



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 Page 78 Budget Outlook

Hearing Date: 31 July 2024

In relation to: Canberra's creative industries

QON lodgement Date: 2 August 2024

Answer Due date: 8 August 2024

- Can you explain how the current budget addresses the distinction between infrastructure funding and arts funding, given that funding buildings does not generate creative activity per se?
- What amount of funding is directed to actual creative projects rather than capital works?
- What specific measures are in place in the current budget to support independent theatres and creative enterprises in Canberra?
- How does the current budget plan to leverage the economic benefits of the creative arts sector, given that research shows that arts tourists spend more and contribute significantly to the local economy? In other words, what funding is allocated specifically to stimulate creative arts activity and attract arts tourists?
- How does the current budget ensure that funds for creative projects are not diverted to other sectors, and what safeguards are in place to maintain the integrity of the arts budget, such as health of education projects which could be funded from relevant budgets and not from the arts budget?
- How does Canberra's arts funding compare with other major cities in Australia, and what steps is the government taking to ensure that Canberra remains competitive and attractive for artists and creative enterprises?
- What measures are in place to ensure accountability in the allocation and utilisation of arts funding, and how will the government measure the impact of its investment in the creative industries to ensure it meets its objectives?

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

- The ACT Budget papers specify where funding is against capital or expenses. The [Arts Funding at a Glance](#) also identifies the different type of funding supporting the arts, culture and creative sectors.
- The ACT Arts Fund is one of the main ways in which the ACT Government provides direct support to the artists, arts workers and arts organisations. In 2023-24, \$11,172,306 was provided to 140 recipients.
- Independent theatre companies and creative enterprises in Canberra are able to apply for funding through the Arts Activities categories for eligible projects. Arts Activities funding guidelines can be found on artsACT's [website](#).

In the 2024-25 Budget, \$200,000 in additional funding is being provided to support Canberra's arts organisations who receive funding through the Arts Organisation Investment Program. This includes funding to the Street Theatre which delivers professional development programs and productions for local theatre artists.

- Funding delivered through the ACT Arts Fund stimulates creative arts activity. Collectively, arts organisations funded through the Arts Organisation Investment Program contribute to Canberra's cultural tourism by providing unique experiences, and cross-promotion and better connections and wayfinding between arts and cultural organisations.

Canberra – Australia's Arts Capital and Creative Policy 2022-26 Action Plan, includes a number of specific initiatives that address the focus areas of promotion and cultural tourism. In November 2023, artsACT published on its website "Key Highlights from Year One", documenting the progress against the Action Plan. Outcomes include:

- Three Canberra Arts Tourism workshops, delivered from May to August 2023, provided guidance to local arts organisations encouraging listing on ATDW and being promoted via Visit Canberra channels as well as supporting greater collaboration between organisations and provided information to the arts sector on how to be visible at key information and tourism sites.
- Local arts experiences have been highlighted through destination campaign activity, including the Gallery of Small Things as a key story. Social media activity has featured local arts experiences and businesses. Visit journalist and influencer programs have provided connections to local arts experiences and businesses.
- The 2023 ACT Event Fund round supported eight arts-based events that featured mediums including sculpture and puppetry, music, comedy, creative arts, circus art, film and theatre.

In 2024, Visit Canberra, in collaboration with Canberra band SAFIA, supported the production of filming at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. The resulting music video was distributed nationally and internationally and highlights Canberra's natural beauty and creative talent.

The Major Event Fund supports major exhibitions at the National Attractions including Gauguin's World and Emily Kame Kngwarreye at the National Gallery of Australia, Ancient Egypt at the National Museum of Australia and Metaverse of magic at the Canberra Theatre Centre. These investments promote Canberra's cultural diversity and attract audiences connected to the arts and enable them to connect with local arts experiences when in the city.

- Applications supported through the ACT Arts Fund are required to meet relevant guidelines which focus on arts outcomes. Activities can be across a range of artforms including dance, digital games, literature, music, new media, screen, theatre, visual arts, and arts-based festivals.

Other areas across the ACT Government support arts activities that address their program priorities, some examples reported in the first year report of the Arts Action Plan include:

- The Arts in Health Program supported a Poetry and Wellbeing pilot program which evaluated the impact of creative writing for patients in short and long-term rehabilitation at the University of Canberra Hospital.
 - The City Renewal Authority delivered Placemaking Grants supporting a variety of artistic initiatives. Four grants with an arts focus were supported: installation of 'Big Swoop', the Public Art Treasure Hunt, Poetic City, and Pop Up Parties.
 - The Capital of Equality Grants Program, which aims to support and strengthen Canberra's LGBTIQ+ communities, supported 13 arts-based projects across multiple artforms with total funding of \$92,317.
 - The Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs commissioned local LGBTIQ+ artists to design illustrations for the Second Action Plan of the Capital of Equality Strategy and related social media and merchandise, providing a meaningful and paid opportunity for local LGBTIQ+ artists to showcase their art and skills.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics collects data on estimates of Australian public funding for arts and cultural activities, facilities and services by the Australian Government, state and territory governments and local governments. These reports can be found on the Australian Government's Office for the Arts' [website](#). In 2021-22, the ACT's cultural expenditure (recurrent and capital) was \$181.04 per person, above the state and territory average of \$129.03 per person.
 - All applicants receiving funding through the ACT Arts Fund are required to acquit against their grant and report on outcomes. Arts organisations supported through the Arts Organisation Investment Program are also required to report on key performance indicators as specified in their Deed of Grant. These are:
 - Increased collaboration with artists, other arts organisations and other businesses
 - Improved access to and diversity of participation in arts and the creation of an environment that is inclusive to all.
 - Improved skills development and pathways for artists to develop and increase their capacity and capability.
 - Long-term growth in creativity and innovation, including strengthening collectives, groups and communities of artists and creatives to enable creative practice.
 - Increased own-source revenue and revenue from a range of other government, non-government and private sector services.
 - Increased visibility of the arts in Canberra and growing audience and new markets.
 - Strengthened governance, organisational capacity and resilience.
 - Increased satisfaction of audiences and participants.

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