

EXPERIENCE  
**GOLDCOAST.**

# ARTS FUND

## **EGC ARTS FUND**

### **FAQS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

All enquiries regarding this fund should be directed to:  
[egcartsfund@experiencegoldcoast.com](mailto:egcartsfund@experiencegoldcoast.com)

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# 1. Frequently Asked Questions

## What events are defined as EGC Gold Coast Festivals and Events for the purposes of the EGC Arts Fund?

Your project must have an outcome at one of the following Festivals or Events that EGC presents:

- Blues on Broadbeach, May
- Cooly Rocks On, June
- Wonder, June
- Bleach, August
- Groundwater, October
- Kids Take Over, September
- Artcation Festival, all school holidays excluding September
- HOTA Gallery
- HOTA Presents:
  - Outdoor Stage
  - Theatre
  - Lawn Bar
- HOTA Outdoor Stage, March-May 2026

## How can I better understand the audiences, programming style and opportunities of EGC Owned Festivals?

Overview of EGC Festival and Events below:

### Blues on Broadbeach, May

As the Gold Coast's very own home of blues, Blues on Broadbeach will be celebrating its 24th annual festival from 15-18 May 2025. Featuring a wide array of international and homegrown artists performing across multiple indoor and outdoor stages, Blues on Broadbeach is one of Australia's largest non-ticketed music festivals. Situated within the heart of the Gold Coast in Broadbeach, this is a blues festival experience like no other, with four days and nights of live rhythm and blues music.

<https://bluesonbroadbeach.com/>

### Cooly Rocks On, June

Celebrating the motors, music and lifestyle of yesteryear, Cooly Rocks On is Australia's favorite nostalgia festival! Coolangatta will be transported back in time as the streets are lined with over 900 vintage cars, while audiences enjoy an incredible lineup of some of the best rock 'n' roll, swing, rockabilly and tribute artists from around the world. Cooly Rocks On is also one of two festivals held in Australia to host an official preliminary round of the Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest, with the winner heading straight to Elvis Week in Memphis. The annual Cooly Rocks On Pin-up Pageant is another festival favourite, as well as a Moonlight Swing Dance event, Beachside Rock 'n' Roll dancing, and Nostalgia Markets on the Coolangatta beachfront. <https://www.coolyrockson.com/>

### Wonder, June 2025

Now in its fifth year, Wonder 2025 will be our biggest to date. Celebrating great art in the outdoors, Wonder will see a large scale kinetic sculpture exhibited for 6 weeks alongside a suite of special events and artistic programs to complement and respond to the work. The 2025 edition of Wonder will be inspired by the sky, movement, air, and clouds with the program from any and all genre's to be

responsive to the thematic and accessible to all audiences.

### **Bleach, August 2025**

Bleach is the Gold Coast's annual contemporary arts festival. The festival is proudly local, celebrating the city's incredible landscape and using it as the backdrop to stage world-class artworks created by some of Australia's finest artists. Bleach Festival will take over HOTA, Home of the Arts, including the Theatres, Outdoor Stage, HOTA Gallery, Lawn Bar and surrounds when the festival returns in August 2025 for its 14<sup>th</sup> year of showcasing a world-class contemporary arts festival over 2 weeks.

### **Groundwater Country Music Festival, October**

A staple on the Australian country music calendar the Groundwater Country Music Festival (CMF) gathers some of the best country artists in the industry for three days of free live music on the Gold Coast. Running for over a decade the annual event features 60 homegrown and international artist, listen to over 1300 songs at 135 live shows, for an incredible days of jam-packed country music in the middle of the Gold Coast. Set only steps away from the iconic golden beaches of Broadbeach, there's no other country music festival quite like it. <https://groundwatercmf.com/>

### **Kids Take Over, September**

Kids Take Over at HOTA is a creative Art/play festival aimed at Kids aged 3-12 and their families. Over 7 days families can explore a wide range of arts activities and performances both free and paid. Kids Take Over aims to encourage kids to become the next generation of art lovers and creators. Offering programs that encourage imaginative play and entrepreneurship, the festival aims to not just present to families but to engage all ages into art and create memorable experiences.

Festival activities are designed to be of one-of-a-kind experiences families can only do at HOTA giving the program a unique and boutique feel and creating a point of difference between the other entertainment offerings around the Gold Coast.

### **Artcation Festival, All School Holidays excluding September**

Artcation Festival; a series of entrepreneurial and arts education-based workshops for kids. Artcation festival is a week-long workshop festival that provides young participants with engaging, hands-on creative full day workshops combining art and technology. Workshops are designed to encourage kids to gain confidence, think outside the box and use the skills they learn to create opportunities in the real world. With different workshops offered each day, there is always something to indulge young minds. Workshops cater for age groups 8-11 and 12-14.

### **HOTA Outdoor Stage Season Live Music Season, Mar-May 2026**

In early 2026 HOTA's Outdoor Stage will have completed an operational and infrastructure upgrade. To celebrate this, a suite of back-to-back weekend programming from March to May will be established to create a season of great art and events in the outdoors. With a strong focus on contemporary music, concerts, lifestyle events and experiences, there will be no better time to embrace HOTA's upgraded Outdoor Stage with something for everyone.

