



Create **NSW**

**2021-22**

Year in Review



The NSW Government and Create NSW pay our respects to Aboriginal Elders past and present; we acknowledge the NSW Aboriginal people are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we live and work.

We recognise the self-determination and cultural agency of NSW Aboriginal people and their communities. We advocate for protecting and maintaining cultural expression by promoting storytelling through the arts, screen and cultural infrastructure.

We continue to recognise and support our Aboriginal employees, who are an integral part of our workforce.





Alan Schacher, *BLACK ST. REAMER*  
Image: Ian Hobbs

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Cover image: Hiromi Tango, *Dance*, Museum of Contemporary Art, 'Anywhere But Here'. Image: Anna Kucera.

Acknowledgement of country image: Brolga Dance Academy is a 100% Aboriginal owned and controlled dance school based in Redfern, specialising in Traditional and Aboriginal Contemporary dance.

The Brolga Dance Academy were 2021/22 funding recipients through the Creative Koori Projects program. Image: Trent White Aboriginal Photography.

# Message from the Minister

As the NSW Minister for the Arts, I have a clear vision: for our state to be globally recognised for artistic vibrancy and a dynamic cultural sector, and for all NSW communities to have access to quality creative experiences, regardless of social, physical, geographic or personal circumstances.

Undoubtedly, it has been a challenging couple of years for the sector, with the pandemic and extreme weather events taking their toll. Despite these challenges, the NSW arts community has responded with resilience, innovation, and steadfast dedication. As we continue to recover from the wide-ranging impacts of these events, it is heartening to reflect on all that has been achieved over the past 12 months.

Our artists have continued to create, our organisations have continued to present, and our audiences have continued to participate. The NSW Government understands the vital role of arts and culture, and I am particularly proud of our support during these challenging times.

In 2022, Create NSW has delivered on government's priorities by investing in emerging, regional, Aboriginal, and culturally and linguistically diverse artists and organisations that genuinely represent the NSW community. We invested in the creation and rejuvenation of cultural facilities to showcase our homegrown and international talent, and we attracted global blockbuster productions to our shores, while also supporting our local screen sector.

Over the past twelve months the NSW Government has delivered magnificent cultural infrastructure including the globally recognised Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, the renewed Theatre Royal and the Art Gallery of NSW expansion. Furthermore, record investment in creative infrastructure through the Regional Cultural Fund and Creative Capital has ensured all communities of NSW benefit from world-class arts and cultural facilities.

As the Government's agency responsible for arts, Create NSW has increased the accessibility of high-quality arts and cultural experiences by investing in regional arts touring programs. Furthermore, NSW

primary-aged children have increased their engagement with creative arts programs, and families received support with their cost-of-living pressures through the delivery of \$62 million in Creative Kids vouchers.

In response to this year's unprecedented flood disaster, Create NSW met the urgent needs of 180 individuals and organisations impacted, distributing over \$1 million in quick response funding. We are now delivering additional cultural infrastructure funding to ensure creative organisations can remain operational, and lead recovery in their communities through arts and culture.

This year, the NSW screen sector flourished. The Made in NSW program continued to support local film makers, and NSW businesses and production staff benefited from major international blockbusters choosing NSW for their productions, such as Marvel Studios' *Thor: Love and Thunder*.

This has been a monumental year for the arts and cultural sector and I am continuously amazed by the creativity and innovation of our state's artists and arts workers. The NSW Government is committed to supporting a vibrant and sustainable arts and cultural sector, and I am incredibly proud of the team at Create NSW and recognise all the work and outcomes they have achieved this year.

The challenges we've faced have highlighted more than ever how essential arts and culture are, reiterating that an investment in the arts is an investment in our state's future.

## The Hon. Ben Franklin, MLC

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs,  
Minister for the Arts, Minister for Regional Youth,  
and Minister for Tourism



Julie Roche, *Sit Beneath*, installation at the Arboretum, Batlow  
Image: Tayla Martin

# Message from the Chief Executive

One of the valuable lessons we've learned throughout the recent tumultuous period is how fundamental the arts and cultural sector is to all of us.

When the pandemic disrupted productions, cancelled festivals, and impacted audience attendance to cultural institutions, and floods and bushfires cut off communities and caused large-scale destruction to valuable artworks and infrastructure, the loss of arts and culture in our lives was keenly felt.

It became evident that the value of the sector cannot be measured in purely economic terms. Arts and Culture make an invaluable social contribution and sustain us in a deeply human way - through the telling of stories and creative expression, building communities and connecting us to each other.

This Year in Review report is a celebration of the NSW Arts and Cultural sector's achievements in a year of adversity. It demonstrates what can be done when visionary individuals and organisations receive the right investment and resources to support their creative ambitions.

This report highlights the realisation of many big dreams and daring projects from our diverse and vibrant sector, across every region and artform. From blockbuster productions attracted to our booming screen sector, to new world-class cultural infrastructure, and many inspiring projects funded by our flagship Arts and Cultural Funding Program - our community has much to celebrate.

The role of Create NSW is to empower and support the NSW Arts and Cultural sector's continued growth, vibrancy, inclusiveness, and accessibility. Over the past financial year, when challenges arose, we remained steadfast in our commitment to the sector, responding quickly where needed. In many cases, this support provided a lifeline to individual artists and small-to-medium sized arts and cultural organisations.

These courageous creative artists and small organisations felt the full impact of the successive crises, yet showed incredible resilience, ingenuity, and passion for their respective artforms to adapt and develop new

ways to connect to audiences and industry peers.

In the case of the Northern Rivers flood response in early 2022, I'm proud of the enormous, coordinated effort and how the creative community recovered.

Our Arts and Cultural Funding Program injected \$66.5 million to empower organisations and individual artists adapt to a landscape rapidly changed by the pandemic. It is inspiring to see how funding can be transformed into new facilities, artistic programs, and connections.

Our commitment to delivering cultural infrastructure resulted in the acclaimed Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, opened in February 2022. This stunning redevelopment not only provides world-class performance spaces to showcase the work of our resident companies, it has brought people closer, creating a dynamic and energetic hub of passionate creatives and a destination for art lovers from around Australia and the world.

