



Digital Specialist in Residence - for First Nations Organisations

Key Information

Applications open: 21 October 2025

Applications close: 2 December 2025

Notifications: Late December 2025

Residency dates: 2 February – 15 May 2026

Contact

Tammy Close

First Nations Project Manager

Ph: (02) 9215 9145

E: tammy.close@creative.gov.au

Book an online meeting via this [link](#).

National Relay Service

The National Relay Service is an Australia-wide telephone access service available to anyone who is Deaf or has a hearing or speech impairment.

Creative Australia uses the National Relay Service to increase access to our programs and services for people who are Deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment.

Visit the [National Relay Service website](#) to find out more information and register to use the National Relay Service.

Voice Relay number: 1300 555 727

TTY number: 133 677

Email: helpdesk@relayservice.com.au

Auslan Interpreter Service

Creative Australia can provide an Auslan Interpreter Service for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. The Interpreter Service is available throughout Australia, including in regional areas.

Please note: To ensure an interpreter is available, please contact the Project Manager with your request at least one week before the application closing date.

About the Opportunity

The Digital Specialist in Residence - for First Nations Organisations program provides First Nations arts and culture organisations with fourteen (14) week's access to a digital specialist who will assist in the development of the organisation's Digital Capacity Strategy.

The digital specialist will collaborate with the successful organisation in four phases:

1. **Assess:** the specialist will guide you through a process to identify the organisation's current digital capacity
2. **Vision:** a process of vision and investigation to identify digital challenges and opportunities for your organisation
3. **Development:** Development of a digital project tailored to the value, people and context of the organisation
4. **Pilot & Refine:** Launch project, evaluate early learnings, present findings.

Seed Funding

This program also provides \$3,000, seed funding to assist in piloting a new digitally led project. You will work with the digital specialist on your proposed digital project idea during the course of the residency.

Please note: You do not need to supply a budget with your application.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Digital Specialist in Residence - for First Nations Organisations program, you must:

- be a First Nations organisation with more than half (51% or more) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait membership of its governance board
- be based in Australia and making Australian work
- not be a previous recipient of the former Digital Strategist-in-Residence Program
- nominate two or more digital champions within your organisation

First Nations organisations can come from any:

- art form practice
- any location
- scale or size of organisation
- main activity, including performing, producing, service or collecting
- existing level of digital readiness or capability.

Please note:

- You can only submit one application for this grant initiative.
- You can apply if your organisation currently receives funding from Creative Australia.

Who can't apply?

You can't apply if you:

- are an individual
- are a group
- are a non-First Nations organisation
- are based outside of Australia
- are a screen or film-based organisation
- already have received funding for the same project from Creative Australia
- have an overdue grant report with Creative Australia
- owe money to Creative Australia.

Protocols

Your application must comply with the following protocols (if applicable). We may contact you to request further information during the assessment process, or if successful and a special condition is required as part of your funding contract.

Protocols for Using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts

It is recommended to follow these protocols if your project involves working/collaborating/consulting with other First Nations artists, arts and culture workers, organisations, communities, or subject matter.

Resources:

- [Protocols for using First Nations cultural and intellectual property in the arts](#)
- [Animation on how First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property Protocols are used in assessments](#)

Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

All successful applicants are required to comply with all Australian laws relating to employing or engaging people who work or volunteer with children, including working with children checks and mandatory reporting. Successful organisations that provide services directly to children, or whose funded activities involve contact with children, will additionally be required to implement the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#).

Assessment process

Creative Australia staff, or in some cases external Industry Advisors, will assess the applications against the assessment criteria listed below. Creative Australia staff will consider how the proposed activities align with the aims of the fund when making final decisions on submissions.

Assessment Criteria

Under each criterion are bullet points indicating what assessors may consider when assessing your application. You do not need to respond to every bullet point listed.

Alignment

Assessors will consider the organisation's:

- current digital arts strategy and the ability to address the needs/gaps of digital capacity building
- capacity to strengthen digital skills and abilities of those involved and the career development of its staff.

Quality

Assessors will consider the organisation's:

- proposed digital arts project and its relevance to the organisation's area of practice and outcome.

Impact

Assessors will consider the organisation's:

- commitment of training staff to mentor others in the workplace
- future digital arts strategy

Application form

The types of questions we will ask you in the application form include:

About you:

- Introduce your organisation and the services it provides.

Alignment:

- Tell us about your current digital strategy. What has worked, and what are the gaps you have identified?

Quality:

- Tell us about the digital project you would like to deliver with the support of a digital specialist, and why?

Impact:

- How and in what way will this program enhance your organisation's digital capacity?

Digital Champions

Please list your organisation's two Digital Champions who would participate in the program, if successful. (Please consider adding their short bios)

Support Material

It is recommended that your organisation provides:

- organisation's website (URL)

- Current digital strategy (URL or attachment)
- examples of past or current digital work led by the organisations (URL or attachment)
- short bios of organisation's team structure
- Letters of support/confirmation from the organisation's two (2) nominated digital leaders that will be participating in the program (written form, audio form, or video form).

Ways of providing your support material

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

These URLs can include a total of:

- 10 minutes of video and/or audio recording
- 10 images
- 10 pages of written material.

Please note:

- The 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, such as 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).

Please Note: We do not accept application-related support material submitted via post. Application-related material received by post will not be assessed and will be returned to the sender.

If you think you will have difficulty submitting your support material online or need advice on what type of material to submit, please contact Tammy Close, Project Manager, First Nations Investment and Development.

Ph: (02) 9215 9145

E: tammy.close@creative.gov.au

How to apply

Are you registering to use our [Application Management System](#) for the first time? Make sure you register well before the closing date. It may take up to two business days to process your registration.

Once you have logged in, follow the next steps:

1. select 'Apply for a Grant' from the left grey panel menu
2. from the list of opportunities select 'Digital Specialist in Residence – for First Nations Organisations'
3. complete the fields and select answers with dropdown menus
4. select 'Save' as you work through the application
5. if you are not ready to submit your application, you can return to it through 'Your Draft Applications' in the left panel menu at a later date
6. when complete, please select 'Submit'.

Additional information

After you apply

- Once you submit your application, you will be sent an email acknowledging receipt of your application
- We will check that your application meets the eligibility criteria
- All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in late December 2025.

Successful applications

If successful:

- You will be sent an online agreement
- Your organisation will be matched with an appropriate specialist from our group of creative technologists based on your needs and opportunities.
- The digital specialist will be available online for one day a week over fourteen (14) weeks
- You will be required to complete an acquittal report at the conclusion of the program.