

THE VISUAL ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK 2025 - 2028

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Introduction

For over ten years, the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy has constituted a valuable partnership between governments. In this time, it has been highly successful in meeting its original aim to ‘build a strong, sustainable and dynamic contemporary visual arts sector, characterised by a stable base of organisations [which] in turn supports the production and appreciation of works of artistic excellence.’¹ Investment delivered through the strategy is integral and essential to the sustainability of the visual art, craft and design sector. It provides the sector with increased resilience, allowing it to undertake strategic and longitudinal planning.

This proposed updated and renamed ‘Visual Art, Craft and Design Partnership Framework’ (the Framework), will be the sixth iteration of the strategy and is designed to sit alongside other artform frameworks delivered by Creative Australia.² The Framework builds on previous iterations and proposes a model similar to that of the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework (the Partnership Framework), bringing multilateral investment in the visual art, craft and design sector into a clear, cohesive format. These reforms ensure the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy remains relevant two decades after its inception; and, that the foundational aim of the Framework to ‘build a strong, sustainable and dynamic contemporary visual arts sector’ is retained in an impactful manner that is responsive to the current climate. and reflects Australian Government policy.

In January 2023, the Australian Government released *Revive*, Australia’s cultural policy for the next five years.³ This landmark new policy is shaped around the five goals of *Creative Australia*, established when the Hon Julia Gillard was Prime Minister.

Revive established Creative Australia, our main investment and advisory body for the sector, as a reimagined and expanded Australia Council for the Arts. Creative Australia covers the whole sector: funded, philanthropic and commercial. The Australian Government will continue to support artists across all art forms and deliver for independent artists and small and medium companies.

Similarly, the strategic objectives of the Framework include supporting First Nations artists to create new work. These changes align with the first pillar and first principle of *Revive*, ‘First Nations First’. The Framework builds on previous iterations and proposes a model similar to that of the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework (the Partnership Framework), bringing multilateral investment in the visual art, craft and design sector into a clear, cohesive format.

Purpose

To deliver a nationally coordinated joint package of funding and support for the Australian contemporary visual art, craft and design sector that promotes creative work by living visual artists, craft and design practitioners, and the organisations that support their practice.⁴

¹ Adapted from Rupert Myer and the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts 2002, *Report of the Contemporary Visual Arts and Craft Inquiry*.

² The Australia Council for the Arts was reformed as Creative Australia from 1 July 2023. This document has been updated to reflect this change.

³ See Appendix 1.3.: Terms of Reference:

⁴ Adapted from Rupert Myer and the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts 2002, *Report of the Contemporary Visual Arts and Craft Inquiry*.

The Framework aims to provide stability within the Australian visual art, craft and design sector. It aims to provide artists⁵ with more opportunity to create increasingly ambitious work and assist organisations to leverage private sector support and develop new collaborations.

Overview

1. The sixth edition of the Framework delivers:
 - a. **strategic objectives** that are important to the visual art, craft and design sector, Australian audiences and Australian communities, which:
 - (1) **Support First Nations Australian artists to create new work** by investing in First Nations artists, organisations, and exhibitions.
 - (2) **Support Australian artists to create new work and organisations that commission new works** by investing in artists, organisations with annual commissioning programs, and major recurrent exhibitions and events that present new Australian artworks.
 - (3) **Support stability and sustainability in the Australian visual art, craft and design ecology** through multi-year investment in organisations, including artist run initiatives⁶ and organisations that support national touring exhibitions.
 - (4) **Support the growth of audiences for contemporary Australian visual art, craft and design** by investing in artists and organisations to present new work regionally, nationally and internationally.
 - (5) **Support the discoverability of Australian visual art, craft and design** by investing in programs and initiatives that build and connect audiences and provide access nationally and internationally.
 - b. alignment with the five interconnected pillars of *Revive*, being:
 - (1) First Nations First
 - (2) A Place for Every Story
 - (3) Centrality of the Artist
 - (4) Strong Cultural Infrastructure
 - (5) Engaging the Audience
 - c. **stability of funding to a cohort of organisations** in a time-limited partnership in return for the delivery of activities consistent with these strategic objectives, and delivery on **core responsibilities** in the areas of art form leadership, organisational and financial management, and sector and community impact
 - d. **funding for individual artists** to create **new work** in partnership with presenting organisations
 - e. a **clear** indication of how the Framework sits alongside other significant federal and state visual art, craft and design investments, notably its distinction from the

⁵ The term 'artist' here is inclusive of those who practice across visual art, craft and design.

