



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked By: Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

Addressed to: Minister for the Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy

Reference: Arts

Hearing Date: 31 July 2024

In relation to: The Statement of Ambition for the Arts

QON lodgement Date: 1 August 2024

Answer Due date: 8 August 2024

- (1) Has there been any change to Canberra's reputation as the nation's arts capital (reference the Statement of Ambition for the Arts and the Arts, Culture and Creative Policy, the Directorate will support a culturally rich and vibrant community, where arts and creativity are apparent anywhere, at any time for everyone. The Directorate will support artists and creatives to develop their capacity and capability and encourage creative collaboration within the arts sector and beyond. The Directorate will achieve this through funding and activities which support artists and arts organisations, fostering Canberra's reputation as a premier city for creativity and to be recognised as Australia's arts capital.)
- (2) What data is there to support any increase or change in Canberra's recognition as the nation's arts capital?
- (3) What collaborations have actually taken place? With and for Canberra creatives?

Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) *Canberra – Australia's Arts Capital and Creative Policy 2022-26* has a related Action Plan, which was released in July 2022. It is a four-year plan, starting with 82 actions, ongoing initiatives and targeted projects involving the arts portfolio, portfolios across the ACT Government and other strategic partners. In November 2023, artsACT published on its website "[Key Highlights from Year One](#)", documenting the progress against the Action Plan. Progress made in the second year of the Action Plan will be published in due course.
- (2) The ACT Government measures community attitude through key industry research.

The *Creating Value: Results National Arts Participation Survey* (Creative Australia and Lonergan Research) found that the arts have a place in the lives of 99 per cent of Australians living in

ACT, a three per cent increase in engagement pre-COVID (2019: 96 per cent), reinforcing the importance of the arts in our everyday lives.

The Survey found that 85 per cent of Canberrans acknowledge the significant positive impact the arts have across a range of areas including:

- our ability to express ourselves (66 per cent)
- stimulating our minds (64 per cent)
- child development (65 per cent)
- our understanding of other people cultures (65 per cent)
- our sense of wellbeing and happiness (61 per cent)
- our ability to think creatively and develop new ideas (59 per cent)
- helping us deal with stress, anxiety and depression (56 per cent).

The Survey also measured Canberrans' attitudes towards the arts, key finding include:

- 77 per cent of Canberrans strongly agree or agree that artists make an important contribution the arts compared with 72 per cent nationally
- 73 per cent of Canberrans strongly agree or agree that cultural and creative experiences make for a richer and more meaningful life compared with 69 per cent nationally.

The ACT report can be found on the [ACT Arts Data page](#) on the artsACT website.

[Creative Canberra](#), the University of Canberra first environmental scan of the ACT creative industries identifies "Canberra as a national leader in creative and intellectual capital, and a premier jurisdiction for creative pursuits" (page 28). The study found that the ACT has the largest proportion of creative workers and the highest creative intensity (proportion of people working in creative occupations across all ACT industries), and contributes a greater percentage to the ACT's Gross State Product (GSP) than all other states and territories.

- (3) Over \$9 Million is provided through the Arts Organisation Investment program to 29 arts organisations. In the first year (2023) of this funding being provided, the 29 arts organisations reported collaborations with 3,290 artists, 301 arts organisations and 276 other businesses. Some examples of these collaborations can be found through arts organisations' annual reports and websites.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:

8/8/24

By the Minister for the Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, Tara Cheyne MLA