

About the Grant

* indicates a required field

Grant Information

This funding program supports dedicated live music venues to purchase equipment, undertake infrastructure works and to install high-end audiovisual systems and dynamic lighting technology.

Applicants must co-contribute at least 30% of the of the overall project budget (this can include cash and in-kind contributions).

Venue Upgrade Grants - Infrastructure and Equipment will run as a two-stage process:

- Stage one - Applications to the expression of interest round will close at 2pm on 28 September
- Stage two - Venues successful at the expression of interest round will be invited to submit a full application.

Activity Dates: The project cannot start before 15 February 2027 and must be completed by 31 January 2028.

Types of Upgrades Supported

Funding can support:

- equipment purchase and infrastructure works up to \$150,000; **OR**
- high-end audiovisual systems and advanced lighting technology up to \$300,000.

You can only apply for one type of venue upgrade, not both.

Equipment purchase and infrastructure works includes (but not limited to):

- sound, lighting and staging equipment
- soundproofing
- ventilation
- accessibility
- energy efficiency improvements.

High-end audiovisual systems and advanced lighting technology includes (but not limited to):

- LED video walls, projection, or mixed-reality screen systems
- upgrades to intelligent lighting and control systems, AI-enhanced lighting
- venue design and visual mapping works that align lighting and screen with performance zones including on-stage rigging
- high-end audiovisual systems that enhance audience experience through immersive visuals and live feed integration.

What type of venue upgrade are you applying for? *

- ☐ Equipment purchase and infrastructure works up to \$150,000
- ☐ High-end audiovisual systems and advanced lighting technology up to \$300,000

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Does this include

- ☐ Equipment purchase only
- ☐ Infrastructure works only
- ☐ Both equipment purchase and infrastructure works

Sound NSW Support

Find the answers to frequently asked questions [here](#).

Sound NSW staff are here to help you and can be contacted between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) via:

- Telephone: Rosie Saul, Venue Support Coordinator (02) 9228 3603
- Email: info@sound.nsw.gov.au
- Schedule an online meeting to speak to Sound NSW staff using the link to [Microsoft Bookings](#).

Sound NSW Updates

Do you wish to receive updates about other grant opportunities, initiatives or events from Sound NSW? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Eligibility

* indicates a required field

General eligibility requirements

Please confirm your eligibility by answering the following questions:

Is your venue located in NSW? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is your venue an incorporated entity or trust (including a trust with a corporate or individual trustee) holding an Australian Business Number (ABN), or an Australian Company Number (ACN) or is registered with NSW Fair Trading under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 or the Co-operatives National Law (NSW) set out in the appendix to the Co-operatives (Adoption of National Law) Act 2012? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Has your venue been operating for at least 12 months prior to the time of application? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is the venue majority Australian owned? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

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Are you providing at least a 30% (cash and/or in-kind) co-contribution to the overall project? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Note: Dedicated live music venues that demonstrate an exceptional contribution to contemporary music in NSW may request to have their co-contribution waived. Please see FAQs for further details.

Has your venue met all project requirements (including acquittal & reporting) for previous funding received from Sound NSW? *

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Select N/A if you haven't received funding from Sound NSW before.

Is the venue owned by you? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Crown leased properties are eligible where operated by an otherwise eligible entity.

You have indicated that you do not own the premises (building) the venue operates from. Are you able to provide a copy of the following?:

Your current lease or occupancy agreement showing at least 2 years remaining of the original term from the application close date? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

You will need to include a copy of this at the Supporting Documentation section.

A letter of support from the building/premises owner supporting your application to this program? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

You will need to include a copy of this at the Supporting Documentation section.

You have indicated that you are applying for infrastructure work. Do you have a relevant venues assessment report to support the proposed work? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

You will need to include a copy of the venue assessment at the About Your Venue Upgrades section.

Venue requirements

Is your venue located in regional or metro NSW?

☐ Regional ☐ Metro

Does your venue hold a OneMusic licence for Live Music performances? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

You will need to include a copy of this at the Supporting Documentation section.

