

Key Highlights from Year Three - Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 2022-26 Action Plan

Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 2022-26 (the Policy) and the related [Action Plan](#) was released on 28 July 2022. The Arts Policy is the roadmap for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's Arts Capital. It identifies ten focus areas to deliver on this ambition, framed against the strategies of Create, Develop and Promote. The Policy and Action Plan are intended to be living documents that can be reviewed periodically, including through annual reporting on achievements to update the actions and respond to the needs of the sector.

The Action Plan is a four-year plan, commencing with 82 actions, ongoing initiatives and targeted projects involving the arts portfolio, portfolios across the ACT Government and other strategic partners.

Strategic Partners

Reporting on the actions for the third year (2024-25) of the Arts Policy Action Plan has involved the ACT Government areas of Business, Communication and Engagement; EventsACT; Office of International Engagement; Skills Canberra; VisitCanberra; Wellbeing Indicator team; Better Regulation Taskforce; Canberra Health Services; City and Environment Directorate; Health and Community Services Directorate (Office for Disability, Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs; Office for Multicultural Affairs, Office for Women and Office for Seniors and Veterans); Cultural Facilities Corporation; City Renewal Authority; Infrastructure Canberra; Suburban Land Agency; and Libraries ACT.

It has also involved strategic partners outside of the ACT Government including Creative Australia; Arts Law; Accessible Arts; Canberra Innovation Network; Screen Canberra; Australian National University; and the national collecting institutions.

Create – Develop – Promote

First Nations Focus Area: Elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' culture and artistic practices to enhance outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and reflect Canberra's unique culture and identity.

Action No.	Action description	Timeframe	Status	Progress update
1	New Action: In 2024-25, artsACT will support the Reference Group for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Space in its role of determining the governance model and shaping the strategic direction of the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Space.	2024-25; 2025-26	On-track	In July 2024, the inaugural Reference Group for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Space was formed. The Reference Group for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Space combines members from a diversity of language groups and cultural backgrounds, gender identities, career stages and from across Australia. Together they will self-determine the shape of a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation for Canberra and the region. In 2024-25 The Reference Group met five times. Two strategic planning workshops on 1 November 2024 and 28 February 2025 explored the vision and governance structure for this new organisation.
2	Continue connections and develop new ones with local and national organisations to enhance arts and cultural opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples including exploring initiatives that will link artists to the broader ACT and national arts sector.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	artsACT has continued to strengthen connections with local and national organisations and developed new relationships with international organisations to enhance arts and cultural opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In 2024-25, expressions of interest were sought from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists for selection to participate in the Canberra Pōneke Indigenous Artist Exchange. This opportunity will enable an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artist to spend four-weeks in Pōneke (Wellington), Aotearoa (New Zealand), working out of Te Whare Hēra and engaging with Māori culture, the Wellington arts sector and the wider community.
3	Continue the partnership with Wellington City Council to deliver the Canberra Wellington Indigenous Artist Exchange.	2024-25; 2025-26	On-track	Canberra-based artist Alinta Barlow was selected to participate in the Canberra Pōneke Indigenous Artist Exchange. The four-week international residency in Pōneke (Wellington), New Zealand will take place from 31 October - 30 November. Alinta, an early-career Ngunnawal artist and educator working across music and visual arts, is a member of the Winanggaay Ngunnawal Language Group and is known for her work reviving Ngunnawal language through creative expression. During the exchange, Alinta will engage with Māori artists, cultural institutions, and the wider arts community. She will be hosted by Te Whare Hēra, an artist and community program established by Wellington City Council and Massey University. The exchange provides an opportunity for research and development, cultural exchange, and international networking. As part of the exchange program, Canberra will welcome multidisciplinary artist Jamie Berry (Te Aitanga-a-Mahaki, Rongowhakaata, Ngāti Porou, Ngāpuhi, and Ngāti Ruanui) from Pōneke who is travelling to Canberra to undertake the Exchange from 5 November – 3 December 2025. During her stay, Jamie will have access to the facilities at photo access.
4	Working closely with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network to promote the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures through the arts and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural leadership.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	In 2024–25, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network met seven times. During these meetings, members received updates and provided input on key initiatives such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts Program and the Canberra Pōneke Indigenous Artist Exchange. The Network also contributed to consultations on the Canberra Theatre Centre Redevelopment, the CIT Yurauna Project, and initiatives of the Suburban Land Agency. Members also shared updates on their own work and community activities. These engagements reflect artsACT's ongoing commitment to working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to support outcomes for the ACT and region.

5	Investing in programs to enhance outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	<p>The third round of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts Program was delivered in two stages. Seven arts projects were supported through the 2024–25 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts Program, totalling \$97,440 in funding. Among the successful applicants, Dr Aunty Matilda House AO will collaborate with a master printmaker to create a new series of works about her life; Megan Daley and Rechelle Turner will present the debut collection from their fashion label Corella & Crow at Country to Couture 2025; Leilani Dewis will develop a multi-artform piece exploring cultural identity, community and lived experience; and Marissa McDowell will lead a collaborative installation combining poetry, eco-dyed silk and soundscapes. The successful projects reflect the diversity and depth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creative practice in Canberra and exemplify the program’s support for culturally grounded, self-determined artistic expression.</p> <p>In the 2025-26 Budget, the Government committed to provide a 50 per cent increase in arts project funding including projects that enhance arts and cultural outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.</p>
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Create amazing art and culture—everywhere, at any time, for everyone

Strategic Partnerships Focus Area: 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.

