

MEDIA RELEASE

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STA & NSW Government Restart package delivers funding directly to artists and venues impacted by covid19.

Southern Tablelands Arts (STA) are set to inject **\$130,000** in funding directly into the creative communities within our six contributing councils. The funding is a quick turnaround stimulus package from the NSW Government in response to COVID-19 and will boost arts activities and creative sector employment across regional NSW.

STA and the other 13 organisations that make up the Regional Arts NSW Network are a pivotal part of the mechanism for the NSW State Government to disperse the funds where they are needed across Regional NSW.

STA have designed a range of innovative programs and opportunities that will see the money land in the hands of people whose livelihoods had been severely affected by the pandemic. These will produce meaningful arts and cultural content and ongoing benefit once the initial funds are expended. Programs include grants, cultural tourism development, professional development and opportunities for creatives to be involved in commissions and projects developed by Southern Tablelands Arts.

‘The Creative Sector has been severely impacted by the pandemic and this funding will make a real difference in our communities’, says STA Executive Director Rose Marin, ‘The STA staff and board are excited by the suite of projects we have put together to help our cultural life restart.’

The funding has made it possible for STA to start work on an interactive cultural tourism website in partnership with our neighbours at South East Arts. With regional tourism set to play a big role in the state’s economic recovery, cultural content can play a big part in attracting visitors to our region. The **CreativeSouth** website will provide a lasting resource for residences and visitors. Kristie Phelan Creative has been engaged to coordinate the project which will also employ a local researcher, designer and website architect.

Two grant opportunities are currently open. The **Top Spots Micro Grants** will support small venues, community groups and not for profits to restart meaningful arts events for the community to share. Paying performers and produces and getting them back in front of audiences. **Top Spots** events will take place across 2021 and each event will form part of the STA Top Spots Festival, a community led fringe program of events that may include performances, exhibitions, artisan markets, workshops, poetry readings and more.

The second stream of **Micro Grants** will address the impacts of Covid19 on creative practitioners and community groups. Micro Grants are designed to support makers to keep creating. Projects do not require a specific public outcome but can focus on equipment, materials, training, repairs, or capacity-building.

The STA Paparazzi program is a professional development opportunity for artists and arts consumers in the STA region, with a weekend of professional photography training followed by an exhibition of works in the Southern Highlands. This team will form a base of volunteers to capture arts events for publication by STA.

Other programs Southern Tablelands Arts will deliver with the support of the NSW Government’s Arts Restart package include additional commissioned content for families and children at the STA Kids online portal and professional commissions for artists to create new work.

www.southerntablelandsarts.com.au

Southern Tablelands Arts acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the lands where we create, work and live. We recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of Aboriginal people and pay respect to Elders past, present and future.

STA are part of the Regional Arts NSW network, assisted by the NSW Government through Create NSW. We work with our six partner councils; [Goulburn Mulwaree Council](#), [Hilltops Council](#), [Upper Lachlan Shire](#), [Wingecarribee Shire](#), [Wollondilly Shire](#) and [Yass Valley Council](#).



Grants are currently open in the Top Spots and Micro Grants programs. More information available about the Restart funding is available at the STA webpage. www.southerntablelandsarts.com.au

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For further media information contact: Executive Director Rose Marin 0456 566 606 or ed@southerntablelandsarts.com.au

This program is proudly funded by the NSW Government through Arts Restart.

Proudly funded by



Southern Tablelands Arts is the peak arts and cultural agency for the Southern Tablelands region through its investment in and development of meaningful arts and cultural development programs and services.

Image: Kristie Phelan is working with Southern Tablelands Arts to deliver the *CreativeSouth* online resource.



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