

# Arts and Science Grants 2026

## The grant

Inspiring SA is inviting applications to develop and produce collaborative arts and science projects for delivery in South Australia. The grant aims to support the arts and science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) coming together to tell locally relevant STEM related stories and/or to explore locally relevant STEM related issues.

Science not only includes traditional academic models of science but also includes, but is not limited to, technology, engineering, maths and medicine and First Nations knowledges. The project must be a collaboration of at least two organisations, including at least one STEM and one arts organisation or individual practitioner.

The outcome(s) may take the form of a performance or series of performances, visual arts, film, augmented reality, virtual reality, gaming, photography, music or an installation or a combination of more than one.

The performance, exhibition, showing, screening or installation can be ticketed at prices agreed with the Inspiring SA Program Manager and in line with the agreed budget.

Projects that have already applied for an Inspiring SA grant round in 2026 will not be eligible for this grant round, but organisations are welcome to apply for more than one grant for different projects.

## Purpose of the grant

This grant round is for collaborations between science, technology, engineering, maths, medicine and the arts to support the telling of stories, sharing new ideas and exploring of current issues.

Grants are available for project which provide South Australians with opportunities to:

- Learn about, connect with and get excited about STEM
- Provide an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of Australian scientists to the world of knowledge
- Encourage an interest in STEM pursuits among the general public
- Encourage younger people to become fascinated by the world we live in
- Encourage new and innovative ways of engaging with audiences
- Encourage diversity and inclusion in STEM engagement, education, careers or industry

## Grant amount available

**Up to \$5,000**

## Key dates

Applications open	Monday 16 February 2026
Application close	5pm Monday 16 March 2026
All applicants notified no later than	Monday 13 April 2026
Successful applicants submit valid tax invoice	Monday 4 May 2026
Project delivered by	Sunday 31 January 2027
Post project report and evaluation submitted	Monday 8 February 2027

## How to apply

Complete the Grant Application Form on [Grants - Inspiring South Australia](#) by **16 March 2026**. This form will be available from 16 February 2026.

To give your application the best chance of success please make sure your project meets the essential criteria plus as many desirable criteria as possible. All questions must be answered completely.

## Who can apply for an Arts and Science grant?

- Scientists and researchers – industry or university
- University groups and clubs
- Science communicators
- Event producers
- Community organisations
- Artists and arts organisations
- Theatre/dance/music/literature groups
- Photographers
- Film makers (including AR and VR)
- Game designers
- Cultural institutions
- Landcare groups
- Citizen science groups
- Local government, including libraries
- Schools if the project is for the general public (beyond the school community)
- Sole traders

## Ineligible projects

Projects that include the following are not eligible to apply for this grant:

- Projects that will be part of National Science Week, August 2026
- Projects only for school students, on and off site. This grant round is designed for broader science engagement. Schools may apply if the grant will be used for a project for the general public (beyond their school community)
- Projects occurring outside South Australia
- Applications seeking reimbursement of funds already spent
- Requests for training and development of paid staff
- Attendance at conferences, tradeshow or award ceremonies
- Not a commercial enterprise – unless the grant is to enable access and inclusion of underrepresented audiences

## Grant assessment process

The Grant Assessment Panel consists of two independent suitably qualified members (they or their organisations has not applied for a grant) and the Inspiring SA Program Manager.

To be eligible for assessment the grant application must meet all of the essential criteria. The grant will then be scored according to the desirable and assessment criteria.

If you're not sure whether you meet the criteria, please don't hesitate to get in touch and ask the Inspiring SA Program Manager at [inspiringsa@sa.gov.au](mailto:inspiringsa@sa.gov.au).

Inspiring SA can only support a limited number of applications each year. Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee a grant. Successful applications will be selected by the Grant Assessment Panel and will provide the greatest impact for the funding required.

## Essential criteria

To be considered for a grant, applications must meet these criteria:

- The project is a collaboration between at least one STEM organisation and one arts organisation or practitioner
- Tell a locally relevant STEM story or explore locally relevant STEM issues through at least one art form
- Projects provide an opportunity for participants to learn about, connect with or get excited about STEM ideas and concepts, or research or current industries or educational opportunities or employment and enjoyment
- Not a registered National Science Week activity or delivered during National Science Week 2026
- Project engages underrepresented groups in STEM including but not limited to:
  - o First Nations people
  - o Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people
  - o Women and girls
  - o People with disability
  - o People from low socio-economic backgrounds
  - o Neurodivergent people
  - o LGBTQIA+ people
  - o People who face age-based discrimination
  - o Regional and remote communities

## Desirable assessment criteria

To support a strong and competitive application, applicants should ensure their submission includes the following:

- A clear description of the project
- Innovative project content, design or delivery
- Clear aims and objectives of the project
- Realistic proposed outcomes and outputs
- Expected audience size proportionate to proposed grant funding
- A clear marketing and promotion plan
- A clear and accurate budget
- Scientifically accurate and clear STEM content
- Opportunity for post-event engagement such as resources, handouts, or a recording

## Grant terms

By accepting a grant, you agree to the following:

- To provide a signed grant agreement and invoice to [inspiringsa@sa.gov.au](mailto:inspiringsa@sa.gov.au) within three weeks of notification of a successful application
- To include the following Audience Survey questions in the registration for your Project and provide a summary of the answers to these questions as part of your Post Project Report:
  - o postcode
  - o age
  - o gender (male, female, non-binary, other)

- are you attending with children?
- do you currently work/study in a science, technology, engineering, maths or medicine related field?
- how did you hear about the project? (social media, email newsletter, word of mouth, print, radio, other)
- Provide a promotional image, links to registration, text for use on social media and in the Inspiring SA newsletter at least 4 weeks before your project
- Use Inspiring SA logos on all marketing and event promotional materials
- Acknowledge Inspiring SA as a sponsor at any live events or in any recordings
- Submit a Post Project Report no later than three weeks after the project has been delivered

As a grant recipient you will be able to:

- Have your project promoted in the Inspiring SA newsletter, on the Inspiring SA website and social media channels
- Receive some support from Inspiring SA Program Manager
- Use Inspiring SA banners and other promotional materials at your project
- Receive a summary report of the Audience Survey questions to help you better understand Inspiring SA audiences

### **Post project reporting and evaluation**

If successful, a reporting template will be provided to you when you receive your grant offer. This report must be completed within three weeks of completing your event. This report will include details of the project, how the grant funds were spent, the makeup of the audience and any audience feedback plus evaluation and lessons learned from the project.