⁶ An Artist Run Initiative (ARI) is a collective or space run by artists to present their own and other artist's work. Creative Australia notes that increasingly ARI models have differing governance structures with an emerging trend of Artist Led Initiatives and similar which are not exclusively led by practising artists. ARIs are generally seen to be micro organisations with a turnover of less than \$250,000 per annum.

Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program which has its focus on First Nations led organisational support

- f. appropriate **flexibility of funding arrangements** to ensure governments can respond to sector needs and changing national and jurisdictional priorities
- g. increased **transparency and accountability** through streamlined reporting processes and publication of outcomes that facilitate better public understanding of how the Framework directly contributes to the visual art, craft and design ecology and Australian society
- h. a mechanism that **rewards** artistic achievements as well as organisational management and governance, strategic planning and impact in the sector and community.

Governance

- 2. This Framework replaces the Visual Art and Crafts Strategy 2021–24.
- 3. The development of this Framework, and acceptance of this proposal, are made by consensus by the Federal Arts Minister together with the Arts and Culture Ministers of the jurisdictions at either a convened meeting or out of session.
- 4. Funding for the Framework is a commitment of all governments in Australia, as agreed by the Federal Arts Minister and the Arts and Culture Ministers of the jurisdictions. It is proposed that the current matched funding arrangement continues to the agreed minimum levels of investment as outlined in ‘Key Elements’.
- 5. Visibility of all administrative decisions made under the Framework will be facilitated by Creative Australia through the provision of advance notice of any decisions or material developments to the Federal Arts Minister and the Arts and Culture Ministers of the jurisdictions.
- 6. Creative Australia will coordinate annual reporting for the Office for the Arts on both jurisdictional and federal investments made under the Framework. This will include ensuring matched minimum investments are upheld.
- 7. Creative Australia and state and territory governments will review the operation of the Framework to ensure that it is continuing to meet the needs of the sector and community, and the priorities of governments. In 2026, revisions for the 2029–32 investment cycle will be considered and tabled.

Principles

8. Governments agree that a Framework that operates as part of a cohesive and complementary series of national investment frameworks for the visual arts, craft and design sector stabilises and strengthens the entire ecology, and that:
 - a. The Framework is guided in its operations by the ten principles of *Revive*, being:
 - 1) First Nations arts and culture are First Nations led
 - 2) All Australians, regardless of language, literacy, geography, age or education, have the opportunity to access and participate in arts and culture
 - 3) Artists and arts workers have career structures that are long-term and sustainable, supported by vocational pathways.
 - 4) Australian students have the opportunity to receive an education that includes culture, creativity, humanities and the arts
 - 5) Creative talent is nurtured through fair remuneration, industry standards and safe and inclusive work cultures
 - 6) Arts and cultural organisations have representation and leadership that is reflective of contemporary Australia
 - 7) Cultural infrastructure, including galleries, venues, theatres, libraries, museums, archives and digital collections, is restored, built and maintained
 - 8) Australian stories are seen and heard, regardless of platform
 - 9) Creative industries and practice are future focused, technology enabled, networked and globally recognised, including through reciprocal exchange, export and cultural diplomacy
 - 10) Arts and culture are generative (creating new works and supporting emerging artists) and preservative (protecting heritage and conserving cultural memory).
 - b. The Framework works alongside Creative Australia's Four Year Investment for Organisations program in a coordinated manner and other multi-year investment programs stewarded by Creative Australia.
 - c. The Framework works alongside the Indigenous Visual Art Industry Support (IVAIS) program in a coordinated manner with multi-year funded industry service organisations receiving only one of these investment streams.
 - d. The investment partnership between Australian, state and territory governments is based on a joint approach to investment. Creative Australia recognises that each government is guided by its own policy, decision-making processes and delegations of authority in determining their investments as part of the Framework. Creative Australia administers the Federal component of the Framework on behalf of the Australian Government. The jurisdictions administer their matched minimum investments as part of the Framework.
 - e. Flexibility is required in terms of outputs, recognising that for organisations these will change over time and will be influenced by community expectations and demand, artistic leadership and the wider economic climate.
9. Investment is delivered via matched investments from the Australian Government and that of the states and territories:

- a. **Federal investment:** to deliver on the Framework's Strategic Investments, as outlined in this document's Strategic Objectives (Section 1.i.) and support organisations and individuals that demonstrate their contribution to meeting these priorities at a national level, while also demonstrating the value they add to states and territories.
 - b. **State and territory investment:** to deliver on state and territory support for organisations and individuals according to their own policies, decision-making processes and delegations of authority, with recognition that these overlap with the objectives outlined in the Framework, including the national significance of select organisations and individuals.
10. This Framework does not preclude individual governments providing additional support to organisations and individuals outside the Framework as they see fit.