Applicants who propose visual art projects or artworks for the HOTA Gallery need to ensure the proposal is in alignment with EGC festivals and event.

We also recommend checking out the '[HOTA Stories](#)' section of the HOTA website and searching for reviews and articles about past events/festivals on the internet more broadly, to get a better feel for the

relevant presentation context.

### **What is Experience Gold Coast?**

Experience Gold Coast is a Council controlled entity that delivers festivals and events throughout the year across the Gold Coast.

Founded in 2023, Experience Gold Coast was created when five of the city's major entities merged to become one organisation with the mission to drive growth and opportunities for tourism, events, education and arts and culture.

Adopting the proven formula of other global cities, Experience Gold Coast amalgamates the functions previously delivered by HOTA, Destination Gold Coast, Major Events Gold Coast, Study Gold Coast and Placemakers.

### **Do I need to be a Gold Coast Resident to apply?**

For each of the funding categories individuals or collectives are eligible if they are:

- (a) Individuals or collectives of whom the majority are current Gold Coast residents and/or
- (b) Non-residents who clearly demonstrate a lasting connection to and/or benefit to the Gold Coast community arts and culture sector.

### **What documentation is needed to prove I/we live on the Gold Coast?**

A Gold Coast resident will need to upload proof of Gold Coast residency for yourself (individuals) or your group (collectives).

For example, this can include a recent utility account such as:

- Gas
- Electricity
- Phone
- Rent or lease agreement
- Rates notice
- Registration or drivers license renewal notice.

If you are applying as a Gold Coast based organisation, you need to provide a valid postal or street address for your organisation that is within the boundaries of the City of Gold Coast.

### **I am an individual or collective who lives in a neighboring council and perform regularly on the Gold Coast, what supporting documentation is needed to prove that I am connected to the Gold Coast?**

If your home address/business is outside the City of Gold Coast, you will be required to provide additional information in your application that builds a case for how your proposed project will benefit the Gold Coast community. For example, describe how the project will have significant outcomes on the Gold Coast and work with the local community to develop creative content for presentation.

### **I am not Gold Coast based. How do I clearly prove my lasting Gold Coast connection to the Gold Coast community arts and culture sector.**

If you are not Gold Coast based, you will be required to provide additional information in your application that builds a case for how your proposed project will benefit the Gold Coast community. For example, describe how the project will have significant outcomes on the Gold Coast and work with the local community to develop creative content for presentation.

### **Do I need an ABN?**

Yes. You must have an active Australian Business Number or 'ABN' to apply for EGC Arts Fund. The ABN that you provide must correspond to the name of the applicant. When you accept your funding agreement, you will be asked to provide bank account details, and the name associated with that bank account must correspond to the name in which the ABN has been registered and the name on your invoice.

### **What if I don't have an ABN?**

To be eligible to apply for EGC Arts Fund, you must have a current active ABN. Visit the [Australian Business Register](#) for information on registering for an ABN.

### **Within our group/collective, we all have our own ABN – what ABN do we use?**

If our group/collective has its own ABN under the group's name, you should use the group's ABN. If not, one person in the group will need to take responsibility for the grant under their own ABN. This means their ABN will be used in the funding agreement and they will become legally responsible for delivery under the funding agreement. In both cases, all members of your group/collective must sign the funding agreement.

Funding paid by Experience Gold Coast is considered as part of your income in a financial year and may therefore be subject to tax. City of Gold Coast Council cannot give you specialist advice about taxation or legal issues. Information about tax related matters is available from the [Australian Taxation Office's \(ATO\)](#) website.

### **I am an employee of Experience Gold Coast (EGC). Can I apply?**

Applicants who are Full Time or Part Time employees of EGC are ineligible to apply.

Casual EGC employees are eligible to apply. Their application must include a signed letter from their employer (CEO/ Senior Management/ Chair) stating that their proposed EGC Arts Fund project is not associated with the duties of their role and/or programming of the organisation.

### **I am an organisation in receipt of a multi-year community grant. Can I apply?**

Applicants in current receipt of grant funding from the City of Gold Coast Council **are eligible to apply** for the EGC Arts Fund by including in their application written assurances that:

- The project being applied for is *not the same* project being currently funded by Council, and
- There are no unresolved reporting deliverables and/or acquittals owed to the Council (including incomplete milestone reports, annual reports for Arts Partnerships operational funds and/or any other debts to Council etc.).

### **I have been contracted to deliver an artwork/ workshop/ program by Experience Gold Coast, or an organisation in receipt of a multi-year community grant. Can I apply?**

Yes. A service contract (e.g., a commissioned artwork, artist in residency or workshop/presentation delivery) is not considered employment. You are NOT required to provide a signed letter from the contracting organisation.

### **I am an employee of Gold Coast City Council, can I apply?**

No. Current Council employees are not eligible to apply.