Create NSW will continue to work with the sector, promoting inclusivity and accessibility, to ensure our arts and culture sector is a true reflection and representation of the people and experiences of our diverse state. As we look ahead, we will continue to identify gaps, while supporting ambitious, innovative, and agile ways to help the arts and cultural sector prosper.

## Annette Pitman

Chief Executive  
Create NSW



Guy Fredericks, *Inside the Tide*, Studio A  
Image: Karla Hansen



# Year in Numbers

Through our investment in the sector, we have leveraged almost **\$1.25 billion** in total program and project support\*

Check out some of our achievements!



Lockhart Shire Council  
- Milbrulong Water  
Tower Mural  
Image: Matt Beaver

<p><b>Employment</b></p> <p><b>35,192</b> artists employed*</p> <p><b>4,189</b> volunteers supported arts and cultural activity*</p> <p>Film &amp; TV industry - NSW is the leading state for screen production in Australia, with over <b>1,500</b> screen production businesses employing <b>9,600</b> people and generating annual income of more than <b>\$1.6 billion</b></p>	<p><b>Audience</b></p> <p><b>8.1 million</b> attendees through ACFP events, performances, exhibitions, and programs</p> <p>The Screen Audience Development program supported film festivals delivering to audiences of over <b>210,000</b> in <b>48</b> venues across Sydney, Western Sydney and Regional NSW</p>	<p><b>COVID-19 Relief</b></p> <p><b>\$165.2 million</b> in support through Event Saver, Festival Restart and Performing Arts Package</p>
<p><b>Screen NSW</b></p> <p><b>\$98 million</b> committed to support screen investment in NSW, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>\$34.5 million</b> for Made in NSW International Footloose</li> <li><b>\$46.6 million</b> for Digital games and PDV</li> <li><b>\$16.6 million</b> for all other screen support activities</li> </ul> <p>This investment in the NSW screen industry has attracted further investment of <b>\$913 million</b></p>		<p><b>The Arts &amp; Cultural Funding Program</b></p> <p><b>558</b> applications</p> <p><b>\$66.5 million</b> in funding including <b>\$12.6 million</b> in Regional NSW</p>
<p><b>Create Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Create Infrastructure is implementing the NSW Government's <b>\$2 billion</b>, four-year investment into cultural infrastructure including significant state projects such as Sydney Modern, Walsh Bay and the Powerhouse Museum</p> <p>Create NSW continues delivering <b>\$100 million</b> across <b>146</b> cultural infrastructure projects throughout regional NSW via the Regional Cultural Fund, and continues to deliver across NSW through the <b>\$72 million</b> Creative Capital Fund</p>		<p><b>Creative Kids</b></p> <p><b>\$61.5 million</b> in Creative Kids vouchers providing arts and cultural experiences to more than <b>56%</b> of NSW children. Over <b>38%</b> of participants trying out a new creative artform activity</p>

\*Based on projections provided by applicants to the ACFP

# Supporting the Arts, Screen and Cultural Sector through Recovery

In the face of disasters that the NSW arts, screen, and cultural sectors experienced in the last year, Create NSW delivered effective and timely support. In the wake of the worst floods in recorded history across the Northern Rivers region, Create NSW immediately established a team to respond to the needs of the arts and culture community.

Our rapid response enabled the preservation of collections, assisted in clean up, and provided much needed financial and logistical support to address the significant damage to key arts organisations, important arts and cultural collections, as well as artists and arts worker's homes, studios, and equipment.

In consultation with the creative sector in the Northern Rivers region, we assessed the damages of the floods and developed an informed recovery strategy. Create NSW worked closely with Lismore Regional Gallery and Richmond River Historical Society to assess damage and assist in conservation efforts of their collections.

Over 800 significant items from Lismore Gallery's collection were recovered and are now being conserved in a secure space at the Registrar General's Building in Sydney.



Geoff Hannah OAM,  
*The Hannah Cabinet*  
Image: Clayton Lloyd



Mia Forrest. Supplied by  
Lismore Regional Gallery

In partnership with Property and Development NSW, Create NSW has ensured that no additional costs have been passed on to Lismore City Council to establish a temporary conservation lab for storage and conservation work on the Gallery's collection.

We are proud that our response to the flood crisis resulted in a best practice example of collaborative problem solving across government. The response has highlighted the value of clear collaboration within our organisation and strong regional partnerships with key service providers.

The ongoing strong partnerships with organisations such as Arts Northern Rivers and Museums and Galleries NSW allowed us to quickly identify needs and utilise networks and mechanisms for quick delivery

of support, including conservation assistance offered by the Australian Museum, the Powerhouse Museum, Art Gallery of NSW, State Library of NSW, Sydney Living Museums and State Archives and Records Authority. These partnerships will continue to provide important input into refining and shaping our future responses through recovery.

Quick response grants of \$1,000 facilitated by Arts Northern Rivers to 180 individuals and groups helped to address the immediate impacts on their creative practice. Recovery Grants helped arts and cultural organisations replace small scale items as well as repair infrastructure to recommence their creative businesses.

# Investing in World-class Arts and Cultural Infrastructure

The \$371 million Walsh Bay Arts Precinct was unveiled in February 2022 following completion of significant redevelopment works.

The historically significant Pier 2/3 and Wharf 4/5 project received awards in four categories at the 2022 NSW Architecture Awards, including winning the state's top award, the NSW Architecture Medallion.

Located on the traditional lands of the Gadigal, Walsh Bay has been a place of gathering for thousands of years. Former wool stores built between 1913 and 1920, Wharf 4/5 and Pier 2/3 are an integral part of Sydney's history and now feature a heritage-sensitive design by Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects, undertaken by Richard Crookes Construction.

The multi award winning Precinct located on the Sydney Harbour foreshore has delivered a premier arts and culture hub for the people of New South Wales, and an unparalleled home to nine of the nation's foremost performing arts companies: Bangarra Dance Theatre, Gondwana Choirs, Sydney Dance Company, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, Sydney Theatre Company, The Song Company, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Australian Theatre for Young People, and Bell Shakespeare.

