



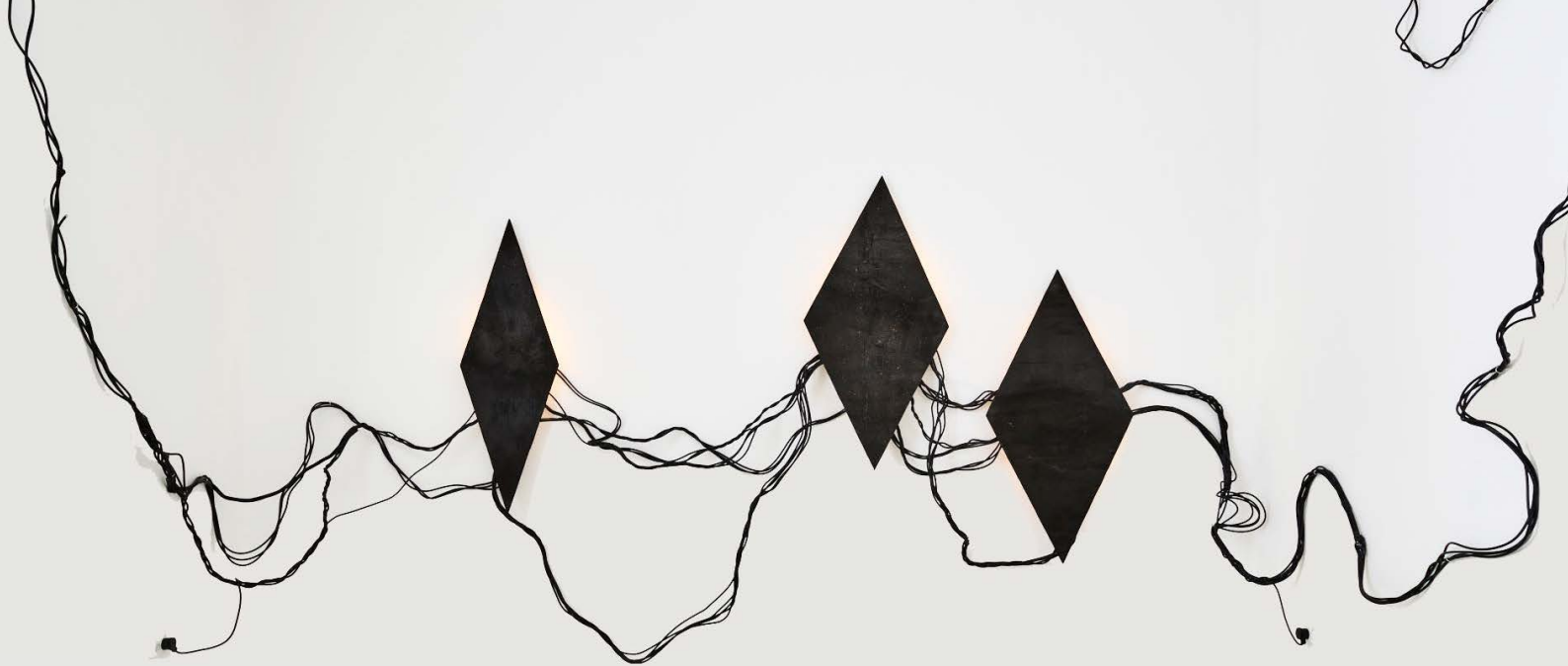
# Canberra:

Australia's Arts Capital  
**Arts, Culture and  
Creative Policy  
Action Plan**

**2022  
2026**



**ACT**  
Government



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

*Front cover: Beatrice Buckland-Willis working  
on a lino print at Megalo. Photo by Pew Pew Studio.*



# 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.

# Action Plan

*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. It identifies ten focus areas to deliver on the strategies in *Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – a statement of ambition for the Arts 2021–2026: **Create, Develop** and **Promote***. The Policy applies to all areas of the ACT Government whose work impacts on or can be enhanced by the arts, culture and creative sector.

This Action Plan outlines activities, both ongoing initiatives and targeted projects against the ten focus areas to deliver on the strategies. artsACT will lead delivery of the activities in this Action Plan working with the Cultural Facilities Corporation and across the

ACT Government, as well as with the Minister's Creative Council, the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network, local and national arts organisations and enterprises.