Action No.	Action	Timeframe	Status	Progress update
6	Continue to engage and partner with national, state and territory arts organisations on the implementation of key national strategies that will support the ACT.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	<p>artsACT continues to work with Australian and state and territory governments to identify national strategic priorities and invest collaboratively. artsACT is a member of the National Cultural Infrastructure Working Group, and participated in discussions on progressing priority areas under possible new frameworks.</p> <p>artsACT is leveraging the work of the Australian Government Creative Workplaces to support creative businesses in the ACT build fair, safe and respectful workplaces. This includes through participation on the Creative Workplaces Reference Group and promoting Creative Workplaces as a resource for local artists, arts organisations and creative businesses.</p>
7	New Action: Partner with businesses to provide resources and training to build governance capacity of funded ACT arts organisations. (Timeframe: 2024-25)	2024-25	Complete	<p>artsACT met with Creative Australia regarding the launch of its Governance Hub and promoted the resource to ACT arts organisations. The Governance Hub provides a series of guides to developing policies that support effective, efficient and inclusive governance practices.</p> <p>New action: Explore partnerships across the arts, creative industries and businesses that will increase networking collaborations as well as provide resources and training to support skills development and build governance and business capacity. [Timeframe: 2025-2026]</p>
8	Cultural Facilities Corporation coordinating regular meetings with the heads of the large cultural institutions in Canberra, including the national cultural institutions, leading an agenda of enhanced collaboration in programming.	Ongoing	Complete	These meetings are now coordinated by the National Capital Authority. The Cultural Facilities Corporation Chief Executive Officer will continue to attend these meetings as a member.
9	Cultural Facilities Corporation working across the ACT Government and with local artists and arts organisations to provide activities, experiences and exhibitions to Canberra’s signature festivals and events.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	During 2024-25, the Cultural Facilities Corporation participated in several signature festivals and events across the ACT including SpringOUT, Floriade, Craft + Design Canberra Festival, National Multicultural Festival, and the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. Participation included through providing venues and contributing programs, events, and activations.
10	Cultural Facilities Corporation, through the Canberra Theatre Centre, collaborating with youth arts organisations and investing in the presentation of their work to ensure ongoing local excellence in creative practice.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	During 2024-25, the Canberra Theatre Centre (CTC) supported presentations from Canberra Youth Theatre, Canberra Comedy Festival, Warehouse Circus, Ausdance ACT, Canberra Symphony Orchestra, and Project Dust. CTC also partnered with Ausdance ACT and their network of ACT dance schools to provide free artform workshops to participants with leading touring artists, as well as collaborating on the delivery of a dance creative development through the New Works Program and the delivery of the Ausdance Youth Dance Festival for its 40th anniversary. CTC’s annual ACT UP program engaged with 19 schools, including 310 students and 30 teachers from public and private schools, facilitating theatre workshops that resulted in 2 performances in the Playhouse Theatre, and engagement and mentorship for 14 local artists. The ACT UP program also partnered with organisations Australian Theatre Live, Canberra Youth Theatre, The Last Great Hunt, and the Canberra Museum and Gallery in its delivery and engagement with young people.
11	Cultural Facilities Corporation, through the Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG), working closely with the education sector, notably the Australian National University School of Art and Design, for exhibitions, and delivering the CMAG Art Prize for Secondary Students. CMAG will engage in cross-disciplinary partnerships to	Ongoing	Activity continuing	In 2024-25, Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG) exhibitions, 'Outer Space: Stromlo to the Stars', 'Beyond Measure' and 'Djara' involved cross-disciplinary engagement with the ANU Research School of Astronomy & Astrophysics; the ANU School of Art and Design, and with First Nations knowledge of stars, sky and Country. The exhibition, 'Materiality...not as we know it' featured public workshops that were developed and delivered by ANU School of Art and Design students and included the CMAG Secondary School Art Prize which engaged students across 13 schools. The exhibition, 'Taglietti: Life in Design' featured

	enhance its gallery experiences, to create work responding to exhibitions.			design elements by architecture students from University of Canberra and was the theme for the 2025 CMAG Secondary School Photography Prize.
12	Partnering with Creative Australia to increase the capacity of local artists, arts organisations and creative businesses to engage with philanthropy, develop private sector partnerships and make connections including: > Annual workshop in arts fundraising fundamentals > Fundraising guidance and support to access programs like the Australian Cultural Fund and Plus 1 matched funding > Professional development opportunities and sector networking for arts organisations to build knowledge and ability including developing and promoting local case-studies.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	In 2024-25 artsACT partnered with Creative Australia to deliver three fundraising workshops to increase the capacity of local artists, arts organisations and creative businesses to engage with philanthropy, develop private sector partnerships and make connections. On 3 December 2024 'Fundraising in the Arts: a cultural and creative industries meet up' was attended by 55 people including independent artists and representatives from arts organisations. On 1 May 2025, the 'Fundraising in the Arts' workshop was attended by 25 arts managers, administrators and board members and on 2 May 2025 the 'Artist as Fundraiser' workshop was attended by 12 independent artists.
13	Partnering with Arts Law to undertake and promote initiatives and resources that ensure that artists, arts organisations and creative businesses are informed on their legal rights including Intellectual Property rights and contracts and have access to free or low-cost legal advice.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	The ACT Government entered into a new funding agreement with Arts Law for 2025-2028 along with the Australian and state and territory governments. Arts Law's services were promoted in the artsACT e-newsletter in May 2025 and sessions to increase knowledge and skills will be promoted as the details are finalised.

Venues and Precincts Focus Area: 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.

Action No.	Action	Timeframe	Status	Progress update
14	New Action: Deliver the 2024-25 Budget commitment to deliver the highest priority works identified in the Arts Facilities Strategic Asset Management Plan.	2024-25 – 2025-26	On-track	Infrastructure Canberra commenced project planning in 2025 with delivery scheduled to commence 2025-26.
15	New Action: Deliver the 2024-25 Budget commitment to develop an Arts Assets Needs Analysis that will support Government decision making on strategic investments on arts assets to meet community demand.	2024-25 – 2025-26	On-track	A Statement of Requirements for a consultant to undertake stage one of the Arts Assets Needs Analysis was finalised in 2024-25. Stage one will comprise an audit of arts facilities and spaces in the ACT including any services provided and geographical locations; targeted stakeholder consultation; an analysis of utilisation and demand which considers population growth and visitation; and analysis of gaps (or oversupply) in facilities and spaces dedicated to specific artform focus areas.
16	Upgrading Gorman House Arts Centre to enhance accessibility, safety and energy efficiency and commence major heritage restorations in time for the Centre's 100th birthday in 2024.	2022-2026	On-track	In 2024-25 the Gorman Arts Centre Centenary Upgrades project focus has been on the finalisation of statutory planning and heritage approvals. ACT Heritage approved revised design drawings were endorsed by the Territory Planning Authority on 30 May 2025. While final planning approvals were being gained, Stage 1 works were completed which included remediation of hazardous material, finalisation of design documentation and the preparation of trade packages for tendering.
17	Upgrading Tuggeranong Arts Centre Theatre to improve safety, functionality and accessibility.	2022-2025	On-track	The Tuggeranong Arts Centre Theatre upgrade was substantially completed in 2024-25 with new theatre seating scheduled for installation in August 2025. The theatre has a new lighting and sound systems as well as a renovated dressing room, toilet facilities and a reconfigured back of house that enables safe cross stage access. Reopening of the upgraded theatre is scheduled for September 2025.
18	Cultural Facilities Corporation expanding Canberra Museum and Gallery to include a digital gallery, a more flexible use of the foyer for art-making, and new engagements facing Civic Square.	2022-2024	Complete	During 2024-25, the Canberra Museum and Gallery Circuit Gallery hosted, 'Outer Space: Stromlo to the Stars', celebrating the 100-year anniversary of Mount Stromlo Observatory. The exhibition included interactive and digital elements. The Civic Square Hub hosted part of the Craft + Design Canberra festival and Elsie's Film House, a program funded by the City Renewal Authority Placemaking Grants. New Action: Cultural Facilities Corporation, through the Canberra Museum and Gallery, will continue to deliver arts activities in the foyer and gallery spaces, and arts and culture activations in its Civic Square-facing spaces [Timeframe: 2025-2027]
19	Developing a Public Art Strategy for the ACT that will foster and grow the ACT Government's public art collection to reflect the diversity of human identity and experience, with women and Traditional Custodians holding pride of place in future works, both as subjects and creators, as well as support the visibility of the collection.	2025-2026	On-track	The development of a Public Art Framework and updated guidelines for the ACT will commence in 2025. Public artwork 'Oushi Zokei, Dream Lens for the Future' (Dream Lens) by Japanese artist Keizo Ushio, was successfully relocated to its new home on the Lake Tuggeranong foreshore. Dream Lens was previously located in the median of Northbourne Avenue and was removed in February 2025 to make way for the construction of Light Rail Stage 2A. The four-tonne granite ring was lifted under expert supervision and transported to its new garden setting between the Tuggeranong Library and the Community Centre on Cowlshaw Street.

