Territorians can now nominate to become members of the second Arts Grants Board, Chief Minister Clare Martin said today.

“The NT Government is committed to making sure all Territorians have access to a variety of arts and cultural activities,” Ms Martin said.

“The Board has supported a dynamic range of activities right across the Territory, providing strong outcomes for the arts and ensuring improved transparency in project funding decisions.

“It represents both the diversity of both the arts sector and regional interests, and I encourage all those interested and experienced in arts and culture to apply.”

Ms Martin said in two years the Arts Grants Board had assessed 362 applications – and handed out more than $850,000 to 159 projects.

“This is a fantastic result, allowing the community to engage with the arts and celebrate cultural diversity,” she said.

“Membership of the Board is not limited to arts administrators. I hope that a number of practising artists in all art forms and of varied background will consider nominating.

“Representation from Indigenous, youth, remote and regional community members is particularly important.”

The term of the new Board will be extended from two to three years and will comprise up to 18 members, increased from 13 on the inaugural Board.

Following induction training, an assessment panel drawn from the Arts Grants Board will sit in early December 2004 to assess applications for the October 2004 Round of Arts Grants funding.

“I would like to thank the members of the inaugural Board for their valued contribution over the past two years. Their advice and experience has assisted greatly with refining and improving the Program.”

Information on the Arts Grants Board and nomination details is available from Arts NT on 08 8999 8981 or toll free 1800 678 237 or can be downloaded from www.arts.nt.gov.au.