Key elements

11. The Australian Government will commit to a trial of minimum aggregate dollar value funding contribution model for the National Leadership Organisations and Individual Artists investment streams for the 2025-28 Framework cycle.⁷ The Framework sets the aggregate figures based on whichever of the following has the greater percentage:
 - a. The 2021–24 VACS population distribution data percentage;
 - or
 - b. The September 2022 population distribution data percentage.⁸

Additionally, indexation will be applied from the second year of implementation of the Framework onwards, where the state's own funding contribution has been indexed or otherwise equivalently increased.

A future Framework review process in 2026 will seek to confirm the continuation of this model for investment through weighted streams following the 2025-28 trial.

12. State and territory governments will also maintain a minimum aggregate dollar value funding contribution for the National Leadership Organisations and Individual Artists streams based on the agreed aggregate figures.

The total aggregate funding contribution through the Framework within each jurisdiction will not reduce below the levels to which governments have committed to as outlined in Appendix 2. Where additional funding is unexpectedly made available by the Australian Government due to an organisation exiting the Framework, it will be allocated to an artist or organisational resident within the same jurisdiction, unless mutually agreed otherwise with the relevant government funding partner, primarily Creative Australia.

State and territory governments will also add to their contribution indexation from the second year of implementation of the Framework onwards, where it is possible through each government's budget processes.

13. Governments acknowledge that the individual contributions of each jurisdiction through the Framework are subject to their respective budget and decision-making processes, with indexation to be applied where the state's own funding contribution has been indexed or otherwise equivalently increased.
14. In the event of an increase to Australian Government funding under the Framework, the Australian Government will, in making decisions on the distribution of that new funding, consider the Framework's strategic objectives outlined in section 1. a)
15. The Australian Government's contribution to the Framework will be administered by Creative Australia and matched contributions will be administered by state and territory agencies.
16. The Australian Government will deliver six investments:
 - a. **National Leadership Organisations (NLO)**
administered by the Creative Australia on a four-yearly cycle, with a formal invitation from Creative Australia following jurisdictional consultation and

⁷ See 16.i-vi for detail on the Framework's investment categories.

⁸ With both percentage figures to be weighted by the Office for the Arts.

nominations. Assessment and selection process are undertaken by Creative Australia to determine the successful organisations.

States and territories will prioritise the nomination of at least one National Leadership Organisation in each of the following categories: 'micro scale', 'small scale' and, if funds allow, a National Leadership Organisation for the additional category of 'medium scale'⁹. This stream has minimum levels of investment as outlined in Appendix 2.

b. Major National Recurrent Exhibitions (MNRE)

administered by Creative Australia on a four-yearly cycle, with a formal invitation from Creative Australia following jurisdictional consultation and nominations; and assessment and selection process being undertaken by Creative Australia to determine the successful exhibition organisations.

Major National Recurrent Exhibitions have the principal aim to commission new Australian work from across Australia and must reach significant audiences regionally, nationally and internationally. Major National Recurrent Exhibitions will have responsive priorities aligned to the overall Framework.

c. Major Commissioning Projects (MCP)

administered annually on a competitive basis through a stand-alone grant round administered by Creative Australia, with assessment and selection process undertaken by Creative Australia to determine the successful applicants.

Each Major Commissioning Project is an investment of \$100,000 towards the creation of new bodies of work for presentation with an exhibition partner. This stream has minimum levels of investment as outlined in Appendix 2.

d. Contemporary Touring Organisations (CTO)

administered by Creative Australia on a four-yearly cycle, with formal invitations to National Exhibition Touring Support (NETS) network organisations, assessment and selection process undertaken by Creative Australia to determine the successful NETS organisations, or consortia of organisations, that will coordinate the delivery of touring exhibitions nationally.

Contemporary Touring Organisations will deliver tours that commission new Australian work from across Australia and reach significant audiences regionally and, together, nationally.

e. Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (Service Organisations) (IVAIS)

administered by the Office for the Arts (OFTA).