				<p>Public artwork 'Decollete' by artist Michael Le Grand was removed from its site and is currently in storage, awaiting conservation, refurbishment, and reinstallation. Previously located on private land on Reed Street, Tuggeranong, the sculpture will be relocated to a new more prominent site closer to the Tuggeranong Arts Centre by the end of 2025.</p> <p>The City and Environment Directorate worked with the University of Canberra to create the ACT Street Artists Directory to connect community, industry and other groups with local street artists, graffiti artists and muralists.</p> <p>New Action: Work with the City and Environment Directorate to establish a panel of street, urban and visual artists to engage with government directorates to better explore, design and deliver murals and other work. [Timeframe: 2025-2027]</p> <p>New Action: Develop an 'arts and design trail' to enhance the discovery and promotion of our public art collection. [Timeframe: 2025-2027]</p>
20	Developing a future arts precinct in Kingston as a destination for Canberra's visual arts and culture.	2025- 2028	Timeframe amended	The Kingston Arts Precinct Concept Design concluded in 2024 and consultation with arts organisations on the Schematic Design took place in June 2025. The Schematic Design phase is due to be completed in August 2025.
21	Cultural Facilities Corporation, with Major Projects Canberra and the City Renewal Authority, leading the Canberra Theatre Centre redevelopment, which will be the centrepiece of the revitalisation of the area around Civic Square to create a vibrant Canberra Civic and Culture District.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	In 2024-25 the ACT Government appointed Multiplex as early delivery partner for the new lyric theatre. Under this arrangement, Multiplex will undertake detailed planning including further refining the theatre design to ensure it meets the needs of theatre users, patrons, stakeholders and the Territory.
22	Cultural Facilities Corporation investing in works to improve access to Lanyon Homestead, notably for tour buses and to support large events, including improving its entry roads, as well as conservation works at Lanyon and at Mugga Mugga Cottage to conserve and re-use historic outbuildings for interpretation, increased public visitation, and arts programs.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	In 2024-25, detailed scoping was undertaken for improvement to Lanyon Homestead's entry road and for extensive conservation works at Mugga Mugga Cottage. The 2025-26 Budget includes funding to establish a permanent exhibition at Lanyon Homestead and to undertake urgent conservation works at Mugga Mugga Cottage, ensuring its continued role as a museum and educational space.
23	Extending the reach of ACT Government led events, such as Enlighten and Floriade, across Canberra by utilising ACT arts and cultural venues and precincts and partnering with ACT arts and cultural organisations.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	<p>In 2024-25, partnerships with arts and cultural organisations featured prominently across major event programs. The Floriade theme 'Art in Bloom' provided a strong platform to build partnerships with organisations such as Grainger Gallery and Lanyon Homestead and deliver creative content engaging over 470,000 visitors.</p> <p>The 2025 Enlighten program further expanded partnerships across Canberra resulting in a range of arts and cultural offerings both within and beyond the National Triangle precinct. Collaboration for the 2025 festival included ACT arts and cultural venues such as the Academy of Interactive Entertainment, You Are Here Canberra, ANU School of Art and Design, Mount Stromlo Observatory, Australian National Botanic Gardens and photo access, among others.</p>
24	New action: The development of a venues guide for ACT Government properties, to encourage and promote use of ACT Government properties including for arts and cultural uses.	2024-2026	Timeframe amended	The ACT Government's 'Venues, spaces and precincts' webpage is promoting the use of ACT Government properties for arts and cultural activities. The webpage includes a brief history of each property, images, information on how to book as well as fees and conditions. Further venues will be added in 2025-26.
25	Partnering with City Renewal Authority on arts initiatives that will enliven Canberra's CBD and support local artists.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	<p>In 2024-25, the City Renewal Authority's Placemaking Grants program funded three activities with an arts focus: the Canberra Art Biennial displayed a series of public artworks across the city centre from September - October 2025; the Braddon Busking Festival, delivered in March 2025, showcased local musicians; and Elsie's Filmhouse, a social cinema, delivered a program of film screenings from March - July 2025.</p> <p>The 2024-25 Place Experience and Marketing Action Plan delivered several events including LA Fiesta, Dickson Lunar New Year and The Nature of Things. These events provide numerous opportunities for local artists and creatives and attract tens of thousands of people. Development of the 2025-26 Action Plan is underway and will include opportunities for local artists to collaborate on delivering events, installations and other activations.</p>
26	Promoting Libraries ACT's community spaces to support arts and cultural activity and skills development.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	The announcement of the 2024 Book of the Year Award took place at the Tuggeranong Library on 6 August 2024. ACT Libraries undertook a range of activities to profile shortlisted authors and artsACT promoted ACT Libraries events and spaces through the e-newsletter.
27	Cultural Facilities Corporation, through Canberra Theatre Centre and Canberra Museum and Gallery, contributes to the activation of Civic Square through participation in events in the precinct.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	In 2024-25, the Cultural Facilities Corporation contributed to events in Civic Square, notably the National Multicultural Festival, as well as creating events to enliven the square including January School Holiday Fun and Canberra Theatre Centre and Canberra Museum and Gallery Open Days.

