



**ACT**  
Government

# **Canberra:** Australia's Arts Capital

a statement of ambition for the Arts

**2021**  
**2026**



## Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	1
Minister's Statement of Ambition: Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital	2
Statement of Ambition on a Page	6
<b>Strategy 1: Create</b> amazing art and culture—everywhere, at any time, for everyone.	8
<b>Strategy 2: Develop</b> arts, cultural and creative industry, practice, and facilities—supporting creation and culture at all levels, via any path.	10
<b>Strategy 3: Promote</b> our arts and culture—to attract artists and creators, arts workers, visitors and investment.	12
Realising the Ambition - Current Initiatives	14
Public Art	14
Arts Facilities	14
Arts Activities	16
Arts Organisations	17
Arts Capability and Capacity Building	18
Arts Events	18
Cultural Facilities Corporation	19
What will our Arts Expo look like?	20
Canberra: A City of Design?	22
Appendix A: Arts Expenditure on a Page	24

2021  
2026



## Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Capital Territory is Ngunnawal Country. The ACT Government acknowledges the Ngunnawal peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the Canberra region. The region has always been an important meeting place and significant to other Aboriginal groups.

The ACT Government acknowledges the strong and enduring cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their leadership in caring for Country. First Nations Peoples who call Canberra home have celebrated culture through the arts for tens of thousands of years; their songlines have defined the physical and cultural landscape of Canberra. Their contemporary arts and cultural practices continue to provide an essential foundation for all creative activity in the ACT. The ACT Government acknowledges its responsibility in promoting and celebrating First Nations cultures for the benefit of all who live on Ngunnawal Country.

Cover page:

Sammy Moynihan The *Rhinoceros* ensemble.

Back row L-R: Cole Hilder, Carolyn Eccles, Sian Jackson;

Front Row: Jolene Misfud, Sammy Moynihan, Louise Ellery,

Milly Cooper, 2020. Photo credit: Andrew Sikorski.

# Minister's Statement of Ambition Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital

The ACT's creative industries, arts and culture are a strength and unique to our region, built on:

- › our First Nations peoples' enduring connections through their care and creations,
- › design excellence exhibited in realising a city from a concept,
- › our institutions, organisations, venues and spaces—and the artists, arts workers, producers, visionaries and creatives who have founded, contributed to and enhanced them, and
- › the individuals and communities which generate the passion, foresight, drive and belief which result in exquisite, challenging and emotive creations.

Canberra has always been a place for people who embrace arts, culture and creativity. This nourishes our individual and collective wellbeing, and connects our emotions, ideas, stories and heritage.

This strength provides a platform and motivation to further improve our standing; our reach; and what we can achieve: **an ambition for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's arts capital.**

It's as simple as this: no matter who you are, no matter where you are, you will want to be creating, participating or engaging in the arts in Canberra.

This is a bold step, but it is not a leap.





# 2021 2026

Ngaio Fitzpatrick *Requiem  
for a Reef* 2020 recycled glass.  
Photo credit: Matt James.

# We will become recognised as Australia's arts capital through three strategies:

1. **CREATE amazing art and culture**—everywhere, at any time, for everyone.
2. **DEVELOP arts, cultural and creative industry, practice, and facilities**—supporting creation and culture at all levels, via any path.
3. **PROMOTE our arts and culture**—to attract artists, arts workers, visitors and investment.

These are distinct but related; each strategy supports the others:

**Creation of amazing art and culture is supported through investing in artistic capacity and capability, and in our arts and cultural facilities.**

**By relentlessly and proudly promoting our arts and culture, we attract artists, arts workers, visitors and investors—and they in turn enhance and increase our industry, practices, and creations.**

This ambition and the strategies which support it will be the lenses through which our short- and medium-term decisions will be made, and will be the framework and context to craft our:

## **ACT arts policy**

The ACT arts policy will be informed by research and developed in partnership with the ACT arts community in 2021-22. The policy will provide the how: the steps, decisions and actions we will take to deliver the strategies—and thus achieve the ambition.

## **ACT arts organisation funding model**

This new model will meet the changing needs of the ACT, to reset the arts sector, and to increase vibrancy, relevance, and sustainability. This model will have a focus on transparency and accountability and will be developed in partnership with the ACT arts community in 2021-22 and in line with the ACT arts policy.

Our current and future budget initiatives are and will be firmly grounded in these strategies.

On a practical level, we will ensure all ACT Government arts investments and decisions are easily accessed and regularly updated in the one place—and all will explicitly reference the strategies they are supporting. A full picture of our investments current for 2021-22 are detailed in Realising the Ambition – Current Initiatives, and in Attachment A – Arts Expenditure on a Page. New initiatives are highlighted.