The Precinct presents a vibrant year-round program of musical concerts, dance and theatre performances and workshops, classes, and public events. It is a unique artistic and cultural neighbourhood where world class artistic presentations are conceived, planned, rehearsed, created, performed, and shared.



Walsh Bay Arts Precinct  
Image: Courtesy of INSW

Inside the redeveloped Pier 2/3  
at the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct  
Image: Brett Boardman



The ACO's new rehearsal studio  
Image: Brett Boardman





# Supporting International Screen Production

An action-packed year for screen in NSW saw large-scale productions such as Marvel Studio's *Shang-Chi and The Legend of The Ten Rings* primarily filmed at various NSW locations. The film employed Australian studios, facilities, select locations, and best of all, Australian talent, including cast, crews, and extras.

Additionally, the production VFX and editorial services were provided out of Sydney and other Australian capitals.

Created by some of the most experienced filmmakers in the world, many based in Sydney, *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* showcases an authentic hugely talented cast, spectacular sets, costumes, special and visual effects – and

astounding stunts and fight scenes. With the film's story largely set in China and spanning multiple time periods, detail and authenticity was required for sets, costumes, hair, makeup, and weaponry.

Sydney, a city of striking beauty, cultural diversity and world-class cast, crew, and facilities, has a long history of welcoming international productions. Having world-class facilities like Fox Studios Australia was a critical factor in bringing a production of this scale to New South Wales.

*Shang-Chi and The Legend of the Ten Rings* is another successful production supported by the NSW Governments' Made In NSW Fund.

Director Destin Daniel Cretton, fight instructor Alan Tang, crew camera operator, and Simu Liu on the set of Marvel Studios' *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*. Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios  
Image: Jasin Boland



Katy (Awkwafina) and Shang-Chi (Simu Liu) in Marvel Studios' *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*. Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios  
Image: Jasin Boland



Director Taika Waititi as Korg and Chris Hemsworth as Thor on the set of Marvel Studios' *Thor: Love and Thunder* filmed at Fox Studios Australia  
Image: Jasin Boland



Hiromi Tango in her Tweed Heads studio  
Image: Courtesy of the artist



Hiromi Tango, *Rainbow Dream Moon Rainbow*  
Image: Rosie Hastie

## Nurturing and celebrating NSW talent

The inaugural Visual Arts Commissioning Program was established to support the creation of innovative and aspirational works by NSW visual artists. A total of \$990,845 to support 17 commissioned works from a wide range of disciplines from emerging to established artists. This will include the commission of two exciting artworks from senior (Wiradjuri) Contemporary Artist Lorraine Connelly-Northey and Shivanjani Lal, an artist living and working in Western Sydney and of Indo-Fijian background.

The Museum of the Riverina in Wagga Wagga will commission and acquire a new contemporary artwork by Lorraine Connelly-Northey that responds to the theme Land and Custodianship in the time of Climate Change. Connelly-Northey is based in the Riverina, in a small town

approximately 70kms from the Museum. Her commission is especially timely for the region's lead public museum as it will reopen this year within a redeveloped facility, funded by the Regional Cultural Fund and Wagga Wagga City Council.

Shivanjani Lal will create *Aise Aise Hai'* (how we remember), an ambitious new immersive exhibition experience and community memorial, drawing attention to the history and impact of indentured labour. Her powerful work, commissioned by Campbelltown Arts Centre, will present a sculptural installation of 87 tall plaster and turmeric sugarcane stalks, with video and sound components, informed by Lal's direct ties to Indentured Labour communities and the Western Sydney community.

Artweave Originals,  
*Silk Inroads community project* (Wagga Wagga)  
Image: Brittany Hefren

# In the Regions

Create NSW's investment in regional infrastructure aims to inspire new ideas and invigorate curiosity.

Take an active partnership role



Expand arts and cultural facilities across NSW



Grow NSW's visitor economy



Ngununggula, Southern Highlands Regional Gallery  
Image: Zan Wimberley

Annalouise Paul Dance Theatre, Flamenco For Everybody  
Image: Shane Rozario

Cobar Shire Council, Great Cobar Heritage Centre  
Image: Demi Smith

Lockhart Sculpture and Heritage Trail  
Image: Matt Beaver

# Central Coast

**ACFP Funded Programs:** 6 with \$132,694 in funding  
**RCF Completed Projects:** 1 with \$117,164 in funding

NAISDA Dance College/Naya Wa Yugali (NYY) Centre for International Indigenous Creative

Our Regional Cultural Fund assisted NAISDA Dance College to develop its NSW Central Coast Campus into a flagship, international precinct for Indigenous creative learning called Naya Wa Yugali, which means 'we dance' in Darkinjung language.

The new precinct is a 'ngura', a gathering place that will provide a space for Indigenous Aboriginal artists from across the world to meet and exchange ideas, knowledge and skills. Naya Wa Yugali (NYY) Centre for International Indigenous Creative Learning aims to expand career pathways and tertiary qualifications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. In addition to the \$117,164 in Regional Cultural funding, the project engaged Root Partnerships to prepare a Business Case report for the first stage NAISDA's growth strategy.



Central Coast Chamber Orchestra. Image: Lisa Haymes  
 Little Quirks performing at Glenworth Valley Food and Wine Festival. Image: Adam Toole  
 Rilka Oakley, Chop wood, carry wate. Image: Ben Adams



# Hunter

**RADO:** Arts Upper Hunter  
**ACFP Funded Programs:** 27 with \$1,870,437 in funding  
**RCF Completed Projects:** 5 with \$5,396,659 in funding

Newcastle Writer's Festival

Create NSW has supported the delivery of the 2022 Newcastle Writers' Festival Hybrid Program with \$100,000 to deliver live events with new digital capabilities developed in response to COVID-19. A hybrid digital and live delivered program ensured public safety, higher accessibility and audience engagement whilst celebrating a range of writers. The incredible artistic talent encompassed nationally significant to emerging writers who inspired a deeper love of writing and reading. The 2022 Newcastle Writers' Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary, confirming its place as one of the most established and largest regional literary festivals in Australia.

