

Robert Stigwood Fellowship 2027

Program Guidelines

**Music
Development
Office**



Government
of South Australia



CreateSA

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Background and objectives

The Robert Stigwood Fellowship Program is an initiative of the South Australian Government through the Music Development Office (MDO), a specialist unit within CreateSA.

The program provides an intensive 12-month mentorship and professional development opportunity for South Australian musicians and music industry entrepreneurs, with the intent to raise the profile of, and build capacity in, the local music industry. Through tailored mentoring, industry guidance and professional development, the fellowship supports participants to grow their skills, expand their networks and take the next step in their careers.

Named in honour of Adelaide-born music and entertainment entrepreneur Robert Stigwood, the fellowship celebrates his significant contribution to the global music industry. Stigwood managed internationally renowned artists including The Bee Gees, The Who and Cream, and produced landmark films and soundtracks including *Saturday Night Fever* and *Grease*.

The fellowship is delivered by Stu MacQueen and Dan Crannitch of award-winning national record label and management company, Wonderlick Music, who bring extensive experience in artist development, management and the broader music industry, having worked with artists including Amy Shark, DMA's, Holy Holy and The Paper Kites.

Applications in this round are for fellowship activities taking place from January to December 2027.

Program streams

The Robert Stigwood Fellowship Program offers two fellowship streams.

Applicants may apply for **one stream only** and submit **one application per funding round**.

Artist Fellowship (up to \$25,000)

The Artist Fellowship supports South Australian artists to develop both the creative and business aspects of their careers. Mentoring is tailored to the goals of each fellow and may include:

- songwriting and creative development
- recording and production
- marketing and publicity
- business and career planning
- industry networking opportunities
- attendance at conferences and key industry events.

Participants receive practical advice, professional guidance and industry connections that support long-term career development.

Industry Fellowship (up to \$5,000)

The Industry Fellowship supports emerging South Australian music industry entrepreneurs working in artist management, artist services or other areas of artist representation. Participants receive one-on-one mentoring focused on:

- identifying professional strengths and development opportunities
- setting future goals
- building industry knowledge and networks
- developing and implementing a business plan for the following 12 months.

The fellowship provides practical support to help participants strengthen their professional practice and contribute to South Australia's music industry.

Key dates

Round opens	Thursday, 15 October 2026
Round close	Wednesday, 11 November 2026
Notification of results	Mid-late December 2026
Funding period	1 January – 31 December 2027

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must:

- be based in and operating in South Australia for at least six months before the opening date of the funding round;
- be Australian citizens or have permanent resident status;
- have an active ABN and not be insolvent;

and either:

- be a South Australian musician who writes and performs original music; or
- be a South Australian music industry entrepreneur supporting artists in the creation, presentation, production, delivery or development of original music.

To be eligible for further funding, any outstanding acquittal requirements must be completed before funding can be offered. If you have questions about the status of an acquittal, please contact the MDO.

Eligible activity and expenditure

Fellowship funding can be used for activities that support the fellow's career, creative practice and business development, as agreed with the program deliverers.

All funded activities must be undertaken within the fellowship funding period.

Program criteria

In 2015, Adelaide was designated a UNESCO City of Music and remains Australia's only UNESCO City of Music. The Robert Stigwood Fellowship Program supports the continued development of South Australia's contemporary music sector. Applications will be assessed on how they address the following criteria:

- creative and/or professional merit, including the quality of work, skills and relevant experience
- the applicant's career development goals and the potential for their artistic practice or business activity to grow and contribute to South Australia's music industry
- key achievements and career highlights to date.

Applications are assessed competitively against the published criteria and the strength of all applications received.

Essential application materials

Applications are submitted online via the application form available through the MDO website. The application includes multiple-choice questions, written responses and the opportunity to provide supporting links.

To assist assessors in reviewing material efficiently and securely, please provide links to content that can be streamed or viewed online. Material hosted on file-sharing platforms that require downloads, such as Dropbox or similar services, may not be accessed or reviewed by assessors and may not be considered as part of the assessment process.

Biography or business description

Provide an artist biography or business description outlining your work, experience and role within the music industry. You may also include links to websites, social media accounts or other online platforms containing this information.

Business information

Applicants will be asked a series of questions about their artistic and professional activity and their contribution to South Australia's original contemporary music sector.

Key achievements and career highlights

Outline your key achievements and career highlights, including recordings, tours, collaborations, media coverage, streaming and airplay outcomes, business growth or other significant milestones.

Career goals

Describe your current aspirations and future goals and explain how participation in the Robert Stigwood Fellowship Program will support your professional development.

Supporting material

Applicants are encouraged to provide supporting material that best represents their current work and activity. This may include links to music, videos or other relevant content hosted on streaming platforms such as Spotify, SoundCloud or YouTube.

To support the assessment process, applicants are encouraged to select examples that best demonstrate their work and achievements.

Application process

Before applying, please read these guidelines carefully and consider how your application responds to:

- the eligibility requirements
- the program objectives
- the assessment criteria.

Strong applications will clearly address the criteria and provide relevant examples to support their responses.

How to submit your application

Applications must be submitted online through the application form available on the MDO website.

Once your application has been submitted successfully, you will receive an automatic confirmation email. If you do not receive this email, please check your junk or spam folder or contact the MDO on 08 8429 3555.

