

National Assistance Program for the Arts

Philanthropy Australia's Arts Funder Network is coordinating the distribution of philanthropic funds around the country to help support Australia's cultural sector through the COVID-19 crisis.

Community recovery from a crisis requires support in the short, medium, and longer terms. The longer-term goal is to support individuals and organisations through this crisis to the point that they are ready to resume their lives (and livelihoods) once it is over.

In the first instance, affected communities need essential support – food, rent, access to information, and the ability to connect with family and friends.

The Initiative

An immediate, quick-response, \$1,000 grant to assist in covering essential services – food, rent, phone bills, internet access, etc – for individual artists and arts workers.

This program will help to protect the mental and physical health of Australia's creative sector and lay the foundation for later phases of recovery efforts.

Any funder interested in supporting the initiative can contribute to the pool of available funds which will be channelled through Philanthropy Australia's DGR-1 status fund.

How It Will Work

Sidney Myer Fund will support the application and assessment process with applications assessed on the basis of *need*, *experience*, and *talent*.

The 81 Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship Alumni will be invited to make up a bank of assessors contributing their expertise to this program. An expert, peer review element of the assessment is critical to its integrity in the sector.

More than \$1 million has already been contributed to the initiative by

Sidney Myer Fund
Carrillo Gantner AC
Andrew Myer AM and Kerry Gardner AM
James and Diana Ramsay Foundation
W & A Johnson Family Foundation
Kim Williams AM
Nunn Dimos Foundation
Inner North Community Foundation

This program is intended to provide immediate, emergency relief. Contributions to the initiative are requested by COB Monday 4 May 2020 with funds flowing to recipients in the week following.

Next Steps

Neal Harvey, Program Manager with the Sidney Myer Fund and Chair of the Arts Funder Network, is available to discuss individual contributions and answer any questions funders might have.

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