# Central West & Orana

**ACFP Funded Programs:** 21 with \$1,515,416 in funding  
**RCF Completed Projects:** 6 with \$8,865,840 in funding, including Mid-Western Regional Council/Mudgee Arts

Cementa

Since the inaugural Cementa festival in 2014, Create NSW has supported the organisation as it has grown in local popularity and regional scope into a significant biennale event. With Create NSW funding of almost \$150,000, Cementa now attracts support from all levels of government, philanthropic support, and, most significantly, from its small regional community of Kandos.

WAYOUT Artspace

This remarkable journey in community support has emerged with an exciting opportunity to purchase the WAYOUT Artspace. Backed by a Create NSW Infrastructure grant of \$89,042, this has resulted in a permanent and sustainable foundation to connect regional and urban artists through activity that includes the Kandos / Rylstone community as partners.



Warren Shire Council, Stafford St Water Tower. Image: Steven Christian  
 Theresa Gay, Identity Tick-a-box. Image: Gus Armstrong



# Far West

**RADO:** West Darling Arts  
**ACFP Funded Programs:** 4 with \$342,905 in funding  
**RCF Completed Projects:** 2 with \$693,791 in funding

Cobar Shire Council - Weather proofing the Great Cobar Heritage Centre

An investment of \$295,603 to weatherproof the Great Cobar Heritage Centre ensured the building and its wonderful collection of exhibits and artefacts can be preserved for generations to come.

Improving the weatherproofing and safety provided a more comfortable experience for visitors and allowed better use of the space including increased exhibition space.

A further \$398,188 allowed an award-winning refurbishment of the exhibitions of the Great Cobar Heritage Centre, the first in 30 years. The project was awarded the 2022 National Trust Heritage Award - Conservation Built Heritage, the Judges' Choice Award as well as the 2022 NSW Architecture Awards - EmAGN Project Award and Creative Adaption.



COLLECT 2022 opening performance by artists Bridie Watt, Jen Denzin and Lyndal Campbell. Image: Wanagi Zable-Andrews  
 Refurbished exhibition display, Great Cobar Heritage Centre. Image: Courtesy of Create NSW



# Illawarra Shoalhaven

**RADO:** South Coast Arts covering Shoalhaven, Shellharbour and Kiama  
**ACFP Funded Programs:** 30 with \$1,178,067 in funding

## South Coast RADO

Create NSW assisted in the establishment of the first Regional Arts Development Organisation (RADO) for the South Coast of NSW, covering the local government areas of Shoalhaven, Shellharbour and Kiama. The South Coast RADO will provide arts and cultural services that are specific to the region, generate opportunities and connections to progress arts projects as well as the careers of local artists. As a connector to the broader arts sector, the RADO will act as a central point for local artists to source information, develop skills, network and collaborate on projects. Importantly, South Coast RADO will increase support and representation of the significant presence of First Nations arts and cultural practitioners in the region.

## Bundanon Trust - Riversdale Masterplan

\$8,592,299 in support to help develop Bundanon Trust's exciting and innovative new Masterplan, including the award-winning Art Museum. The Museum now provides a state-of-the-art storage facility for the Boyd Collection, protected from fire, flood and other environmental factors, with room for it to grow. Now open to the public five days a week, the Museum will also plan a program of three exhibitions per year for visitors. Bundanon has also undertaken a deeper level of engagement with First Nations communities through its Art Museum and new facilities. Bundanon Trust was awarded The Sulman Medal for Public Architecture and Sustainable Architecture in the NSW Architecture Awards. Bundanon Trust is also supported by \$140,000 in ACFP funding to deliver arts and cultural activities.



Izabela Pluta, *Counter forces*. Image: Zan Wimberley  
 Bundanon Art Museum and Bridge. Image: Zan Wimberley  
 Curious Legends, *Gimbay Gatigaan*. Image: Mick Ross

# New England North West

**RADO:** Arts North West  
**ACFP Funded Programs:** 15 with \$1,028,706 in funding  
**RCF Completed Projects:** 6 with \$1,784,690 in funding

## Armidale Aboriginal Cultural Centre & Keeping Place - First Nations Digitisation

Through our Regional Cultural Fund Digitisation Program, we provided \$233,965 to the Armidale Aboriginal Cultural Centre & Keeping Place (ACCKP) to audit, digitise and catalogue approximately 200 items of historical and cultural Aboriginal significance. The funding also supported training staff in newly established processes and protocols, and resource the ACCKP with the required equipment and facilities for recording, maintaining and preserving these items. The ACCKP is working with Local Aboriginal Land Councils, the University of New England, the State Library of NSW, and private collections in digitising items placed in the centre's care, building links and additional connections with other community organisations and supporting capacity building, job creation and skill development of Aboriginal people.

# North Coast

**RADO:** Arts Mid North Coast & Arts Northern Rivers  
**ACFP Funded Programs:** 89 with \$3,079,951 in funding  
**RCF Completed Projects:** 3 with \$1,363,172, including Brunswick Picture House Upgrades with \$627,000.

## Screenworks

Based in the Northern Rivers, Screenworks is one of the key stakeholders delivering on the NSW Government's regional priority area across the Screen sector. With support from Screen NSW, Screenworks delivers professional industry programs and activities for people at every career stage to develop their skills and build a diverse and thriving regional screen sector in NSW. Screenworks facilitates important networking opportunities, fostering industry connections for regional screen content creators. It also supports local and non-local film productions in the Northern Rivers region to secure locations and production crew. In early 2022, Screen NSW devolved funds to Screenworks to run a micro grants program to support flood affected screen practitioners in the Northern Rivers.



Sprung! at French Cafe, Grafton. Image: Courtesy of Sprung! Integrated Dance Theatre  
 Screenworks forum. Image: Courtesy of Screenworks



Sprung! contemporary class with Stuart Shugg. Image: Courtesy of Sprung! Integrated Dance Theatre  
 Byron Writers Festival. Image: Kurt Petersen

# Riverina Murray

**RADO:** Eastern Riverina Arts, Western Riverina Arts, South West Arts & Murray Arts

**ACFP Funded Programs:** 19 with \$1,982,470 in funding

**RCF Completed Projects:** 1 with \$233,965 in funding

Albury City Council/Murray Region Digitisation Hub

Our Regional Cultural Funding Program supported the extension of the regional museum outreach with \$233,965 undertaken by Albury City and Greater Hume Councils. Albury City Council entered into significant written agreements with seven community museums and collecting organisations in the Murray region. The project will ensure digital conservation of significant objects within the region's heritage collection.



