DECEMBER 2023	

## **REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND (RADF) 2023/24 – MAJOR ROUND ONE**

79/6/8 | #7279504

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Approves establishing RADF funding agreements for a total of \$80,452 (ex GST) from the 2023/24 RADF Major Round budget with the following applicants for the below amounts:
  - a. Ashleigh Lawrence - \$10,000 (ex GST)
  - b. Catherine Willacy (Cairns Little Theatre Inc.) - \$10,000 (ex GST)
  - c. Cristina Bevilacqua - \$8,600 (ex GST)
  - d. Greta Stanley - \$10,000 (ex GST)
  - e. Ian Whittaker - \$10,000 (ex GST)
  - f. Jannah Dryden - \$10,000 (ex GST)
  - g. Kevin Mayo - \$3,576 (ex GST)
  - h. Moses Warusam - \$10,000 (ex GST)
  - i. Shoba Sandler (Auspiced by JUTE Theatre Company) - \$8,276 (ex GST)
  
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise any and all matters relating to the above agreements.

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### **INTERESTED PARTIES:**

Refer Attachment 1.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) program is a partnership between Council and Arts Queensland. Both parties contribute funds to support arts and cultural initiatives through grant funding streams managed by Council. The RADF Committee met on 17 November 2023 to jointly assess grant applications and provide recommendations for Major Round One.

The RADF Committee consists of a group of artists and arts officers with a broad base of experience in arts and cultural practise who provide expert advice and insight across their portfolio areas. Committee members individually assess all applications and the Committee then jointly deliberate and discuss all components of applications.

Council received 14 eligible applications for the Major Round One stream requesting a total of \$126,943 ex GST). The RADF Committee has recommended nine of these projects for funding totalling \$80,452 (ex GST).

**Recommended for funding:**

Applicant	Amount requested	Project Title	Amount recommended
Ashleigh Lawrence	\$10,000	The Fall	\$10,000
Catherine Willacy (Cairns Little Theatre Inc.)	\$10,000	Professional Stagecraft Development	\$10,000
Cristina Bevilacqua	\$8,600	SKIN	\$8,600
Greta Stanley	\$10,000	Complete the recording and release of a 10 track Album	\$10,000
Ian Whittaker	\$10,000	Cairns Animation Incubator	\$10,000
Jannah Marie Dryden	\$10,000	SUPER - A Comedy Short Film	\$10,000
Kevin Mayo	\$3,576	Crate59 Exhibition Poster Collection for Cairns Museum	\$3,576
Moses Warusam	\$10,000	Moses Warusam & Associates' Music Collaboration	\$10,000
Shoba Sandler (Auspiced by JUTE Theatre Company)	\$8,276	Development of new and diverse theatre work, 'The Accidental Bride' with Indian community workshops	\$8,276

**Not recommended for funding:**

Applicant	Amount requested	Project Title
Lachlan Mackee	\$10,000	Service under Fire: 8000 kilometres of clay, connecting Cairns to Pondicherry India
Marty Brown (Lady Valiant)	\$10,000	Recording of second Lady Valiant studio album 'Blackwater'
Sam Winston Pates	\$9,273	Please Leave
Tanya Chapman	\$10,000	Find Your Style
Zaynab Wilson	\$7,218	Steelman 'Yard' Workshop Series

**BACKGROUND:**

All activities funded under the annual program are required to demonstrate how RADF investment is meeting Arts Queensland's key performance outcomes relating to Impact, Reach, Quality and Viability.

Council is advised that the total budget for the 2023/24 RADF grant program, which runs from 2 September 2023 through to 13 September 2024 is \$235,410 (ex GST). This amount comprises the following contributions:

Contribution	Amount (ex GST)
Arts Queensland	\$105,000
Cairns Regional Council	\$100,000
2020/21 and 2022/23 Surplus	\$30,410
<b>Total Budget 2022/23</b>	<b>\$235,410</b>

In accordance with the 2023/24 Arts Queensland agreement this budget is to be disbursed across the following RADF funding streams:

Activity	Amount
Major Round 1 & 2 (capped at \$10,000 per project)	\$140,000
City of the Arts Hero Project x 1 (capped at \$25,000)	\$25,000
Individual Professional Development	\$12,000
Small Arts Grants	\$4,000
Flame.Arts Access Leg-Up Grants	\$9,100
RADF Committee Fees	\$4,900
Strategic Project	\$10,000
Critical Thinkers Platform	\$10,000
Arts and Disability	\$10,410
Young Creatives Strategy Actions	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$235,410</b>

### **COMMENT:**

The RADF Committee is a Council-established committee which provides recommendations on the allocation of RADF grants. Committee members comprise professionals in the arts, heritage and cultural industries. The RADF Committee has the role of assessing each application according to the RADF guidelines, Council's Corporate Plan and Council's Strategy for Culture and the Arts 2022 key priorities.

