



Canberra:

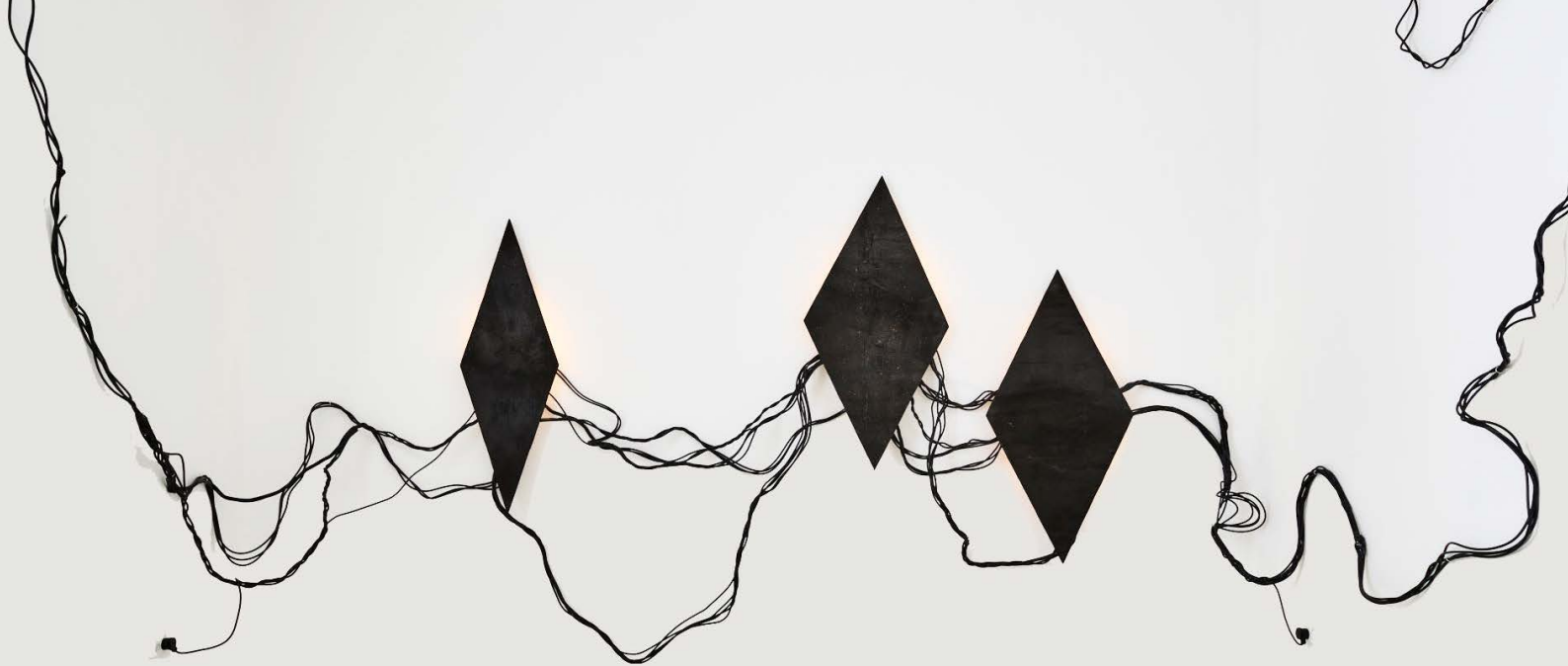
Australia's Arts Capital

Arts, Culture and Creative Policy

2022 2026



ACT
Government

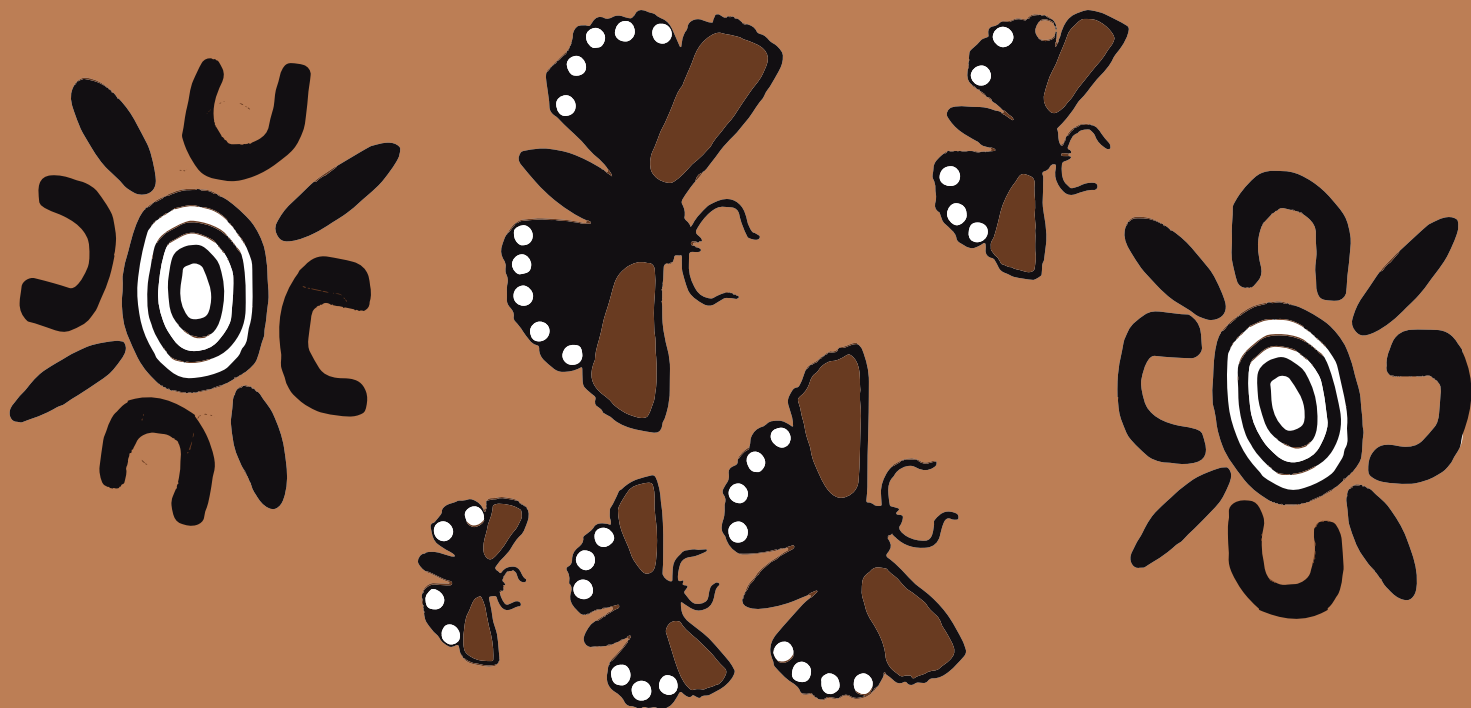


*Nganygulia Murunwiginya by Aidan Hartshorn
at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre.
Photo by Pew Pew Studio.*

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Front cover: Diane Cross working on a sculpture at Canberra Potters, Watson Arts Centre. Photo by Pew Pew Studio.



Annual bogong moth ceremony hosted by the Ngunnawal Nation by Bradley Mapiva Brown - Ngunnawal artist.

Acknowledgement of Country

**Gulanyin dhuniang, ngalawirinyin, dhunayinyin, Ngunnawal dhawra.
We acknowledge that we are on the lands of the Ngunnawal.**

‘For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the land is the core of all spirituality and this relationship and the spirit of Country is central to the issues that remain important to today. We keep our cultural heritage alive by passing on knowledge through practice of arts, ceremonies and performances from one generation to another, speaking and teaching languages, protecting cultural materials, sacred and significant sites, and objects.’ Ngunnawal Elder, Tina Brown

The ACT Government acknowledges the Country of the Canberra region where we conduct our business. We pay our deepest respects to Ngunnawal Elders, past, present, and emerging. In honour of the invitation, **Ngunna yerrabi yanggu**, we will work and walk with lightness on the lands of the Ngunnawal in all we do.

The ACT Government is committed to learning from and walking alongside the Traditional Custodians who have looked across and looked after the lands and waterways since time began. We will listen closely and honour their stories, traditions and languages that have been – and continue to be – shared, enjoyed, and celebrated for millennia.

The ACT Government values the generosity of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who call Ngunnawal Country home and who are invited to share their diverse cultural and artistic expressions on these lands and with our community.

Minister's foreword

Canberra has always been a place for people who embrace arts, culture and creativity. These nourish our collective wellbeing, and connect our emotions, ideas, stories and heritage.

Our strength in these areas lifts and motivates us to further improve our standing as we reach towards our ambition for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's arts capital.

Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 2022–2026 outlines the priorities for the ACT Government to deliver against this ambition, framed against three key strategies:

- **Create** amazing art and culture – everywhere, at any time, for everyone
- **Develop** arts, cultural and creative industry, practice, and facilities – supporting creation and culture at all levels, via any path
- **Promote** our arts and culture – to attract artists and creators, arts workers, visitors and investment.

The Policy and the accompanying Action Plan have been developed in the broader context of an arts community emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic together with the clear economic development priorities outlined in the Chief Minister's statement *CBR: Switched On*.