The Framework directs investment in industry service organisations that service both artists and art centres as one element of the wider Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program administered by the Office for the Arts.

f. Strategic Funding

administered by Creative Australia to support the visual art, craft and design sector respond to opportunities and challenges as they arise.

Strategic Funding may be utilised to support organisations identified through Additional Reporting and Fair Notice processes; and to more widely support artists and organisations through the Framework to sustain creative activity and pursue opportunities as they arise. Strategic Funding is allocated at the discretion of Creative Australia in consultation with jurisdictions as relevant.

⁹ See Appendix 3 for detail on definition of these categories, which will be included in Framework guidelines.

Selection of organisations

17. The cohort of National Leadership Organisations, Major National Recurrent Exhibitions and Contemporary Touring Organisations funded under the Framework will be determined every four years through an invitation round followed by an assessment process:
 - a. The invitation process: government partners will consider an organisation's past performance to determine whether they will be invited to submit an application for funding.
 - b. The assessment process: industry advisors will assess and analyse an organisation's future plans, as outlined in its application for funding for the next four years, in order to confirm whether the organisation will be funded under the Framework and the level of that funding.
18. Informed by their knowledge of the arts ecology within their jurisdictions, state and territory governments will determine which organisations will receive invitations within relevant jurisdictions. Creative Australia will issue the invitations.
19. In conducting this targeted selection process, the state and territory governments will consider their own strategies, policies and guidelines as well as their alignment to the following factors:
 - a. The leadership displayed by the organisation within its artform, organisationally and in the context of the broader sector.
 - b. The stability of the organisation in terms of financial health and management, governance, approach to business improvement and ability to consistently generate non-government revenue.
 - c. The organisation's impact upon, and contribution to, national, state and territory art ecologies; including reach, access, diversity, development of new Australian works, community engagement and, where applicable, Australia's international cultural engagement and reputation.
 - d. The organisation's embedding of the principles of the relevant protocols and legislative requirements¹⁰ and leadership in prioritising diversity and access.
 - e. The organisation's history of delivering outcomes and return on government investment and the efficiency with which it has managed costs, consistent with industry standards.
20. Any currently funded organisation not meeting expectations, and that does not receive an invitation, may be assisted to transition out of the Framework. This may include alternative funding programs and sources based on its individual circumstances. More information on this process is in 'Performance Management.'
21. Other organisations that meet considerations for nominations may also be invited to submit an application if a jurisdiction nominates them based on their past performance.

Assessment of organisations

22. The assessment process is an analysis of an organisation's future plans against four criteria:
 - a. Demonstrated national significance as result of their regional, national and/or international standing, with artistic merit, quality and vision matched with exemplary

¹⁰ These may include for example: Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts (2020) and future revisions to such documents.

governance, as outlined in the organisation's strategic plan and proposed activities for the next four years.

- b. Organisational capacity to deliver on its strategic plan and proposed activities over the next four years in a way that provides value for money in the expenditure of public funds, including with regard to the organisation's financial health, operational efficiency, governance and capacity to leverage non-government revenue from public investment.
 - c. Alignment of an organisation's strategic plan and proposed activities with the strategic objectives of the Framework, taking into account the organisation's expertise, reach, artistic aspirations and needs of their communities. While the strategic objectives may be specified for all organisations, governments acknowledge the diversity, autonomy and distinctiveness of each individual organisation and support a collective approach to the achievement of these priorities, rather than each organisation being expected to address all priorities.
 - d. Exemplary leadership of the sector as evidenced by: demonstrated use of the principles and relevant industry protocols¹¹, payments for arts and cultural workers that meet or exceed baseline industry practice and reflect a commensurate level of sectoral leadership, engaged policies and actions that build equity and diversity within the sector, and a commitment to sustainability in business operations and environmental impact.
23. Applications will be assessed by industry advisors with the final decision to be taken by the Creative Australia in consultation with each state and territory.
 24. Industry advisors will include experts from the Australian visual art, craft and design sector. The industry advisors will be refreshed every four years. This industry advice process will provide governments with the independent expertise required to accurately assess companies that are leaders in their fields.