# 2021 2026

Sia Ahmad performing  
live at Sideway, 2021.  
Photo credit: GoodShout.

**Finally, in line with the vision  
and underlying strategies,  
I am excited to announce:**

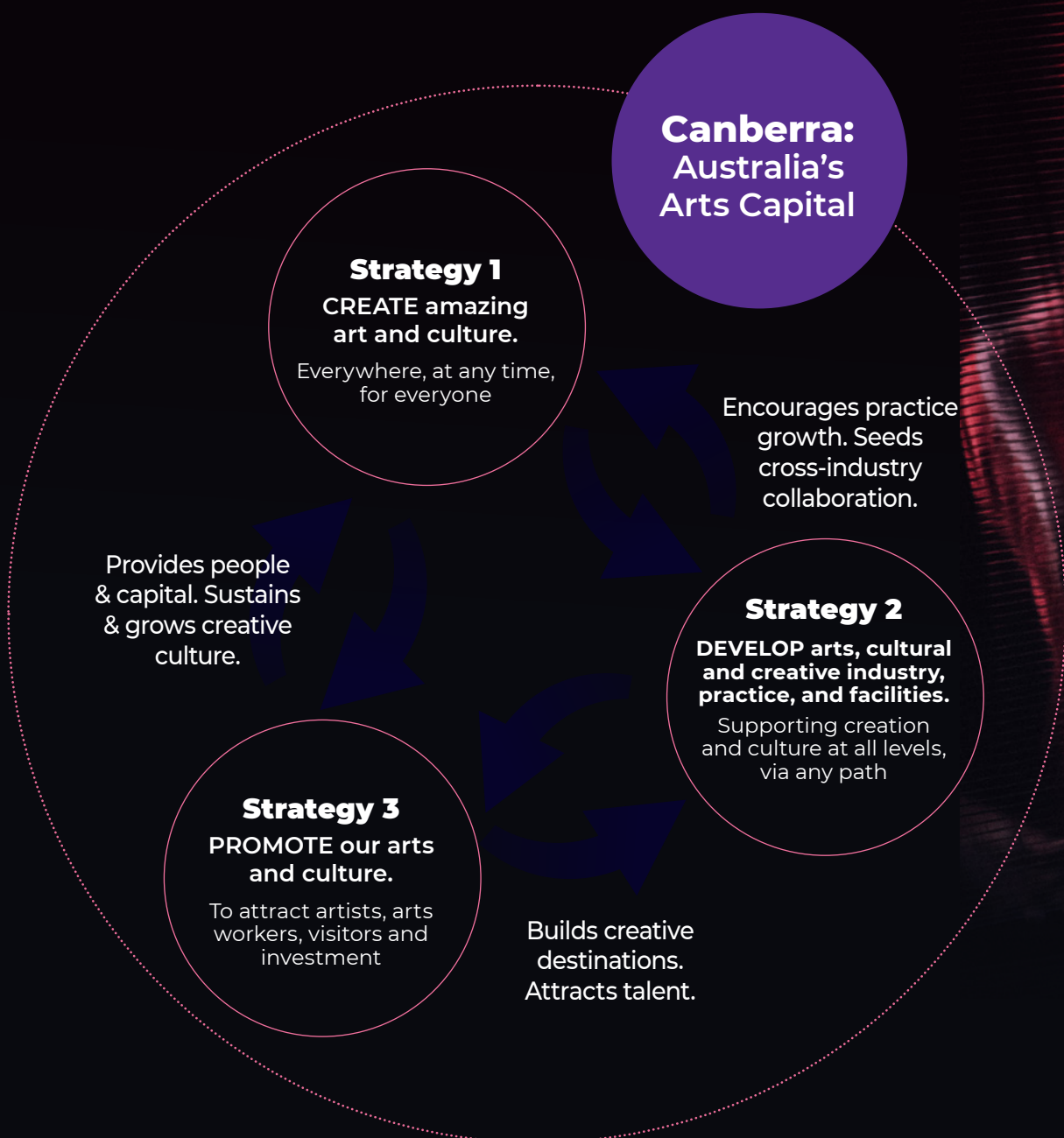
The ACT will host an ACT Arts Expo—a showcase festival of several months, likely in 2023-24, which promotes our arts, culture, artists, opportunities, industries and careers.

The ACT Government will formally explore how to position the ACT internationally as a City of Design.

