

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FOR THE 2025 PRESIDENTIAL EMPLOYMENT STIMULUS PROGRAMME (PESP 6)

Media Statement: For immediate release

01 December 2025

The National Arts Council of South Africa (NAC) is pleased to announce the list of successful applicants who responded to the 2025 Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme (PESP6) call for funding across seven (7) arts disciplines namely: Music, Literature, Visual Arts, Crafts, Theatre, Dance and Multidiscipline. The Call opened on 16 September 2025 and closed on 09 October 2025.

Through the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC), the Presidency made funding available to the creative and cultural sector for disbursement through the National Arts Council and other implementing agencies, marking the sixth round of the Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme. The NAC received a total allocation of **R112 111 000.00** for direct disbursement to arts practitioners.

The PESP 6 initiative seeks to stimulate economic activity by supporting projects that generate employment opportunities within the creative and cultural sectors. The programme forms part of the broader national effort to accelerate economic recovery, restoration, and reconstruction following the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, PESP 6 endeavours to advance government priorities on job creation, with particular emphasis on designated groups, namely women, youth, and persons living with disabilities.

A total of **4115** applications were received across the seven disciplines, collectively requesting **R1 956 683 500.75** in funding.

The adjudication process was undertaken by duly appointed independent advisory panels across the 7 arts disciplines. Each of the advisory panels chaired by a member of Council, who fulfilled an oversight function only and did not participate in the adjudication, in strict adherence to Section 11(2) of the National Arts Council Act, 1997.

The NAC Council and Management are pleased to confirm that **four hundred and twenty-four (424)** applications were approved for funding across the identified disciplines. The allocation of the **R112 111 000.00** budget is reflected below:

Disciplines	Budget	Projects
Craft	R11 211 100,00	60
Dance	R16 816 650,00	59
Literature	R11 211 100,00	61
Multi-Discipline	R28 027 750,00	83
Music	R16 816 650,00	57
Theatre	R16 816 650,00	67
Visual Arts	R11 211 100,00	40
Total	R112 111.000.00	424

The National Arts Council expresses its sincere appreciation to the Presidency and DSAC for their continued confidence in the Council's ability to administer and disburse PESP 6 funding to the sector.

We further extend our profound gratitude to the sector for its positive response and the submission of high-quality, innovative proposals. The NAC congratulates all successful applicants and commends the dedication and creativity demonstrated throughout the process.

A full list of all the successful applicants for the seven (7) disciplines is now available on the NAC website at www.nac.org.za.

Enquiries:

Media: media@nac.org.za

Issued by the National Arts Council of South Africa

-Ends-