Application outcomes of organisations

25. The application assessment process will conclude with negotiation and determination of the level of funding to be offered to each organisation and the execution of a funding agreement.
26. In the case of currently funded organisations that are meeting performance expectations, the contributing government funding partners will determine to:
27. Maintain current annual multi-year investment levels of funding for the next four years at the level stipulated in the funding agreement/s for the previous four years, adjusted for indexation where applicable. For organisations who, in 2021–24, receive both funding from the Framework and also Four Year Investment, the entirety of these two funding agreements will be deemed the current annual level of funding.¹² This variation process is

¹¹ For example, the Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts (2020) and future iterations of this document.

¹² To support this transition to two distinct funding frameworks Creative Australia will direct further Investment funds in addition to what is determined by the minimum agreed levels of investment in the Framework to ensure the stability of organisations to:

- a) Increase the annual level of funding for the next four years; or
- b) Decrease the annual level provided by up to 10 per cent of the annual level of funding of the existing four-year agreement(s), adjusted for indexation where applicable and/or offer a contract for less than four years.

an important mechanism to incentivise organisations to submit meaningful and considered applications and enable government funding partners to reward excellence.

28. Organisations identified as failing to deliver on expected performance or complying with the terms of the funding agreement may be offered shorter contract periods and placed on Additional Reporting.¹³
29. Creative Australia will publish the outcomes of the application assessment process as soon as practical after all funding agreements are executed, including reasons for the selection of the specific cohort of organisations and annual funding levels to be provided to each organisation.

Performance management of organisations

30. Organisations will be subject to regular and robust monitoring processes that measure achievement, ensure accountability, and ensure organisations meet agreed priorities and benchmarks.
31. The monitoring of general performance of organisations will be undertaken by Creative Australia no less than once per year throughout the contract period. Action can be taken to address underperformance at any point throughout the contract period, as outlined in 'Additional Reporting, Fair Notice and Strategy Exit for Organisations'.
32. The monitoring of general performance, and the determination of any action taken to address underperformance, will include reasonable consideration of any unavoidable circumstances that have adversely affected an organisation's performance.

Additional reporting, fair notice, and strategy exit for organisations

33. At any point within the four-year contract period, government funding partners may undertake a review of organisational performance and intervene through provisions of Additional Reporting or Fair Notice, or, in extreme cases of underperformance, by implementing a staged exit of an organisation from the Framework.
34. 'Additional Reporting' requirements may be imposed for a period of 12 months on any organisation that has been identified by government funding partners as failing to deliver on expected performance or complying with terms of the funding agreement. 'Additional Reporting' requires more frequent and/or bespoke reporting to the funders and, potentially, delivery on requirements and/or targets to address underperformance for approval by the contributing government funding partners.
35. 'Fair Notice' of no longer qualifying for funding under the Framework will be provided to any organisation identified by the government funding partners as failing to deliver on performances expectations and/or bespoke requirements within the agreed period. The 'Fair Notice' period will last 12 months or as otherwise agreed by funding partners on a case-by-case basis. Examples of requirements may include improvements to artistic and/or service delivery, financial controls, benchmarks and/or statistical targets, organisational reviews or interventions, governance reviews or other relevant actions.

¹³ 'Additional Reporting' requires more frequent and/or bespoke reporting to the funders and, potentially, delivery on requirements and/or targets to address underperformance for approval by the contributing government funding partners.

36. An organisation that fails to deliver on the 'Fair Notice' provisions within 12 months of being placed on 'Fair Notice' will have their funding qualifications under the Framework reviewed by the government funding partners, potentially resulting in:
 - a. A decision not to invite an organisation to apply for funding at the four-year invitation point, where the end of the 'Fair Notice' period coincides with the invitation cycle; or
 - b. A decision to exit the organisation at any time within the period of the funding agreement.
37. On agreement to exit an organisation from the Framework, the government funding partners may exit the organisation immediately or through a staged process that tailors the organisation's transition to alternative funding programs and sources based on its individual circumstances. Any funding provided by government funding partners under that plan will be considered part of those governments' total aggregate funding contribution under the Framework.
38. Organisations that have exited the Framework may be eligible for re-invitation into the Framework at a four-year assessment cycle, pending performance improvements and agreement by contributing governments.

Assessment of individuals

39. Major Commissioning Projects will be determined annually on a competitive basis through a stand-alone grant round.
40. The assessment process is an analysis of an artist's proposal against two criteria:
 - a. artistic merit, quality and vision of the proposed new work as outlined in the application
 - b. profile of the strategic presenting partnership and expected career impact of the exhibition.
41. Applications will be assessed by peer assessors or industry advisors.
42. Creative Australia will publish the successful outcomes of the application assessment process as soon as practical after all funding agreements are executed.