### **Who will assess my application?**

Each application will be assessed by a panel of industry experts appointed by EGC. Panel members may include EGC staff/board, programmers/producers of the relevant Gold Coast Festivals, City of



Gold Coast staff and other professionals as deemed appropriate or as delegated to. Panel membership may vary depending on the stream, musical genre of applicant, stage of assessment and/or the Gold Coast Festival that an applicant nominates.

Panel Members include:

1. Head of Arts & Culture, Experience Gold Coast, or delegate.
2. Chief Executive Officer, Experience Gold Coast, or delegate.
3. Manager Arts and Culture, Communities, City of Gold Coast or delegate.
4. Artistic Program Representative, Experience Gold Coast.
5. Arts & Culture Board Director, Experience Gold Coast.
6. Other professionals as deemed appropriate

**If I am successful, will there be an ‘exclusivity period/area’ in my funding contract?**

Exclusivity period for category 3. Gold Coast Presents – 3.1 Local Music on Local Stages the exclusivity period is not applicable for local musicians.

Exclusivity period for categories 1. Gold Coast Stories and 2. Gold Coast Creates will have an exclusivity period/area.

Exclusivity will depend on the nature of your project/performance and which EGC Festival or Event is the presentation platform. Standard Exclusivity periods apply and will vary according to level of investment and festival presentation delivery in the project/performance by EGC and will be discussed at Full Application stage.

**I am a musician/in a band, can I/we...**

- **Apply to perform as the Support Act for a headline artist playing at HOTA?**  
Yes, submit an EOI under the Gold Coast Presents category 3.1 Gold Coast Present Local MUSIC on local stages.
- **Apply to play a live set at a Gold Coast Festival relevant to the genre that I perform?**  
(e.g. a local country music artist applying to play at Groundwater Country Music Festival).  
Yes, submit an EOI under the Gold Coast Presents category 3.1 Gold Coast Present Local MUSIC on local stages.
- **Apply to create and record a new album?**  
No, as this doesn’t have a live performance outcome.
- **Apply to create new music/a live set AND perform it at a relevant Gold Coast Festival?**  
Yes, please submit an EOI under the Gold Coast Presents category 3.1 Gold Coast Presents Local MUSIC on local stages.
- **Apply to multiple categories at the same time including Gold Coast Stories, Gold Coast Creates or Gold Coast Presents**  
Yes – individuals/organisations can apply for, and be successful in, multiple categories simultaneously. Submit a separate application for each distinct project. However, we would encourage you to carefully consider whether more than one of your projects strongly aligns with the intentions and criteria of this opportunity. Artists/organisations can only have one successful application under each category at any one time.
- **If my EOI is successful under Gold Coast Presents Local MUSIC on local stages, can I be programmed as a Support Act more than once?**

No.

- **Apply under one band member's sole trader ABN on behalf of the band (if my band isn't a legally constituted entity)?**

Yes, however the individual applicant must take responsibility for all legislative and other requirements related to managing the project/performance on behalf of the band, including but not limited to any relevant contractual, taxation, superannuation matters.

- **Apply for any genre of music?**

Yes, however please tell us what genres are relevant to your act when you apply. There is also a place to describe your act if the categories provided aren't applicable.

- **Apply if under 18 years of age?**

No. Applicants must be 18 years or older at the time of application to be eligible.

### **What kind of work are you looking for under Gold Coast Stories, Gold Coast Creates, Gold Coast Presents as part of the EGC Presentation platform?**

Applicants who propose visual arts projects or artworks for the HOTA Gallery need to ensure the proposal is in alignment with EGC Festivals and events.

#### **I am a visual artist, can I/we...**

- **Apply to develop a new body of work that is uniquely Gold Coast and aligned with an EGC Festival or Event:**

Yes, apply for the category of Gold Coast Stories.

- **Apply to exhibit new work that is already created/developed and has not been presented at HOTA gallery?**

Yes, apply under the any category depending on the collaboration, scale or creative content.

- **I am a Gold Coast artist/collective, can I/we collaborate/partner with a national/international artist/collective to present at one of the EGC Festivals?**

Yes, you can. Apply under either category depending on the story, scale or if the work is fully develop.

- **Apply to develop and manufacture a large scale interactive light installation?**

Yes, apply under the Gold Coast Creates category.

What if the work is already made and ready to present? If the work is already made and ready to present you can apply under Gold Coast Presents Local WORKS on Local Stages.

- **Apply to develop a soundscape/site specific work?**

Yes, if the work is not yet developed apply under the Gold Coast Creates category.

If the work is ready to present, apply under the Gold Coast Present Local Works on Local Stages.

- **Apply to present new Film works or a photography exhibition?**

Yes, Gold Coast Presents Local WORKS on Local Stages.

## **I am a theatre maker/performer/dancer/visual artist, can I/we....**

- **Apply to present a remount of ready-made works?**

Yes, ready-made work that requires a remount to present can apply.

- **Apply to present new work that has already had an industry development showing at HOTA or at another venue either on the Gold Coast or Nationally/Internationally?**

Yes, you can. Apply under either category depending on the story, scale or if the work is fully develop.

