



# SPARC GRANT PROGRAM ROUND 2 FUNDING NOW OPEN

Dubbo Regional Council's (DRC) round two of funding for cultural programs and projects is now open.

The SPARC Grant Program aims to provide funding to community organisations and creative practitioners to deliver projects and programs that align with the actions of the SPARC Cultural Development Plan.

"A total of \$10,000 will be available in funding as part of the second round for community organisations to share," DRC Cultural Development Coordinator Jessica Moore said.

"If your community organisation or event didn't apply in the first round of the grant program and thought about it, now is a good opportunity to apply for funding to support your cultural event or program."

Community organisations who are planning cultural programs or projects in the next six to 12 months are welcome to apply for funding support through the SPARC Grant Program.

“It is hoped this grant continues to foster and develop more cultural programs in the Dubbo Region,” Ms Moore said.

The first round of funding in 2023 saw four community organisations share a total of \$10,000. One of the recipients was University of the Third Age (U3A). The U3A Dubbo Chapter offers a range of courses to over 300 members in Dubbo and is committed to providing enjoyable learning experiences for seniors in Dubbo and the surrounding districts.

U3A Dubbo Chapter Inc President Julie Wilson said the SPARC Grant which they received at the end of 2023 from Council is being used to help cover the cost of room hire where U3A Dubbo Chapter conducts classes.

“Rent is our biggest expense. Because we are an organisation completely run by volunteers, catering to retired people, we want to keep our fees affordable.”

“This grant is the only one we have found where we don’t need to have a special one-off project; we are able to use it for recurring expenses. I would recommend other voluntary organisations like us apply for this grant,” Mrs Wilson said.

The SPARC Grants Program is open to community groups, organisations and individuals for projects and programs that align with the SPARC Cultural Development Plan.

The SPARC Grant Program is administered as a bi-annual online grant program facilitated through SmartyGrants. DRC will provide \$20,000 annually for the SPARC Grant program with a share of \$10,000 available across two rounds.

Applications open on 4 March 2024 and close 15 April 2024. For more information about the SPARC Grants Program, eligibility and how to apply visit [www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au).

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