The Policy and Action Plan will be 'living documents', in that they will be reviewed from time to time to ensure they remain relevant to the needs of the sector, having regard to changes within it, the implemented actions and deliverables, stakeholder feedback and alignment with ACT Government priorities. As time progresses, some activities may result in specific deliverables which will be added and clearly defined in the Plan.

## Create — Develop — Promote

<b>First Nations Focus Area: Elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultural and artistic practices to enhance outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and reflect Canberra's unique culture and identity, by:</b>	When will we do this			
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network on the development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Space at Kingston Arts Precinct.	✓	✓		
Developing connections 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 and building digital capacity.	✓			
Continue the partnership with Wellington City Council to deliver the Canberra Wellington Indigenous Artist Exchange.		✓		✓
Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural arts practices by facilitating cultural led artist camps on-Country for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.	✓			
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	
Investing in programs to enhance outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.			Ongoing	

## 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, by:	When will we do this			
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Actively seeking partnership opportunities with national organisations and state and territory arts agencies on the implementation of key national strategies such as the Australia Council for the Arts' Digital Cultural Program.	✓			
Exploring mechanisms to encourage increased collaboration and cross collaboration amongst arts organisations as well as other sectors including building on the success of initiatives modelled in the Creative Recovery and Resilience Program and partnerships with makerspaces.	✓			
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	
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	
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	
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 enhance its gallery experiences, to create work responding to exhibitions.			Ongoing	
Partnering with Creative Partnerships 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Annual workshop in arts fundraising fundamentals</li> <li>➤ Fundraising guidance and support to access programs like the Australian Cultural Fund and Plus 1 matched funding</li> <li>➤ Professional development opportunities and sector networking for arts organisations to build knowledge and ability including developing and promoting local case-studies.</li> </ul>			Ongoing	
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	

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

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, by:	When will we do this			
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Developing an Arts Facilities Strategy to support the Government in making informed decisions on building management and future use of its key cultural assets including priorities for expenditure. The Strategy will be informed by independent review of ACT Government arts and cultural facilities.	✓			
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.	✓	✓		
Upgrading Tuggeranong Arts Centre Theatre to improve safety, functionality and accessibility.	✓	✓		
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.	✓	✓		
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.		✓		
Reviewing the <i>Cultural Facilities Corporation Act 1997</i> to ensure the legislative purpose and governance structures are well placed to support current and future needs of the ACT's cultural sector including future redevelopment of the Canberra Theatre Centre.	✓			
Developing a future arts precinct in Kingston as a destination for Canberra's visual arts and culture.				Ongoing
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
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
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

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

Promote and encourage ACT Government directorate-led events to first consider hosting at an ACT Government owned arts and cultural facility. Ongoing

Partnering with City Renewal Authority on arts initiatives that will enliven Canberra's CBD and support local artists. Ongoing

Promoting Libraries ACT's community spaces to support arts and cultural activity and skills development. Ongoing

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

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



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

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, by:	When will we do this			
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Ensuring there is a diversity of voices on the Minister's Creative Council, Cultural Facilities Corporation Board, arts peer assessment panels and arts funded organisations.	✓	✓		
Reviewing the terms of reference for the Minister's Creative Council to ensure that it is best placed to support the Minister in meeting the Statement of Ambition for the Arts.	✓			
Commissioning a new public artwork by a female or non-binary artist to represent and celebrate a woman and/or non-binary person.	✓			
Engaging artists with disability in the development of the new ACT Disability Strategy to ensure representation of their voices and needs are reflected.	✓			
Seeking community input into ways to promote and encourage female and gender-diverse artists through the development of the Third Action Plan of the ACT Women's Plan 2016-26.	✓			
Reviewing artsACT's programs and guidelines so that they clearly articulate the importance of accessibility and a welcoming arts community and encourage applications to seek funding for activities that promote accessible and inclusive practices.	✓			
Building the capacity and confidence of ACT Government funded arts organisations to support access and inclusion, including training to develop Disability Inclusion Action Plans, and cross-cultural training programs to increase cultural competence.	✓	✓		
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
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
Increasing arts and culture stalls at the National Multicultural Festival in 2023 and beyond.				Ongoing
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
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
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

