

PLAYKING TRAVEL GRANTS

2025/26 PROGRAM GUIDELINES

OBJECTIVES

In association with Arts Centre Melbourne, Playking Foundation supports Australian performing arts professionals to develop creative collaborations with artists, producers and presenters from across the Asia-Pacific region through the Playking Travel Grant initiative.

Grants are awarded on a competitive basis with priority given to professional artists of distinctive talent and proven capacity who are proposing original, high quality and new creative collaborations which:

- **bridge cultural divides through artistic practice**
- **are intended to result in a performance outcome in Australia and/or Asia in the foreseeable future**
- **profile a diversity of artists, cultures and creative outcomes**

The emphasis of successful proposals will be the exploration and development of collaborative performance projects bringing together the work of Australian and Asia-Pacific artists. Priority is often given to artists who have not previously collaborated in any substantial way.

Applications are encouraged from independent artists, professional arts companies and groups supporting artists to explore new relationships and potential collaborations.

Applicants may apply for up to \$9,000. Grants are not intended to supplement existing development budgets or organisational travel programs. Only in exceptional circumstances will projects already substantially developed be considered.

Applications are by invitation only following an open Expression of Interest process.

ELIGIBILITY

- Rounds #16 and #17 applications should be submitted or supported by a recognised company or group
- Where Australian artists are the focus of the travel, they must be Australian citizens or permanent residents with current passports

- Where international artists are the focus of the travel, they must hold current passports
- Proposed travel must not have commenced prior to the grant being awarded and must be concluded within twelve months of the grant being received
- Applicants must be professional arts practitioners with experience in intercultural practice and/or a strong track record of collaboration
- The applicant's project will be at an early stage of development
- The program strongly encourages first-time creative partnerships but occasionally supports new and innovative projects by artists with an existing relationship
- Project proposals will outline an artistic rationale and collaborative process which imagines future stages of development
- Applications will include a viable break-even budget which clearly indicates the amount requested and the source of any additional funds required to complete the travel
- Applicants must provide letters of confirmation from their international hosts/collaborators and brief creative statements from principal collaborators
- Interest from potential presenters (in Australia or Asia) may also be submitted
- Details of all artists travelling on the grant must be included in the application
- Artists may only be named in one application per round
- Playking Travel Grant recipients (artists who have previously travelled with support from a grant) may not be included in new applications for three years from the date of the previous grant approval
- Only complete applications will be accepted – additional material will not be accepted once the application has been submitted

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Playking Travel Grants continue to focus on providing Australian artists with an opportunity to travel to the Asia-Pacific to network and explore potential partnerships. Where it is preferable for the international collaborator/s to travel to Australia instead, applicants should provide a compelling rationale for this.

Playking Foundation and Arts Centre Melbourne accept no liability for the applicants or the travelling artists. Applicants should seek advice from DFAT and other reliable sources before confirming their travel arrangements.

Applicants may submit for up to \$9,000. Playking Travel Grants are not intended to supplement existing budgets or to 'top up' already developed projects.

Grants are awarded in Australian dollars prior to the proposed travel date and may be considered taxable income for the relevant financial year.

Grants must be acquitted within six weeks of the conclusion of the travel. The acquittal will include: a financial statement prepared and signed by the applicant; a two to three page summary of the travel and activity undertaken, and; an account of the artistic outcomes and potential for future development.

Playing Foundation’s support will be appropriately acknowledged in documentation and/or promotional material relating to the project and any performance outcomes. Logos are provided for this purpose.

The decisions of Playing Foundation are final.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Owing to the limited number of grants available, applications are by invitation following an open **Expression of Interest** process.

Reviewing **Expressions of Interest** assists the program to clarify eligibility and to realise its objectives by inviting quality applications from a diversity of highly creative artists proposing innovative, inter-cultural performance projects spanning a range of forms, styles, audiences and cultural contexts.

Expressions of Interest may be submitted any time up to four weeks prior to the closure of each Round. The program endeavours to respond to all EOIs within ten days.

Expressions of Interest Form

DUE DATES

Round 16	Expressions of Interest Open	16 September – 12 October 2025
	Completed Applications must be submitted by	21 October 2025
	Playing Foundation decisions will be notified by	Late November 2025
Round 17	Expressions of Interest may be submitted up to	19 March – 9 April 2026
	Completed Applications must be submitted by	24 April 2026
	Playing Foundation decisions will be notified by	Late May 2026