



ACT
Government

ARTS RESIDENCIES ACT

ACT
ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE
POLICY

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VISION

The ACT will be regarded nationally and internationally as home to a comprehensive program of highly regarded artist residencies.

Canberra is Australia's national capital and a beautiful and engaging city. Located in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Canberra is a thriving modern city of around 350,000 people and is home to many of Australia's national cultural institutions.

More than half of the ACT is preserved as parks and reserves, rich in Indigenous and pioneer heritage as well as native flora and fauna, with extensive forests and bordered by the Brindabella mountains, part of the Great Dividing Range.

PRINCIPLES

- **Diversity**
 - of art form
 - of practice
 - of experience
 - of age

- **Engagement**
 - of visiting artists with host arts organisations
 - of visiting artists with the ACT's environment and people
 - of visiting artists with Canberra's public places

- **Exchange**
 - across art forms
 - between visiting and local artists
 - between visiting artists and the local community
 - between host arts organisations, cultural institutions and interstate / international arts organisations

In 2013 Canberra will celebrate its centenary year.

Robyn Archer, Creative Director of the Centenary of Canberra, is building a program to mark this special anniversary and celebrate Canberra's place as the nation's capital and as a singular and exceptional city in its own right. 2013 will be a year of memorable celebrations with lasting legacies to take Canberra confidently into its second century.

OUR GOALS

1. Raise the profile of the ACT, making it a sought-after destination for artists

We will achieve this:

- by aligning existing Artists-in-Residence programs and supporting the development of a variety of new residency opportunities for nationally and internationally recognised artists demonstrating an innovative and high-quality practice;
- by exploring options for partnerships with national and international organisations across government and non-government sectors;
- by creating a web portal co-ordinating information about a variety of residency opportunities across the ACT;
- through a co-ordinated marketing strategy profiling arts residency opportunities in conjunction with other stakeholders, including arts organisations;
- by ensuring future arts infrastructure plans include the provision of residency facilities, as appropriate; and
- by profiling impressions of the ACT's people and environment, as expressed through the work of resident artists.

The arts contribute immensely to the ACT and are a central and sustainable part of life in our community. The arts provide avenues for expression, drive innovation, and contribute to the social and economic growth of Canberra.

2. Provide increased opportunities for artistic engagement across the Canberra community

We will achieve this:

- through program guidelines that encourage and support visiting artists to connect with the ACT community through workshops, forums and research;
- by exploring options for partnerships across a variety of spheres including the arts, education, science, and health;
- with partners including arts organisations, National Cultural Institutions, heritage sites, universities, and funding bodies;
- by linking visiting artists to host organisations, as appropriate; and
- by profiling the outcomes of artist residencies in ACT galleries and performance spaces.

As well as boasting a unique design and inspiring natural vistas, Canberra is home to national cultural institutions including the National Gallery of Australia, the National Museum of Australia and the National Library of Australia, providing unparalleled access to collections.

3. Provide learning, professional development and networking opportunities that will inspire local artists

We will achieve this:

- by pursuing opportunities for reciprocal arrangements with organisations offering arts residencies across Australia and internationally;
- by facilitating local artists to establish connections with peers and arts organisations interstate and internationally;
- through program guidelines that encourage hosting arrangements between local arts organisations and visiting artists; and
- by encouraging artists-in-residence to engage with local arts organisations and the ACT community, creating connections and exchanging ideas.

Canberra's artistic life is underpinned by vibrant local arts facilities, activities and opportunities for all. These include the Canberra Glassworks, which is a world-class facility and Australia's only cultural centre wholly dedicated to contemporary glass art; The Street Theatre, which is an important performing arts venue valued for its role in the development and performance of contemporary theatre; and the Watson Arts Centre, which is home to the Canberra Potters' Society and provides a facility for ceramics courses, production, exhibition and retail. Information about all of the arts organisations and facilities supported by the ACT Government is available on the artsACT website at www.arts.act.gov.au

4. Create and cultivate relationships with international, national and local arts and cultural organisations

We will achieve this:

- by being active in pursuing partnerships and co-operating with arts organisations, institutions, governments and funding bodies locally, nationally and internationally;
- by promoting residency and exchange opportunities directly to national and international arts and cultural organisations; and
- by promoting a combination of both sponsored and unsponsored residency opportunities.