Arts, culture and creativity meet with blurred boundaries. *Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 2022–2026* recognises the inextricable relationships between arts, culture and creativity domains. The most exciting activities often cross over traditional boundaries, resulting in innovative and original outcomes. The Policy sets the expectations for new partnerships, collaborations and relationships across all domains to create unique and entrepreneurial activity.

As we work to achieve our ambition, we are unwavering in supporting our artists and arts workers to recover and build resilience and create sustainable careers. We promote the role of arts and culture in supporting inclusion and wellbeing. We also recognise the importance of creativity to enable innovation and entrepreneurship, and that Canberra is a city where art and knowledge meet.

This policy elevates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural arts engagement. We treasure Canberra as distinct



Kirklandd performing at the University of Canberra. Photo by Pew Pew Studio.

Country and honour its Traditional Custodians and their important spiritual connection to the lands and waters. Their cultural practice is at the heart of our shared experience, using arts as a way of promoting ongoing cultural connection and reconnection.

Arts, culture and creativity is for all Canberrans. We have the place, the people and the passion to be recognised as Australia's arts capital. Everyone has a role in making this happen.

While we have always celebrated our city's hidden gems, this is our

opportunity to show the world exactly what we have here and what makes Canberra so special – *and that what we have is unmissable.*

As we take this next step forward together, we will continue to promote Canberra to attract and retain talented creatives who will diversify the arts, culture and creative sector. We will keep embracing innovation to strengthen our community, social and economic resilience.

Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for the Arts

Executive summary

Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 2022–2026 is a roadmap for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's arts capital through the strategies **Create, Develop** and **Promote**.

Arts, culture and creativity in Canberra feature a rich variety of practices and practitioners, unique and historic places, national institutions and leading arts organisations.

The strengths, insights and ideas of Canberra's arts, culture and creative sector contributed to this policy.

It applies to all areas of the ACT Government whose work impacts on or can be enhanced by the arts. It guides engagement with the local arts community and partners to deliver on the strategies.

Strategies and focus areas

This policy includes 10 focus areas under the strategies.

Elevating **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultural and artistic practices** is central to all three strategies. The ACT Government will build stronger partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to enhance outcomes that reflect Canberra's unique culture and identity.

Create amazing art and culture – everywhere, at any time, for everyone:

- > **Strategic partnerships:** Enhance outcomes for the Canberra arts sector and strengthen the ACT Government's approach to investment in arts, culture and creative practices by working strategically and collaboratively.
- > **Venues and Precincts:** Invest in sustainable and connected arts venues and precincts that support quality, engaging and innovative art that is accessible to all and enliven Canberra's public spaces.
- > **Accessibility and inclusivity:** Support arts practices that reflect Canberra's diverse community and create an environment that is inclusive, safe and welcoming to all.

Develop arts, cultural and creative industry, practice and facilities – supporting creation and culture at all levels, via any path:

- > **Arts practice:** Support arts practice to underpin cultural, social and economic outcomes for artists, arts workers and the broader community.
- > **Skills development:** Invest in skills development and career pathways for artists and the creative workforce at any stage of their careers to build local talent and keep them here.
- > **Innovation and sustainability:** Build on Canberra's status as a clever, creative, connected and sustainable city by encouraging innovation, experimentation and cross-sector collaboration.



Artist Musonga Mbogo who works in his backyard at home in Rivett. Photos by Pew Pew Studio.

Promote our arts and culture – to attract artists and creators, arts workers, visitors and investment:

- **Promotion:** Promote the arts in Canberra to grow audiences locally, nationally and internationally, creating opportunities and new markets for Canberra artists, arts workers and arts organisations. Celebrate successes and demonstrate that Canberra is a place where talent can thrive.
- **Cultural tourism:** Facilitate cultural tourism opportunities for Canberra's arts sector, to increase our visibility nationally and internationally.
- **Research and data:** Demonstrate and promote the cultural, social and economic impact of arts, culture and creative industries to inform investment and decision making.

Action Plan

The Action Plan outlines ongoing initiatives and targeted projects that implement the 10 focus areas to deliver on the strategies.

The Policy and Action Plan will be living documents. They will be reviewed from time to time to remain relevant to the sector's needs. Reviews will look at:

- changes within the documents
- the implemented actions and deliverables
- stakeholder feedback
- alignment with ACT Government priorities.

Some ongoing actions may also result in deliverables which will be added to and clearly defined in the Action Plan.



Introduction

The ACT arts, culture and creative sector

Canberra's arts, culture and creative sector leads the nation in creative employment. The ACT has the highest arts and creative participation rate across Australia. It is also renowned for its cultural tourism offerings.

Canberra is a progressive and inclusive society that values people and ideas with strong commitment to sustainability and wellbeing.