Does your venue program artists and acts performing new and original contemporary music? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Does your venue have original live music programming prominent in the business marketing? *

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☐ Yes

☐ No

Does your venue have a room or space dedicated to live music performances that is a significant part of the venue and contains appropriate infrastructure to support regular live music performances? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Appropriate infrastructure includes a separate auditorium, lighting, sound desk, etc

Does your venue have Producer/Wholesale, Limited, Pop-up or Packaged Liquor Licences? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Does your venue operate on a member-only basis and primarily host private invite-only functions that are not generally accessible by the public? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Is your venue operated by Government (Federal, State or Local), or an education provider? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Note: Crown leased properties are eligible where operated by an otherwise eligible entity.

Is your venue owned and/or operated by a religious institution? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Is your venue a vessel (a boat on water) or a mobile venue of no fixed address? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Does your venue operate more than 10 gaming machines?

☐ Yes

☐ No

You have indicated that you operate more than 10 gaming machines.

Please upload a comparative analysis of live music investment and gaming machine revenue.

*

Attach a file:

Please speak to Sound NSW staff to discuss the comparative analysis requirements.

Programming requirements

Is programming contemporary live music the primary function of the venue? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Does your venue have formal arrangements in place establishing payments for artist performances? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

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Do you program contemporary live music at least ten (10) nights per month? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you program contemporary live music on average two (2) nights per week? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please contact Sound NSW

Based on your response to the above Eligibility questions, you **may** be unable to continue to apply. Refer to the [Program Guidelines](#) for more details.

Special consideration may be given to venues who do not meet some of the eligibility criteria, if you can demonstrate significant contribution to the contemporary live music ecosystem. Please contact Sound NSW to discuss.

Sound NSW staff are here to help you and can be contacted between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) via:

- Telephone: Rosie Saul, Venue Support Coordinator (02) 9228 3603
- Email: info@sound.nsw.gov.au
- Schedule an online meeting to speak to Sound NSW staff using the link to [Microsoft Bookings](#).

Have you spoken to a Sound NSW staff member about your application? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Supporting information will be required

You will need to describe the eligibility criteria you can not meet and provide a business case to Sound NSW under 'Supporting Documentation' on page 8

Eligibility Confirmation

I confirm that I've read the guidelines and the information supporting our eligibility is accurate *

- ☐ Yes

Applicant Details

* indicates a required field

Venue Name

What is the name of the venue? *

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Does the applicant organisation have an Australian Business Number (ABN)? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

ABN *

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity Name	
ABN Status	
Entity Type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	More information
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	
Main Business Location	

Must be an ABN.

ACN or AIN

Applicant Organisation ACN or AIN

Only required if you have this information

Organisation Details

Organisation Name *

Organisation Name

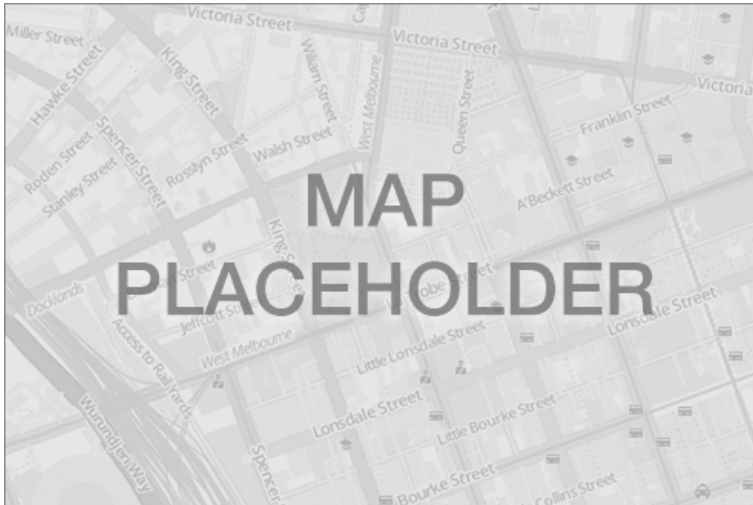
Please use the organisation's full name. Make sure you provide the same name that is listed in official documentation such as that with the ABR, ACNC or ATO.

Primary Address

Address

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Postal Address

Address

Primary Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.
Country code not required, area code for landlines is required.

Other Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.
Country code not required, area code for landlines is required.

Email Address *

Must be an email address.

Website

Must be a URL.

Primary Venue Contact Person

Please complete the following details for the primary contact person. This is the person we will correspond with about this grant.