This report details the nine grant applicants from the 2023/24 Major Round One. Council is also advised that five applicants were not recommended. Should Council endorse the RADF Committee recommendations, all successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified, with letters of acceptance and payments finalised within 30 days. Officers will continue to provide advice and guidance to unsuccessful applicants in relation to future grant applications.

### **Recommended for Funding – Major Round One (Total \$80,452 ex GST):**

**Ashleigh Lawrence:** *The Fall* is a short film addressing environmental issues and the impacts of colonisation in Australia. The film, co-directed and starring Garth Edwards, seeks to educate the community about climate change and its inherent links to First Nations justice through imagery and themes that are likely to elicit an emotional response from audiences. (\$10,000 ex GST).

Committee comment: The Committee commented on the improvements made from the

previous unsuccessful application. Excellent development for a large number of people involved and the project is a strong shared narrative and promotes the collective appeal.

**Catherine Willacy (Cairns Little Theatre Inc.):** Cairns Little Theatre Inc. (trading as Rondo Theatre) presents *Professional Stagecraft Development* which engages an internationally and nationally experienced professional director/actor to provide masterclasses and coaching in directing, acting, staging and lighting. This project will assist individuals, community members, and members of professional theatre companies in the Cairns region in developing their skills. (\$10,000 ex GST).

Committee comment: A worthwhile project for a local theatre company that would benefit the community and aspiring theatre practitioners. This project provides an excellent route to professional theatre companies and opportunities for employment.

**Cristina Bevilacqua:** The *SKIN* project is a photographic examination of the similarity between the natural environment and human bodies. This project will focus deeply on the unspoken world of vulnerability, shame and acceptance of body image related issues within our local community. (\$8,600 ex GST).

Committee comment: The applicant has taken on feedback and has developed their submission from the previous round which was deemed unsuccessful. Great partnerships and support from professionals for the delivery of the project.

**Greta Stanley:** To partially fund the recording and release of a 10-track album for release in mid-2024. The project will also include the development of a film clip, a photoshoot and a publicity campaign to coincide with further promoting the songs and album. (\$10,000 ex GST).

Committee comment: This project aims to support local employment by collaborating with regional producers and local creative professionals. The funding will support the artist and provide high quality production of the artist's new album.

**Ian Whittaker:** The *Cairns Incubator Hub* will host four workshops focused on animation for Indigenous artists, 2D animation, stop-motion animation, and 3D animation. The purpose is to build networks and set the stage for future joint studio endeavours. (\$10,000 ex GST).

Committee comment: Impressive community support highlights the value of the animation workshops, creating a community pathway to further education and employment opportunities. The applicant will benefit from the funding to deliver this professional project that is greatly needed in the region.

**Jannah Dryden:** *SUPER* is a short comedy film about two elderly women who plan to secure their passage to prison by robbing a local café, believing that prison would be a better option than an aged care facility and will keep the two friends together. (\$10,000 ex GST).

Committee comment: The project is well-planned and the applicant has built strong relationships with Screen Queensland. The artist is developing the screen industry in Cairns, and the funds will benefit local artists and industry employees in the region.

**Kevin Mayo:** Crate59 artist collective has held more than 150 exhibitions featuring Cairns artists and musicians since 2009. In collaboration with Cairns Museum, the collection of posters from these exhibitions will be collated, catalogued and digitalised for cultural research and future exhibition purposes. (\$3,576 ex GST).

Committee comment: Important project to preserve the history of the creative scene in Cairns. The applicant is perfectly placed to archive the project goals with his artistic and academic research background.

**Moses Warusam:** *Moses Warusam & Associates Music Collaboration* includes the recording of an album featuring five renowned musicians from the region. Moses composed all of the music, and each artist will write lyrics and sing on the recordings. (\$10,000 ex GST).

Committee comment: The applicant is concentrating on growing as a producer and doing so in an innovative manner. The artists approach by delivering collaborative song writing and recording stimulates the sector.

**Shoba Sandler (Auspiced by JUTE Theatre Company):** Emerging playwright of Indian heritage, Shoba Sadler, will conduct a series of theatre workshops for 20 members of the Cairns Indian community to assist her with developing her new work, *The Accidental Bride*. (\$8,276 ex GST).

Committee comment: The project connects deeply with the Cairns Indian community and represents a strong opportunity for development of more culturally representative arts practise in the Cairns region.