Being close-knit and interconnected gives Canberra's arts sector proximity to world-class resources and opportunities specific to the national capital. These unique advantages make the ACT attractive to arts practitioners from across Australia. People want to work in Canberra's leading arts facilities and experience cultural exchange, skills development and new ideas.

On Ngunnawal Country, a meeting place for many nations, cultural and artistic exchange has defined us. It has always been a place where big ideas happen and where arts and creativity are avenues for diverse expression.

Tuggeranong Arts Centre's dance program Fresh Funk during their performance "The Glass Slipper" at Erindale Theatre. Photo by Pew Pew Studio.

Canberrans are...
highly creative

92.5%

highest attendance rate
at cultural venues and events

(ABS, 2017–18).

45%

highest participation rate
in selected cultural activities

(ABS, 2017–18).

Canberrans are...
early adopters

**innovative
arts practices**

Canberrans are among
the most likely

to participate in online
arts and culture activities

(Patternmakers' Audience Outlook Monitor reports).

Canberrans
spend approximately

\$71

per week on arts & culture
the highest per capita of capital cities

(ABS, 2015–16).

In 2021 there were

1,500

active creative
businesses in the ACT

8.5%

increase since 2016

(ABS, 2017–2021).

Arts contributes to...

the wellbeing and health
of the community

59%

ACT residents feel the
arts have a 'big' or
'very big' impact

on their sense of wellbeing & happiness

(Australia Council for the Arts, 2019).

The ACT has...

one of the largest proportions
of creative knowledge
workers in Australia

5.6% compared to **4.1%**
a national average

(2016 Census).

Max Gosling working in the studio at Megalo.
Photo by Pew Pew Studio.



Schema

Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 2022–2026 is the roadmap the ACT Government will take for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's arts capital as articulated in ***Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – a statement of ambition for the Arts 2021–2026***.

The Action Plan outlines how and when the ACT Government will deliver the Policy's strategies.

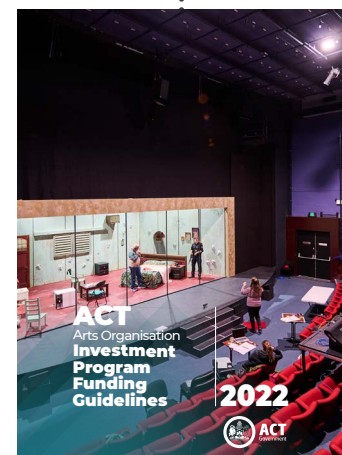
The Policy is supported by two frameworks:

- ACT Arts Organisation Investment Program Framework
- Remuneration Principles and Practices for Artists and Arts Workers.

These frameworks provide more detail about key aspects of the Policy. Over time, further frameworks will be developed to implement the Policy.



Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – a statement of ambition for the Arts 2021–2026 sets the long-term ambitions and goals for Canberra.



*Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 2022–2026 and Action Plan: the roadmap for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's arts capital through the strategies of **Create, Develop** and **Promote**.*

Focus areas

Ten focus areas build on Canberra's strengths and attributes to deliver the strategies in *Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – a statement of ambition for the Arts 2021–2026*.

AMBITION Canberra is recognised as Australia's Arts Capital

Create amazing art and culture – everywhere, at any time, for everyone	Develop arts, cultural and creative industry, practice, and facilities – supporting creation and culture at all levels, via any path	Promote our arts and culture – to attract artists and creators, arts workers, visitors and investment
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Focus Areas

Elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultural and artistic practices to support enhanced outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and reflect Canberra's unique culture and identity

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhance outcomes for the Canberra arts sector and strengthen the ACT Government's approach to investment in arts, culture and creative practices by working strategically and collaboratively. ➤ Invest in sustainable and connected arts venues and precincts that support quality, engaging and innovative art that is accessible to all and enliven Canberra's public spaces. ➤ Support arts practices that reflect Canberra's diverse community and create an environment that is inclusive, safe and welcoming to all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support arts practice to underpin cultural, social and economic outcomes for our artists, arts workers and the broader community. ➤ Invest in skills development and career pathways for artists and the creative workforce to build our local talent and keep them here. ➤ Build on Canberra's status as a clever, creative, connected and sustainable city by encouraging innovation, experimentation and cross-sector collaboration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote the arts in Canberra to create opportunities and new markets for artists, arts workers and arts organisations to engage locally, nationally and internationally. Celebrate successes and demonstrate that Canberra is a place where talent can thrive. ➤ Facilitate cultural tourism opportunities for Canberra's arts sector to increase its visibility nationally and internationally. ➤ Demonstrate and promote the cultural, social and economic impact of arts, culture and creative industries to inform investment and decision making.
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*Bryan May working at the Canberra Glassworks.
Photo by Pew Pew Studio.*

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural arts

Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 2022–2026 acknowledges the ongoing strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in sustaining the world's oldest living cultures.