This is an exciting time. Every single person and organisation in our arts community has a role to play in realising our ambition. I look forward to working with you all.

# Statement of Ambition

Canberra is a city with a deep history and has always been a place for people who embrace arts, culture and creativity. This nourishes our individual and collective wellbeing, and connects our emotions, ideas, stories and heritage. This strength provides a platform and motivation to further improve our standing; our reach; and what we can achieve: **an ambition for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's Arts Capital.**





# 2021 2026



Page 6 and 7:  
Maura Pierlot *Fragments* 2019  
Photo credit: Creswick Collective,  
courtesy of The Street Theatre.





# Strategy 1

**Create** amazing art and culture, everywhere, at any time, for everyone.

Whether we are artists and creatives, creative consumers, or both, the arts help us to interpret and understand the world around us, to express our own experience, and to engage with and understand the experience of others. Artistic and creative participation is natural and fundamental to the human experience.

Canberra is an inclusive, creative place with high access to, and participation in, the arts. It is a fertile ground for artists and creatives, where art is visible everywhere the spectator looks. Artistic practice is admired and celebrated, participation encouraged, and inclusion is promoted and practiced.

On a practical level, this strategy means that wherever you are in Canberra, and at any time, arts, culture and creativity should be visible, or easily accessed.

It means encouraging further collaboration between artists and creatives, but also between different sectors, like businesses and artists. It also means creating greater opportunities for wayfinding so that arts are not something to search for, but are integral to the daily life of Canberrans, and to the visitor's experience of the city. This strategy emphasises the value we place on arts and creativity; how critical they are to who we are as a city and as a people; and amplifies their impact.

Canberra's impressive public art collection should be fostered and grown. Future works should capture the diversity of human identity and experience, with this same diversity to be reflected in the artists and creatives commissioned to make them. In particular, women and Traditional Custodians should hold pride of place in future works, both as subjects and creators.





# 2021 2026

**While arts and creativity should be visible everywhere across our city, artistic activity and celebration should also coalesce around our existing vibrant facilities and organisations, and those that are to come.**

These facilities and organisations should be inclusive beacons for both artists and audiences seeking out a creative experience.

Page 8 and 9:  
Jake Silvestro *December 2020*.  
Photo credit: Ian Sutherland.



# Strategy 2

**Develop** arts, cultural and creative industry, practice and facilities—supporting creation and culture at all levels, via any path.

The arts are an essential part of our lives and contribute immensely to the economic, cultural and societal value of the ACT. We recognise the wellbeing and economic value of the sector, we respect the critical contribution of arts workers, and we work to support and grow the industry.

Anyone at any creative level, from starting out, to mid-career, to an internationally-recognised professional, should have opportunities—through time and participation—to create and enhance their practice. This includes the entire ACT community creating, encouraging, and embracing opportunities for artists at any level of practice, in addition to creating and highlighting pathways for artists to develop, and increase their capacity and capability.

This strategy means that Canberra is a city where the arts, cultural and creative industries are valued and endorsed, where growth industries are explored and encouraged, where capability and capacity is actively and transparently invested in and grown, and where opportunities to increase wellbeing and economic impact are stimulated and realised.

Artists and creatives are supported to seed, grow and share their practices. Mutually beneficial relationships are fostered between arts organisations, artists and creatives, our higher education institutions, and the business community. The arts ecosystem is strengthened through these relationships. Canberra already reaps the economic benefit of its arts and creative activity, and only stands to further benefit from the innovation borne through collaboration.





# 2021 2026

Canberra should be the easiest place to grow and see financial benefit through an arts practice, and the easiest place to get a creative job. Further still, Canberra should be top of the list for those looking for a base for their creative enterprise. For example, enhancing the capacity of Canberra's flourishing screen industry could see the nation's capital become the Australian destination of choice for national and international filmmakers.

**This strategy also means having a rich array of cultural venues, precincts and infrastructure that support and nurture creative activities.**

Canberra is home to a range of arts organisations and facilities spread throughout the city which grow our artistic and creative capability and capacity. Continued support to these important assets – whether for programs or infrastructure – ensures artists and creatives, and audiences, continue to receive a world-class offering. The new Canberra Theatre, as the centrepiece of the revitalisation of the area around Civic Square to create a vibrant Canberra Civic and Culture District, and the Kingston Arts Precinct will be state-of-the-art additions to this landscape.

Page 10 and 11:  
Aya Yves, 2020.  
Photo credit: April Josie Photography.