Create Hub Riverina, STARTTS and Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre, *Sharing Stories*. Image: Jackie Cooper Doris Golder, *Wool Art Gallery*, Greens Gunyah Museum. Image: Embarketing

# South East & Tablelands

**RADO:** South East Arts & Southern Tableland Arts, Riverina Arts, South West Arts & Murray Arts

**ACFP Funded Programs:** 24 with \$1,515,481 in funding

**RCF Completed Projects:** 4 with \$15,030,000 in funding, including the Goulburn Region Performing Arts Centre for \$4,500,000

Ngununggula Southern Highlands Gallery

The exciting new development of Ngununggula, Southern Highlands Regional Gallery in Bowral was supported with \$2,490,000 in Regional Cultural Funding. The Gallery is situated on a property bequeathed to the National Trust by the late James Fairfax AC. Funding supported the award-winning design, adaptive reuse and fit-out of several spaces into a state-of-the-art regional gallery. The Gallery was the 2022 National Trust Heritage Award Winner for Adaptive Reuse and received Commendation in the 2022 NSW Architecture Awards. Ngununggula also received \$140,000 in ACFP support to deliver innovative and meaningful arts and cultural events and engagements to the region.

Indigenous Weaving Workshop with Ronnie Jordan at Gunning Station Open Day. Image: Southern Tablelands Arts John Olson, *Goya's Dog* at Ngununggula, Southern Highlands Regional Gallery. Image: Zan Wimberley



Lisa Maris McDonnell, *The Lobster*  
Image: Children of the Revolution



# Western Sydney

**ACFP Funded Programs:** 72 with \$4,583,826 in funding

Here Out West is a Western Sydney success story supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW from the beginning of the production. A group of talented emerging writers received funding for the development of scripts.

Three years later, with further development funding and Screen production finance support, Here Out West was selected to have its world premiere as the opening night film at the Sydney Film Festival.

Eight different writers, from eight different cultural backgrounds living across Western Sydney collaborated for Here Out West making it a truly international production.

The film brings together nine languages, speaking to the many truths and complexities of Western Sydney communities. The success of the film and its reception by audiences proves that Australians have a strong appetite for stories that reflect contemporary life in Australia and its rich cultural diversity.

Artist's render of Powerhouse Parramatta. Image: XXXXXXXX CuriousWorks Art Workshop, GEN2168 Festival 2022. Image: Furqan Farttoosi



Powerhouse Parramatta is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform and renew one of Australia's oldest and most important cultural institutions.

Expected to attract over two million visitors in its first year, Powerhouse Parramatta will deliver dynamic and exclusive international exhibitions, education, and community programs. Site activities are well underway, including earthworks, service diversions and piling in preparation for the building infrastructure to commence.

Powerhouse Parramatta is our commitment to making sure NSW's extraordinary treasures are now more than ever accessible to the wider community.



Garabara Dance Group performing at FUNPARK Festival 2022. Image: Mosca Media Powerhouse Youth Theatre Inc, *The Pioneers*. Image: Anna Kucera Powerhouse Youth Theatre Inc, *Action Star*. Image: Anna Kucera



Jana Castillo after TRESTLE at Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre - costume painted by Ken Done. Image: Ben Williams BARKKA performing at FUNPARK Festival 2022. Image: Mosca Medi



We're working with Parramatta City Council, to support the delivery of the \$120,000 Live Music Parramatta program. The project comprised multiple programs that employed and supported musicians, producers, and music industry workers from Western Sydney.

Parramatta City Council focused on bringing the whole of Western Sydney together to celebrate music in solidarity.

Consolidating live performance opportunities for contemporary music, the program utilised new and old performance spaces.

Nurturing and building audiences, Live Music Parramatta gave performers the chance to present their work to mentors, peers, and current and new fans.

The successful Culture Up Late program was extended to the bustling cultural hubs of Western Sydney with \$1 million in support.

Eight Arts and Cultural organisations were supported to keep their doors open late to host exhibitions, tours, events, live music, food trucks, dance programs, and film screenings.

Culture Up Late in Western Sydney was an impactful initiative that helped revitalise the state's economy, create more jobs, attract visitors to the area, and provide new and unique opportunities to engage with arts and culture.

# Sydney Metro

**ACFP Funded Programs:** 247 with \$48,391,520 in funding  
**RCF Completed Projects:** 1 with \$635,250 in funding

Revitalisation of infrastructure is central to our vision in NSW enabling the people of NSW better access to the arts. Repurposing the historic Registrar Generals Building (RGB) in the Sydney CBD into a temporary creative hub for arts, screen, and cultural organisations has supported a range of organisations in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program has activated an underutilised building while long-term precinct planning continues.

A new, super-flexible model tested out alternative ways of providing space to meet the needs of the cultural sector and is providing space for 12 arts and cultural organisations. These include: Art Gallery of NSW, Australian Haydn Ensemble, Collins and Turner, Endangered Productions, Monkey Baa Theatre Company, Music in the Regions, Sydney International Piano Competition, Sydney Writers Room, Sydney Youth Orchestras, The House That Dan Built, Incognito Art Show and Studio Gilay.

Create NSW continues to scope out new opportunities to renew cultural infrastructure and improve cultural precincts.



Theatre Royal auditorium. Image: Pierre Toussaint  
 Charles O'Perry, *Mercator*, Theatre Royal foyer. Image: Pierre Toussaint  
 A is for Apple by Jessica Bellamy  
 Image: Robert Catto

Dedicated to serving the technicians and artisans in the NSW screen, theatre and arts sectors is One Canal Road, Leichhardt. One Canal Road is currently home to 57 industry professionals across 19 specialised trades. Create NSW leased the precinct in July 2021 from Property NSW securing its future and providing certainty to its tenants.