Name *

Title First Name Last Name

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This is the person we will correspond with about this grant.

Position *

e.g., Manager, Board Member or Fundraising Coordinator.

Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Country code not required, area code for landlines is required.

Email *

Must be an email address.

This is the address we will use to correspond with you about this grant.

Secondary Venue Contact Person

Please provide the details for a secondary contact person.

Name *

Title First Name Last Name

This is the secondary person we will correspond with about this grant.

Position *

e.g., Manager, Board Member or Fundraising Coordinator.

Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Country code not required, area code for landlines is required.

Email *

Must be an email address.

Application Details

* indicates a required field

Title *

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Word count:

Must be no more than 25 words.

Provide a name for your initiative. Your title should be short but descriptive.

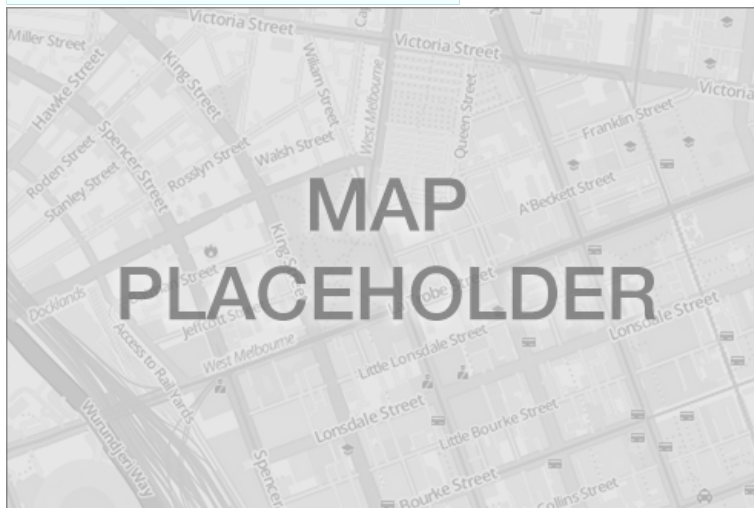
Brief description ***Word count:**

Must be no more than 50 words.

Include a brief summary of who will benefit from this initiative, what activities you will do and what outcomes you expect from your activities.

Anticipated start date ***Anticipated end date *****Primary location of your initiative**

Address



Primary location does not need to be a specific address, and can be postcode, suburb, state, etc. If delivered online, please specify the area of focus for delivery.

The start date you have entered makes this application ineligible

Activity for this program cannot start before 15 February 2027 and must be completed by 31 January 2028. Please include only activity happening within these dates.

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Local Government Council

Do you have a relationship with your local government council? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please provide the contact details for your council contact.

Name *

Title First Name Last Name

Email *

Must be an email address.

Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Liquor Licence

Do you hold a liquor licence? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Provide your liquor licence number below *

Where multiple liquor licences are held side by side at a venue, please include details of the liquor licence applying to the live music performance area.

About Your Venue

* indicates a required field

Tell us about your venue and how it contributes to the contemporary live music ecosystem in NSW. Tell us in detail about:

- your experience in delivering contemporary live music programming (include examples)
- demonstrate the frequency of live music programming including:
 - Metropolitan venues - programming live music at least 10 nights per month
 - Regional venues - programming live music on average 2 nights per week
- a consistent schedule that fosters the local and touring music ecosystems
- featuring predominantly original, contemporary music, supporting local or emerging artists and showcasing Australian talent
- the diversity of live music programming at your venue

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- the impact of your venue on the domestic touring circuit.

*

Word count:
Must be no more than 500 words.

Who are the key people involved in delivering live music programming at your venue? *

Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

Outline how your venue is considering climate sustainability. *

Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

About Your Venue Upgrades

* indicates a required field

Please select the specific works you are undertaking:

*

- ☐ equipment purchase (including sound, lighting and staging)
- ☐ soundproofing
- ☐ ventilation
- ☐ accessibility
- ☐ energy efficiency improvements
- ☐ LED video walls, projection, or mixed-reality screen systems
- ☐ upgrades to intelligent lighting and control systems, AI-enhanced lighting
- ☐ venue design and visual mapping works that align lighting and screen with performance zones including on-stage rigging
- ☐ high-end audiovisual systems that enhance audience experience through immersive visuals and live feed integration
- ☐ other

At least 1 choice must be selected.