28	Cultural Facilities Corporation, through ACT Historic Places, providing publicly accessible museums and open spaces to support art-based programs, events, and exhibitions, including signature events like Harvest Day Out and the Bloom Festival.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	A range of artist-led programs and events are delivered across Lanyon Homestead, Mugga Mugga and Calthorpe's House during the year. These programs and events employ and support artists and local businesses. In 2024-25 highlights included Harvest Day Out, which was held on 22 March 2025 and saw 2,900 visitors (a 9 per cent increase in attendance compared to 2024); Kids Day Out, held in September 2024 (which saw 1,500 visitors); and Live at Lanyon with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra (which saw 1,350 visitors). The second Lanyon Art Prize was launched in January 2025, and the exhibition will open in August 2025.
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Accessibility and Inclusivity Focus Area: Support arts practice that reflect Canberra's diverse community and creates an environment that is inclusive, safe and welcoming to all.

Action No.	Action	Timeframe	Status	Progress update
29	Completion and installation of a public artwork representing the Hon. Susan Ryan AO; and commissioning of a further public artwork to celebrate a significant woman or gender diverse/nonbinary person by a woman or gender diverse/non-binary artist.	2023-24; 2024-25	Complete	The public artwork, 'Senator Ryan Addresses the Rally', by artist Lis Johnson was installed in the Senate Rose Garden at Old Parliament House and launched on 1 August 2024. Artist Louise Skačej was commissioned to create a sculpture of Stasia Dabrowski OAM. Maquette presentation was completed in May 2024 with artwork fabrication to follow. The work is expected to be completed and installed in Garema Place in early 2026. New action: Completion and installation of a public artwork representing Stasia Dabrowski OAM. [Timeframe: 2025-2026]
30	New action: artsACT will work with the Office for Disability to explore mechanisms to support arts organisations to develop Disability Inclusion Action Plans. (Timeframe: 2024-25)	2024-25	Complete	In June 2025, artsACT met with Accessible Arts to discuss partnership opportunities to support ACT artists. The Office for Disability has developed step by step guidance and a template that can be used by ACTPS staff to plan and develop Disability Inclusion Plans (DIPs). Additionally, the Office for Disability hosted three DIP workshops for ACTPS staff in March, May and July 2025, facilitated by experienced access and inclusion professionals. New action: artsACT will explore partnership activities with Accessible Arts to build capacity of artists and organisations in the ACT through a series of programs. [Timeframe: 2025-2026]
31	Working across the ACT Government, arts sector and businesses to increase opportunities that will support and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, women and non-binary artists, LGBTIQ+ artists, artists with disability, and culturally and linguistically diverse artists.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	On 2 April 2025, Melbourne-based artist Louise Skačej was announced as the artist undertaking the public artwork commission to represent much loved community volunteer Stasia Dabrowski OAM. This is the second commission in the ACT Government's program to recognise significant women in public artwork. The artwork is expected to be launched in the first half of 2026 in Garema Place. In February 2025, the ACT Government launched the ACT Artist Database to connect businesses or individuals looking to engage local artists for paid opportunities. As of July 2025, there are over 60 artists featured on the database including LGBTIQ+ artists. The Office for Disability delivered several activities in 2024-25 that supported artists with disability and enabled arts organisations to be more inclusive. The 2024-25 Disability Inclusion Grant program supported the following projects: M16 Artspace - to develop a Disability Action and Inclusion Plan to support artist participation; Lightning Rock - Check Out My Dance (dis)Ability, a program for neurodivergent individuals and people with disability to create motion-capture dances to be integrated as animated avatars in a virtual reality program; and Woodcraft Guild- to refit a toilet to make it accessible. In 2024-25 the Capital of Equality Grants Program, administered by the Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs, supported 6 arts projects. Funded projects ranged from tailored mentorship and performance opportunities for LGBTIQ+ artists, production of new digital work, monthly cinema events, ballroom, and makeup lessons for LGBTIQ+ young people, performing arts showcase, and a series of queer life drawing sessions.
32	The ACT Government is providing funding for programs focused on the wellbeing of older Canberrans, including support for dementia-friendly events and pilot programs for a seniors' art festival.	2023-2026	On-track	The 2023-24 Budget made an investment for the ACT to host Australia's first dedicated program of dementia-friendly film screenings. The ACT Government contracted the University of New South Wales (Sydney) to deliver this, with a contract in place until 30 June 2027. As of May 2025, the program 'A Day at the Movies' has delivered 3 screenings in partnership with the National Film and Sound Archive. The screenings have been timed to coincide with Dementia Action Week, SpringOUT and the National Multicultural Festival. The relaxed screenings have been enjoyed by people with dementia, their carers and family members alike. The next film screening is scheduled for 12 July 2025, in line with NAIDOC Week and will screen 'Top End