Since 2001, the tenants at One Canal Road have supported 194 feature films with worldwide box office revenue over \$19.1 billion. Accommodating multiple productions over the years including many TV dramas, theatre shows, and TV commercials. This precinct supports approximately 350 screen and arts jobs and has 150 to 200 people working onsite daily.



Melissa Dubbin and Aaron S. Davidson, *THE CLOUD IN THE OCEAN*. Courtesy the artists. Commissioned by the Biennale of Sydney. Image: Document Photography  
 Installation view, 23rd Biennale of Sydney. Image: Document Photography.

The reopening of the renovated Theatre Royal with Broadway hit musical, *Jagged Little Pill* in December 2021 was facilitated by the Create Infrastructure team in partnership with Dexus and Trafalgar Entertainment. The theatre closed in March 2016 amid building refurbishment and acquisition of the MLC Centre site by Dexus.

The Biennale of Sydney is Australia's only international, biennial event for contemporary art, bringing artists and artworks from around the world to exhibit, perform and hold discussions around a curated theme. The 23rd Biennale of Sydney, titled: *rivus* focused on waterways and the ecologies they sustain.

In 2019, to prevent the theatre being converted to retail, the NSW Government entered into an agreement with Dexus for a long-term (55 year) lease of the theatre. We are meeting the increasing demand for theatres in Sydney and continuing to support live performances to help revitalise our city's 24-hour economy.

Over 400 events were presented across the Sydney and Western Sydney area including: *Barangaroo* (The Cutaway and Stargazer Lawn), *Pier 2/3* at the newly redeveloped Walsh Bay (See our full story on page 9), our world-class cultural institutions, and the Arts and Cultural Exchange in Parramatta.



Registrar Generals Building. Image: Letizia Coppo and Associates  
 RGB conservation lab painting restoration. Image: Sydney Morning Herald





New South Wales with its enviable lifestyle, world-class cast, crew and facilities, and cultural and geographical diversity, was the perfect setting for Academy Award Winning Taika Waititi's vision for Thor: Love and Thunder to come to life. Supported by the Australian Federal Government and Screen NSW's Made in NSW - International Footloose Production fund, the film was estimated to invest over \$178 million in our economy, create up to 2,500 jobs and employ the services of around 1,650 businesses.

It also provided important upskilling and training opportunities to develop local industry professionals. Another wonderful aspect of Waititi's Thor: Love and Thunder is the weaving of his own Maori culture and that of Australia's Indigenous Aboriginal people into the film. This is reflected on screen in the characters and in aspects of the design. Behind the scenes, a number of young Indigenous filmmakers were given the opportunity to observe and learn from Waitiki on set.



Victoria Atkinson, Mathew Calandra and Thom Roberts at the Archibald artist lunch, standing with Thom's Archibald Prize portrait. Image: Karla Hansen  
 Pom Klementieff as Mantis, Chris Pratt as Star-Lord aka Peter Quill, and Chris Hemsworth as Thor in Marvel Studios' Thor: Love and Thunder. Image: Jasin Boland

Our ambition for arts and culture to be accessible for all is embodied in the work that Studio A delivers. Create NSW funding supports Studio A to create professional pathways for artists with intellectual disability. Their programs enable artists to grow their creative practices through highly tailored professional support programs.

Animation and VFX traineeships support the development of our local talent across the animation and VFX industries by offering skills development opportunities.

These placements provide real working experience and employment opportunities in the sector for our home-grown talent.

Testament to the success of the program, all Trainees who completed the six-month traineeship program secured permanent contracts with their host organisations.

Meagan Pelham with Sunset Forest mural, designed by Meagan Pelham and Phil Sidney for LAVO Sydney  
 Image: Gabrielle Mordy  
 Exhibition installation view, Magical Putt Putt. Image: Jessica Maurer



Jenni Large in THAW, Legs On The Wall.  
 Image: Shane Rozario

# Impact of the Arts

NSW Government support for the Arts, Screen and Cultural sector has a broader impact than providing investment in creatives across the state.

By investing **\$66.5 million** in the sector in 2021/22, we estimate that over **8.1 million** attendees were able to experience more than **14,000** events, performances, exhibitions and programs.

Additionally, over **35,000\*** NSW artists were engaged and a further **6,452** people employed to support the delivery of support programs and projects.

This funding leveraged over **\$334 million** in total project and program value, including approximately **\$222 million** paid in wages to artists and arts workers.



John Gerrard, *Leaf Work*.  
Courtesy of the artist  
Image: Document Photography

# Audience Growth

Delivering **\$40 million** in **Blockbuster Funding** to entice audiences both nationally and internationally. Attracting significant exhibitions such as 'Jurassic World by Brickman' and 'Matisse: Life & Spirit Masterpieces from the Centre Pompidou, Paris' and delivering regional tours of 'William Kentridge: I am not me, the horse is not mine' and 'Wynne Prize' has provided access to major works by the communities of NSW.

Home grown exhibitions such as Australian Museum's *Sharks* exhibition are now being developed for international venues to showcase and promote NSW arts and culture more broadly.

Enabled through the CBD Revitalisation Fund, Create NSW provided **\$5 million** to support the **Culture Up Late** program, delivering **16** events and programs across Sydney and Western Sydney. Major cultural organisations such as the Art Gallery of NSW, Powerhouse Museum, Casula Powerhouse, Blacktown Arts

