



Combined Report August & September 2020 Rounds

Murray Arts, in partnership with the Cultural Round Table of the Border North East, looked at many different funding models when designing our micro funding round, in response to COVID-19 and also conducted a local independent artist survey to find out what it was that our local creative sector really needed. We decided to go with an artist fee per day model, inspired by the Browns Mart Theatre in Darwin, offered initially for the month of June & July 2020 and then due to demand for the program, UNLOCKED evolved and was offered again in August & September 2020. Murray Arts have been the primary funders of this responsive program, using savings from qualifying for JobKeeper and reworking our budget to find other savings, UNLOCKED has also received funds from The Flying Fruit Fly Circus, HotHouse Theatre, Towong Shire Council, Galah Bar On Air and private donors. Moving forward we are seeking further donations to ensure the sought-after micro grant program can continue and also evolve to meet our creative community's needs.

At its core, UNLOCKED is a micro funding round designed to acknowledge, support and encourage the independent creative industry practitioners, who live work and connect with the Murray Arts footprint during the age of COVID-19; AlburyCity, Greater Hume & Federation shires in NSW and City of Wodonga, Indigo & Towong shires in Victoria.

The original basis of UNLOCKED was that for the month of June & July 2020, we pay one artist per day, a fee of \$333, which is for them to do with what they wish, concluding in 60+ artists from various artforms across our footprint benefiting. Why \$333, well if you divide \$10,000 by the 30 days of June you get \$333. Our aim was to be able to convey to our independent artists we see you, we value you and we can't reimburse you for the funds you have lost or will continue to lose but what we can do is say here is \$333 please spend the money buying something you need, paying a bill, taking time out to think and or a day of creative development. For the August & September round we evolved the fund, thanks to feedback with the UNLOCKED Alumni, to also include \$1,500 payments for collectives of local independents who were looking to collaborate and maintained the individual artist fee option. We continue to ensure the application process was very simple, inclusive and that reporting consists only of flicking us an image or short 10-30 second video/audio of what you did with your day of funded creativity.

In short:

- \$10,329 was allocated to the month of August 2020 with 4 Collectives and 13 Individuals funded
- \$13,998 was allocated to the month of September 2020 with 8 Collectives & 6 Individuals funded
- The combined total of Collective applications received for the August & September rounds was 18 and we were able to fund 12 in total
- The combined total of Individual applications received for the August & September rounds was 25 and we were able to fund 16 in total
- Overall, we estimate, given that the successful Collective applications are benefiting multiple creatives, that over 52 local creatives are being supported via the combined August & September rounds of UNLOCKED
- The 12 applications who were not funded did not meet the UNLOCKED criteria and or had been previous successful Individual UNLOCKED applicants and the preference was to fund new Individual applicants. All unsuccessful applicants have been contacted and other funding avenues have been suggested
- Applicants applied using an online form created using Wufoo
- Applicants were assessed on eligibility of, are they local and are they an independent professional creative
- Both the August & September rounds were only open for a total of 6 days before the allocation was exhausted
- We continue to receive inquiries from creatives asking when the next round will open

Applications Funded, in the August 2020

- 1 Collective: Glen Strauss & Aimee Chan – Graphic Design & Writer – Albury, AlburyCity
- 2 Collective: Ashlee LAING & Abi Thompson – Visual Arts – Tallangatta, Towong & Wodonga, City of Wodonga
- 3 Collective: Leisha Jungawalla & Cat Leahy - This Way North – Music – Yackandandah, Indigo
- 4 Collective: Marley Dawson & Susie Losch - Visual Arts - Bethanga, Towong & Upper Gundowring, Alpine Shire Kiewa Valley (deemed eligible)
- 5 Individual: Robert Sherwood Duffield – Visual Arts – Urana, Federation
- 6 Individual: Kerryn Beatty – Theatre – Albury, AlburyCity
- 7 Individual: Marni Korneluk – Visual Arts – Springdale Heights, AlburyCity
- 8 Individual: Tara Petrenko – Visual Arts – Wodonga, City of Wodonga
- 9 Individual: Jodie Farrugia – Physical Theatre – Albury, AlburyCity
- 10 Individual: Toby Mobbs – Music – Thurgoona, AlburyCity
- 11 Individual: Craig Sheather – Writer – Albury, AlburyCity
- 12 Individual: Robyn White – Visual Arts – Wodonga, City of Wodonga
- 13 Individual: Tanya Gower – Theatre – Baranduda, City of Wodonga
- 14 Individual: Rachel Cooper – Visual Arts – Wodonga, City of Wodonga
- 15 Individual: Stephanie Jakovac – Visual Arts – Albury, AlburyCity
- 16 Individual: Erin Davis Hartwig – Visual Arts – Beechworth, Indigo
- 17 Individual: Mary Rose Riley – Visual Arts – Stanley, Indigo

Applications Funded, in the September 2020 round

1. Collective: Rhiannon Ersser & Lucy Tan – Circus – Albury, AlburyCity
2. Collective: Rachel McNamara & Michael Huxley – Theatre – Albury, AlburyCity
3. Collective: Carm Hogan & Brendan Hogan – Theatre – Corowa, Federation & Yackandandah, Indigo
4. Collective: Alison Plasto, Rebecca Simboras, Rachel McNamara, Georgina Arthur, Adam Boon, Tony Grace, Hunter Wearne – Renegades – Film – Albury, AlburyCity & Wodonga, City of Wodonga, Gundowring & Yackandandah, Indigo
5. Collective: Jason Roche, Rachel McNamara – Theatre – Wodonga, City of Wodonga, Albury, AlburyCity
6. Collective: Joel Sulman – Atomic Music – Albury, AlburyCity
7. Collective: Dirk Wallace, Anna Griffith & Megg Gibbs – Turks Head Gallery - Visual Arts – Albury, AlburyCity
8. Collective: Alison Lloyd & Erin Davis-Hartwig – Old Stone Hall – Visual Arts – Beechworth, Indigo
9. Individual: Jacqui Schulz – Film – Albury, AlburyCity
10. Individual: Paul Temple – Visual Arts – Albury, AlburyCity
11. Individual: Lucy Tan – Circus – Albury, AlburyCity
12. Individual: Seth Scheuner – Circus – Henty, Greater Hume
13. Individual: Lenni Morkel-Kingsbury – Visual Arts – Rutherglen, Indigo
14. Individual: John Osmond – Visual Arts – Albury, AlburyCity

UNLOCKED – What is next?

- Continue to find ways to raise funds for future rounds of UNLOCKED
- Refine guidelines, application process and evolve funds to meet the needs of the local creative community
- Refine assessment process for future months
- Each month conduct a, non-compulsory, ZOOM networking meeting with successful applicants
- Each month ask for one to two images and or 10-30seconds of video or audio and cut into promotional clip for each round
- Encourage an UNLOCKED Alumni network, who meets via ZOOM, regularly and promotes collaboration
- For us it was important to acknowledge that the consequences of the COVID-19 restrictions will be felt for many more months and years to come, the aid from the Federal & State governments will cease and we need to ensure our creative community is strong enough to get through.