You have selected 'Other'. What specific works are you undertaking? *

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Word count:
Must be no more than 25 words.

Please contact Sound NSW

Please contact Sound NSW staff to discuss the works you are undertaking and if a venue assessment report is required with your application.

Sound NSW staff can be contacted between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) via:

- Telephone: Rosie Saul, Venue Support Coordinator (02) 9228 3603
- Email: info@sound.nsw.gov.au
- Schedule an online meeting to speak to Sound NSW staff using the link to [Microsoft Bookings](#).

You have indicated that you are applying for advanced technology works.

If your EOI is successful you will be required to submit a spatial layout or schematic illustrating the intended space for technology installation as part of the Stage 2 application.

Please confirm that you understand and commit to this requirement.

*

☐ Yes

Tell us about the venue upgrades you are seeking support for and how they will impact your venue's viability.

- what improvements are you seeking support for?
- how will they enable the venue to be fit-for purpose to regularly host contemporary live music?
- how will support enhance expertise and establish best practice business operations?
- how will the improvements support your commitment to accessibility, sustainable operations, and sound management practices (e.g. energy efficiency and soundproofing measures to minimise neighbourhood impact, balancing venue activities with community interests)?

*

Must be no more than 500 words.

Please upload your venue assessment report here: *

Attach a file:

Budget

* indicates a required field

Budget Information

Funding can support equipment purchase and infrastructure works up to \$150,000. This includes (but not limited to):

- sound, lighting and staging equipment
- soundproofing
- ventilation
- accessibility
- energy efficiency improvements.

Applicants must co-contribute at least 30% of the overall project budget (this can include cash and in-kind contributions).

- In-kind contribution can include any donated goods, services or volunteer work to support a project.
- cash contribution can include financial contributions made within the last 12 months towards any infrastructure upgrade works or costs associated with preparing for upgrades.

Budget Information

Funding can support high-end audiovisual systems and advanced lighting technology up to \$300,000. This includes (but not limited to):

- LED video walls, projection, or mixed-reality screen systems
- upgrades to intelligent lighting and control systems, AI-enhanced lighting
- venue design and visual mapping works that align lighting and screen with performance zones including on-stage rigging
- high-end audiovisual systems that enhance audience experience through immersive visuals and live feed integration.

Applicants must co-contribute at least 30% of the overall project budget (this can include cash and in-kind contributions).

- In-kind contribution can include any donated goods, services or volunteer work to support a project.
- cash contribution can include financial contributions made within the last 12 months towards any infrastructure upgrade works or costs associated with preparing for upgrades.

Amount requested

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Please enter the total amount you are requesting from Sound NSW under this grant (not the overall budget cost).

Total Amount Requested

*

\$

What is the total financial support you are requesting under this grant?

Income

In the table below list all of the income associated with your application, including cash and in-kind.

Include the amount requested from this grant program, and ensure it matches the Total Amount Requested included above.

All amounts should be GST exclusive.

Income Type	Income amount (ex GST)	Status	Notes
This Grant Government Grants Donations Earned Income Other Income Cash co-contribution In-kind contribution 10% Contingency			
	Must be a dollar amount.		

Total Income Amount ex GST

This number/amount is calculated.

Expenditure

In the table below list all costs associated with your proposed activity. Use the 'Funding Source' column to indicate whether the cost will be covered by the Sound NSW funding request.

All items should be GST exclusive.

Expenditure Type	Expenditure amount (ex. GST)	Funding Source	Expenditure description

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Total Project Cost

This number/amount is calculated.

What is the total budgeted cost (dollars) of your project?

Applicant Co-contribution

This number/amount is calculated.

Total Project Cost - Total Amount Requested.

Applicant Co-contribution %

This number/amount is calculated.

A co-contribution under 0.3 (30%) may make this application ineligible.

Supporting Documentation

* indicates a required field

New and original contemporary live music

You are required to provide evidence of new and original contemporary live music programming, established relationships with artist and music businesses, and how your venue's contribution increases the diversity of live music to improve audience experiences

Attach example/s here: *

Attach a file:

As a single document attach proof of live music events such as photos, links to website or publicly available programs etc.