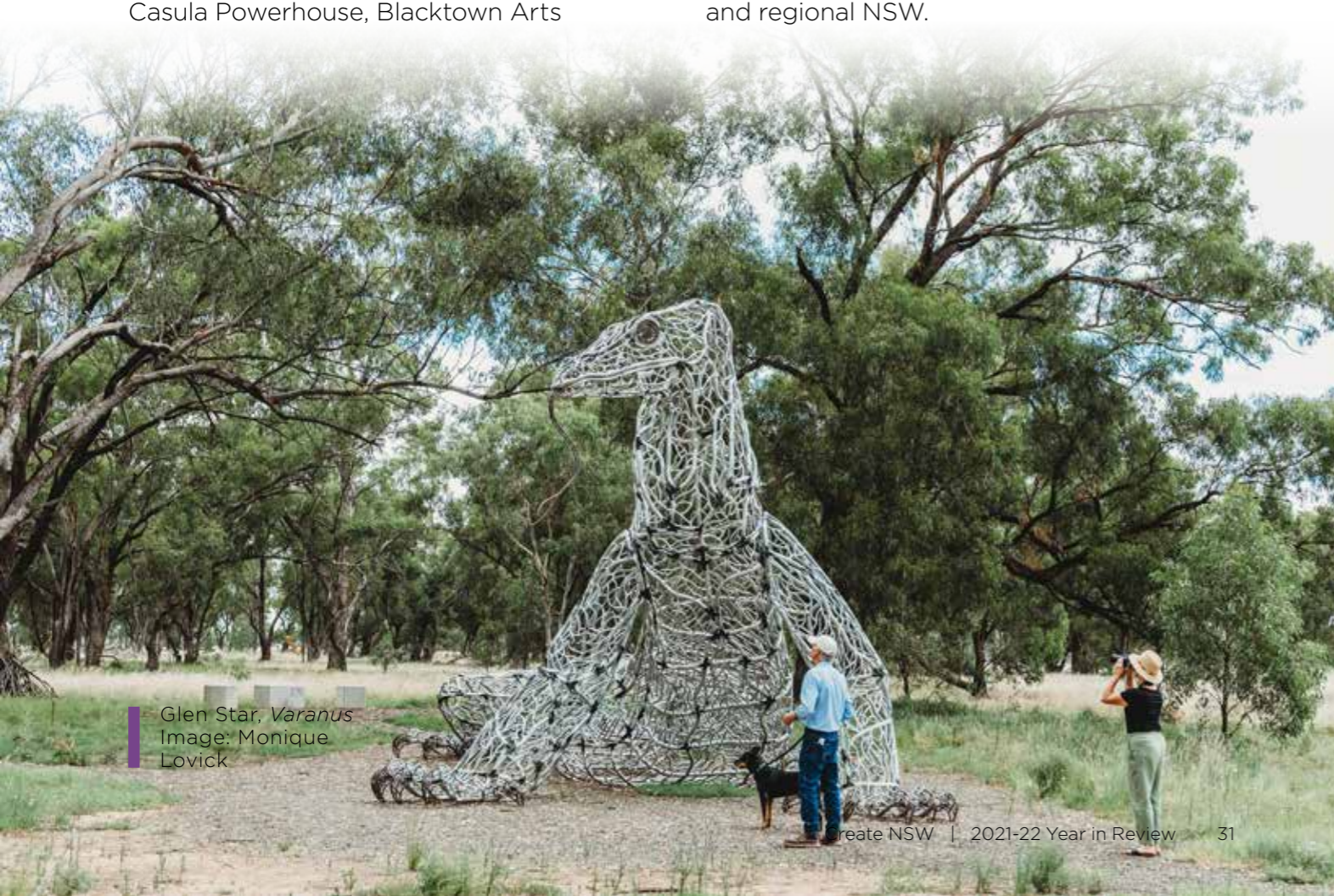
Centre and the National Art School activated their precincts with music, arts markets, artists talk and community engagements to encourage audiences into City centres.

Our **Regional Arts Touring** funding program enables equitable and accessible engagement with the arts. Over **\$2 million** in touring funding provided opportunities for audiences in regional NSW to see the best in performance and visual arts. This included supporting Music in the Regions to deliver classical music in small halls, conservatoriums and community centres.

The **Screen Audience Development** program supports a range of public screenings, festivals and tours that provide opportunities for audiences to see and experience quality screen content across NSW. In 2021/22 Screen NSW provided support to **16** festivals to deliver to over **130,000** audience members in **56** locations across Sydney, Western Sydney and regional NSW.



Capacity crowds at Byron Writers Festival  
Image: J Miller



Glen Star, *Varanus*  
Image: Monique Lovick



Montgomery Church perform at the Arbour Festival Finale  
Image: Matt Beaver

Argo Pacifico Kids Club,  
The Lock-Up  
Image: Jessie Jane



## Young People and Professional Development

Create NSW have partnered with the **Office for Regional Youth** to deliver an annual program of free youth activities in Regional NSW as part of a **Holiday Break Program** with a total funding value of **\$1,550,000**.

Programs include a variety of artforms, with a focus on Aboriginal and First Nations engagement and participation of disadvantaged regional areas affected by flood, fire, drought, and COVID-19 to promote emotional wellbeing and creativity. Create NSW has funded more than 90 project partners delivering activities to over **1,000** participants aged 12-24 years.

Over **\$300,000** went to creating opportunities for individuals to get a step up in the development of their professional creative careers.

The **Creative Leadership** program offers one-of-a-kind industry opportunities with industry partners. **126** individual artists and groups were able to partake and deliver over **9,000** events and activities in NSW through over **\$600,000** in support through the **Small Project Grants** quick response program.

Create NSW supports the annual **NSW Premier's Literary and History Awards** with funding of **\$345,000**. These awards honour distinguished achievements by Australian writers and historians and build NSW's artistic reputation by drawing international attention to some of our best writers and celebrating NSW's cultural and historical sector.

The **Creative Kids** program has become a household name for NSW families. Since the launch of the program in 2019 until the end of 21/22 more than **\$157 million** in savings had been passed onto NSW families, and injected into the creative economy. The program is now providing arts and cultural learning experiences to more than **56%** of NSW children, with over **38%** trying out a new creative artform activity in 21/22.

Over **4,500** NSW businesses and arts and cultural organisations are participating as registered providers with over **1,300** Providers based in Regional NSW and

over **1,000** Providers based in Western Sydney delivering eligible programs for their local communities.

Access to professional development and career opportunities is essential for all aspiring arts workers and artists, through **Createability**. Create NSW in partnership with Screen NSW provides unique internships for NSW-based people with disability and/or are d/Deaf. Createability provided **10** interns the opportunity to work in arts and cultural organisations across NSW, including places such as Merrigong Theatre Company, SBS, Sydney Opera House and Animal Logic.



