Creative Futures Fund 2025 - 2026 Guidance for Applicants

Summary of key information	
What is the key focus of the Fund?	**The aim of the Creative Futures Fund is to invest in the creation and sharing of Australian stories through exceptional creative projects across all artforms that can clearly demonstrate ambition, audience reach and impact.** **Support through this Fund should enable projects to secure other significant partners and financial contributions from a range of sources.** The Fund is not a traditional grant program. It is a new way for Creative Australia to invest in, and support artistic works that: • reach and engage large, new and/or diverse audiences • are ambitious and distinctive • clearly reflect the creative vision of the lead artist/s • build partnerships • secure additional investment • would not be possible without Creative Futures Fund investment. The Fund invests in projects through two streams. Both streams must tell Australian stories, and utilise Intellectual Property that is majority Australian owned: **Development Investment** can support the creation and testing of new ideas and works, audience development, and the establishment of new partnerships, collaborations and skills to lay the foundations for future delivery. **Delivery Investment** enables organisations and partners to present their creative projects to large, new and/or diverse audiences. It can include support for final stages of development of the work to reach presentation.

What amount of investment can we request?	Applications for the **Development stream** can request between **$150,000 and $250,000.** Applications for the **Delivery stream** can request between **$250,000 and $1.5 million.** The final amounts granted will be negotiated with Creative Australia, and these amounts may be more or less than the funding request in your application.
Who can apply?	Australian organisations working in the arts and culture sector that are carrying on business in Australia and have their central management and control in Australia. This includes both commercial and not-for-profit entities. If you are a MYI organisation and your project is in your current four-year strategic plan you will need to: • demonstrate how the work is markedly more ambitious than proposed in the plan, • sits outside of your usual creative development/production pipelines and • that it would not be possible without support of CFF. Organisations who have received previous Creative Futures Fund investment may apply once their initial project is completed and acquitted. Applications may be accepted from applicants who have not yet completed their current Creative Futures Fund project, provided the project will be fully acquitted before the new project start date. Any applicants in this situation will need to speak to the Director or Manager of the Fund before applying. For more detail, please read the full eligibility section in the Guidelines.
How many stages are there to the application process?	CFF applications will be assessed in a two-stage process. • **Stage 1** will be a full application form. • **Stage 2** will be supplementary materials by invitation only.
Can we submit more than one application to each stream?	Organisations can only submit one project to each stream of funding for this Round. If you want to submit an application in both the Development and the Delivery streams you must ensure these are separate projects, and that they are appropriate for the stream under which you are submitting. If you are applying for both streams individual applications will be considered on their merits, but Industry Advisors will consider your capacity to deliver your proposed project(s) and this should be addressed in your application. This is a curated fund, and a range of balancing criteria will be considered when making final investment decisions. These include identifying the right mix of successful proposals to ensure the greatest opportunities for impact across the arts and cultural sector and for the wider Australian population.

	It is therefore unlikely that one organisation will secure investment to deliver a project in both the Development and Delivery Streams in the same round.
When is the deadline for applications?	**11 November 2025, 3pm AEST**
When must the activity take place?	For Development Stream projects the funded activities must take place between **July 2026 and July 2028.** For Delivery Stream projects the funded activities must take place between **July 2026 and July 2029**.
What are the expectations for co-investment and other funding?	All projects are expected to seek additional investment and funding from sources outside Creative Australia. It is not an essential criterion, but as a guide applications will be viewed favourably if the funding request from Creative Australia is: • no more than 80% of total project costs for the Development Stream • no more than 60% of total project costs for the Delivery Stream
Is there a minimum number of partnerships?	All **Development Stream** projects must outline a plan for building partnerships to support the intended outcomes of the project. Having confirmed partnerships already in place will strengthen the application. All **Delivery Stream** projects should have at least two confirmed partners at the time of application.
Will Creative Australia seek to recoup its investment in CFF projects?	When we invest in projects that are led by a commercial entity or led by a not-for-profit with commercial involvement, Creative Australia will seek to recoup some or all our investment. Please read the full Guidelines for further detail about how this model will operate.
When will we make our decision?	Applicants who have submitted applications in **November 2025** will be notified of the outcome of their application in **February 2026.** We will then meet with all shortlisted applicants who are invited forward to Stage 2 to provide feedback on their application. **Stage 2 applications** will be due in **March 2026.**