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**2018 Blacktown City Council Creative Arts Fund Information and Guidelines**

The Creative Arts Fund is a grant scheme to support the development of original artistic expression in all art forms. This is an annual program to support local artists and local organisations with their creative ideas.

The grant scheme relates directly to the Blacktown City Cultural Plan Vision:

*Our arts and culture inspires, extends, connects and is a source of pride, identity and well-being for the diverse cultures and communities of Blacktown now and into the future.*

**The objectives of the Blacktown City Council Creative Arts Fund are to:**

* Activate new artistic ideas and initiatives by the community
* Provide financial assistance to artists and community organisations
* Support creative expression and innovation across a broad range of arts and cultural activities
* Activate partnerships between organisations, artists and community groups
* Stimulate creative expression and innovation across diverse communities and cultures
* Maximise creativity as a tool for community gatherings, celebrations and harmony
* Build an independent cultural sector and economy
* Create social and cultural connections between the communities of Blacktown City.

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| **GRANT CATEGORIES AND LIMITS** Maximise creativity a | |
| Category A | **Community organisations and groups**  This category provides incorporated community organisations and groups with grants of up to $3,000 (inclusive of GST) to develop artistic programs or projects. |
| Category B | **Individual artist or artists groups**  This category provides artists and cultural workers with grants of up to $2,000 (inclusive of GST) to assist their professional development or to work on an arts project with local community organisations. |
| *Blacktown City Council reserves the right to award a lesser amount than requested.* | |
| **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?** | |
| 1. Australian residents over 18 years of age who are residents of Blacktown 2. Local incorporated non-political organisations and groups who are providing services to Blacktown residents, including non-profit, non-government community, cultural or arts organisations 3. Artists who are residents of Blacktown | |

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| ***Who is not eligible to apply?*** *Employees of Blacktown City Council, their direct family members, Ward Councillors, Members of the Arts Advisory Committee are not eligible to apply for the Creative Arts Fund. The Blacktown City Council Creative Arts Fund will not be awarded for capital items, building improvements and repairs or for existing salaries.* |
| **GRANT CONDITIONS** |
| 1. Artists must be paid as per NAVA’s standard schedule of fees. (<https://visualarts.net.au>) and Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance’s standard rates for performers and writers (<https://www.meaa.org>). 2. Spend the budget as proposed in the application. Budget can only be used for artist’s fees, materials, venue hire, project publicity, marketing, and launch of the project if applicable 3. Complete the project within the proposed time frame 4. Provide a short report to Council within 4 weeks after the completion of the project 5. Obtain public liability insurance for projects involving the public or public presentation 6. Include Blacktown Arts and Blacktown City Council logos on all collateral including; websites, media releases, social media and other promotional items associated with the project. |
| **SELECTION CRITERIA** |
| Grants will be awarded for applications that best meet the following selection criteria:   1. Originality of ideas 2. Quality of artist’s work 3. Demonstrated experience in delivering and managing projects and funds 4. Value of the project to the professional development or capacity building of the individual artist or group or community organisation 5. Relevance to the **objectives** of the Blacktown City Council Creative Arts Fund (see above) 6. Quality of community engagement (if proposed) 7. The extent to which the project addresses the Blacktown City Cultural Plan. (The Blacktown City Cultural Plan is available from <www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au/files/8694ae91-d61e-40d1-b7ea-a6e300f9e4d8/Cultural_Plan_2013_WEB.pdf>). |
| **SELECTION PROCESS** |
| Applications will be assessed by a panel comprising Council’s Arts Advisory Committee members, and specialist Council staff. |

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| **REQUIREMENTS** |
| Applicants must meet the following requirements:   1. Complete the application form in full, and submit your application by  Thursday, 8 March 2018 2. Provide a brief resume 3. Provide relevant support materials 4. Provide an itemised budget. Download a budget template at <https://blacktownarts.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Creative-Arts-Fund-Budget-Template.docx>. |
| **IMPORTANT DATES** |
| Applications Open  **Thursday, 8 February 2018**  Information Session  **Thursday, 15 February 2018 6 pm – 7 pm at  The Leo Kelly Blacktown Arts Centre, 78 Flushcombe Rd Blacktown NSW 2148**  Applications Close **Thursday, 8 March 2018** |
| **HOW TO APPLY** |
| Apply at [www.blacktownarts.com.au/creative-arts-fund/](http://www.blacktownarts.com.au/creative-arts-fund/)  If you are unable to apply online, contact Blacktown Arts Centre on 9839 6558. |
| **ENQUIRIES** |
| For more information, contact Monir Rowshan, Coordinator Cultural Planning and Community Engagement, on 9839 6558. |