Public reporting

43. The aggregate performance of the cohort of Framework organisations will be made public at the end of each cycle of the Framework and published on the Creative Australia website.
44. The data will be accompanied by commentary that explains these outcomes, highlights the key achievements of the organisations as a cohort and outlines any exits for the Framework or other critical developments over the past four years.
45. Reporting frameworks will be co-designed between participating organisations, jurisdictions and Creative Australia's research team.
46. The aggregate performance of Major Commissioning Projects recipients will be reflected via commentary drawn from acquittals that highlights key achievements. This will be made public on an annual basis and published on the Creative Australia website.

Appendix 1: Terms of reference and definitions

Terms of Reference

The following investment programs and policy documents are referenced herein, with their purpose and relationship to this Framework to be understood as:

1. Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS)

The Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program funds the operations of Australian Indigenous-owned art centres and selected art fairs, regional hubs and industry service organisations that are at the heart of Australia’s world-famous Indigenous visual art movement.

IVAIS funding is delivered to four primary types of organisations:

- a. art centres, mostly in remote and very remote locations
- b. industry service organisations
- c. art fairs
- d. arts hubs, mostly in regional or urban locations

Under the current program structure, the organisations funded through the program together form a large part of the cultural infrastructure that provides Indigenous artists with studio space, materials, artistic development opportunities, marketing and exhibition support, as well as a range of professional support and services for artists and art centre staff, including centre directors.

IVAIS investment is managed by the Office for the Arts.

arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/indigenous-visual-arts-industry-support-program

2. Four Year Investment for Organisations (FYIO)

Creative Australia’s Four Year Investment for Organisations (FYIO) program runs in parallel to the Visual Art, Craft and Design Framework. The next FYIO cycle is 2025–28.

FYIO provides multi-year investment for arts and cultural organisations across all art forms. It enables organisations to plan with longer-term certainty and increase their capacity to leverage other support and collaborations.

Successful organisations demonstrate a high degree of artistic achievement, along with a compelling future vision. They are well governed, effectively managed, and generate diverse income streams.

FYIO supports small to medium arts organisations that are part of the arts and cultural sector.

FYIO is managed by Creative Australia.

3. National Cultural Policy: *Revive*

Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place, Australia’s cultural policy launched on 30 January 2023, sets out the Australian Government’s vision of ‘a place for every story, a story for every place’ and the establishment of Creative Australia, a bigger and bolder champion and investor in Australian arts and creativity. The policy outlines a plan to ‘revive the arts in Australia’ and see that ‘Australia’s artists and arts workers, organisations and

audiences thrive and grow, and our arts, culture and heritage are re-positioned as central to Australia's future'. *Revive's* pillars, principles and actions will have significant impact on the operations of the Australia Council, in its establishment as Creative Australia; and for Australia's arts and cultural sector, both nationally and within all jurisdictions.

Revive makes specific reference to Creative Australia's partnership 'with states and territories to fund...visual arts organisations under the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy.'¹⁴ A range of the actions and principles within *Revive* shape the approach of the new Visual Art, Craft and Design Partnership Framework.

arts.gov.au/publications/national-cultural-policy-revive-place-every-story-story-every-place

4. National Performing Arts Partnership Framework (Partnership Framework)

The National Performing Arts Partnership Framework provides significant investment in Australian performing arts organisations for the benefit of Australian audiences.

The Partnership Framework is administered by Creative Australia in partnership with all states and the Northern Territory.

The Partnership Framework was launched by the Australian Government and all state and territory governments in October 2019 to provide a cohesive and collaborative national approach to sustainable performing arts organisational investment and guide effective decision-making for the sector.

Organisations funded under the Partnership Framework benefit from the stability of up to eight years funding. The Partnership Framework provides:

- a. a clear approach to prioritising outcomes for the Australian performing arts sector, audiences and communities, such as growing First Nations arts
- b. a pathway to expand the number of funded companies through a two-stage invitation and assessment process
- c. stability of funding balanced with flexibility so governments can jointly respond to changing priorities
- d. increased transparency and accountability through enhanced reporting
- e. a new approach to rewarding artistic and organisational excellence.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Framework, the following terms are defined as:

- a. 'Visual Art': covers art forms that are primarily visual in nature such as painting, sculpture, installation, performance art and video art.
- b. 'Craft': covers art forms that are primarily of visual and material nature and require specialised skills to be created by hand, such as jewellery, ceramics and weaving.
- c. 'Design': covers art forms that are primarily of visual nature that are technically devised but may be produced by hand or machine and may include industrial design objects, graphic design, interactive digital design and fashion design.