Across all three strategies of **Create, Develop** and **Promote**, the ACT Government will elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural and artistic practices to get better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

The Government will connect with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and cultural practitioners through:

- facilitating community-led initiatives
- direct relationship building activities.

In consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network, the Government will seek out, value and embed Aboriginal culture, knowledge, expertise and diverse perspectives in arts programs and practices.

The Government will also take actions that elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visibility and representation in programming, new works, organisational workforce and leadership.

As part of the Kingston Arts Precinct, the Government will work with Traditional Custodians and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network to:

- increase the visibility of Ngunnawal cultural arts
- establish the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Space.



Aidan Hartshorn with his work at his exhibition, Nganygulia Murunwiginya, at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre. Photo by Pew Pew Studio.

The Government will collaborate with local and national organisations on more opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to connect locally, nationally and internationally. It will take actions that build capacity for ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and organisations in:

- digital practice and business models
- audience development
- intellectual and cultural property protocols and copyright standards relating to publishing Indigenous content online.

What success will look like

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and cultural practitioners lead and inform cultural arts activities that are prominent, appreciated and valued.
- A new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Space at Kingston Arts Precinct is established and plays a cultural leadership role in supporting and promoting First Nations' creative talent.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists have greater opportunities to share cultural arts with the Canberra community and visitors.



Image above and here: Ngadhu bandali ngurambang gu, an exhibition by Rechelle Turner at Tuggeranong Arts Centre. Photo by Pew Pew Studio.



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

The ACT Government will invest in Canberra's artists and arts workers, and in new experiences, services and infrastructure. This will create more opportunities for creative participation, so that arts, cultural and creative life is visible, accessible, inclusive and reflects Canberra's diversity.

Strategic partnerships will build capacity for further collaboration between artists and creatives with other sectors to get better outcomes for arts, culture and creative practice. The Government will:

- encourage collaboration and partnerships between businesses and artists
- continue to advocate at a national level on behalf of Canberra's arts, culture and creative sector to strengthen outcomes and realise the ambition.

The Government will work nationally and locally to facilitate access to new networks and resources to maximise business and philanthropic support for the arts, culture and creative sector. There will be more digital capability to increase access to audiences and markets. Promoting and ensuring access to available resources, advice and support will help artists and creatives to make informed decisions about their practice.

The Government will also collaborate internationally to promote and provide new opportunities for artists to create and showcase their practice.

The ACT has some of the best **venues and precincts** in the nation. The Government

will invest in sustainable and connected arts and cultural venues and precincts for more creative participation across the ACT. The Government will back activity that will enliven Canberra's public spaces, adding to the vibrancy and liveability of the city.

Priorities for the Government will be the:

- delivery of the Kingston Arts Precinct
- revitalisation of the City precinct with the development of the Canberra Theatre Centre at its heart
- refurbishment of heritage Gorman House Arts Centre.

The Government will engage with the arts, culture and creative sector on these projects to ensure cultural benefits for the sector and broader community.

Creative participation plays an important role in bringing people together, fostering cohesion, regeneration and recovery. In recognition of this, the Government will continue to support arts and creative practice that is **accessible and inclusive**.

The Government will explore and foster opportunities that will support and promote:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists
- women and non-binary artists
- LGBTIQ+ artists
- artists with disability
- culturally and linguistically diverse artists.

Art, culture and creativity is for everyone, everywhere. The Government will make more ways for audiences with diverse backgrounds and views to experience arts and culture.

What success will look like

- Canberra is a place where arts, culture and creativity are valued and nurtured. Culture is inspired by people and place and is part of Canberrans' everyday life. It enlivens the community and is celebrated.
- Canberra's arts venues, precincts and organisations are sustainable and connected. They support quality, engaging and innovative art making while attracting visitors.
- Canberra is the best city to create, participate and engage in arts, culture and creativity. It attracts artists and creative practitioners nationally and internationally wishing to work and collaborate in the ACT.
- Canberra is enlivened by public art that contributes to its identity and belonging, and reflects the diversity of the community.
- Arts and creative content are accessible, safe and welcoming to all Canberrans, regardless of their background, identity or access needs.
- Canberra is recognised for its nationally leading work in building collective wellbeing through arts, culture and creativity.
- Canberra's artists and arts organisations partner with different sectors to achieve outcomes for mutual benefit.

Melanie Cobham working on her photographic works at Photoaccess. Photo by Pew Pew Studio.



*Smoking Ceremony at the Kingston Arts Precinct
by Richard Allan Jr. Photo by Richard Poulton
Photography.*

The future arts precinct at Kingston

The future arts precinct at Kingston will be the destination for Canberra's visual arts and culture. It brings together a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Space with six visual arts organisations, resident artists and a dynamic program of creative activity.