- **Apply to present a ready-made work that is co-commissioned by another festival and will be presented prior to the EGC Festival presentation I/we wish to apply for?**

Yes, apply under the category that best represents the stage the work is at e.g. is the work fully developed and ready-made?

- **Apply for the same project that has already secured funding and has not been presented to an audience?**

Applicants in current receipt of grant funding from the City of Gold Coast Council **are eligible to apply** for the EGC Arts Fund by including in their application written assurances that:

- The project being applied for is *not the same* project being currently funded by Council, and
- There are no unresolved reporting deliverables and/or acquittals owed to the Council (including incomplete milestone reports, annual reports for Arts Partnerships operational funds and/or any other debts to Council etc.).

Organisations who receive multi-year organisational funding through City of Gold Coast's Community Partnerships Fund or Arts Partnerships Fund are eligible to apply for projects that are not funded by their existing City of Gold Coast funding.

- **We are an arts company who is based outside of the Gold Coast area (national/international) and we want to collaborate with local artists/local community to create a new work that tells a local story?**

Yes, apply under Gold Coast Stories. Additional support material is required to support your application. Refer to FAQ above, with regards to additional supporting documentation required as part of the application.

- **Apply for new film/music work that is already made to be presented in the Cinema at HOTA as part of an EGC Festival experience?**

No, the HOTA cinema is not included as the Festival or Event category.

- **Apply to create a new community engagement project which has a large-scale presentation involving music/workshops/visuals/storytelling?**

Yes, apply for Gold Coast Stories or Gold Coast Creates. Refer to FAQ below with regards to what support material is required to support you application.

- **Apply to develop a site specific First Nations theatre/dance/visual art, working with community to be presented at an EGC Festival/HOTA Theatre?**

Yes, apply for Gold Coast Stories. Refer to FAQ below What support material is required if my

project engages with a First Nations community.

- **Apply to present creative content to develop and present a large-scale projection work that involves 3D projection mapping/lasers/sound.**

Yes, apply for Gold Coast Creates.

If your work will collaborate with local community to develop the creative content and tells a story/connection to the Gold Coast then apply for Gold Coast Stories.

### **Under the Category Gold Coast Creates, what does works of quality and scale mean?**

Scale refers to the overall physical size of an artwork or objects in the artwork. Relate scale to the size of the human body – how big or small the piece is in relation to the human form.

Examples of works of scale could be a large visual arts work could include: Large inflatable artwork presented at the HOTA outdoor stage or a large community engagement project that brings 100+ artists together to perform together.

### **What support material is required if my project engages with a First Nations community?**

If you will be working with Indigenous artists and community, you must provide evidence that the required protocols have been followed to obtain support and confirmation of involvement from relevant communities and organisations. The Australia Council Protocols for Using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts provide a pathway for collaborations and creation of new Indigenous work.

The Australia Council Protocols for Using [First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts](#) provide a pathway for collaborations and creation of new Indigenous work.

### **What other support material is required?**

It is a requirement to submit support material with your application. The peer assessors will review this support material to help them gain a better sense of your project.

Preview the grant application for the list of support material required. Support material should include relevant, recent examples of your artistic or cultural work.

### **Types of support material we accept**

The preferred method of receiving support material is via URL's (weblinks).

You can provide up to three URLs (weblinks) that link to content that is relevant to your proposal. This may include video, audio, images or written material.

URLs can include a total of:

- 10 minutes of video and/or audio recording
- 5 images – portrait and landscape
- 5 pages of written material

Please note: Our peer assessors will not access any URLs that require them to log in or sign up to a platform. Please do not provide links to Spotify or other applications that require users to log in or pay for access.

If you are linking to media files that are private or password protected like Vimeo, please provide the password. In the password field on the application form.

### **Other accepted file formats**

If you cannot supply support material via URLs, you may upload support material to your application in

the following formats:

- Video (MP4, QuickTime and Windows Media)
- Audio (MP3 and Windows Media)
- Images (JPEG and PowerPoint)
- Written material (Word and PDF)
- Link to cloud-based drive e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive. Please make sure relevant sharing permissions are granted.

### **Can I include password protected links in my application?**

Yes, however you must provide the password for assessors to access the link in the application form. Assessors will not view any weblink that requires them to sign up or sign in to any external platform.

### **Can I attach samples of my work (instead of links)?**

Yes, there is some capacity to upload samples of your work.

We suggest you upload samples of your work to an online folder and share that link (& password if relevant) instead.

### **What other support material is required?**

Compulsory support material will generally include quotes for EGC Arts Fund requested expenses, biographies for key personnel, letters of support from partners and confirmation of their role and contribution, letters of support from peers and industry and examples of your previous artistic work, including web links.

You might also consider providing the following support material to strengthen your application: evidence of demand for your project through e.g., confirmed tour itineraries, peer/audience/partner feedback on the work, evidence of potential interest from partners, information on the success of your previous work.