# Strategy 3

**Promote** our arts and culture—to attract artists and creators, arts workers, visitors and investment.

Canberra's creative identity and offerings are an asset to the city's marketability as a destination, whether for visitors or those looking for a place to move permanently. Whether it's a creative experience, lifestyle, or career that's sought, Canberra has it all.

They are also areas where we seek to grow—with more jobs, increasing investment in and recognition of the value of the arts, and more visitors year on year. This in turn leads to the increased sustainability of the sector.

Canberra is Ngunnawal Country and its physical landscape and complex ecosystems have been articulated and defined in cultural practice, that is, the songs, art and dreaming of the Traditional Custodians for tens of thousands of years. Later, as a designed city and built environment, its very structure has also been defined through creativity and vision. Walter Burley and Marion Mahony Griffin's innovative hub-and-spoke plans – beautiful for their geometry and symmetry – forged a city of lively town centres separated by the space to breathe and connect with nature.

This story draws people to our city because it invites inquiry and sparks participation. Like the city itself, the Canberra arts and culture scene is constantly moving and evolving. Prospective visitors, talent and residents seek the Canberra style of creativity: they are active and engaged individuals. They seek and build connections; they like a challenge and like to be challenging; they are people who are willing to contribute and to effect change.







Our local artists and creatives offerings and organisations appear alongside our national cultural institutions. These institutions celebrate and promote national and international art – including that of First Nations peoples. The ACT offers a range of artistic experiences in close proximity and in intimate settings. This is drawcard which makes Canberra unparalleled in its gallery offering.

Page 12 and 13:  
Musonga Mbogo *NY Luggage* 2018.  
Photo credit: Rohan Thomson.

Canberra's arts sector is accessible and stimulates cultural activity, making our society and economy more diverse, and more alive. It should, and will, continue to be a source of inspiration which draws like-minded people here to, work, do business, study and live as a foundational part of the city's offering.

**We will zealously and proudly promote this—and use resources and funding to do so.**

# Realising the Ambition

## Current initiatives

# 2021 2026

Highlighted initiatives are new in 2021-22.

### Public Art

Initiative	Amount & Years	Descriptor	Strategy
Supporting Public Art for and by women	\$200,000 in 2021-22	Funding for a new public artwork commission by a female or non-binary artist to represent and celebrate women and/or non-binary people.	Create Develop
Caring for and promoting a high-quality public art collection	\$165,000 each year per year, ongoing	Funding for the management and conservation of Canberra's public art collection, totalling 117 artworks.	Create

### Arts Facilities

Initiative	Amount & Years	Descriptor	Strategy
Delivering the Kingston Arts Precinct including building arts spaces and precinct programming.	\$78m for an arts precinct	Custom designed spaces for six local arts organisations and one for Canberra's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.	Develop
	\$864,000 in 2021-22 to establish the precinct management body	Experimental programs which prioritise First Nations peoples, equity, and collaboration.	Develop
	\$1.02m ongoing annually from completion for the management of the precinct		Develop
Former Transport Depot – lead dust remediation to make safe this key community facility located within the Kingston Arts Precinct	\$2.13m in 2021-22	Funding for building remediation, equipment and stock cleaning/or disposal and market operator and stallholder reimbursement for contaminated equipment and stock stored in the building. Arts activity will be programmed at the Depot as part of the Kingston Arts Precinct programming in future years.	Develop
Upgrading Local Arts Facilities	\$1.67m over 2019-22	Upgrades and design for future capital works at Ainslie and Gorman House Arts Centres and Strathnairn Arts. Works in progress include final design for major renovations at Ainslie and Gorman House Arts Centres as well as critical minor safety works at the facilities.	Develop
Maintain and develop Arts Infrastructure: upgrade the Tuggeranong Arts Centre Theatre	\$2m over 2021-24	Funding for the Tuggeranong Arts Centre theatre including for the refurbishment of the floor coverings, furniture and fixtures.	Develop