Central Coast Conservatorium of Music, Christmas String Concert  
Image: Di Gardiner



Guy Fredericks and Laura Jones on-set filming an episode of Studio A: MAKE ART. Image by Georgia Quinn

## Sector Development and Support

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 impact, we continued our support to creative industries to deliver arts and cultural experiences to the people of NSW.

**Event Saver** supported Major Events with **\$4.3 million** to provide certainty to enable planning and delivery of events to the people of NSW. **Festival Relaunch** supported **48** organisations with **\$24.6 million** to enable them to continue to deliver festivals in NSW.

**Performing Arts COVID Support Packages** supported over **2,900** organisations, artists and suppliers with **\$136.3 million** to continue to provide performing arts to NSW. The **COVID Development Grant** program supported **86** artists, arts workers and organisations who lost income due to COVID-19 with **\$515,516**.

Arts and Cultural sector development has been enhanced through Create NSW

delivering on its **Service Needs Review** of 2020. Over **\$900,000** has been committed to support individual projects and programs that address gaps in support of the sector.

Outcomes such as Diversity Arts Australia working with **16** arts and culture organisations to deliver *Culture Change: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Capacity Building Program*, and Studio A delivering *Rights Animated*, a project delivered in collaboration with Arts Law to address critical gaps in legal rights information for artists with intellectual disability and/or literacy challenges.

To support increased development in the digital field, Create NSW has partnered with the Australia Council on its Digital Cultural Strategy to deliver a range of Digital Strategist in Residence opportunities for NSW-based organisations.

In 2021 Create NSW published the Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Protocols, a guide for modelling best practice to the broader sector on ethical ways to work and engage with Aboriginal people and communities.

There are 2 sections to the protocols that describe the type of work many Aboriginal artists and art workers undertake: Aboriginal people that develop their own projects; or Aboriginal people that are invited to collaborate partially or fully on a project.

In consultation with Create NSW Aboriginal Advisory Committee, the Bayala Group, the Arts and Cultural Funding Program (ACFP) application section of 'Aboriginal Cultural Elements', will now have additional questions requiring applicants to read and address the Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Protocols in relation to their project or program.

We have found the responses from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal applicants from Small Project Grants to be very

strong and respectful comments. These same protocols have informed consultation with the Bayala Group on Create Infrastructure projects, providing guidance on how to better align with the Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Protocols.

First Nations led-consultation commenced to inform the development of a NSW Museum Strategy that also included Keeping Places. As part of the Strategy, Create NSW travelled to Keeping Places and Aboriginal Cultural Centres for in-person consultation meetings.

A grant of **\$440,000** from the Regional Cultural Fund contributed towards First Nations digitisation projects. These projects included purchasing equipment, securing additional resources and training to build capacity to establish a network to embed First Nations digitisation protocols and processes across the State.



Uncle Ivan Wellington with students at the Red Room Poetry's Poem Forest program. Image: Tawfik Elgazzar

Mike van Dam, *Bird in Hand*  
Image: Monique Lovick



The NSW Government Public Art Toolkit has been developed to help NSW Government agencies apply best practice principles to planning, commissioning, implementing and maintaining public art.

The toolkit contains guidance notes, case studies and specialist information to illustrate the key steps in successfully creating public art. Public art principles to guide best practice policy and strategy, alongside principles to guide and create meaningful First Nations public art projects, engagement and collaboration are also featured in the toolkit to highlight the benefits of meaningful creative expression in placemaking.

The NSW Government Public Art Toolkit is written with government agencies in mind, however, the information provided will also be useful to private developers and artists working with public art.

Create NSW invested over \$3.4 million in the Regional Arts Network in 2021/22 that includes \$200,000 per annum to each Regional Arts Development Organisation (RADO) across the state, which was

an increase from \$168,000 in core operational funds in 2020/21.

This funding boost has enabled more employment opportunities for artists and practitioners as well as the delivery of cultural experiences for regional audiences and recognises the importance of ensuring arts and cultural activity is most effective when developed in the regions for the regions.

In addition, each RADO received \$17,000 in devolved funding from Create NSW to deliver a small grants program for their local communities as well as an allocation of \$150,000 for the entire RADO network to develop a strategic project that supports and showcases arts and cultural activity.

The Regional Arts Network has been developed over the past 30 years with core funding from the NSW Government and through local Council support, to assist RADOs to inform and promote arts and cultural activity within the local community including opportunities for creative professionals in the regions.



Lockhart Shire Council - Lockhart  
Water Tower Mural  
Image: Matt Beaver

# Our Commitment to Arts and Culture in NSW

Our vision is that NSW will be known for its bold and exciting arts and culture that engage our community and reflect our rich diversity.

## Who we are

Create NSW supports and amplifies the work of the arts, screen, and culture sector, delivering a strong, sustainable cultural ecosystem for the benefit of the people of NSW by enabling arts and cultural participation, production, distribution, access and enjoyment in the community, we shape NSW as a place where creative excellence thrives, ensuring that NSW is a great place to live, work, visit, and invest.

Create NSW actively supports the arts and culture sector through policy, investment, partnerships and advocacy, driving investment and jobs in the creative industries, and delivering the cultural infrastructure needs of the state.

The artists, programs, and events that Create NSW support play a major role in the NSW economy, enlivening our cities, stimulating the economy (including the 24-hour economy) and providing valuable educational and cultural experiences that enhance wellbeing and bring joy to our residents and visitors.

## What we do

- Provide leadership in delivering NSW Arts and Cultural Policy
- Promote the role and impact of arts, culture, and creativity to our identity, community, and economy
- Work with artists and arts workers, the arts and cultural sector and our partners within government
- Foster an innovative arts and cultural sector by growing creative industries
- Support opportunities for more people to experience and shape the arts, particularly in Regional NSW
- Encourage the diversity of arts and culture in NSW and fostering more opportunities for Aboriginal artists and arts workers
- Deliver high quality customer service through effective performance management
- Provide a coordinated infrastructure planning, policy, and delivery strategy for the cultural sector
- Provide excellence in the delivery of priority projects.