## 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, by:	When will we do this			
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Implementing the ACT Arts Organisation Investment Program Framework and enable leading ACT arts organisations to provide programs, services, expertise and infrastructure to support and develop the arts in the ACT, as well as activities that strongly engage with the local community.	✓			
Investigate the opportunity to link affordable spaces with areas of arts practice such as Kingston Arts Precinct.	✓	✓	✓	
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.	✓	✓		
Cultural Facilities Corporation reviewing and updating its Local Arts Engagement Policy to broaden its impact across the entire organisation and further align with the Statement of Ambition, to proactively support ACT independent artists and their artistic practice.	✓	✓		
Cultural Facilities Corporation, through ACT Historic Places, launching a new major Canberra Regional Art prize and exhibition in 2022-23 to support new art works, and to encourage community engagement with local arts practices at Lanyon Homestead, Mugga Mugga Cottage, and Calthorpes' House.	✓			
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
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
Working across Government, explore how to provide more affordable arts and studio spaces.				Ongoing
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
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
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

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

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, by:	When will we do this			
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
artsACT working with Skills Canberra to identify and promote capacity building opportunities for local artists and arts workers, in line with <i>Skilled to Succeed: Skills and Workforce Agenda for the ACT</i> , including through the following ACT Government skills and training initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Canberra Institute of Technology as the provider of vocational education and training (VET) in the ACT</li> <li>&gt; Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships</li> <li>&gt; Job Trainer</li> <li>&gt; Adult Community Education (ACE) Grants Program.</li> </ul>			Ongoing	
Working with local tertiary institutions to create and highlight pathways for artists.			Ongoing	
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	
Promoting sector skills and career opportunities through the artsACT e-newsletter.			Ongoing	
Cultural Facilities Corporation offering a range of high-quality development opportunities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 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 audio, lighting, and mechanical production</li> <li>&gt; work experience, mentoring programs, and internships to develop skills alongside industry professionals.</li> </ul>			Ongoing	

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

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, by:	When will we do this			
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Exploring how to position Canberra internationally as a City of Design.		✓		
Supporting the local screen and games sector to embrace innovative and sustainable practices, such as securing the Academy of Interactive Entertainment’s (AIE) Global Headquarters in Canberra to provide specialised, world-class education, training and production facility, investing in AIE’s new sound stage and virtual effects studio, and piloting a location incentive scheme to attract large budget screen productions to the region.	✓			
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
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

## 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, by:	When will we do this			
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Delivering a creativity and innovation festival in Winter 2023 that will bring together creative thinkers and innovators to generate original, purposeful and progressive ideas, and will showcase the careers and skills of Canberra's artists and creatives from a wide range of disciplines.	✓	✓		
Undertaking international trade missions to Wellington and Singapore to increase our understanding and visibility, with a focus on the creative industries.	✓			
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.	✓	✓		
artsACT and Libraries ACT working together to support and promote local authors through events, programs and promotions, such as enhancing the profile of the ACT Book of the Year.	✓			
Explore how existing ACT Government funding programs, such as the Major Events Fund, can leverage greater visibility of local artists and arts organisations.	✓			
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.			✓	
artsACT working across the ACT Government to cross-promote arts activities and create opportunities to engage with new audiences.				Ongoing
Encouraging and supporting organisations to collaborate and cross-promote, to amplify impact of both the ACT arts sector and exhibitions and programs.				Ongoing
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
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
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

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

Cultural Tourism Focus Area: Facilitate cultural tourism opportunities for Canberra’s arts sector, to increase its visibility nationally and internationally, by:	When will we do this			
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Strategically promoting more local arts content with VisitCanberra including through promotional materials and marketing platforms and encouraging ACT Government-funded arts organisations to promote their activities via the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse.	✓			
Working with the Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum to create opportunities for artists, and arts organisations to build networks, create partnerships and participate in the visitor economy.	✓			
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	
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 Calthorpes House, and to create commercial opportunities for the arts sector at each of the ACT Historic Places museums.			Ongoing	

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

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, by:	When will we do this			
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
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.	✓			
Cultural Facilities Corporation procuring a new ticketing system for the Canberra Theatre Centre that will increase understanding of audiences, and the economic impact of the productions that play on its stages.	✓			
Championing the value of arts, culture and creative sector and the impact it makes to cultural, social and economic outcomes for the ACT.			Ongoing	
Contributing to national research and data initiatives through fora such as the Cultural and Creative Statistics Working Group and Council of Capital Cities Lord Mayors Culture and the Arts Policy Advisory Group, as well as working with key arts research organisations.			Ongoing	
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	

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