Initiative	Amount & Years	Descriptor	Strategy
Arts Centre Operations: Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres	\$250,000 in 2021-22 and \$130,000 ongoing	Operational funding for the Ainslie and Gorman House Arts Centres.	Create Develop
Arts Centre Operations Belconnen Arts Centre	\$80,000 in 2021-22	Additional funding to support the operation of the recently expanded Belconnen Arts Centre.	Create Develop
Repairs and maintenance of Arts Facilities	\$520,000 per year ongoing (this is an approximate internal allocation that depends on funding available each year)	Funding for scheduled and reactive maintenance at Ainslie Arts Centre, Belconnen Arts Centre, Canberra Contemporary Arts Space Manuka, Canberra Glassworks, Canberra Glassworks The Chapel (visiting artists' residence), Former Transport Depot, Gorman House Arts Centre, Manuka Arts Centre, Megalo Studio Former Transport Depot, Strathnairn Arts, the Street Theatre, Tuggeranong Arts Centre and Watson Arts Centre.	Develop
Better Infrastructure Fund (BIF 2021-22)	Approximately \$315,000 per year ongoing	Funding for various minor works projects at the above arts facilities. The highest priority projects being those that address safety issues, building fabric condition and replacement of aged mechanical plant and electrical systems.	Develop
Holocaust Museum and Education Centre in Canberra	\$750,000 in 2021-22, matched by the Commonwealth	The ACT Jewish Community is extending the National Jewish Memorial Centre to create 150 square meters of new exhibition space, to operate as the Holocaust Museum and Education Centre. The new space will tell the story of the Holocaust through the testimony of ACT survivors.	Create Develop Promote
Australian Capital Theatre Hub (Community Proposal)* <small>*Subject to community consultation</small>	In kind support of \$14,408 in 2021-2022 through the charging of a community rather than commercial rate for access to the Causeway Community Hall	Four independent theatre companies have proposed the establishment of a local Theatre Hub at the Causeway Community Hall. The proposal includes investment by local theatre companies of up to \$100,000 to convert the hall to a performance space. This proposal is currently out for community consultation.	Create Develop Promote

## Arts Activities

Initiative	Amount & Years	Descriptor	Strategy
HOMEFRONT 3	\$350,000 in 2021-22	ACT Government continues to provide support through existing programs for smaller and larger arts projects. The successful HOMEFRONT program, developed to support individual artists in response to the impact of COVID-19 on the arts sector, has entered its third round.	Create Develop Promote
Up to \$5,000 grants for arts activities	\$220,000 per year, ongoing		Create Develop
\$5,000 to \$50,000 grants for arts activities	\$700,000 per year, ongoing		Create Develop
Screen Arts	\$100,000 per year, ongoing		Create Develop



Initiative	Amount & Years	Descriptor	Strategy
Creative Recovery and Resilience Program	750,000 for commencement in 2020-21, with program implementation in 2021-22	<p><b>Eight residencies</b> for mid-career and emerging artists in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts and Culture; Community Arts and Cultural Development; Cross-sector collaboration and Digital Technology Innovation.</p> <p><b>Arts Infinity Lab:</b> workshop program for up to 10 artists and arts workers in marketing and communications skills.</p> <p><b>Good Company:</b> small grants supporting artists collaborating with businesses on live events.</p> <p><b>City Commissions:</b> three new artworks commissioned from local artists working with community groups.</p> <p><b>Creative Recovery and Resilience Forum:</b> series of 9 events across 6 months in various formats supporting dialogue and exchange.</p> <p><b>ACT Government Creatives-in-Residence:</b> two residencies of 6 months for local artists placed in an ACT Government Directorate.</p>	Create Develop Promote
Hawker Permit Fee Waiver	Up to \$40,000 in 2021-22	<p>The ACT Government has waived all hawker permit fees for 10 months commencing 1 September 2021, in an effort to allow micro businesses to trade outside more easily.</p> <p>This fee waiver applies to new applications and existing permit holders and will end on 30 June 2022.</p>	Create Promote

## Arts Organisations

Initiative	Amount & Years	Descriptor	Strategy
Arts organisation funding model for a connected network of key arts and cultural centres and organisations across Canberra:	\$6.2m in 2022, with consultation on a new funding model to occur in 2021-22 for funding from 2023	ACT Government continues to provide support to a broad network of arts organisations across the ACT, who provide programs, services, expertise and infrastructure to support and develop the arts in the ACT, as well as activities that strongly engage with the ACT community.	Create Develop
ACT Writers Centre	\$178,000		
Belconnen Arts Centre	\$368,000		
Canberra Contemporary Arts Space	\$205,000		
Canberra Potters Society	\$117,000		
Canberra Symphony Orchestra	\$364,000		
Canberra Glassworks	\$785,000		
Canberra Youth Theatre	\$267,000		

Initiative	Amount & Years	Descriptor	Strategy
Craft ACT	\$222,000		
Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres	\$312,000		
Music For Canberra	\$292,000		
Megalo Access Arts	\$310,000		
PhotoAccess	\$211,000		
QL2 Dance	\$351,000		
Strathnairn Arts Centre	\$158,000		
The Street Theatre	\$881,000		
Tuggeranong Arts Centre	\$474,000		
Warehouse Circus	\$103,000		
Australian National Capital Artists	\$46,000		
AusDance ACT	\$137,000		
Australian Dance Party	\$88,000		
Canberra International Music Festival	\$92,000		
Girls Rock! Canberra	\$52,000		
Rebus Theatre	\$74,000		
M16 Artspace	\$51,000		
You Are Here	\$69,000		