#### Not recommended for funding:

Applicant	Amount requested	Project Title	Comment
Lachlan Mackee	\$10,000	Service under Fire: 8000 kilometres of clay, connecting Cairns to Pondicherry India.	Better articulation of artistic outcome and community benefit would have strengthened the application. Lacks evidence of demand and a contingency plan in the event that the applicant is unsuccessful in obtaining other grants to support project costs.
Marty Brown (Lady Valiant)	\$10,000	Recording of second Lady Valiant studio album 'Blackwater'	More articulation of the creative development and outcome is required. The application failed to address the criteria that define the fund's benefit.
Sam Winston Pates	\$9,273	Please Leave	An intriguing concept, but insufficient planning and preparation of the

Applicant	Amount requested	Project Title	Comment
			proposal. More support material is needed. Partnerships are not articulated, and there is no evidence of community demand.
Tanya Chapman	\$10,000	Find Your Style	While the application has artistic merit, it lacks innovation. More information is needed on who the project is aimed at and the community need.
Zaynab Wilson	\$7,218	Steelpan 'Yard' Workshop Series	Further development of the project plan, reach, and consultation are required. The application was missing supporting documentation.

### **OPTIONS:**

#### Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council:

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2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise any and all matters relating to the above agreements.

#### Option 2:

That Council does not endorse the recommendations and adopts an alternative funding allocation.

## **CONSIDERATIONS:**

### **Risk Management:**

The RADF program operates within a defined annual budget and each of the funded projects are bound by an agreement that defines the responsibilities of the grant recipients. The RADF Committee is guided by Terms of Reference that stipulate the need to adhere to confidentiality as well as to report potential or perceived conflict of interest in regard to assessment and recommendations. When matters of conflict arise, the Committee member does not take part in the decision-making process.

It is noted that none of the applicants has an overdue grant acquittal through RADF or other Council grant streams.

The Executive Manager Creative Life and Director Lifestyle & Community have reviewed and support the RADF Committee's recommendations.

### **Council Finance and the Local Economy:**

- The total amount allocated to 2023/24 Major Round One and Two grant rounds is \$140,000 (ex GST).
- Recommendation in this report for Major Round One is \$80,452 (ex GST).
- Remaining budget for Major Round Two is \$59,548 (ex GST).

<b>2023/24 RADF Major Rounds One &amp; Two</b>	
2023/24 Major Rounds Budget	\$140,000
Recommended in this report	\$80,452
<b>Remaining Major Rounds Budget 2023/24</b>	<b>\$59,548</b>

### **Community and Cultural Heritage:**

The RADF program enhances the capability, capacity and wellbeing of local community organisations and individuals.

### **Corporate and Operational Plans:**

Corporate Plan 2021-26 Community & Culture Strategic Objectives:

- Promote Cairns as the arts and cultural capital of Northern Australia.
- Support diverse sport, cultural and community groups that contribute to wellbeing.

### **Policy:**

Cairns Regional Council's RADF Terms of Reference General Policy:

*"The RADF Grants program was established in 1991 as a state and local government partnership to support professional artists and arts practitioners living in regional Queensland. The program focuses on the development of quality arts and arts practise for regional communities."*

**CONSULTATION:**

Consultation with the community prior to the round opening was undertaken by the Arts and Cultural Grants Coordinator via one-hour information sessions (The RADF Roadshow) and the assessment of applications was undertaken by members of the RADF Committee:

- Daniela Vavrova – Museums/ Galleries portfolio.
- Kathryn Ash – Performing Arts portfolio.
- Dennis McIntosh – Creative Writing portfolio.
- Patty Preece – Music portfolio.
- Russell Milledge - Multi-media portfolio.


Two applications were identified as having conflicts of interest, and the assessors who identified the conflicts did not evaluate the submissions from the applicants listed in Attachment 1. Members of the committee were asked to leave the room while funding decisions for related applications were being made. It should be noted that the nature of the RADF Committee (consisting of arts and cultural experts within our community) often means that committee members are involved in projects, or are members of artistic groups, that rely on RADF funds for the development and delivery of creative outcomes.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 - Interested Parties



Stephen Foster  
Executive Manager Creative Life



Destry Puia  
Director Lifestyle & Community



**Attachment 1 - Interested Parties****Ashleigh Lawrence:**

Ashleigh Lawrence (Applicant)

**Catherine Willacy (Rondo Theatre):****Frank Joel (President)**

Catherine Willacy (Treasurer)

Lynn Cropp (Secretary)

Kevin Shorey, Narelle Shorey, Tony Radford, Paul Hynes, Sarah Speller, Noelene Rees, Debbie Dean, Ron Powell (Other members)

**Cristina Bevilacqua:**

Cristina Bevilacqua (Applicant)

**Greta Stanley:**

Greta Stanley (Applicant)

**Ian Whittaker:**

Ian Whittaker (Applicant)

**Jannah Marie Dryden:**

Jannah Marie Dryden (Applicant)

**Kevin Mayo:**

Kevin Mayo (Applicant)

**Moses Warusam:**

Moses Warusam (Applicant)

**Shoba Sandler (Auspiced by JUTE Theatre Company):**

Suellen Maunder (Artistic Director/CEO)