				<p>Wedding'. Film selection is informed by dementia-friendly screening guidelines, community input and input from members from the dementia-friendly film group (established by the project group).</p> <p>The ACT Government is cultivating the creativity of older Canberrans through piloting a Seniors Arts Festival by, for and with older Canberrans. The Festival 'UPSTAGEING Canberra' will be held in March 2026 and will feature a diverse program spanning visual arts, theatre, dance, music, fashion, crafts, technology, multimedia and literature – aiming to create an inclusive and engaging experience for all. The Festival will be delivered by Council on the Ageing ACT who are currently engaging with stakeholders across ACT Government and the arts sector to develop a compelling and exciting program of events.</p> <p>The Seniors Grant Program provides support to projects which improve the wellbeing of older Canberrans. The 2024-25 round saw funding committed to the following arts initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women With Disabilities ACT Inc to run 'Collaging Community', a pilot arts-based program of workshops designed to foster community, reduce isolation, and stress for Canberra women ageing with disabilities. • Music For Canberra Inc to run the 'Seasoned Voices' choir performance program, a senior's choir who will perform at aged care facilities and community events throughout the ACT in 2025.
33	Funding arts-focussed activities through broader ACT Government grants programs such as the Audrey Fagan Enrichment Grants for girls, young women, non-binary and gender diverse young people.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	In 2024, the Audrey Fagan Enrichment Grants (AFEG) provided a total of \$10,000 for seven projects to support girls, young women, non-binary and gender diverse young people from 12 to 18 years old. Of this, \$2,000 was spent on two arts projects focused on supporting young people to achieve their goals in the areas of dance. The AFEG for 2025 opened for applications on 29 April 2025 and closed on 3 July 2025.
34	Increasing arts and culture activities at the National Multicultural Festival in 2023 and beyond.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	<p>The 2025 National Multicultural Festival was held from 7-9 February 2025. The festival footprint extended further into the south of Glebe Park, to support increased community participation with a diverse entertainment program across 8 stages and more than 250 stalls. 107 of these stalls traded as arts or cultural information or commercial stalls, including 13 market stalls, a new category introduced in 2025.</p> <p>The festival welcomes community cultural groups, volunteer performers, and professional artists to participate in the program through an application process, which included a grant funded component.</p> <p>The 2025 festival program of over 300 performances included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 grant funded cultural showcases and 4 volunteer showcases. • 70 grant funded community performances. • More than 150 volunteer performances. • More than 45 professional artists. • 15 cultural workshops including activities in the arts, crafts, language, music, dance and costume.
35	Building social recovery and collective wellbeing through the Canberra Health Services Arts in Health Program, as well as promoting the nationally leading work that they are doing.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	<p>In 2024-25 funding was received from the Canberra Hospital Foundation to extend the Poetry and Wellbeing program. An academic paper documenting the findings of the program was published in the British Medical Journal on 26 November 2024. Co-authored by Dr Owen Bullock and Jenny McFarlane the paper is titled 'Poetry and well-being: a pilot programme to evaluate the impact of creative writing for patients in short-term and long-term rehabilitation.' The program will be reviewed in 2025-26.</p> <p>Following research in 2024, artwork was installed at the Eating Disorders Residential Treatment Service to improve psycho-social functioning in a supportive home-like environment. Research is currently underway for Endoscopy Service Expansion and new Palliative Care Ward at Canberra Hospital.</p>
36	Cultural Facilities Corporation programming and exhibiting works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, as well as works by people of multicultural backgrounds and people with disability.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	In 2024-25, works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and artists from multicultural backgrounds were featured in exhibitions and programs including the permanent 'Canberra/Kamberri, Place and People' exhibition, temporary exhibition 'Djara'; 'Hiroe and Cornel Swen: Making a Creative Life'; and 'Ikebana @ CMAG' program. Programs and talks led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and multicultural artists and researchers were also delivered at Canberra Museum and Gallery and Lanyon Homestead. Works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and artists from multicultural backgrounds were presented at the Canberra Theatre Centre including Bangarra Dance Theatre and 'Jurrungu Ngan-ga / Straight Talk'.
37	Cultural Facilities Corporation venues continuing to improve both physical and sensory accessibility for visitors and to sensitively co-create programs and events that reflect Canberra's diverse community and support community wellbeing.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	Accessibility upgrades at Canberra Museum and Gallery were completed including accessible toilet facilities and automatic doors into the main gallery space.

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

Arts Practice Focus Area: Support arts practice to underpin cultural, social and economic outcomes for our artists, arts workers and the broader community.

Action No.	Action	Timeframe	Status	Progress update
38	Investigate the opportunity to link affordable spaces with areas of arts practice such as Kingston Arts Precinct.	2025-2028	Timeframe amended	Affordable spaces will continue to be a key consideration in the finalisation of the design for the Kingston Arts Precinct.
39	Working with the Better Regulation Taskforce we will make it easier for arts, cultural and creative businesses to do business in the ACT, this includes the development of a regulatory framework that will ensure that the settings for the night-time and entertainment economy including live music are transparent, fit for purpose and meeting their objectives.	2025-2026	Timeframe amended	<p>In August 2024, Core and Frame areas were introduced into the City Centre Entertainment Precinct (CCEP) via a minor Territory Plan amendment. The introduction of these areas will support a noisier core where there is a higher concentration of noise emitting entertainment venues and a surrounding frame that ensures entertainment uses are protected while also acting as a buffer that prevents the noise levels impacting areas adjacent to the precinct.</p> <p>In August 2024, the ACT Government also introduced new fit-for-purpose Noise Standards for entertainment noise in the CCEP to protect, nurture and future-proof entertainment venues and uses in Canberra’s city centre. Further information can be found at: www.act.gov.au/law-and-justice/law-reforms/new-standards-for-entertainment-noise</p> <p>On 1 October 2024, the ACT Government commenced a 12-month trial to allow musicians to access loading zones across the ACT for free for up to 30 minutes for the purpose of loading and unloading musical equipment. This reform protects and promotes live music and entertainment by removing barriers for musicians to perform at live venues through improving mobility and accessibility to performance spaces. As at April 2025, 47 musicians have been issued a free loading zone permit. An evaluation of the trial is underway to support continuation of the scheme beyond October 2025.</p> <p>On 1 July 2025, the ACT Government extended liquor licence fee reductions introduced in 2024 to automatically reduce annual licence fees for licensed cafés and restaurants with an occupancy of 81 to 150 people and general licences with an occupancy of 21 to 150 people by 50 per cent. Additionally, all general, on-licence, club, and special licence holders with an occupancy of between 151 and 350 people can apply for a 50 per cent reduction on their annual licence fees if they hold eligible events to showcase live music, artists and cultural activities. This reform is complemented by the launch of the ACT Artist Database in February 2025, which is helping to connect businesses looking to engage local artists for paid opportunities. As of 2 July 2025, 17 businesses have received a licence reduction for showcasing artists.</p>
40	New action: artsACT will develop a directory of artists to support connections between businesses and artists.	2024-2025	Complete	In February 2025, the ACT Artist Database was launched on the artsACT website. The Database will help connect businesses looking to engage local artists for paid opportunities, including those small to medium venues wishing to support and showcase artists and creatives as part of the ACT Government’s liquor fee reductions to support the night-time economy. Canberra artists across all artforms can self-nominate to be included on the platform through the artsACT website. The database includes an image of the artists’ work, a short biography, as well as contact details and links to a professional website or social media account. As of July 2025, over 60 artists profiles appear on the Database.
41	Cultural Facilities Corporation, through ACT Historic Places, will deliver a biennial Canberra Regional Art prize.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	The renamed Lanyon Art Prize opened in January 2025. Finalists will be announced at the exhibition opening in August 2025.
42	Funding contemporary arts and creative practice through the ACT Arts Fund that reflects the diversity of Canberra and enables engaging and innovative art making for audiences to experience.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	<p>In 2024-25, support for diverse arts practice and experience was delivered through the Arts Activities funding program. Two rounds of the \$5k to \$50k Arts Activities funding category were delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 applications were supported with funding totalling \$365,168 in the funding round that closed on 31 July 2024. • 13 applications were supported with funding totalling \$415,015 in the funding round that closed on 28 February 2025. <p>Through the Up to \$5k Arts Activities funding category, which is open all year round, 57 applications were supported in 2024-25 with funding totalling \$236,995.</p> <p>Through the Community Outreach program, funding totalling over \$696,000 was provided to the Australian National University School of Music and School of Art & Design in 2024-25 to increase participation in the arts, provide access to high quality, inclusive arts programs that develop the artistic skills of participants including from diverse backgrounds and those that may experience barriers or disadvantage.</p> <p>In the 2025-26 Budget, the ACT Government committed to additional funding of \$1 million over two years for art project funding, this equates to a 50 per cent increase.</p> <p>New Action: Deliver the next round of the ACT Arts Organisation Investment Program. [Timeframe: 2025-2028]</p>