### **Letters of support**

Individuals, groups, or organisations can write letters in support of your project. A support letter should explain how the project or activity will benefit you, other artists or arts professionals, participants, or the broader community. It can also detail the support or involvement of key project partners, or evidence of consultation.

If relevant to your activity, letters of support must provide evidence of appropriate permissions and support from First Nations organisations, communities, and Elders.

The Australia Council Protocols for Using [First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts](#) provide a pathway for collaborations and creation of new Indigenous work.

You can include up to five letters of support, with each letter not exceeding one A4 page.

### **Letters of confirmation**

If your application involves in-kind/income from sponsorship, partnerships you must provide letters of confirmation from your sponsor or partner. If your application involves working with a community group/organisation you must provide letter to confirmation of involvement. Each letter must include confirmation of any invitations, partners fees or contributions to the activity, whether cash or in-kind. Please provide a single link to all letters or scan the letters into one PDF file and attach to your application.

**What does in-kind support mean?**

Non-cash goods and services. For example, voluntary labour, professional advice provided free of charge, use of a performance, exhibition, or other space where the rental is waived or substantially discounted, donated materials, equipment, or products.

**Do I need to show income from other sources, e.g. In-kind?**

Income from other sources isn't relevant to applications submitting an EOI for Gold Coast Presents Local Music on local stages.

Income from other sources will be viewed favourably for full applications in Gold Coast Stories, Gold Coast Creates and Gold Coast Presents. There is no recommended limit or percentage for in-kind contributions or other income.

The value of any in-kind support should be included in your budget as both income AND expenditure, and you should make budget notes to explain what your in-kind income is made up of.

**For the Gold Coast Stories and Gold Coast Creates categories, does EGC provide in-kind venue hire and production costs for presentation of works or do I need to factor this in to the budget?**

EGC may choose to include the cost, or a portion of the cost, of the venue hire for the successful applicant's performance.

Artists to include cost to rehearse and present the work and any costs associated with hiring production equipment for rehearsals, artist travel, accommodation.

Successful applicants will be offered the same technical specifications as the mainstage artist. To benefit from marketing, promotion, and general exposure, the Gold Coast artist will be included in the initial lineup announcement.

**Can I propose the use of City of Gold Coast Community Centres or HOTA for rehearsals or creative development as part of my application?**

Yes, artists can propose to use any City of Gold Coast Community venue spaces or HOTA, Theatre 2 or Basement for rehearsal or creative development.

**Should I include the presentation costs as well as development costs in the same application?**

Yes, if your project requires support for the development stage for the presentation outcome, you should include those costs in your application. Projects will not be funded in stages via separate applications. Presentation costs would include but not limited to; artist fees incl per diems if applicable, accommodation, ground transport, catering, theming, additional speciality equipment.

**Do I need to include the presentation costs for venue or equipment hire at the EGC Owned Festival and/or HOTA?**

Yes, EGC will present your performance/project, EGC will provide the venue and standard venue/festival technical equipment required to facilitate the presentation. The artist will need to provide indicative costs included in your application for labour cost for rehearsal and presentation. These costs can be outlined in your budget as estimates.

If the project/performance requires speciality equipment (e.g. laser lighting, large-scale projectors, LED screens, stage scrims, etc) please include the costs of those equipment hires in your application.

**I have more than one idea to propose under each category or the same category, can I do that?**

Yes, you should submit a separate application for each distinct project. However, we would encourage

you to carefully consider whether more than one of your projects strongly aligns with the intentions and criteria of this opportunity. Artists/organisations can only have one successful application under each category at any one time.

**If my application is not successful, can I reapply with the same project?**

For Gold Coast Stories and Gold Coast Creates, yes. However, we strongly suggest you review your project’s alignment to the selection criteria and purpose of the fund. At this stage, we expect to only have capacity to provide feedback on Full Applications.

Gold Coast Presents – Local Music on local stages – no. All outcomes of the EOI process are final.

**Does a creative development stage of my project need to have a public outcome?**

If you are developing your project/performance, it will be a condition of your funding agreement that you may have to undertake a closed industry showing of a work-in-progress to allow EGC/Gold Coast Festival programmers to view the work in advance of a public performance season. If your project/performance is going to be a ticketed event, any showings cannot be publicly advertised.

**Can I apply for other grants to bolster my project budget?**

Yes, however please note that projects seeking funding from the EGC Arts Fund cannot also be funded by/seek funding from any City of Gold Coast funding program.

Organisations who receive multi-year organisational funding through City of Gold Coast’s Community Partnerships Fund or Arts Partnerships Fund are eligible to apply for projects that are not funded by their existing City of Gold Coast funding.

**What is the total funding pool available?**

There is \$1.5 million available in the 24-25 financial year for the EGC Arts Fund.

**What are the caps on the EGC Arts Fund rounds?**

**1. Gold Coast Stories**

Applications accepted across all tiers:

- a. Tier 1 up to \$25,000
- b. Tier 2 – \$25,000 to \$100,000
- c. Tier 3 – \$100,000 to \$200,000

**2. Gold Coast Creates**

Applications accepted across all tiers:

- a. Tier 1 up to \$25,000
- b. Tier 2 – \$25,000 to \$100,000
- c. Tier 3 – \$100,000 to \$200,000

**3. Gold Coast Presents**

**3.1 Gold Coast Presents Local MUSIC on local stages**

Applications accepted from Tier 1 only up to \$25,000.

