

8 June 2015

TERRIFIC NEWS FOR SOUTHERN FOREST ARTS TODAY
MAJOR INVESTMENT FROM ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS -
CREATIVE REGIONS PROGRAM TO FOCUS ON CREATIVITY
THROUGH REGIONAL WA

Southern Forest Arts is proud to announce that we are receiving funding from the recently announced Royalties for Regions' Creative Regions program which will see the State Government invest \$24million in arts and culture in regional Western Australia over four years.

Jessica Machin, CEO of Country Arts WA which four years ago called on the State to open its eyes to the wide ranging benefits delivered to regional communities through culture and the arts congratulated Southern Forest Arts and praised the State government on its investment which was unveiled this week by the Minister for Culture and Arts The Hon. John Day and Regional Development Minister Terry Redman at the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre on Wednesday 10 June 2015.

Ms Machin said the allocation of funds is the largest and most significant investment in regional arts in Western Australia and across the country would support vibrancy and capacity building and positive social impact for the regions.

Known as the Royalties for Regions – Creative Regions program, the initiative will be delivered through a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA) and the Department of Regional Development (DRD).

Southern Forest Arts will utilise the funds to strengthen its key areas of operation - the Understory-Art in Nature cultural tourism attraction and the Painted Tree Gallery - as well as the possibility of expanding into new activities.

For further information:

Southern Forest Arts
Fiona Sinclair (Secretary)
08 9776 6439

Overview of Scheme 4

Scheme 4 will be managed by Country Arts WA on behalf of the Department of Culture and the Arts. It will expand on existing partnerships and develop new partnerships and programs to strengthen regionally based arts and cultural organisations in Western Australia. The funding will provide services to regionally based arts organisations, artists and art workers across all art forms. Programs will be informed by regional funding priorities identified in a 2013 survey which revealed strong support for the arts for regional people. More info www.countryartswa.asn.au