43	Supporting and promoting the rights of artists and arts practitioners to fair remuneration for their work by releasing and promoting Remuneration Principles and Practices for Artists and Arts Workers and remaining aware of best practice principles developed by peak sector groups.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	<p>artsACT is a member of the Creative Workplaces Reference Group which promotes fair, safe and respectful workplaces for Australian artists, art workers and arts organisations. The Creative Workplaces website was launched on 6 June 2025 and was promoted through the artsACT e-newsletter and website. A link to the ACT Remuneration Principles and Practices for Artists and Arts Workers will be provided on the Creative Workplaces website.</p> <p>artsACT has worked with the Better Regulation Taskforce to promote fair remuneration for artists through the Liquor licensing reforms. The reforms allow for a reduction in licence fees for eligible venues that showcase artists, musicians, and other cultural activities. The Guidelines for accessing the reduction include a link to the ACT Remuneration Principles and Practices for Artists and Arts Workers.</p>
44	Working across Government, explore how to provide more affordable arts and studio spaces.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	artsACT continued to engage with Infrastructure Canberra, ACT No Waste, Suburban Land Agency and City Renewal Authority to identify opportunities for affordable arts spaces. In 2025-26, artsACT will engage a consultant to develop an Arts Assets Needs Analysis that will support Government decision making on upgrading and maintaining the current asset portfolio to a good condition and inform future investment to meet community demand including an investment and divestment strategy, as required. Stage one of the project will include an audit of facilities and spaces in the ACT, including artist studios and an analysis of utilisation, demand and gaps.
45	Cultural Facilities Corporation providing employment opportunities for arts professionals in commissioning works, live production, venue management, arts administration, and curatorial, programming and education roles.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	In 2024-25, the Cultural Facilities Corporation continued to be the ACT Government's largest employer of arts professionals with a workforce of around 250 people including visual artists, curators, conservators, actors, musicians, producers, theatre technicians, dancers, and writers. Canberra Theatre Centre programs such as New Works created paid opportunities for local live performance industry professionals. Canberra Museum and Gallery and ACT Historic Places employ artists, educators, curators and researchers for specialised programs and exhibitions.
46	Cultural Facilities Corporation, through Canberra Theatre Centre, fostering and elevating local performing arts practice through programs such as New Works, which specifically engage with Canberra artists through consultation, development, commissions, and presentations.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	<p>Canberra Theatre Centre's (CTC) New Works program engaged with 184 artists through creative development programs, one-on-one engagement, professional mentorship, networking events, and presentation of local independent productions. Through this program, CTC provided income to 48 artists and contributed to the development and presentation of 14 new works. The program also hosted three local sector meetups with ACT venue staff and three industry knowledge building and networking events aimed at capacity building for artists in the ACT with national partners. In 2024-25, three projects that CTC supported in their application successfully received funding from the ACT Government and Creative Australia, with two of those works developed through the New Works program and slated for presentation in 2025-26.</p> <p>In 2024-25, the New Works program delivered the inaugural First Nations Artist in Residence, a ten-month program of mentorship and producer development with a selected local First Nations artist.</p>
47	Cultural Facilities Corporation, through Canberra Museum and Gallery, supporting arts practice by collecting and exhibiting the work of both emerging and established Canberra artists and staging public programs that highlight these exhibitions and further explore the work of these artists.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	In 2024-25, Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG) acquired and exhibited work by Canberra artists, in accordance with its collecting policy. CMAG and ACT Historic Places also employ local artists to design and run many of their public programs. Through its exhibition program, CMAG exhibited the work of 74 Canberra artists and paid exhibition fees to 32 artists. CMAG purchased the work of six contemporary artists.

Skills Development Focus Area: Invest in skills development and career pathways for artists and the creative workforce at any stage in their career to build our local talent and keep them here.

Action No.	Action	Timeframe	Status	Progress update
48	<p>artsACT working with Skills Canberra to identify and promote capacity building opportunities for local artists and arts workers, in line with Skilled to Succeed: Skills and Workforce Agenda for the ACT, including through the following ACT Government skills and training initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Canberra Institute of Technology as the public provider of vocational education and training (VET) in the ACT > Australian Apprenticeships > Adult Community Education (ACE) Grants Program. 	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	<p>The Skilled to Succeed Industry Action Plans highlights how the Government will work alongside industry and the VET system to address challenges that are being experienced across five priority sectors including the Experience Industry. The Plans were published in 2024 and have 100 actions that can be taken over the short, medium and long term to grow a qualified workforce by improving equity, access and participation in training.</p> <p>The ACT's vocational education and training sector continues to offer a range of accredited and non-accredited training options, including through the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT). These courses enable learners to enhance their skills, knowledge and capabilities, and support those looking to enter the creative industries.</p> <p>The ACT Government uses the ACT Skills Needs List (SNL) to identify skills and workforce needs and inform funding priorities. This enables the ACT Government to target skills shortages more effectively, helping to ensure ACT employers have the skilled workforce they need. As it relates to the creative industry, the ACT Skills Needs List has identified the following qualifications as relevant to the workforce needs in the arts and creative industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diploma of Event Management • Diploma of Graphic Design