The ACT Government through the Suburban Land Agency and artsACT are co-designing the precinct. The Place Brief, developed through consultation with community and stakeholders, will drive the next phase of development. It draws on key pillars to ensure the precinct becomes a leading arts destination, celebrating a rich living history and vibrant community life, through discovery, connection, and collaboration.

The governance model of this future site has also been co-designed with the arts sector and broader community. It shares the principles of:

- hospitality, access, artist, and sector development
- embedding meaningful relationships and learnings from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

To achieve this, the Government will facilitate capacity building and cross-sector collaboration in the precinct. Targeted programs will benefit artists, organisations, and audiences across Canberra's arts community.

The Government continues to open its thinking and processes to the sector so that this precinct can evolve and is reflective of Canberra's changing needs.

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

The ACT Government will provide a range of arts, skills and business measures that will:

- support agile practice
- provide artists with opportunities to produce new art, generate income, develop professional skills and collaborate with others.

COVID-19 reaffirmed how important creativity is for wellbeing. It also highlighted the ongoing challenges facing artists and creative practitioners.

Through the ACT Arts Fund, the Government will continue to fund, support and develop **arts practice** to underpin cultural, social and economic outcomes for Canberra artists, arts workers and the broader community. The Government will advocate the value of artistic and creative work and support increased participation of artists in festivals and events.

A key priority under this policy is to apply a new funding framework for leading arts organisations that will:

- meet the changing needs of the ACT
- reset the arts sector to increase its vibrancy, relevance, and economic viability.

It will enable arts organisations to foster a culture of innovation and creativity. They can then create stronger professional pathways and creative experiences for Canberrans at all levels.

The Government will support initiatives for future growth, including capacity building for cultural and creative leadership. It will invest in **skills development**, career pathways and financial sustainability for Canberra's artists and creative workforce to build local talent and keep them in the ACT. Working within the Skilled to Succeed: Skills and workforce agenda for the ACT,

the Government will identify and promote capacity-building opportunities that support the creative workforce.

The Government will build on Canberra's status as a clever, creative, connected and **sustainable** city, encouraging **innovation**, experimentation and cross-sector collaboration. Funding will be prioritised to encourage more collaborations between the arts, creative industries, business and tertiary institutions that will enhance Canberra's cultural and creative vibrancy and economic sustainability. Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) networks and activities will be leveraged to help arts innovators to start, grow and be part of the ACT innovation ecosystem.

What success will look like

- Canberra's arts, culture and creative sector is resilient and adaptable to sector and community needs and aspirations.
- The arts, cultural and creative industries are valued and endorsed.
- Remuneration principles and practices are adopted, resulting in a stronger understanding about the value of artistic work. Artists receive fair remuneration for their work to ensure their financial sustainability.
- ACT arts organisations provide programs, services, expertise and infrastructure to support and develop the arts in the ACT, and activities that strongly engage with the local community.
- Government investment in skills development and career pathways means Canberra artists and creative workforce retain local talent. There are more opportunities to diversify into new markets.
- Increased opportunities for innovation, experimentation and cross-sector collaboration elevate Canberra's status as a clever, creative, connected and sustainable city.
- Canberra arts, culture and creative sector embraces and leads innovative delivery models, attracts investors and is sustainable and vibrant.



Naomi Zouwer (centre) making lithograph prints with Bronte Bell (left) and Clare Jackson (right) at Megalo. Photo by Pew Pew Studio.

ACT Arts Organisation Investment Program Framework

The ACT Government developed the ACT Arts Organisation Investment Program Framework to meet the changing needs of the ACT.

The Framework is an open and competitive multiyear funding program that supports the ACT's arts, culture and creative sector organisations. Organisations funded under the Framework will benefit from the stability of up to five years funding. It outlines core responsibilities in the areas of:

- arts leadership
- organisational and financial management
- impact to the arts sector and broader community.

The Framework is informed by extensive consultation with the arts sector. It contributes to:

- the objectives of the *Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – a statement of ambition for the Arts 2021–2026*
- the actions outlined in *Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 2022–2026*.

The Framework changes how government works with funded organisations to share responsibility, maximise support and opportunities, and grow trust and relationships.

Fair remuneration for artists and arts workers

The ACT Government recognises the value of arts and creative work and commits to fair remuneration for artists and arts workers.

The Remuneration Principles and Practices for Artists and Arts Workers sets out how to remunerate and engage with artists and

arts workers. It describes remuneration practices that recognise artists' and arts workers' rights and interest in the work they create.

Importantly, remuneration must comply with all relevant legislation and standards, and reflect best practice.

