

Regional Centre for Culture 2018

The Regional Centre for Culture 2018 (RCC) is being undertaken through Creative Victoria in partnership with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Central Goldfields Shire, City of Greater Bendigo, Hepburn Shire and Mount Alexander Shire.

Background Information

In April 2016, the Victorian Government released *Creative State*, Victoria's first creative industries strategy. Action 26 is the delivery of Victoria's inaugural Regional Centre for Culture program:

"Establishment of Victoria's first Regional Centre for Culture program in 2018, including the development of grassroots community participation projects combined with opportunities to engage with some of Victoria's most respected creative organisations and agencies, in a year-long celebration of arts, culture and community."

Inspired by a European Union 'Capital of Culture' initiative, the Regional Centre for Culture program will focus on a specific geographical area, shining a spotlight on local creativity, culture and events. The program will also include specially commissioned artworks, activities and community-based projects by local artists as well as leading Victorian creative practitioners.

The inaugural Regional Centre for Culture in 2018 will be held in one of Victoria's key regional cultural hubs, encompassing the City of Greater Bendigo, Mount Alexander Shire, Central Goldfields Shire and Hepburn Shire.

This area has been named the first Regional Centre for Culture because of its significant reputation in the arts, creativity and community expression. The strength of the cultural offering in this region is derived from:

- Reflecting the rich cultural heritage and contemporary presence of Victoria's Aboriginal people, this designation recognises the Dja Dja Wurrung and the Taungurung as Traditional Owners and places these communities at its centre as First Peoples.
- The region's cities and towns which have developed and nurtured a strong and iconic cultural identity, reflected in the area's theatres, galleries, festivals and cultural life.
- The high number of artists developing work locally and collaborating with other artists and communities.

Aims of the Program

Regional Centre for Culture 2018 (RCC 2018) program objectives are to:

- Recognise and profile the rich history and contemporary presence of Victoria's Aboriginal people.
- Deliver economic benefit through generating cultural attractions which drive tourism.
- Create increased local access to arts and cultural experiences in regional communities, including smaller communities.
- Create significant new works that tell local stories.
- Facilitate capacity building opportunities for local creative practitioners and organisations.

The Dja Dja Wurrung are descended from the Ancestors who survived first contact with the newcomers to their lands in what is now known as Victoria. The Dja Dja Wurrung are represented as a people by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, which is the entity that holds and cares for the Clans' Recognition and Settlement Rights.

Please review the information available at www.djadjawurrung.com.au with respect to the Country on which the RCC is taking place. If you are proposing projects or events which directly or indirectly address matters where consultation with Traditional Owners is appropriate, please contact the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation: info@djadjawurrung.com.au.

Who Is Doing What?

Creative Victoria supporting:

- Artlands (Biennial Regional Arts Conference), produced by Regional Arts Victoria in September 2018 <http://www.rav.net.au/statewide-projects/artlands-2018>
- Emerge Cultural Hub in Bendigo over three years produced by Multicultural Arts Victoria <http://multiculturalarts.com.au/transform/emerge/>
- A projection festival produced by City of Greater Bendigo
- A project led by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Porter/Walsh to produce and support the events and activities below

Creative Victoria is also offering the following grant opportunities

- **Regional Centre for Culture 2018 Local Grants** <http://creative.vic.gov.au/funding-and-support/programs/rcc-local-grants>
- **Regional Centre for Culture 2018 Commissions**, a program will fund three new works to premiere in Bendigo in 2018 <http://creative.vic.gov.au/funding-and-support/programs/rcc-commissions>

Porter/Walsh are producing:

In July 2017, Jo Porter and Elizabeth Walsh were appointed the Producers of the RCC 2018. They will be creating and supporting public outcomes during the RCC 2018 program for the dual purposes of **highlighting** the rich array of cultural activity already happening in the RCC area and **supplementing** existing activity with additional events and/or support of existing events.

Porter/Walsh will specifically develop:

- **Major Events:** produce **three major events**, one in each of Central Goldfields Shire, Hepburn Shire and Mount Alexander Shire
 - Dates & places to be announced in November therefore early indication of interest is encouraged.
- **Umbrella Program:** develop and host a **website and promotional brand** where events and activities taking place across the RCC area and throughout 2018 can be listed, searched and promoted. Ways in which events may be promoted include inclusion in recommended, seasonal itineraries for tourists and locals alike.
 - Ongoing event updates can be listed throughout the RCC 2018

Porter/Walsh contd

- **Event extension:** identify and fund elements of existing events such as festivals or other activities for the purpose of **increased scope and capacity**. It is likely that these will be activities that increase future sustainability as well as visibility within the RCC program eg via an additional performer, a tour opportunity, marketing support or similar.
 - Submissions for announcement in November 2017 is required by September 30, 2017
 - Submissions for announcement in March 2018 is required by January 30, 2018
 - Ongoing event updates can be listed throughout the RCC 2018
- **Participatory Projects:** facilitate and pay for projects such as artists-in-residence, group-created works or processes.
 - Submissions for announcement in November 2017 is required by September 30, 2017
 - Submissions for announcement in March 2018 is required by January 30, 2018
 - Submissions for announcement in July 2018 is required by May 30, 2018
 - Ongoing event updates can be listed throughout the RCC 2018

Note that the RCC programming will be continually updated on the website hub, but that specific update announcements will take place in three waves: November 2017, March 2018 and July 2018.

Please allow 30 days for refinement of proposals with for participatory projects, event extensions and major event participation.

How to Indicate Interest

Creative Victoria

- apply for funds via Local Grants, Commissions or other grants programs
- Speak with program managers

Porter/Walsh

- Complete the form available at www.rcc2018.com
- Speak with Elizabeth or Jo – make a time for a call or a meeting by emailing info@rcc2018.com
- Attend a discussion session - see dates on the website.