Award Overview

Amount   
Up to $10,000

Applications Open for Submission   
Thursday, 4 September 2025

Free Online Grant-Writing Workshop   
Wednesday, 8 October 2025

Applications Close for Submission   
Friday, 7 November 2025

Award Winner Announced   
Early December 2025

Projects may take place between   
1 January - 31 December 2026

About

Access Arts Achievement Award was established in 2014 by Life Member Peter Vance and is now supported by CPL – Choice, Passion, Life.

Michael Russell

**2024 Recipient for ‘About a Boy’**

Acclaimed poet, performer and playwright, Micheal will collaborate with industry leaders to translate his poetry into a script that translates ‘About a Boy’ into a multi-artform performance.

The Award provides funding for Queensland artists and arts workers with disability or who are D/deaf to create, develop, produce, exhibit and/or tour their work. Applicants working in all areas of the arts are eligible to apply, such as producers, writers, or curators.

Applications will be assessed based on the project’s artistic and/or cultural merit, opportunity for professional development and project viability.

See how other artists have benefited:   
<http://accessarts.org.au/what-we-do-to-help/grants/access-arts-achievement-award/>

Michael Russell

**2024 Recipient for ‘About a Boy’**

Acclaimed poet, performer and playwright, Micheal will collaborate with industry leaders to translate his poetry into a script that translates ‘About a Boy’ into a multi-artform performance.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible you must be:

* A practicing artist, arts worker or producer who identifies as experiencing physical or mental disability, intellectual impairment and/or is D/deaf
* A Queensland resident
* An Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident
* 18 years of age or over
* You must not be a previous winner, but previous applicants are encouraged to reapply
* Willing to identify publicly as person with disability

The funding can be used for, but is not limited to:

* Creation of new work
* Professional fees for artistic or creative services
* Mentorships, training, workshops
* Access costs
* Production costs including staging, venue hire or publication costs
* Promotion and marketing
* Travel and accommodation (generally not exceeding 15% of project budget)
* Salaries (provided they comply with the recognised industry rate)
* Administration overheads (generally not exceeding 10% of project budget)
* Capital equipment (not more than 10% of project budget)
* Costs of making the activity accessible to a wider audience   
  (eg Auslan, captioning, audio description, materials in other formats)

The funding may not be used for:

* Any academic course of study
* Any competition or fundraising for an entity
* Retrospective expenses

You may only submit one application for the Award each year.

Selection Criteria

Applicants will be assessed based on the following selection criteria:

Artistic vibrancy

* How does this project contribute to an artistically vibrant career path for yourself or more broadly, to the artistic vibrancy of arts and culture in Queensland?

Development opportunities and impact on career

* How does the project contribute to your professional development?
* How will it enhance your career opportunities?
* How will it build your confidence as an artist/arts worker?

Project viability

* Is the project achievable?
* Is it likely to be completed within your proposed timeline?
* Is the budget realistic?

Application

Please answer all questions in the application form. Answers should be approximately 150 words per question (unless stated otherwise) or 1-2 minutes per video.

**Tell us in 50 words or less about the activity or project that would be supported by this Award.**

* Tell us what you want to use the Award for (training, mentoring, travel, etc). Give as many details as possible.

**Tell us how this Award could help you realise your artistic goals**.

* Let us know what you want to achieve in your career and how this grant could help you get there.

**Tell us about any partners or mentors that would be involved in your activity.**

* If any artists, mentors, partners or venues will be involved in your project, please provide information about who they are and what they will do. Your application will not be disadvantaged if you do not have partners.

**Tell us about your current and past artistic career.**

* Include information about the type of work you do and the arts projects, exhibitions or performances in which you have been involved.

Tell us about your budget

There is a downloadable budget template in the application form, however you are welcome to submit your budget as a separate document if you prefer.

The budget template is a guide to help you develop your application. It will be used as a basis for discussion between yourself and Access Arts if you are successful.

* You must specify how much funding you are requesting in your application. While you can apply for up to $10,000, you may only require a smaller amount to complete your project successfully. Applicants who apply for less than $10,000 will not be disadvantaged.
* The requested amount must not exceed $10,000.
* The Award will fund up to 100% of your total project costs if the grant request does not exceed $10,000.

Please ensure your estimates are in whole dollars.

**Income:**

This section is asking you to include the following –

* Any earned income – ticket sales, book sales etc – think about what you could make from your art if you were to earn from it.
* Successful grant applications\*, in-kind sponsorship or applicants (you!) in-kind contributions.

\* Do not include the requested amount for the 2025 Access Arts Achievement Award.

**Expenses/expenditure:**

This section is asking you to include the following –

* Artist or applicant fees or salaries
* Other fees – venue hire, material hire, access requirements
* Production costs – props, costumes, required staffing, printing costs, publication costs
* Marketing costs – promotional materials – printing and promotion, websites, social media etc.

When determining artists fees, you may wish to contact [NAVA](https://visualarts.net.au/contact-us/) for visual arts or [MEAA](https://www.meaa.org/contact/) for performing arts.

If you are including in-kind items, please ensure they match in expenditure and income (i.e. in-kind income cannot pay for cash expenses).