## Arts Capability and Capacity Building

Initiative	Amount & Years	Descriptor	Strategy
Minister's Creative Council	<p>\$43,000 per year for 12 members and eight meetings</p> <p>Members are remunerated with a per diem as follows: Chair: \$555 Deputy Chair: 515 Member: \$480</p>	<p>The Minister's Creative Council (MCC) is a positive, solutions focused, Ministerial advisory body for the arts in Canberra. The MCC is a two-way conduit of information and provides strategic advice to the ACT Government on the arts and sector issues. The MCC assists the Government to develop arts policies in order to promote and advance the arts across government and community, reflecting the importance of the arts to all.</p> <p>The Minister for the Arts uses the MCC in its capacity as an advisory body to explore and test ideas. The MCC provides advice on matters referred to the Council directly by the Minister.</p>	Create Develop Promote
Community Outreach Program	\$1.9m per year	A range of capacity building and community outreach programs that create pathways for artists, build capacity for artists, and engage the community with the arts. These include: Australian National University at \$654,000; Belconnen Arts Centre at \$279,000; Canberra Symphony Orchestra at \$234,000; MusicACT at \$112,000; Screen Canberra at \$115,000; and Tuggeranong Arts Centre at \$197,000, per year.	Create Develop Promote

Initiative	Amount & Years	Descriptor	Strategy
Sound Stage and Virtual Production Studio	\$839,400	The ACT Government is investing a total of \$839,400 in both the sound stage and virtual effects studio at the Academy of Interactive Entertainment at Watson.	Develop
Program funding for pop-up arts events and activities in Woden and Gungahlin	\$270,000 per year	These are specifically funded programs for: › community engagement for Woden and Gungahlin, › support for – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement, – Key visual arts organisations, – Major arts events, and – Accessible legal advice.	Create Develop
Visual Arts and Craft Strategy	\$165,000 per year		Create Develop
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement	\$100,000 per year		Create Develop
Design Canberra Festival	\$100,000 per year		Create Develop Promote
Arts Law Centre	\$26,000 per year		Create Develop
CBR Screen Fund	\$5 million over 2018-25	This funding focuses on investment attraction and business acceleration. It seeks to ensure the capacity of Canberra's screen industry to attract national and international filmmakers. It also incentivises cross-sectoral collaboration between artists, academia and businesses, to enhance innovation and sustainability in the arts sector.	Create Develop Promote
Screen CBR capacity	\$1.575m over 2021-2025		Create Develop Promote
Location Incentive Scheme	\$500,000 in 2021-22		Create Develop Promote
ACT Creative Industries Research	\$267,300 in 2020-21	A funding partnership in conjunction with the University of Canberra, supporting industry consultation, research and analysis.	Develop

## Arts Events


Initiative	Amount & Years	Descriptor	Strategy
Events Package: Continuing to deliver Canberra's event calendar – Community Events	\$685,000 2021-22 \$705,000 2022-23 \$722,000 2023-24 \$733,000 2024-25	Funding for events that directly or indirectly support paid performances for artists, including Canberra Writers Festival, Canberra Day celebrations, Australia Day and several other community events.	Create Develop
ACT Event Fund (base funding)	\$450,000 ongoing	Annual grant funding round for events. Indirectly supports paid performances for artists.	Create Develop
Surface Festival	\$181,817 in 2020-21 for delivery in 2021-22 \$41,796 for a local producer	Funding for Canberra's new street art festival in November 2021, facilitated by Transport Canberra and City Services.	Create Develop