**3.2 Gold Coast Presents Local WORKS on local stages.**

Applications accepted across all tiers:

- a. Tier 1 up to \$25,000
- b. Tier 2 – \$25,000 to \$100,000
- c. Tier 3 – \$100,000 to \$200,000

**Do I need to have public liability insurance before applying?**

No, however you will need to provide a Certificate of Currency proving Public Liability Insurance coverage is in place prior to the release of funds by EGC.

**What are the reporting requirements if I am successful?**

You will need to complete an online acquittal via Smarty Grants. You can expect to provide a budget reconciliation, data and information about how your project went, as well as relevant documentation of the outcomes.

**Can I propose (or perform at) either a free or a ticketed event?**

Yes.

**Can I sell merchandise as part of my performance/project?**

This will be subject to the arrangements/conditions that are in place for the select Gold Coast Festival/HOTA event, which may include sellers' commissions. However, EGC will make best endeavours to facilitate the opportunity for local artists to sell merchandise.

**Is this a one-off opportunity?**

The EGC Arts Fund is an annual program of funding.

**Will you provide feedback on unsuccessful applications?**

As we are expecting a large volume of EOIs under the Gold Coast Presents Local MUSIC on local stages, we anticipate not being able to provide feedback on EOIs.

At this stage, feedback can only be requested by applicants with unsuccessful full applications under category 1. Gold Coast Stories and 2. Gold Coast Creates and 3.2 Gold Coast Presents Local WORKS on local stages.

Should this change in the future, we will notify applicants.

**If I am a local artist who doesn't apply via the EGC Arts Fund, can I still be programmed directly into a Gold Coast Festival or as a Support Act for a HOTA headliner?**

Yes, however given the significant investment and opportunities for local artists, groups and arts organisations that the fund provides, we would strongly encourage you to consider applying via the fund.

**Is there a preferred format to provide audio visual support material in?**

Smarty grants will accept most file formats - see [appicanthelp.smartygrants.com.au](http://appicanthelp.smartygrants.com.au).

**If my application is successful, how often will I need to report to Experience Gold Coast?** If you have changes to your project, you must request a variation from EGC. You will need to provide an Outcome Report within eight weeks of the completion of your project/presentation including information on how you tracked against your proposed activities and key performance indicators. As part of the assessment process, the EGC Arts Fund Assessor Panel Members may also attach conditions to your funding. This detail will be negotiated at the time of formalising the funding



agreement.

### **Will you accept applications in formats other than written applications via the online portal?**

If you have accessibility requirements related to the application process or the potential delivery of your project, please get in touch with the EGC Arts Fund Administrator via [egcartsfund@experiencegoldcoast.com](mailto:egcartsfund@experiencegoldcoast.com) with EGC Arts Fund as the title.

### **When will successful applicants receive the funding amount?**

Funds will be paid in progress payments dictated by the timeline set out in the executed funding agreement.

Final payment will not be made until the project is completed and acquitted.

### **Will the funding amount be provided in full or progress payments?**

Funds will be paid in progress payments dictated by the executed funding agreement.

Final payment will not be made until the project is completed and acquitted.

### **I am an interstate/international applicant. Who covers the cost of my travel, accommodation, and meals while I am on the Gold Coast?**

Applicants must ensure that all artists and any personal costs associated with the presentation of the work are included in the budget itemised as travel and accommodation, pier diems.

### **Who covers ground transport when we are in development of new work or during presentation at EGC Festival?**

Include these costs itemised in your budget with as much detail as possible.

### **Who covers cost of freight for the new work?**

Costs associate with freight, postage or delivery of works to festival site will need to be included in your application as part of your budget.

### **Can I have a sponsor or existing partnership as part of my application?**

Applicants may propose a sponsor as part of their application. Sponsorship value will need to be reflected in your budget as income or value-in-kind.

Any Sponsorship will be reviewed by the assessor panel and successful applications will have sponsors recognised on website and signage for event.

### **If I am successful for a festival presentation that is in September/October 2025, when will I receive the grant funds?**

If they are successful, we just need to get them a contract and pay out the full grant amount *before* end of June 2025, even if they deliver the project in September.

## **2. Important Info for all applicants**

### **Privacy and Right to information**

- The information you provide in your application may be used by EGC for the following purposes:
- processing and assessing your application – for this purpose, the information may be provided to the EGC Fund Assessors, and industry experts/peers engaged by EGC
- verifying other funding incomes for your project – for this purpose, the information may be provided to other funding agencies nominated in your application
- reviewing and evaluating EGC funding programs, strategies, plans and services – we may contact you for this purpose
- training purposes

- systems testing and process improvement
- compilation of statistics.