**How to work out your income and expenses:**

* The excel budget template provided has the formulas already created. You will just need to add in your amounts.
* However, for the word budget template you will need to add your **INCOME**, and **EXPENSES/EXPENDITURE** to determine a total amount for each section.
* **To determine how much grant money you require, you will use the following formula:**

**TOTAL** **EXPENSES/EXPENDITURE** *minus* **TOTAL INCOME**. The amount you are left with is what you require from the Access Arts Achievement Award – up to the value of $10,000.

*For example, if your total expenses are $24,000 and your total income is $17,000 then you require $7,000 from the Access Arts Achievement Award to cover your costs. $24,000 - $17,000 = $7,000*

* **Sometimes the total amount you require is over the Achievement Award grant of $10,000 –** therefore, you will need to re-evaluate your budget to determine if you can cover that difference.

*For example, if your expenses are $30,000 and your total income is $17,000 the difference is: $30,000 - $17,000 = $13,000. The Award will cover $10,000 of that but you will need to determine where you can find the additional $3,000 to cover your costs*.

* **Your total income and total expenses must be balanced (must be equal).** To determine this balance, use the following formula:

*Total income + requested Award amount = total expenses/expenditure*

Supporting Materials

Your supporting material is part of your application, please provide the highest quality where possible.

For your application to be eligible, you must submit your current resumé and examples of work specific to the project or activity for which you are applying.

We only require material that is listed below, any additional material will not be assessed.

Current resumé (required)

* 1-2 pages maximum
* Outlines your artistic background, experience and achievements

Examples of work (required)

You may select any or a combination of the following:

* up to 3 pages of written material (published writing, research or press),
* up to 6 photographs or images of your recent work,
  + photographs in .jpg or .jpeg format
* up to 10 minutes of video or sound recording of your recent work,
  + links to video files should be in .mp3, .mp4, .mov or .wav formats
* up to 3 website addresses linking to your recent work.
  + online links to documentation (blogs, news articles, other multimedia content)

Letters of support (required)

* From individuals or organisations who know your work and recommend it, and/or who have offered in-kind or financial support
* Maximum of three support letters can be provided

One high resolution headshot photograph (required)

* High resolution headshot photograph in .jpg or .jpeg format
* Image must be in portrait orientation

Please note that where possible we prefer to receive website addresses or links, PDF or Word documents as support material. **The maximum file size for sending an email to Access Arts is 15MB. If your application exceeds 15MB your application will not be eligible.**

FREE - Online Grant-Writing Workshop

Wednesday, 8 October 2024 |12:00 – 1:00pm - online

To support your application for the 2025 Access Arts Achievement Award, we’re running a free online grant-writing workshop. Open to all interested applicants, this session will cover:

* Where to start with your application
* How to brainstorm and frame your project
* Does this meet the selection criteria?
* What support material to include
* How to budget and use your template
* Live Q & A

Register by **Friday 3 October 2025** via this link: <https://bit.ly/AchievementAward-GrantWorkshop25>

**Can’t make it on the day?** Still register and we can send you the notes and the recording after the session.

Access Arts Achievement Award – How to apply

* Head to the website to apply:
  + [here](https://bit.ly/3IH1Fth) **OR** via
  + <https://accessarts.org.au/what-we-do-to-help/grants/access-arts-achievement-award/>
* You can submit your application in one of the following ways:

Online:

* Complete the online form via this link: <https://bit.ly/AchievementAwards-2025> and upload your support materials, including your budget.

Email:

* Download and complete the application form (available in Easy Read, Colour, Black & White, or Word Formats).
* Email your completed form and support materials, including your budget to [info@accessarts.org.au](mailto:info@accessarts.org.au?subject=Access%20Arts%20Achievement%20Award%202022) and CC [tim.brown@accessarts.org.au](mailto:tim.brown@accessarts.org.au?subject=Access%20Arts%20Achievement%20Award%202022).
* Use the subject line ‘Access Arts Achievement Award 2025’

**Tip:** Aim to submit early in case of tech issues!

If Successful

* The 2025 Award Winner will be announced in early December 2025.
* An agreement will be drawn up between the winner and Access Arts.
* The winner will manage project expenses in consultation with Access Arts.
* All awarded funds (excluding the withheld 5%) must be fully expended within 12 months of the recipient’s official notification date. Any unspent funds after this period will be deemed forfeited and must be returned to Access Arts.
* 5% of the total award will be withheld and released only upon submission of a satisfactory final report and financial acquittal. This final report must be submitted within 12 weeks of the project’s completion date, and no later than 15 months from the recipient’s notification date.
* Intellectual copyright remains with the artist.
* All promotional materials must acknowledge Access Arts and include the logo.
* Access Arts reserves the right to share information about funded projects for media and promotional use.

Contact Details

Email your completed application form and supporting materials to[info@accessarts.org.au](mailto:info@accessarts.org.au?subject=Access%20Arts%20Achievement%20Award%202022) and cc [tim.brown@accessarts.org.au](mailto:tim.brown@accessarts.org.au?subject=Access%20Arts%20Achievement%20Award%202022) into the email with ‘**Access Arts Achievement Award 2025**’ in the subject line.

If you have any questions about eligibility or your application, please email us at [info@accessarts.org.au](mailto:info@accessarts.org.au). Alternatively call us on **07 3505 0311** or **0403 070 661**.  
  
Office hours are 9am to 5pm | Monday to Thursday.