

**NAC ANNOUNCES 2026 ANNUAL PROJECT FUNDING OUTCOMES FOR CRAFT, DANCE,
LITERATURE AND VISUAL ARTS**

Media Statement: For immediate release

22 June 2026

The National Arts Council of South Africa (NAC) is pleased to announce the funding outcomes for the Craft, Dance, Literature and Visual Arts disciplines under the 2026 Annual Project Funding Call.

Following the recent communication regarding the revised funding outcomes schedule, the NAC undertook an intensive adjudication, review and quality assurance process to ensure that applicants receive feedback as soon as possible while maintaining the highest standards of governance and accountability. Through these efforts, the organisation has successfully accelerated the process, enabling the release of outcomes for the Craft, Dance, Literature and Visual Arts disciplines ahead of the previously communicated phased schedule.

The 2026 Annual Project Funding Call received an exceptional response from artists, cultural practitioners, and organisations across the country. A total of 1 389 applications were submitted across the Craft, Dance, Literature, and Visual Arts disciplines, representing a combined funding request value of R387 691 549,02. This overwhelming response not only reflects the creativity and vibrancy of the sector, but also the extent of the need for financial support within the arts. It further highlights that the available budget is unfortunately inadequate to fully meet the level of demand expressed by applicants.

Following a rigorous and transparent assessment process, applications within Craft, Dance, Literature and Visual Arts disciplines have been approved the total available budget of R13 168 254,14, representing 3.4% of the total funding value requested. Funding recommendations were made in accordance with the NAC's approved funding criteria and strategic priorities, taking into consideration artistic merit, feasibility, impact, transformation objectives and geographic representation. The list of successful applicants is available on the NAC website.

The NAC extends its heartfelt congratulations to all successful applicants whose projects have been approved for funding. These projects represent the diversity, innovation and artistic excellence that continue to enrich South Africa's cultural landscape. The organisation looks forward to supporting initiatives that will promote creativity, celebrate cultural expression, create opportunities for artists and contribute to the social and economic development of communities across the country.

The quality and diversity of applications received demonstrate the remarkable depth of creative talent that exists throughout South Africa. However, the value of funding requests far exceeded the significantly limited budget available for allocation, underscoring the substantial gap between sector demand and available resources. Despite this constraint, the NAC remains committed to supporting the growth and development of the arts sector and will continue to advocate for increased investment in the arts to expand opportunities for artists, cultural practitioners, and organisations.

The outcomes for the remaining disciplines, namely Theatre, Music and Multidiscipline, will be announced in line with the schedule previously communicated.

The NAC extends its sincere appreciation to all adjudication panellists for their professionalism, expertise, and unwavering commitment throughout the assessment process. Despite demanding workloads, tight timelines, and various challenges, the panellists remained dedicated to ensuring a fair, transparent, and rigorous evaluation of applications. Their valuable contribution, integrity, and commitment to supporting the arts sector were instrumental in enabling the successful conclusion of the adjudication process and the fulfilment of the Council's mandate.

Appreciation is also extended to artists, cultural practitioners, organisations, and stakeholders for their patience, understanding, and continued support throughout the process.

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Media enquiries: media@nac.org.za

Issued by the National Arts Council of South Africa