## Cultural Facilities Corporation

Initiative	Amount & Years	Descriptor	Strategy
General funding support for the Cultural Facilities Corporation (CFC)	\$9,674,000 (2021-22) \$9,827,000 (2022-23) \$9,975,000 (2023-24) \$10,129,000 (2024-25)	Funding to support the operation of the CFC's facilities : › the Canberra Theatre Centre › the Canberra Museum and Gallery › Lanyon › Calthorpes' House › Mugga-Mugga.	Create Develop Promote
Additional COVID funding support for the CFC for the 2021-22 financial year	\$2,833,000 (2021-22)	An extension of additional funding support to the CFC, to assist it in addressing the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially on its theatre revenues. This includes \$438,000 of funding carried over from 2020-21 and \$2,395,000 in new funding in the 2021-22 Budget.	Develop
New Canberra Theatre	\$1,076,000 (2021 -22) \$1,502,000 (2022-23)	Funding to progress site investigations and planning for an expansion and redevelopment of the Canberra Theatre Centre.	Create Develop Promote
Canberra Museum and Gallery expansion and activation – project funding	\$173,000 (2021-22) \$190,000 (2022-23)	Funding for initiatives to enhance CMAG's presence and profile on London Circuit and Civic Square, to support activation of the precinct.	Develop
Canberra Theatre Centre Vocational Education and Training	\$122,00 (2021-22) \$124,000 (2022-23)	Funding to support the continuation of vocational education and training in theatre technical skills at the Canberra Theatre Centre.	Develop
Canberra Theatre Centre Essential Upgrades	\$900,000 (2021-22) \$195,000 (2022-23) \$347,000 (2023-24)	Capital funding for a three-year program of upgrades for the Canberra Theatre Centre, to enhance the safety of patrons, ensure a high level of Work Health Safety standards for staff, enhance security infrastructure, and implement other essential works.	Create Promote
Canberra Theatre Centre access works	\$110,000 (2021-22)	Continued capital funding for access improvement works at the Canberra Theatre Centre.	Develop
Canberra Museum and Gallery expansion and activation – capital funding	\$350,000 (2021-22) \$250,000 (2022-23)	Capital funding for a two-year package of works at CMAG to improve Work Health Safety standards and accessibility, together with works to enhance CMAG's presence and profile on London Circuit and Civic Square, to support activation of the precinct.	Develop
Lanyon upgrade works	\$988,000 (2021-22) \$1,621,000 (2022-23)	Continued capital funding for a program of infrastructure upgrades at Lanyon, to facilitate effective business operations and achieve high standards of Work Health Safety, especially by progressing a new water infrastructure project, undertaking building stabilisation measures, and upgrading security infrastructure.	Develop
Better Infrastructure Fund for the CFC	\$439,000 (2021-22) \$450,000 (2022-23) \$461,000 (2023-24) \$473,000 (2024-25)	Capital funding for ongoing programs of smaller infrastructure upgrades and capital projects, in order to ensure the CFC's facilities remain fit for purpose and support the delivery of high-quality cultural experiences.	Develop



A woman with dark hair tied in a bun, wearing a black long-sleeved top, is focused on her work. She is standing in front of a large, complex artwork made of white, swirling, ribbon-like forms on a dark background. In the foreground, she is working on a sculpture made of dark, tangled wires. The scene is lit with soft, natural light, and the overall mood is one of creative concentration.

**...the ACT emboldens artists to  
take creative risks and supports  
its elite practitioners to professionally  
present ground-breaking works  
for diverse audiences.**

Hannah Quinlivan, DESIGN  
Canberra festival 2020.  
Photo credit: Lean Timms.



# what

will our arts  
Expo look like?

**The ACT Arts Expo will be a showcase festival of several months, likely in 2023-24, engaging our broad network of arts organisations, venues and open spaces.**

This event will be the culmination of implementing the Ambition's strategies to CREATE amazing art and culture; DEVELOP arts practice, cultural and creative industries, and facilities; and PROMOTE our arts and culture.

The ACT has long been a birthplace and incubator for influential artists with national and international profiles. An Arts Expo will assert the breath of creative talent with a connection to this place. The Expo will not attempt to replicate the major events of other cities, but instead grow from the unique stories and voices of the ACT's arts landscape. It will present works that reflect Canberra's identity and expand the profile of great ACT artists. An Expo will show the world that the ACT emboldens artists to take creative risks and supports its elite practitioners to professionally present ground-breaking works for diverse audiences. It will demonstrate that the ACT is a place where talent can thrive.

This Expo will provide a significant stimulus of attendance and expenditure across the arts and broader cultural sectors during the festival, but also in the lead up to it and, critically, with a reset and ripple effect. An event of this scale will drive domestic visitation, attract arts and creative talent to the ACT, and inspire new generations of creative Canberrans.

As an Expo, arts and cultural activity will be everywhere all the time. Whether it's events, comedy performances, educational seminars, careers fairs, exhibitions, amateur and professional theatre, musical and dance acts and festivals, pop-up art and performance, film and screen, art therapy, graphic design masterclasses, arts business accelerators, there will always be something on; something to do.