*Canberra band Muesli, a pop/funk/indie band, perform at the University of Canberra.
Photo by Pew Pew Studio.*

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

Canberra is known for being home to many of the nation's leading cultural institutions. But it is also a city with a rich heritage and a vibrant local arts scene.

To be an arts capital means that Canberra's creative identity and offerings sell the city as a place to live, visit, work, study and invest. It means the local arts, culture and creative sector is well-known, discoverable and prized.

The ACT Government, across its entire presence, will continue to promote and back arts and cultural activity and events that will:

- attract investment
- drive cultural tourism
- highlight Canberra's creative strengths.

The Government will **promote** the arts in Canberra, creating new ways and markets for artists, arts workers and arts organisations to engage locally, nationally and internationally. It will do this through international trade missions and ensuring that high-profile events and festivals showcase local arts, culture and creativity.

The Government will encourage and enable the city, its people and organisations to promote their art. It will explore new initiatives that value and show excellence in arts and creative practice, including through partnerships with local and national organisations and businesses. This will include a winter innovation festival to:

- bring together creative thinkers and innovators to generate original, purposeful and progressive ideas
- showcase Canberra's artists and creatives from a wide range of disciplines.

The Government will facilitate **cultural tourism** for Canberra's arts, culture and creative sector, to increase its visibility nationally and internationally. It will promote more local content as well as Canberra's enviable public art collection, and create better paths between arts and cultural organisations. Building capability and creating networks for more connections between the arts and the tourism sector are a priority.

The Government will actively promote the important contribution arts, culture and creative industries make to Canberra. It will:

- contribute to national **data and research** initiatives to grow its collective understanding of the arts
- work with local organisations to collect and share data that will strengthen cultural development.

What success will look like

- No matter the practice, audiences grow year on year.
- Canberra is known as a place where talent can thrive and successes are celebrated.
- Canberra's arts, culture and creative sector is visible and attractive nationally and internationally.
- There are more opportunities and new markets for Canberra artists, arts workers and arts organisations to attract new talent and engage locally, nationally and internationally.
- It is easy for locals and visitors to find and participate in artistic, cultural and creative experiences.
- Canberra's artists and organisations not only collaborate, but cross-promote.
- There is measurable progress in sharing and promoting the cultural, social and economic impact of arts, culture and creative sector to support decision-making, program development and investment.

Winter Innovation Festival

The ACT Government will host a Winter Innovation Festival. It will bring together creative thinkers and innovators to generate and present original, purposeful, and progressive ideas.

Visitor precincts will become more vibrant, and it will create new ways for visitors to engage with the city, supporting the Government's goal to develop Canberra as a global destination.

The festival will provide an 'only in Canberra' experience for locals and visitors alike, displaying and encouraging inclusive innovation. It will foster cross-collaboration between artists and creatives, arts organisations, higher

education institutions, researchers, and business.

The festival will showcase Canberra's artists and creatives from many disciplines and from a broad network of creators, arts organisations, venues, and spaces. The festival will:

- expand the profile of great ACT artists and creatives
- encourage new and different ways for Canberra's arts, culture and creative sectors to engage more broadly with audiences as creators.

Arts and cultural events and projects piloted at the festival may provide proof-of-concept evidence for a stand-alone arts expo.

*Clay at pottery at Canberra Potters.
Photo by Pew Pew Studio for ArtsACT.*



Kimberley Grime working on a pottery wheel at Canberra Potters. Photo by Pew Pew Studio.

City of design

The ACT Government will explore how to position the ACT internationally as a city of design.

Being a city of design would acknowledge Canberra's leading design practice in its:

- built environment (planning and architecture)
- services (industries defined by their creativity)
- products (large or small, and useful 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 what kind of city it is and wants to be. The community comes together in celebrating and promoting its diversity through this goal.

This objective could be achieved through recognition as a city of design through the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, or on the basis of a growing and wide-known reputation alone.

Monitoring

Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 2022–2026 and the Action Plan will be living documents and will be reviewed from time to time so they

- remain relevant to the needs of the sector
- meet the ACT Government's priorities and the aims of *Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – a statement of ambition for the Arts 2021–2026*.

The arts, culture and creativity are essential parts of life in Canberra. They contribute greatly to the cultural, societal and economic value of Australia. However, this impact can be challenging to measure. The ACT Government will continue to explore how to better measure and communicate the cultural, social and economic outcomes of its investment in the arts.

artsACT will lead delivery of the activities in the Action Plan. To assess progress and achievements made against the actions, it will work with:

- the Cultural Facilities Corporation and across the ACT Government
- the Minister's Creative Council
- the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts Engagement Network
- local and national arts organisations and enterprises.

Actions may change considering:

- changes in the local arts sector
- implemented actions and deliverables
- stakeholder feedback and alignment with ACT Government priorities including the ACT Wellbeing Framework.