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diploma of Screen and Media
49	Working with local tertiary institutions to create and highlight pathways for artists.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	artsACT met with CIT to discuss opportunities for artists to engage with CIT at the new CIT Woden Campus. artsACT promotes CIT's Art Design Media and Music course guide through its e-newsletter.
50	Supporting Screen Canberra to undertake capacity building initiatives for local screen practitioners that will support the ACT to capitalise on the global demand for screen and creative content, including piloting a Location Incentive Scheme to attract large budget production.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	<p>The 2025-26 Budget includes \$3.653 million over four years to continue support for the local screen industry including the introduction of a funding stream for digital game development. This funding includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2.403 million over four years to maintain Screen Canberra's operations at current levels. \$1.250 million in 2025-26 to continue to invest in screen productions and the introduction of support for digital games. <p>Season Two of 'Austin' completed filming in January 2025 and is due to air in the second half of 2025.</p>
51	Promoting sector skills and career opportunities through the artsACT e-newsletter.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	artsACT continued to promote sector skills and career opportunities through the artsACT e-newsletter. In 2024-25 a total of 26 newsletters were published.
52	<p>Cultural Facilities Corporation offering a range of high-quality development opportunities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Canberra Theatre Centre's Certificate III in Live Production and Services in collaboration with Canberra Institute of Technology to provide skills development and career pathways in the specialist field of Ongoing audio, lighting, and mechanical production. > Work experience, mentoring programs, and internships to develop skills alongside industry professionals. 	Ongoing	Activity continuing	In 2024-25, the Cultural Facilities Corporation continued to offer development opportunities. In 2025, 17 students enrolled in the Certificate III in Live Production and Technical Services, which is delivered by CIT in partnership with the Canberra Theatre Centre (CTC). Additionally, 45 Secondary students participated in Work Experience Programs at the CTC, CTC hosted one student intern from University of Canberra and Canberra Museum and Gallery hosted one Career Trackers intern.

Innovation and Sustainability Focus Area: Build on Canberra's status as a clever, creative, connected and sustainable city by encouraging innovation, experimentation and cross-sector collaboration.

Action No.	Action	Timeframe	Status	Progress update
53	Exploring how to position Canberra internationally as a City of Design.	2023-2024	Complete	<p>In the 2025-26 Budget, the ACT Government committed funding of \$1.26 million over two years to strengthen Canberra's bid to become a UNESCO City of Design including increased support for the Craft + Design Canberra Festival and the establishment of a new Artist Engagement Fund, and Design Excellence Awards.</p> <p>New Action: Progress Canberra's application to be recognised as an international City of Design through the UNESCO Creative Cities Network including delivery of funding to expand the Design Canberra Festival, and establishment of an Artist Engagement Fund and Design Excellence Awards. [Timeframe: 2025 – 2027]</p>
54	Partnering with Canberra Innovation Network to increase networking opportunities to support creative collaboration between the arts, business and academia including undertaking at least one Collaborative Innovation Lab (Collab Lab) that focuses on the arts and creative industries each year.	Ongoing	Complete	<p>On 5 September 2024, artsACT and Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) partnered to deliver the second Creative Connect event: Strategic Marketing for Creative Sectors. The event brought together 48 participants from Canberra's creative community and related sectors. These participants included people from the ACT Government, national cultural institutions, artists, musicians, actors, directors, entrepreneurs, local small to medium businesses, researchers and the broader Canberra community. The event included a panel of three marketing experts who discussed their backgrounds, experience, and their ongoing relationship with the creative sector. The panel discussion was then followed by Q&A session.</p> <p>A new action has been developed under the Strategic Partnerships focus area to explore wide ranging collaborations that will provide resources and training to build skills and business capacity this may at times include partnerships with CBRIN.</p>
55	Cultural Facilities Corporation, through ACT Historic Places, promoting sustainable environmental, conservation, food production and land management practices at Lanyon Homestead and Mugga Mugga Cottage through cross-sector collaboration with government and non-government organisations, and through key events, like Harvest Day Out at Lanyon Homestead and the Bloom Festival across all three ACT Historic Places museums.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	Harvest Day Out, held at Lanyon Homestead in March 2025, was attended by 2,900 visitors (a 9 per cent increase from 2024). The event included activities, tours and workshops focussed on conservation, heritage, sustainable land management, and the circular economy. Planning continues toward adaptive reuse of building assets through transformation of the former Nolan Gallery into staff accommodation and conservation of the Lanyon Shearers' Precinct.

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

Promotion Focus Area: 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.