It will be about celebrating and promoting everything Canberra's creative and cultural sector has to offer—increasing its reach to other artists and creatives, exposing it to Canberra's broader community, and, critically, raising its profile nationally and internationally. This will drive understanding and appreciation of the sector; generate opportunities for artists and creatives and provide a significant opportunity for arts tourism; and encourage collaboration and engagement towards a common goal.





# Canberra

## A City of Design?

**The ACT Government will formally explore how to position the ACT internationally as a City of Design. Being a city of design would be an acknowledgement of Canberra's leading design practice in its built environment (its planning and architecture), its services (in industries defined by their creativity), and its products (large or small, and useful whether for their practicality or their aesthetic and artistic value).**

Being a City of Design could define Canberra's identity as a city where arts and creativity drive development, social connection and cohesion, and sustainability and resilience. It could further cement who we are, and who we want to be, as a city. It could provide another layer of direction for realising our ambition. Further, in celebrating and promoting our broad and diverse community through this goal, we come together around a common purpose.

This objective could be achieved by official means – such as through recognition as a City of Design through the UNESCO Creative Cities Network – or on the basis of a growing and widely-known reputation alone.



# 2021 2026

**The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) is a global network of 246 cities that have identified creativity as a strategy for sustainable urban development.**

The main objectives of the network are to strengthen international cooperation between cities, develop partnerships with all stakeholders on urban development, strengthen cultural and creative economies and of the world that invest in culture and creativity as accelerators of sustainable development. The UCCN covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music.

Page 23:  
Chris Ryan performing live at Civic Pub, 2021.  
Photo credit: GoodShout.

# Appendix A

## Arts expenditure on a page

Highlighted Initiatives are new in 2021-22.

### Public Art

Initiative	Amount	Years
Public Art for and by women and/or non-binary individuals	\$200,000	2021-22
Caring for and promoting a high-quality public art collection	\$165,000	ongoing

### Arts Facilities

Kingston Arts Precinct	\$79.88m+	2021-
Former Transport Depot	\$2.13m	2021-22
Upgrading Local Arts Facilities	\$1.67m	2019-22
Tuggeranong Arts Centre Theatre	\$2m	2021-24
Ainslie and Gorman House Arts Centres	\$250,000	2021-22
Belconnen Arts Centre	\$80,000	2021-22
Repairs and maintenance of Arts Facilities	\$520,000	ongoing
Better Infrastructure Fund (BIF 2021-22)	\$315,000	ongoing
Holocaust Museum and Education Centre in Canberra	\$750,000	2021-22
Australian Capital Theatre Hub (Community Proposal)	\$14,408	2021-22

### Arts Activities

HOMEFRONT 3	\$350,000	2021-22
Up to \$5,000 grants for arts activities	\$220,000	ongoing
\$5,000 to \$50,000 grants for arts activities	\$700,000	ongoing
Screen Arts	\$100,000	2021-22
Creative Recovery and Resilience Program	\$750,000	2021-22
Hawker Permit Fee Waiver	Up to \$40,000	2021-22

### Arts Organisations

Arts organisation funding	\$6.2m	ongoing
---------------------------	--------	---------

### Arts Capability and Capacity Building

Initiative	Amount	Years
Minister's Creative Council	\$43,000	ongoing
Community Outreach Program	\$1.9m	ongoing
Sound Stage and Virtual Production Studio	\$839,400	2021-23
Pop-Ups arts events and activities	\$270,000	ongoing
Visual Arts and Craft Strategy	\$165,000	ongoing
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement	\$100,000	ongoing
Design Canberra	\$100,000	ongoing
Arts Law	\$26,000	ongoing
CBR Screen Fund	\$5m	2018-25
Screen CBR capacity	\$1.575m	2021-25
Location Incentive Scheme	\$500,000	2021-22
ACT Creative Industries Plan	\$267,300	2020-21

### Cultural Facilities Corporation

General funding support for the CFC	\$39.6m	2021-25
Additional COVID funding support for the CFC for the 2021-22 financial year	\$2,833,000	2021-22
New Canberra Theatre Centre: Site Investigation and Planning	\$2,779,000	
Canberra Museum and Gallery enhancement (project funding)	\$363,000	2021-23
Canberra Theatre Centre Vocational Education and Training	\$246,000	2021-23
Canberra Theatre Centre Essential Upgrades	\$1.44m	2021-24
Canberra Theatre Centre access works	\$110,000	2021-22
Canberra Museum and Gallery upgrade and enhancement (capital funding)	\$600,000	2021-23

### Events

Community Events	\$2.85m	2021-25
ACT Event Fund	\$450,000	ongoing
Surface Festival	\$223,613	2020-21