If your application is successful, the information you provide in your funding application, the amount of funding you receive, the information you provide in your progress reports and/or outcome report/s and text and images relating to your funded activity may be used by Experience Gold Coast, including publication on our websites and socials and/or other for the purposes listed above and for the following purposes:

- processing, paying, and administering your funding
- reporting, including the Experience Gold Coast annual report
- promoting funding outcomes for the Gold Coast’s arts and culture sector – for this purpose, the information (including your contact details) may be provided to City of Gold Coast Council Mayor and Councillors, and/or the media, who may contact you directly.

Experience Gold Coast treats all personal information in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009. The provisions of the Right to Information Act 2009 apply to documents in the possession of Experience Gold Coast.

### **Other income**

Applications with diverse income streams will be stronger against assessment criteria. Applicants can show income from other sources. Other sources may include cash or in-kind support; other government funding; earned income (e.g., ticket and product sales); or income from fundraising, sponsors, or philanthropic entities.

### **Paying Award Rates/Industry Standard**

Applicants must pay award rates or industry standard to arts and cultural workers involved in the project. For further information, contact a service organisation for advice e.g. Arts Law, National Association for the Visual Arts, Australian Writers’ Guild, Musician’s Australia, Australian Society of Authors, Australian Production Design Guild, Theatre Network Australia, Ausdance Queensland, MEAA, Access Arts, BlakDance, Museums and Galleries Queensland.

### **Feedback and review of decision**

Applicants can request feedback on full grant applications not EOI’s. Feedback will not be supplied on EOI for Gold coast Presents - Local Music on Local Stages.

Contact the EGC Arts Fund team by emailing [egcartsfund@experiencegoldcoast.com](mailto:egcartsfund@experiencegoldcoast.com) to request feedback.

#### **Submitting your application**

1. Read the EGC Arts Fund Program guidelines and preview the application form
2. Confirm you are eligible to apply (check the guidelines)
3. Contact the EGC Arts Fund with any questions or to discuss your project and application
4. Apply online: <https://experiencegc.smartygrants.com.au/>

If you have any questions regarding the application process, email:

[egcartsfund@experiencegoldcoast.com.au](mailto:egcartsfund@experiencegoldcoast.com.au)

### **Accessibility**

If you or someone you know needs this information in another format, please let us know by email, message or call.

### **3. Important Information for successful applicants**

Successful applicants will receive a funding agreement from Experience Gold Coast. It is your responsibility to ensure you understand your obligations under the funding agreement.

#### **Agreement processes**

Experience Gold Coast will send you a funding agreement and a request for your payment details. You must sign and return the funding agreement within 14 days.

If Experience Gold Coast has set special conditions on your funding, these will be listed in your agreement.

Payment will be made on satisfaction of any conditions of funding. Payment terms are 30 days from date of invoice, subject to receipt of the signed funding agreement, tax invoice and a copy of a bank statement header including the applicant's name and address, the bank name and address, BSB and account details.

#### **Variations**

Funding can only be used for the activities specified in your funding agreement, which includes your application, and letter of offer. If you have changes to your project, you must request a variation from the Experience Gold Coast. You should request approval from Experience Gold Coast in writing immediately if there are any changes to:

- key personnel
- timelines
- budget
- funding from other sources
- changes in location or venues
- types of activity
- anything else that would alter the outcomes of the agreed activity.

If you anticipate any changes, you should contact the Grants Administrator. If you fail to obtain written approval for changes, you may be required to repay the funding and you may not be eligible for future funding. For applicants requiring an extension to the agreed activity, written approval needs to be sought prior to the original due date of the Outcome Report.

#### **Tax**

Funding paid by Experience Gold Coast is considered as part of your income in a financial year and may therefore be subject to tax. EGC cannot give you specialist advice about taxation or legal issues.

Information about tax related matters is available from the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) website.

#### **Unspent funds and repayment of funding**

If you have not expended your entire grant at the end of your project, EGC may require you to repay any unspent funding. Any EGC Arts Fund money not spent on the funded project must be reflected in your Outcome Report.

EGC may also ask you to pay back all, or part of the funding provided to you if you have not used it for the approved purposes (see also 3.3 Variations above).

#### **Intellectual property**

Where a funded activity involves the use of copyright material, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide all the necessary information regarding intellectual property associated with the activities and deliverables. Intellectual property information can be obtained from the Australian Copyright Council

website.

### **Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP)**

EGC respects the cultural and spiritual significance of First Nations Peoples and acknowledges that any ICIP belongs to the Traditional Owners of the ICIP; and ownership of the ICIP will, at all times, remain with the Traditional Owners of the ICIP. If you provide ICIP with your Outcome Report, you will be required to provide information about whether EGC is required to acknowledge the Traditional Owners in relation to the ICIP, and whether there are any restrictions on using and dealing with the ICIP.

### **Acknowledgements**

All successful applicants must acknowledge Experience Gold Coast support in all published material associated with the activity. The funding agreement details the required acknowledgement/s. Information on usage of the Experience Gold Coast logo will be provided with your funding agreement.

