

NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL 2021 Call for Funding Results

4 December 2021

The National Arts Council of South Africa (NAC) is pleased to announce the list of successful applicants who responded to the 2021 Call for Funding across eight (8) arts disciplines, namely, Craft, Dance, Literature, Multidiscipline, Music, Theatre, Visual Arts and International Bursaries. The NAC issued this call for funding on the 7th August 2021.

Responses to the call saw the greatest number of responses ever recorded in the arts industry for a single call. Which further re-iterates our call for additional funding to be invested in the arts.

A total of 4,170 applications worth over a billion rands were received by the closing date on 20 September 2021. The number of applications received reflects a 41,9% increase from the 1750 applications received in the previous NAC year's call for funding. See table below for the summary of applications received:

Table 1: Applications received and the Rand Value

Art Discipline	No. of Applications received	Value of Applications Received (R)
Bursary	150	46 150 604
Craft	382	103 795 994
Dance	232	68 014 023
Literature	271	71 815 740
Multidiscipline	1 306	429 348 241
Music	977	277 761 537
Theatre	424	131 093 604
Visual Arts	428	124 202 242
TOTAL	4 170	1 250 191 336

The increased number of applications received is a result of the efforts by the NAC Council responding to industry requests to relax stringent application requirements that become barriers to apply for funding for most artists. The barriers addressed by council included removing the requirement to submit annual financial statements and allowing applicants to only submit their tax compliance documents after submission of applications. These were all compliance requirements considered not necessary at application stage.

As indicated above, the total value of the 4 170 applications received amounted to R1 250 191 335.77. This was against the available budget of R27 538 844, which was apportioned across all the art disciplines to be funded as per the table below (Table 2)

Table 2: Budget allocated per Art Discipline

Art Discipline	Budget (R)
Bursary	3 938 723
Craft	2 289 245
Dance	2 860 233
Literature	2 610 233
Multidiscipline	5 720 466
Music	4 649 478
Theatre	2 860 233
Visual Arts	2 610 233
TOTAL	27 538 844

Furthermore, the table below (Table 3) depicts the number of applications received against those shortlisted for adjudication by the external Independent Panel of Adjudicators (Advisory Panel Members). The shortlisted applications had **passed the minimum compliance requirements** and became eligible for presentation to the Panel of Independent Adjudicators.

Table 3: Total number of applications shortlisted against received

Art Discipline	Applications Received	Applications shortlisted for Panel Review
Bursary	150	35
Craft	382	191
Dance	232	159
Literature	271	86
Multidiscipline	1306	401
Music	977	383
Theatre	424	281
Visual Arts	428	78
TOTAL	4170	1614

Due to the limited budget available (R27.5 million), against the total Rand value of applications received (R1.2 billion), Independent Panels were further provided with guidelines for the final selection of successful applicants which, among others, included the following:

1. Priority was afforded to applications that specifically addressed the following:
 - a) Marginalised and indigenous arts,
 - b) Vulnerable groups, such youth, women, children, and people living with disabilities,
 - c) Addressing social ills, as well as
 - d) Social cohesion
 - e) Number of work opportunities to be created
 - f) Medium to long term sustainability of the funded project
 - g) First time NAC potential beneficiaries, i.e. never benefitted from any NAC funding/grant before
2. Final recommendations of successful applications were subject to the Panel of Chairs Committee (POCC) satisfying itself that the proper governance processes, selection criteria and guidelines were adhered to.

After a diligent process of adjudication by Panels, Council received and approved the submission by the Panel of Chairs Committee as per the table 4 below:

Table 4: Total number of applications approved

Discipline	Received	Rejected by Admin	Adjudicated by Panels	Approved		
				Total	Indiv.	Org.
Bursary	150	116	34	18	18	n/a
Craft	382	191	191	20	6	14
Dance	232	75	159	41	16	25
Literature	271	181	86	52	23	29
Multidiscipline	1 306	905	401	<i>*to be announced -10/12/21</i>		
Music	977	594	383	<i>*to be announced -10/12/21</i>		
Theatre	424	172	245	41	25	16
Visual Arts	428	291	100	32	22	10
TOTAL	4 170	2 525	1 599	204	110	94

The table below (Table 5) depicts the total number of approved applications per Province. **Where the number is zero, it either means applications were declined at administrative compliance or were declined by the Panels**

Table 5: Number of applications approved per Province for six disciplines

Discipline	Applications approved per Province								
	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LIMP	MP	NC	NW	WC
Bursary	1	0	3	6	0	0	2	1	5
Craft	2	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	2
Dance	2	3	11	2	2	1	3	5	12
Literature	3	1	16	7	15	2	0	3	5
Multidiscipline	<i>*to be announced on 10 December 2021</i>								
Music	<i>*to be announced on 10 December 2021</i>								
Theatre	5	5	8	6	3	1	2	6	5
Visual Arts	2	1	13	11	1	0	0	0	4

Due to the high number of applications received in Multidiscipline (1306) and Music (977) disciplines, the NAC Arts Development Officers had to contend with a huge number of applications from the two arts disciplines that needed to be verified before being shortlisted for adjudication or rejected if not meeting administrative requirements. This process is complete and the shortlisted applications are currently being adjudicated by the respective Independent Panels. They are still hard at work ensuring that they diligently go through each shortlisted application for assessment to determine its eligibility for funding.

It is envisaged that the above adjudication process will be completed in the next few days and then followed by formal submission to Council for approval this week. This is a process that cannot be compromised and must be strictly adhered to and in accordance with the NAC's approval process. The National Arts Council will publish the final approved applicants for the last two disciplines (Multidiscipline and Music) next week on the 10th December 2021.

Council and Management are happy to inform the sector that all adjudications of applications were done by qualified industry experts in the Arts sector. Each art discipline adjudication Panel was Chaired by a Council Member, who only played an oversight role and did not participate in any adjudication process. This was in accordance with Section 11(2) of the National Arts Council Act of 1997.

The National Arts Council wishes to congratulate all those applicants whose applications were successful and is eager to receive Reports on how the funds granted have benefitted the sector.

The NAC will notify the industry when the last two art disciplines (Multidiscipline and Music) results have been published next week on the 10th December 2021, and whereby the total consolidated data for the 2021 NAC Call for Funding will be provided.

A full list of successful applicants for the six disciplines is now available on the NAC website on www.nac.org.za.

We wish to thank the sector for positively responding to this call and submitting their creative proposals.

Ends.

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Issued by the National Arts Council of South Africa