

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
THEATRE BOARD
Creative Development Grants**

The University of Melbourne Theatre Board offers small grants to student theatre groups and individuals for creative explorations and skills development projects that are not tied to production outcomes. Applications will be accepted at any time during the year. Maximum funding is \$1000.

The purpose of this initiative is to enrich the ecology of student theatre by

- Fostering new or existing collaborations
- Encouraging creative risk taking
- Encouraging activities which deepen the understanding of form
- Facilitating the exploration of different art form practices
- Encouraging cross-art form collaborations especially from the conceptual stage of development.

Projects might take a few different forms, including but not limited to

- Engaging with a professional theatre artist to work with the applicants
- Developing skills that applicants may not have at present; eg collaborating with musicians, developing acrobatic or circus skills, working with screen technology, etc
- Resourcing practice-based research into a concept, process or medium without a production outcome in mind
- Supporting a creative development period for a new student work which might move into production
- Creative events or performance activities which involve student communities.

Examples of the grant might pay for

- Materials and technology to resource a workshop (excluding the purchase of desktops, laptops, tablets and mobile devices)
- Venue hire for the creative development process
- Fees for professional artists to work with the applicants
- Modest ancillary workshop costs, including printing and editing.

The grant will not pay for

- Administrative costs associated with running a student theatre group
- Activities that are part of an assessment for a subject or course
- Payments to students
- Travel and transport
- Future venue hire and production costs.

Eligibility

- Other than professional artists whose fees are provided by the grant, at least 75% of the people involved in the project must be currently enrolled students in any University of Melbourne course (undergraduate or graduate)
- Proposed activities must be extracurricular and not form part of any academic assessment.

Application Process

- An application form can be submitted via SmartyGrants
- Applicants must address how the project/activity reflects the purpose of the grant
- If the application involves the participation of a professional artist, written confirmation of their agreement to participate must be provided
- Applications must complete the section of the application form which asks for a creative statement and project description and include a budget that specifies exactly how the grant money will be spent
- The project must be commenced within two months of receiving the grant.

Expected outcomes

- Please ensure that any promotional material relating to the project acknowledges financial support from the Theatre Board. The following wording is to be used: *This production is proudly supported by the UoM Theatre Board through its Creative Development Grant scheme*
- The Theatre Board should be informed of the dates, times and venue of the project (if applicable) so that representatives of the committee may attend
- The recipient is required to submit an acquittal report to the Theatre Board as soon as practicable after funds have been spent. The short report will be submitted online via SmartyGrants and a link to the form will be found with your successful SmartyGrants application. A financial statement which will require a copy of receipts comprises part of the acquittal report.

If you or your group has any questions regarding the creative aspect of your application, contact Xanthe Beesley, Artistic Director/Theatre Coordinator, Union House Theatre artistic@union.unimelb.edu.au

Annie Fitzgibbon afit@unimelb.edu.au can address questions you might have regarding administrative and application processes.