### **Reporting on your project outcomes**

It is a standard condition of funding that you provide EGC with a report on the completed funded activity (Outcome Report). Your Outcome Report is uploaded into Smarty Grants and can be accessed in the account associated with your application. If you cannot see your Outcome Report with your application in Smarty Grants, contact the Grants Administrator.

If your Outcome Report is satisfactory, you will be notified by EGC that the funding has been acquitted. If your Outcome Report is unsatisfactory, you will be notified by EGC and may be required to provide further information. Your Outcome Report provides information about how your funded activities went and includes:

- Data about your activities e.g. number of participants, number of activities, employment
- Data about the artistic, cultural, social, and economic outcomes of your activity
- information about any challenges you experienced during the activity and what you learnt from them
- a detailed statement of income and expenditure including receipts for EGC Arts funded expenses
- documentation including photographs, videos, catalogues, press clippings or programs, which should acknowledge EGC Arts funding where appropriate.

If you need advice about preparing your Outcome Report or have concerns about the due date you should contact the EGC Grants Fund.

If your Outcome Report is late, or you do not provide a satisfactory Outcome Report to EGC, you are not eligible to apply to future EGC Arts Funding.

## 4. Tips for applying to EGC Arts Fund

### Allow plenty of time to complete your application

- Preparing a strong application takes time - plan your application and organise appropriate support material well in advance.
- Make sure to read the relevant EGC Arts Fund guidelines, this document, and scan the EGC Arts Fund application form before you start your application so you have a good understanding of what you will need to prepare for your application, and the other funding requirements. You can find these documents on the EGC Arts Fund resources webpage.

### Use clear and concise language

- A lengthy application is not necessarily better (the EGC Arts Fund Committee will be reading multiple applications). Express yourself in fewer words BUT make sure you outline everything you need to.
- Clearly and simply outline what your project is – what will you be doing, where will it take place, the key dates, who is involved and what their experience/qualifications are?
- Avoid repeating yourself – you can refer to other application sections or support material instead.

### Make sure to clearly outline the artistic details of your project – this is the most important part!

- Clearly set out your artistic plans.
- Outline exactly what you are doing and, where possible, what the “end result” (presentation or performance of work, recording, creative development, professional development) will look like. If you are applying for a creative development, outline potential or confirmed presentation outcomes for the work.
- You should also outline the impact of the project on you and/or the artists involved, on the Gold Coast arts and cultural sector and/or the local community.
- Outline the artistic and creative outcomes you are looking to achieve and how you will measure them.

### Provide enough relevant detail

- Don't submit a generic application that you have used for other purposes/funders – you must address the specific EGC Arts Fund assessment criteria.
- If you use AI to guide your application preparation, please note that it can be an unreliable assistant. We recommend you cross-check any AI generated material for errors, relevance, and accuracy.
- Don't presume that the EGC Arts Fund Committee knows your work – include all relevant information about you/your organisation/group and your activity in your application.
- Answer all the questions!

### Provide relevant and high-quality support material

- Avoid submitting unnecessary or irrelevant material just for the sake of padding – your support material should be directly related to your application and your activities.
- Ensure audio visual material that you include is of high quality, is recent and presents your work professionally.
- Ensure letters from partners and collaborators clearly set out their contribution (cash/in-kind) and their role and/or involvement in delivering your activities.
- Biographies provided should be concise (max. one page) and for the key artists and key personnel only.

### **Spend time on your budget**

- Your budget should be realistic and should cover your entire project.
- Provide as much detail as you can to give the EGC Arts Fund Committee a complete picture and make use of the explanatory notes section in the budget. If you think something in your budget might be confusing - explain it!
- Make sure that your budget adds up and your income and expenditure balances.
- The value of any in-kind support should be included in your budget as both income AND expenditure, and you should make budget notes to explain what your in-kind income is made up of.
- If you have confirmed income (e.g., confirmed grants from other funding bodies) – state this in the notes to the budget so the EGC Arts Fund Committee knows.
- Fees and salaries should be consistent with industry standards.
- Include expenditure on costs for labour required as part of rehearsal/presentation. Labour costs could include estimates for: Technical, Stage Managers, Production Manager
- Include quotes for EGC Arts Fund funded expenses.

### **Get help if you need it**

- Read through these FAQs & Important Information, and the Guidelines for the EGC Arts Fund.
- Call the EGC Arts Fund Grants team by emailing [gcartsfund@experiencegoldcoast.com](mailto:gcartsfund@experiencegoldcoast.com) if you have questions.
- Connect with a service organisation if you need specific advice e.g. Arts Law, National Association for the Visual Arts, Australian Writers' Guild, Musician's Australia, Australian Society of Authors, Australian Production Design Guild, Theatre Network Australia, Ausdance Queensland, MEAA, Access Arts, BlakDance, Museums and Galleries Queensland.
- Arts Queensland's Arts Acumen resources also provide general tips for applying for funding.

### **Check your application**

- Spell check your work.
- Consider asking a friend or colleague to read the application to make sure the information is clear.
- Before you submit your application, double check you have completed all sections and uploaded all compulsory support material.