Attach videos here:

Attach a file:

Upload a video of performances at your venue and the space. Maximum 1 file of 3 minutes. Note: production of the video itself will not be assessed.

Attach letters of support here *

Attach a file:

As a single document, attach letters of support from relevant artists, community stakeholders and music businesses.

You have indicated that you do not own the premises (building) the venue operates from

Please provide a copy of your current lease or occupancy agreement showing at least 2 years remaining of the original term from the application closing date. *

Attach a file:

A maximum of 2 files may be attached.

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Alternatively, please follow Sound NSW advice

Please provide a letter of support from the building/premises owner supporting your application to this program. *

Attach a file:

A maximum of 1 file may be attached.

Please ensure supporting evidence is provided in a single document.

OneMusic Licence for Live Performances

You are required to provide a copy of your OneMusic licence as part of your application. Please note: this licence must show the levels of cover for your venue to pass eligibility.

Attach copy of OneMusic Licence for Live Performances here: *

Attach a file:

A maximum of 1 file may be attached.

You have indicated that you do not meet all the eligibility criteria and have contacted Sound NSW for advice

Please describe the reason you do not meet the eligibility *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Please upload any supporting documentation as advised by Sound NSW or that will support your application (e.g. business case)

Attach a file:

A minimum of 1 file and a maximum of 3 files may be attached.

Declaration and Authorisation

* indicates a required field

Disclaimer

The applicant acknowledges and agrees that:

- Changes to the application and any additional materials cannot be submitted after the advertised closing date and time.

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- Sound NSW has the right to investigate any information provided in this application and/or to request additional information where Sound NSW deems it necessary for the purpose of assessing your application or administering the Program.
- Sound NSW may re-open an application after the closing date, provided it doesn't give the applicant an advantage over other applicants.
- Sound NSW staff are not able to provide advice on content or choices required within an application.

Privacy Notice

Sound NSW (part of the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport) is collecting your personal information. Personal information collected is managed in accordance with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act*.

Sound NSW collect your personal information for the purpose of:

- Assessing your application against the eligibility criteria for the Venue Upgrade Grants - Infrastructure and Equipment - EOI (**Program**) and contacting you to discuss your application;
- If your application is deemed eligible, to manage and administer the Program;
- To monitor and evaluate the Program.

Providing us with your personal information is not required by law. However, if you choose not to provide us with the requested information, Sound NSW will be unable to assess your eligibility for the Program.

Your personal information may be disclosed by Sound NSW:

- In accordance with the requirements of the NSW Government's Grants Administration Guide;
- To comply with our obligations under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act*;
- To comply with an order for the production of documents to Parliament under Standing Order 52.

Otherwise, your personal information will not be provided to a third party without your consent or unless it is authorised by law.

To access or seek amendment of your personal information, or for more information on our privacy obligations, contact the Department's Privacy Officer at information@dciths.nsw.gov.au. For more information about how DCITHS complies with its privacy obligations visit its [website](#).

Use of Information

The applicant acknowledges and agrees that:

- Subject to privacy legislation, if Sound NSW assesses your application as successful, the information contained in this application form may be used for media and communication purposes by Sound NSW and/or the NSW Government.

Declaration

Before you can complete and submit this application, you must accept the following conditions by declaring:

- If an entity is the applicant, I have the authority to complete and submit this application on the entity's behalf.
- All information supplied as part of this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- All activities proposed by this application will be conducted in accordance with applicable law, including but not limited to, complying with Working with Children legislation.
- I acknowledge:
 - funding will not be granted or released if the applicant has outstanding acquittals for this or other projects/programs across Sound NSW or the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport (DCITHS);
 - Sound NSW may withdraw any offer of funding or demand the return of funds already paid if this declaration is found to be incorrect or misleading; and
 - Sound NSW and DCITHS may disclose any information in this application as described in the NSW Government's *Grants Administration Guide*, or according to applicable law.

Authorisation

I agree *

☐ Yes

Name of authorised person *

Title First Name Last Name

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Must be a senior staff member, board member or appropriately authorised volunteer

Position *

--

Position held in applicant organisation (e.g. CEO, Treasurer)

Phone number *

--

Must be an Australian phone number.
We may contact you to verify that this application is authorised by the applicant organisation

Email *

--

Must be an email address.