Action No.	Action	Timeframe	Status	Progress update
56	Cultural Facilities Corporation expanding support for local artists and craftspersons by establishing a retail store in Civic Square, and by expanding the retail offering at the ACT Historic Places.	2022-2024	Complete	In 2024-25, the Cultural Facilities Corporation's Civic Square Hub served as a festival hub, exhibition space and shop for the Craft + Design Canberra Festival, showcasing works by local designers and craftspeople.
57	artsACT and Libraries ACT will continue to work together to support and promote local authors through events, programs and promotions, such as enhancing the profile of the ACT Book of the Year.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	In the lead up to the announcement of the ACT Book of the Year 2025, artsACT and ACT Libraries have explored a range of events and programs that will profile the shortlisted authors and their books.
58	Explore opportunities that will recognise and showcase excellence in arts and creative practice including through partnerships with local and national organisations and businesses, existing awards and establishing new initiatives.	Ongoing	Complete	In the 2025-26 Budget, the ACT Government committed \$50,000 over two years for the sponsorship of awards and or competitions run by peak industry bodies celebrating excellence across design. This initiative will form part of the Government's bid for Canberra's to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as a City of Design.
59	artsACT working across the ACT Government to cross-promote arts activities and create opportunities to engage with new audiences.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	In 2024-25 artsACT continued to work across government to cross-promote arts activities and create opportunities to engage with new audiences. This included promotion of and involvement in the City Renewal Authority's Placemaking Grants; Events ACT's Enlighten Festival; the Suburban Land Agency's Artist-In-Residence program, Whitlam Display Home curator, and public art opportunities in Whitlam and North Wright; City and Environment Directorate's street art opportunities; Infrastructure Canberra's public art opportunities at CIT Yurauna, CIT Woden, and Light Rail Stage 2; and UPSTAGING Canberra, the festival for older Canberrans.
60	Encouraging and supporting organisations to collaborate and cross-promote, to amplify impact of both the ACT arts sector and exhibitions and programs.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	The 29 organisations receiving Arts Organisation Investment Program funding are required to meet Key Performance Indicators with annual targets including collaboration with artists, other arts organisations and other businesses. Data from organisation's 2023 acquittals is published on the artsACT website and highlights that collectively these organisations undertook 3,867 collaborations across 301 arts organisations, 276 businesses and 3,290 artists.
61	ACT Government events and festivals investing in and showcasing Canberra artists and creatives and providing opportunities for professional development including exploring piloting a Creative in Residence as part of a major event.	Ongoing	Complete	In 2024-25 Floriade and Enlighten showcased 2,934 emerging and established performing artists and arts organisations. Of these, 2,574 were local including Warehouse Circus, Canberra City Band, Spectrum, RMC Rock Band, Monica Moore, Jett Blyton, Koebi Faumui, and Sam Sly. The Enlighten Creative Director delivered their first festival, achieving increased engagement with Canberra artists and creatives who contributed content and ideas to the festival and nurtured creative partnerships for future years. artsACT and Events ACT are considering initiatives other than a Creative in Residence that will promote and build capacity of ACT artists through festival engagement. New Action: ACT Government events and festivals will invest in and showcase Canberra artists and creatives. [Timeframe: ongoing] New Action: artsACT and Events ACT will explore partnership opportunities with Artbank and the national collecting institutions to profile ACT artists at Enlighten 2027. [Timeframe: 2025-2027]
62	Cultural Facilities Corporation developing new audiences through investing in new events and partnerships including creating CMAG After Dark events, and contributing to City Renewal Authority's and other events in Civic Square.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	In 2024-25, the Cultural Facilities Corporation (CFC) ran a range of events to develop new audiences including music concerts in gallery and heritage settings, pop-up bars, live streaming talks, as well as contributing to Floriade, SpringOUT, the National Multicultural Festival, and the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. The CFC also ran two events which contributed to activating Civic Square: School Holiday Fun in January 2025 and joint Open Days in May 2025 for Canberra Theatre Centre's 60th anniversary and the Nolan Collection's 50th anniversary.
63	Cultural Facilities Corporation, through ACT Historic Places, delivering commercial events and programs that create economic opportunities and new markets for artists, arts workers, and arts organisations to engage with different audiences.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	In 2024-25, Harvest Day Out and Live at Lanyon with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra continued to provide economic opportunities for artists, arts workers and arts organisations. The retail offerings at Lanyon Homestead and Canberra Museum and Gallery continue to grow, including work by local artists. Arts workers are routinely employed by the Cultural Facilities Corporation to run workshops as part of public programs.

Cultural Tourism Focus Area: Facilitate cultural tourism opportunities for Canberra’s arts sector, to increase its visibility nationally and internationally.

Action No.	Action	Timeframe	Status	Progress update
64	Providing better connections and wayfinding between arts and cultural organisations, including through cross promotion, digital marketing, and brochures and make this available at key information and tourism sites.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	<p>In 2024-25, the VisitCanberra website continued to promote local arts and cultural experiences through articles and downloadable digital content. Local arts and cultural experiences were also highlighted through broader destination campaign marketing activity. Social media activity featured local arts and cultural experiences and businesses. Visiting journalist and influencer programs provided connections to local arts and cultural experiences and businesses. VisitCanberra's IndustryLink newsletter also shared relevant tourism industry updates, advice and opportunities for relevant and interested stakeholders - including arts and cultural organisations.</p> <p>The Major Event Fund provided funding support to enhance interstate marketing and promotion of major tourism-driving arts and cultural exhibitions and theatre productions.</p> <p>The Canberra and Region Visitors Centre continued to offer display space and other promotional opportunities for local artists and galleries at discounted or complimentary rates.</p>
65	Cultural Facilities Corporation, through ACT Historic Places, collaborating with local cultural tourism businesses, artists, and art organisations to develop and deliver art-based programs that provide different ways for visitors to engage with the cultural values and history of Lanyon Homestead, Mugga Mugga Cottage, and Calthorpe’s House, and to create commercial opportunities for the arts sector at each of the ACT Historic Places museums.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	<p>In 2024-25, ACT Historic Places continued to provide opportunities for local artists, makers, craftspeople and small businesses at its retail markets at Lanyon Homestead during Harvest Day Out, arts and heritage workshops, and ticketed experiences. Ticketed events routinely sell out and free events are well attended.</p>

Research and Data Focus Area: Demonstrate and promote the cultural, social and economic impact of arts, culture and creative industries to inform investment and decision making.

Action No.	Action	Timeframe	Status	Progress update
66	Developing a new wellbeing measure for the ACT Wellbeing Framework which will measure the impact of the arts and culture on our wellbeing, as part of the development of a new evaluation framework for ACT Government arts funding that will inform data collection.	2024-2026	On-track	<p>In 2024-25, artsACT and the Wellbeing Indicator Team met to resolve the methodology and data sets for an arts and culture measure.</p> <p>In 2024-25, artsACT has contributed to the 2025 National Arts Participation Survey commissioned by Creative Australia to increase the ACT sample size and to receive an ACT report.</p>
67	Championing the value of arts, culture and creative sector and the impact it makes to cultural, social and economic outcomes for the ACT.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	<p>In 2024-25, the ACT Government continued to champion the value of a healthy arts sector and the benefits to Canberrans through submissions, arts events and key forums including the Cultural Ministers Meeting.</p>
68	Contributing to national research and data initiatives through fora such as the Cultural and Creative Statistics Working Group, as well as working with key arts research organisations.	Ongoing	Activity continuing	<p>Ongoing engagement with Creative Australia and A New Approach alerts artsACT of key industry research which is shared with sector.</p> <p>In 2024-25, artsACT has contributed to the 2025 National Arts Participation Survey commissioned by Creative Australia to increase the ACT sample size and to receive an ACT report.</p> <p>artsACT is working with the Australian Government and state and territory governments on the next Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Bureau of Statistics for Cultural and Creative Statistics as the current agreement ends on 30 June 2026.</p> <p>artsACT participated as an advisor on A New Approach’s insight reports in 2024-25.</p>
69	Cultural Facilities Corporation will regularly collect meaningful visitation data to inform demographic understanding and program development for Canberra Museum and Gallery and ACT Historic Places.	Ongoing	Completed ongoing	<p>In 2024-25, the Cultural Facilities Corporation completed its data improvement project to support data informed decision making and quality reporting.</p>