Information on implementation of the policy will be published on the artsACT website arts.act.gov.au.

The Griffin Ensemble perform at Reconciliation day at the National Arboretum. Photo by Pew Pew Studio.

Appendix A – Consultation: What you told us

In late 2021, the ACT Government conducted two YourSay Surveys. They gathered input on a new ACT arts policy and a new ACT organisation funding model. The Minister's Creative Council and ACT Government also held a series of eight roundtable discussions in early 2022. Written submissions were also encouraged.

The consultation drew out six distinct themes that have guided the *Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 2022–2026* and the Action Plan.

Sustainable art careers

As the ACT arts, culture and creative sector recovers from the impact of COVID-19, there is more need for the support of sustainable careers. Central to building capacity and resilience are:

- skills training
- networking opportunities
- support for fair remuneration.

Many in the sector are part-time artists, struggling with housing affordability and relying on an unstable gig economy. So it is vital to prioritise long-term outcomes over short-term goals when it comes to arts funding.

For innovation and sustained talent development, artists need opportunities to connect and experiment, to take risks and fail where necessary, and thrive in pursuit of making new work.

The importance of place

Canberra is a meeting place with ancient roots. It is a place that has fostered ideas and cultural and artistic exchange across time. It is considered essential that the generosity of the Traditional Custodians and practicing artists who live and visit Ngunnawal Country continues to contribute to the diversity of this place.

Elevating all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural and creative activities in the ACT is an important foundation on which other diverse arts practices can grow. Supporting the aspirations of the Ngunnawal peoples to showcase and celebrate Ngunnawal artworks in public spaces is an important way to share culture.

Supporting Canberra's arts facilities and venues is important to ongoing growth as Australia's arts capital. This includes:

- existing and emerging arts precincts
- night-time entertainment areas and the people, arts and cultural programs that enliven them.

This is also necessary to attract and retain talented people.

Being connected

Supporting and creating connections between artists, organisations, business, academia and audiences to build local, national and global markets is key to growing the ACT arts sector. The ACT Government and arts professionals such as curators can and do support and facilitate these partnerships to maximise benefits.



Rob Schwartz working in the hotshop at the Canberra Glassworks. Photo by Pew Pew Studio.

For emerging artists and organisations, collaboration is important so they can benefit from experience and resources of larger organisations and established practitioners.

Promoting national and overseas touring, and attracting national and international artists into Canberra and connecting them with local artists, encourages cross-fertilisation. This can increase reach into new markets, as can bringing home and celebrating successful artistic alumni.

Creative partnerships, artist exchange and collaboration across artforms and outside the sector amplify impact and encourage exciting possibilities. These are key to diversifying the economy.

Accessibility and inclusivity

An accessible and inclusive ACT arts, culture and creative sector should be guaranteed for all people, including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- people with disability
- culturally and linguistically diverse people
- women
- non-binary persons
- those who identify as LGBTIQ+.

ACT arts venues must be welcoming, accessible, comfortable and culturally safe. Everyone should experience a sense of belonging. Everyone should have opportunities to participate in and contribute to arts and cultural events and the work of arts organisations, activities, events and programs.

Supporting diversity requires specialised skills and access to resources. Growing the capability and confidence of Canberra's arts organisations and facilities to improve accessibility and diversity is vital. Also important is improving access to arts

funding to encourage applications from diverse communities.

Diversity enhances creative programs and should be embraced and celebrated in public artwork and offerings of arts organisations, activities, events and programs in the ACT.

Innovation and sustainability

Improving research and quantitative and qualitative data collection is needed to advocate the cultural, social and economic value of Canberra's arts, culture and creativity.

The arts, culture and creative sector can capitalise on opportunities and infrastructure Canberra provides as a knowledge capital. Cross-industry collaboration with academia and business enables innovation and entrepreneurship. Growing markets in the ACT such as screen and games industries benefit through capacity building and networking activities.

Canberra artists have identified the need for an environment that supports risk and embraces experimentation, failure, unexpected outcomes and accidental discoveries.

Promoting ACT arts

It is important to increase the visibility of local artists at ACT events. Through backing local artists and investing in local arts through public events artists and the sector are supported to grow. More talented creative people are attracted to the ACT.

The industry also seeks support to restore national and international connections and to expand domestic and global opportunities. Greater promotion of such opportunities, as well as celebrating the national and international success of ACT artists and arts, are key to expanding access to markets.

*Upending/Mending, an exhibition by UC Arts and Design
at Belconnen Arts Centre. Photo by Pew Pew Studo.*



Canberra:

Australia's Arts Capital

Arts, Culture and Creative Policy

2022
2026



ACT
Government