

ACF Boost 2024/2025

Program Guidelines

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1. About the program

ACF Boost is a matched funding program designed to enable **independent artists** and **small groups or arts organisations** using the ACF to leverage private sector support through a matched funding 'boost'.

ACF Boost offers dollar-for-dollar matched funding of up to \$5,000 for applicants that run a fundraising campaign through the ACF for a project that will be developed, produced and/or toured within Australia by 30 June 2025.

Successful applicants are granted an additional \$1,000 at the commencement of their ACF Boost campaign to fund the development of fundraising activity and materials and support its success.

2. Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, applicants must meet the ACF's artist registration criteria

- Be a practising artist or arts and cultural entity
- Be engaged in arts and cultural activities
- Use a grant via the Australian Cultural Fund within Australia or for the benefit of Australia
- Use a grant via the Australian Cultural Fund for the designated and stated purpose

In addition, applicants must

- be an Australian Citizen or permanent resident
- be aged 18 years or over
- have an ABN and be prepared to receive project funds, or have an agreement in place with an auspicing body
- be prepared to run a fundraising campaign of at least four weeks, finishing on 30 June 2024, with a fundraising target of between \$2,000 and \$5,000
- be prepared to complete the associated project by 30 June 2025.

Who can't apply

You can't apply if:

- you have outstanding acquittals with the ACF or Creative Australia
- you are a participant from the 2023/24 MATCH Lab or Plus1 programs
- you owe money to Creative Australia

Artists who are accepted to take part in ACF Boost will be required to register the following prior to commencing their fundraising campaign:

- an ACF artist profile
- an ACF project campaign page.

Please note that if children will be engaged as part of the funded activity, all successful applicants will need to implement the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#).

3. Program stages

Stage 1 | Applications open

Applications open: **Monday 29 January 2024 at 12pm AEDT**

Applications close: **Monday 19 February 2024 at 11.59pm AEDT**

Applicants can commence their application by registering a profile [here](#). If you have an existing ACF profile, you can get started by creating a new project.

Applicants will need to submit a new project via their ACF account. Once the project registration form is complete, the applicant will need to select the tick box *'I would like this project to be considered for ACF Boost, a matched micro-grant program that is granted to artists and organisations using the ACF platform to fundraise for a project'* and complete the additional question *'What impact would ACF Boost have on your project and your ongoing artistic practice?'*.

Your application draft can be saved and edited at any time until the application deadline. Once submitted, you cannot make further edits or amendments.

The information you'll need to provide in your application includes:

- Your address
- Your ABN
- A brief description of the project you are fundraising for
- An outline of your ACF fundraising strategy
- How ACF Boost matched funding would impact your project and ongoing artistic practice
- A project budget including your ACF campaign target (must be between \$2,000 and \$5,000)
- Information about your auspicing body (if applicable)

Stage 2 | Assessment

Assessment: **Monday 11 March – Friday 15 March 2024.**

Applicants notified of the outcome of their submission: **Friday 22 March 2024**

You must address three assessment criteria in this category. Under each criterion are bullet points indicating what peers may consider when assessing your application.

First criterion

Quality

Peers will assess the quality of the artistic and cultural activities at the centre of your proposal. They may consider:

- demonstrated strategy to leverage matched funding as part of a wider fundraising campaign

Second criterion

Impact

Peers will assess the impact of your proposal. They may consider:

- the impact of ACF Boost funds on ongoing artistic practice
- the impact of program on ongoing artistic practice

Third criterion

Viability

Peers will assess the viability of your proposal. They may consider:

- capacity to deliver the proposed ACF campaign
- realistic and achievable planning and resource use, including contingency plans

Final decisions regarding successful applications to ACF Boost will be made by Creative Australia. Learn more about [how we assess your application](#).

Stage 3 | Fundraising

Fundraising campaign window: **Between Monday April 1 and Sunday 30 June 2024 (Fundraising campaigns must run for a minimum of 4 weeks).**

Funds you raise through your ACF campaign will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$5,000 per applicant, depending on your nominated campaign target amount (must be between \$2,000 and \$5,000). As a keep-what-you-raise platform, we will match any funds raised up until your nominated target; for example, if your target is \$2,000 and you raise \$800, we will match the \$800.

If you would like to start your fundraising campaign prior to 1 April 2024 and before you have been informed of the outcome your ACF Boost application, please get in touch with the ACF team and we will open your campaign early.

If your submission is successful, and you started fundraising before April 1 2024, funds up until this point will also be matched.

If your ACF Boost application is successful, you will be issued a microgrant of \$1,000 in order to support the time and materials required to launch your fundraising campaign. This \$1,000 is in addition to your ACF Boost matched funding of up to \$5,000, and will be disbursed to you as a micro-grant via the ACF platform shortly after you are notified of your application's success.

This program will match funds donated through the ACF from:

- Crowdfunding
- Philanthropy, including:
 - o Individual giving

- o Business giving
- o Trusts and foundations

This program will **not** match:

- Business sponsorship
- In-kind support
- Fundraising events
- Bequests
- Donations from the applicant
- Loans
- Earned income (including membership, box office and non-deductible ticket expenses)
- Local, state or federal government funding

Please note that even though they may receive an ACF donation receipt for their gift, family members cannot claim a tax-deduction on their donation to an ACF campaign.

It is the responsibility of the donor to ensure that any claim of tax-deductibility is compliant with the [ATO's rules on deductible gift recipients](#). If your donors are unsure of their eligibility for tax deductibility via the ACF, they should contact the ATO directly to receive specific advice on the eligibility of their gift.

Prior to commencing your fundraising campaign, you will be required to register an artist profile and project page on the ACF. Both pages will need to be approved by ACF staff prior to going live.

Stage 4 | Deliver project

Funded projects can start from the conclusion of fundraising campaigns – no earlier than Monday 1 July 2024 – and must be completed by 30 June 2025.

Recipients are expected to liaise regularly with the ACF Team and communicate any project changes or challenges. Any material changes to the funded project/activity must be approved by us in advance.

Stage 5 | Acquittals

Recipients are required to report on the results of their campaign and project via the ACF's online acquittal process. Acquittals are due 30 days after the confirmed project end date.

The acquittal covers:

- Final project budget including amount raised through ACF campaign
- Assessment of the challenges and opportunities encountered through the campaign
- Your experience using the ACF

4. How to apply

Before you submit your application, read these guidelines thoroughly and contact the ACF Team with any questions. To start your application click [here](#).

Fundraising resources, FAQs and case studies are available on our website, including our [First Timers Kit](#) which is full of great tips on how to get started with the ACF.

5. Contacts

T: 1800 226 912

E: hello@australianculturalfund.org.au

Connect with us:



Sign up to our [eNews](#) for the latest on our programs, services and events.

The Australian Cultural Fund is operated by Creative Australia, ABN 38 392 626 187, and has endorsement as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) confirmed by the Australian Tax Office. Creative Australia is a cultural organisation under the Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO), which is maintained by the Office for the Arts in the Australian Government's Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.