We encourage applicants to submit their application ahead of the closing date to allow sufficient time for uploading and reviewing all material. The online application system closes automatically at 11:59pm on the published closing date and cannot accept submissions after this time.

Applicant support is available until 5:00pm on Wednesday, 11 November. We encourage you to contact the MDO before this time if you require assistance with your application.

Assessment process

It is important to note that while the MDO administers the Robert Stigwood Fellowship Program and supports applicants throughout the application process, it does not determine the final outcomes.

Applications are assessed against the published assessment criteria by Wonderlick Music through an independent panel of industry representatives. The panel provides funding recommendations for approval by the Department.

The fellowship is highly competitive and typically attracts more strong applications than can be supported through the available funding.

Administration, notification and feedback

Applications are generally processed within approximately eight weeks of the closing date. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email once assessment and approval processes have been completed.

Following submission, applicants will first receive a confirmation email acknowledging receipt of their application. If you have not yet received an outcome notification, your application is still being processed.

Assessment timeframes may vary depending on the volume of applications received and approval requirements.

Due to the high volume of applications received, individual feedback is not available.

Funding agreements and reporting

Successful applicants will enter into a funding agreement with the Department that outlines the terms and conditions of funding. At the completion of the funding period, fellows are required to submit an artistic, statistical and financial acquittal within one month. Acquittal reporting helps demonstrate the impact of the fellowship and supports continued investment in South Australia's music industry.

Meeting reporting requirements and using funds in accordance with the funding agreement helps maintain eligibility for future funding opportunities.

Successful applicants will receive detailed information regarding funding agreements, payment arrangements and acquittal requirements when notified of their outcome.

Important policies and protocols

Protocols for working with children in art

If the activity involves employing any person under 18 years, with or without financial compensation, or the exhibition or distribution of depiction of any persons aged under 18 years, then:

- applicants must comply with CreateSA's *Protocols for working with children in art* and any relevant laws that apply in South Australia. This may include obtaining parental consents, statements from other artists and classifications, copies of which must be provided to CreateSA on request; and
- applicants must also certify compliance with this clause in the Acquittal Report.

You must also complete the certification statement as part of your acquittal report.

Please note that from 1 July 2019, new screening laws take effect in South Australia. Visit the DHS Screening website for more information.

Respectful behaviours

The safety and wellbeing of everyone working in, and engaging with, the South Australian arts and cultural sector is of paramount importance. The MDO is committed to a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of victimisation, bullying and harassment, including sexual harassment. It is a condition of all MDO funding and grants that recipients must consider the MDO's recommendation to adopt and implement a respectful behaviours policy and procedure. Further information about respectful behaviours, and resources to assist development of a policy and procedure for an organisation or project, are available via the following link: [General Guidelines | CreateSA](#).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols

The MDO endeavours to work with artists, businesses and organisations to ensure respect and acknowledgement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) peoples and cultures at every stage of a project's development. Find out more about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols in the [General Guidelines | CreateSA](#).

Green practices

The MDO encourages artists, businesses and organisations to consider how their project supports a greener future for the music industry. Resources to help incorporate green practices are available from [Green Music Australia](#).

Information privacy

The MDO collects personal information as reasonably necessary for the purposes and functions of:

- administering our grants and funding program
- keeping the sector informed about relevant upcoming events, grants funding initiatives and outcomes, our services, special events or client feedback surveys, as well as our activities in general
- improving our websites and other services.

The MDO complies with the South Australian Government's Information Privacy Principles Instruction (Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC012) when dealing with all personal information.

The information provided in an application may be used by the MDO for:

- providing to peer assessors for processing and assessing an application

- verifying other funding income for a project – the MDO may provide information to other agencies nominated in an application
- processing, paying, and administering a grant
- reviewing and evaluating our funding programs, strategies, plans and services – we may contact applicants for this purpose
- training, systems testing and process improvement, including compiling statistics and reports
- communications by the Minister for Arts regarding the application.

The information submitted to us in an application is treated as confidential if it is identified by an applicant as confidential (except for details that may be included as “published details”). Any information contained in, or relating to, an application, including information identified by an applicant as confidential information for the purposes of applying for funding under the program, may be disclosed by the Department:

- to employees, advisers or third parties to manage the program (including but not limited to, for the purposes of evaluating and assessing the application)
- within the Government of South Australia where this serves the legitimate interest of the Department
- in response to a request by a House or Committee of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia or South Australia
- where information is authorised or required by law to be disclosed
- where the information is already in the public domain.

If an application is successful, details of successful applicants may be publicly disclosed in official Government of South Australia media releases and websites. Published details may include but are not limited to:

- the name and business name of the successful applicant
- details of the event
- the amount of grant funding (and relevant stream).

In addition, the Grant Agreement and associated documents for an application may be audited, which will mean disclosure of such documents, including personal information, to auditors for audit purposes only.

Additional information

The Department reserves the right to amend these guidelines and application terms as required.

If any information in an application or report (including acquittal) is found to be false or misleading, or grants are not used pursuant to the terms of funding, the grant will be repayable on demand.

For more information

If you have questions about the program, eligibility, criteria, assessment criteria of application process, please contact the Music Development Office:

Email mdo@sa.gov.au | Phone 08 8429 3555