¹⁴ Australian Government 2023, *Revive – Australia's Cultural Policy for the Next Five Years*.

Specifically, the Framework supports visual art, craft and design that is exhibited within contemporary galleries and their online equivalents; and may extend its support to accompanying creative practices such as curating and art writing. Within the Framework, the term 'artist' is inclusive of those who practice across visual art, craft and design.

Appendix 2: The Framework contribution levels

The Framework Contribution Levels

Through the Framework, six investment streams are administered by Creative Australia. Two of these streams have previously been weighted by a population percentage model: National Leadership Organisations and Individuals (Major Commissioning Projects). The total investment in each of those streams has been allocated based on each jurisdiction's (weighted) percentage of the total population.

In this revised Framework, the population percentage distribution model will cease. Investment levels for these two streams will become based on agreed minimum investment level model informed by strategic objectives. In this agreed minimum investment level model, jurisdictions will be allocated a minimum annual investment for each of the weighted streams. These minimum annual investment figures are set at the outset of the Framework.

The figures are calculated based on the higher of either: the percentage from the current Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, or the September 2022 OFTA weighted population percentage, with Creative Australia providing further investment in cases where a jurisdiction's population percentage was higher in the current Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, ensuring no jurisdiction is disadvantaged. Additionally, Creative Australia will provide additional investment to round up to the closest \$100,000 the Individuals (Major Commissioning Projects) stream, to support at least one Major Commission in each jurisdiction annually.

This model will be trialled in the 2025-2028 VACDF cycle, for review in 2026.

Appendix 3: Detail for inclusion in Framework guidelines

Through the Visual Art, Craft and Design Framework, the Australian Government will deliver six investments:

- a. **National Leadership Organisations administered on a four-yearly cycle, with a formal invitation from Creative Australia following jurisdictional consultation and nominations, assessment and selection process being undertaken to determine the successful organisations.**

States and territories will prioritise the funding of at least one National Leadership Organisation in each of the following categories:

- i. Micro scale (inclusive of Artist Run Initiatives) – with an annual turnover below \$250,000.
 - ii. Small scale – with an annual turnover between \$250,000 – \$1,999,999. And, if funds allow, a National Leadership Organisation for the additional category below
 - iii. Medium scale – with an annual turnover above \$2,000,000
- b. **Major National Recurrent Exhibitions (MNRE), administered on a four-yearly cycle, with a formal invitation from Creative Australia following jurisdictional**

consultation and nominations, assessment and selection process being undertaken to determine the successful exhibition organisations.

Major National Recurrent Exhibitions have the principal aim to commission new Australian work from across Australia and must reach significant audiences regionally, nationally and internationally. Major National Recurrent Exhibitions will have responsive priorities aligned to the overall Framework.

- c. **Major Commissioning Projects (MCP), administered annually on a competitive basis through a stand-alone grant round administered by Creative Australia, with assessment and selection process undertaken to determine the successful applicants.**

Each Major Commissioning Project is an investment of \$100,000 towards the creation of new bodies of work for presentation with an exhibition partner. At least one Major Commissioning Project opportunity will be available in each jurisdiction annually through the Visual Art, Craft and Design Framework.

- d. **Contemporary Touring Organisations (CTO), administered by Creative Australia on a four-yearly cycle, with formal invitations to National Exhibition Touring Support (NETS) network organisations, assessment and selection process undertaken to determine the successful NETS organisations, or consortia of organisations, that will coordinate the delivery of touring exhibitions nationally.**

Contemporary Touring Organisations will deliver tours that commission new Australian work from across Australia and reach significant audiences regionally and, together, nationally.

- e. **Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (Service Organisations) (IVAIS), administered by the Office for the Arts (OFTA).**

IVAIS Service Organisations supported by the Framework are limited to industry service organisations that service both artists and art centres.

- f. **Strategic Funding, administered by Creative Australia to support the visual art, craft and design sector respond to opportunities and challenges as they arise.**

Strategic Funding may be utilised to support organisations identified through Additional Reporting and Fair Notice processes; and to more widely support artists and organisations through the Framework to sustain creative activity and pursue opportunities as they arise.