

Information About Cementa Festival

Research into the Cementa Festival demonstrates the significant amount of work and the extensive resourcing required to further develop and implement this concept. An overview of the key elements of the Cementa Festival is provided below for the Committee's information.

- Cementa Inc. is a not-for-profit incorporated association, established in early 2012 with the first festival held in 2013.
- Artists, Ann Finegan, Alex Wisser and Georgie Pollard created Kandos Projects, which together with Artspace, founded the Kandos Institute of Contemporary Art (KICA) who organised the inaugural Cementa Festivals.
- KICA/Cementa was housed in the empty cement works at Kandos (in regional NSW – approx. 60km south east of Mudgee).
- In 2018 Cementa moved to Angus Hall (a Kandos Community Hall) in the main street of Kandos and worked towards the purchase of the Hall in 2019 for \$180,000. The Building was purchased by way of \$55k fundraising, \$90k NSW Govt Creative Capital Fund Grant and approx. \$45k from an art action and other donations (total raised \$190k). Space is now called “WAYOUT Art Space”
- Cementa Festivals have been held in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2022 with the next to be held in 2024.
- Cementa have artists spaces, Artist Mentoring workshops, Artists Residency, exhibition programs. Artists cannot enter the Festival unless they have done a residency in Kandos, or their work is related to the town in some way. It is noted the 2015 Festival attracted 2,500 visitors (with 40 artists). 2017 had 60 artists showcasing at 20 local Kandos venues.

Funding:

- Midwestern Regional Council funding:
 - 2012 - \$4,750
 - 2014 - \$2,500
 - 2016 - \$2,500
 - 2019 - \$1,862
 - 2019 - \$2,500
 - 2021 - \$12,500
 - 2022 - \$2,000
- Other grant funding included:
 - 2012 NSW Government/Arts NSW granted \$59,532
 - 2016/17 Department of Communications and the Arts \$30,129 (for a collaboration between Powerhouse Youth Theatre and a local youth dance group)
 - 2018 NSW Government's Arts and Cultural Development Program - \$100,000
 - 2019 Regional Arts Fund - \$20,000 for 'River Lung' a drought project
 - 2019 Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (Humanities Grant) -

\$64,185 for “Swimming Pool is a site-responsive, participatory theatre performance”

- 2019 NSW Government’s Creative Capital Fund Grant \$90,000 (to assist purchase of Hall)
- 2023 - 2025 NSW Government’s Regional Festival Funding program 150,000 per year (total \$450,000) for three years