

2023

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**Recommendation 9 of the Inquiry into memorialisation through public
commemoration – Update about the commissioning of future public
artwork**

**Presented by
Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for the Arts
February 2023**

Recommendation 9 of the Inquiry into memorialisation through public commemoration – Update about the commissioning of future public artwork

Report 5 - Inquiry into memorialisation through public commemoration

The Economy and Gender and Economic Equality—Standing Committee—Report 5—Inquiry into memorialisation through public commemoration (1 August 2022) was noted by the ACT Legislative Assembly on 2 August 2022.

Report 5 identified opportunities for government action to promote the public recognition of women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people of diverse backgrounds, non-binary people, gender diverse people and people from LGBTIQ+ communities.

Recommendation 9

Recommendation 9 of Report 5 requires the ACT Government update the Legislative Assembly, by the first sitting week of 2023, on the commissioning of future public artwork commemorating women, LGBTIQ+ people, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Government response to Report 5—Inquiry into memorialisation through public commemoration was tabled at the Tenth Assembly on 1 December 2022. The response agreed to Recommendation 9.

Update on commissioning future public artwork

In 2021, the Minister for the Arts released *Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital - a statement of ambition for the arts 2021-2026*. This statement identifies three strategies Create, Develop and Promote to deliver on the ambition to be recognised as Australia's Arts Capital. It recognises that Canberra's public art collection should be fostered and grown. Future works should capture the diversity of human identity and experience, with this same diversity to be reflected in the artists and creatives commissioned to make them.

Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 2022-2026 and accompanying Action Plan, released in 2022, commits to public art that contributes to Canberra's identity and belonging and reflects the diversity of the community with women and Traditional Custodians holding pride of place in future works, both as subjects and creators.

Table 1 provides an update on the commissioning of recent and future public artwork commemorating women, LGBTIQ+ people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It includes strategic planning initiatives for future public artworks as well as artworks currently underway by women, LGBTIQ+ people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

Directorates with relevant projects to report include Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development (artsACT, Workforce Capability and Governance, Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs), Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development (City Renewal Authority, Suburban

Land Agency), Canberra Health Services, Education, Major Projects Canberra (Light Rail Stage 2, CIT Campus Woden) and Transport Canberra and City Services (City Services).

For this update, public art is defined as, an artwork displayed in a place open to and accessible by the public including sculpture, street art, mosaics and the like. It also includes two-dimensional artworks located in publicly accessible areas in ACT Government buildings.

Table 1 – Update on the commissioning of public artwork by the ACT Government

Directorate /Unit	Project Title	Project Description	Project Status
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD)			
CMTEDD, ArtsACT	Susan Ryan AO Artwork Commission	Figurative sculpture realistically depicting former federal politician Susan Ryan AO in bronze	Tender period for artist engagement closes 23 February 2023. Artwork scheduled to be completed by December 2023
CMTEDD, artsACT	DRAFT Kingston Arts Precinct – Arts, Cultural and Creative Plan (Cultural Capital)	Framework for arts, cultural and creative opportunities at the future Kingston Arts Precinct with a central focus on First Nations content	Draft anticipated to be released first quarter 2023
CMTEDD, artsACT	ACT Public Art Strategy	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	To be undertaken in 2023-24
CMTEDD, Workforce Capability & Governance with artsACT	Cultural projects for ACT Government buildings in Civic and Dickson	Facilitated workshops with local Traditional Custodians to develop cultural works which could, should the Traditional Custodians agree, be scaled and displayed in the atria of 220 London Circuit and 480 Northbourne Avenue to serve as enduring Acknowledgement of Country	First workshop held December 2022; next workshop anticipated in Q1 2023
CMTEDD Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs	Enlighten Festival – Pride Projections	Plans in progress to include LGBTIQ+ themed artwork illuminations as part of the Enlighten Festival 2023	Preliminary planning underway
Canberra Health Services (CHS)			

Directorate /Unit	Project Title	Project Description	Project Status
CHS, Infrastructure and health Support Services (IHSS)	Christina Cordero <i>Lunar quintet</i>	A suite of nine works by Christina Cordero's (b Chile) for the Gynaecology Day Unit service. References women's health journeys through Latin-American 'magic realism'. Supported by community generosity through Canberra Hospital Foundation	Installed August 2022 Gynaecology Day Unit Service
CHS, IHSS	Megan Daley (Ngunnawal/Wiradjuri) <i>My mother's daughter</i>	This work was acquired for BreastScreen ACT in acknowledgement of its commitment to Reconciliation under the 2021 Canberra Health Services NAIDOC Week Award celebrating <i>Heal Country!</i> Supported by community generosity through Canberra Hospital Foundation	Installed August 2022 BreastScreen ACT
CHS, IHSS	Jane Duong <i>Hold on: Treasures from rainbows series 2022</i>	Four photographic portraits of LGBTIQ+ Canberrans. This series is about hope, joy, support and community, offering a gift of hope to the Canberra Sexual Health Centre community	Installed August 2022 Canberra Sexual Health Centre
CHS, IHSS	Annie Franklin <i>Winter morning after rain</i>	Six local landscapes of plenitude painted for 'self-care' after painting the bushfires. Supported by community generosity through Canberra Hospital Foundation	Awaiting installation in the Foetal Medicine Unit
CHS, IHSS	Natalie Bateman (Walbanja-Yuin) <i>Monga Waratah</i>	Part of a larger project called <i>Together, Forward</i> . It marks CHS commitment to undertaking an ongoing journey of recognising and respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of working and approaches to holistic health and wellbeing. It will support CHS in being a Service that is trusted by our community. Supported by community generosity through Canberra Hospital Foundation	Painting installed 2022
CHS, IHSS	Latoya M Kennedy (Ngunnawal, Wiradjuri) <i>Birthing Journey</i>	Painting and mural for Maternity Assessment Unit, Centenary Hospital for Women & Children (CHWC). Represents pathways for communities with the vital services and the support that CHWC provides to our women in their most vulnerable times of need.	Mural fabrication in process

Directorate /Unit	Project Title	Project Description	Project Status
Education Directorate (ED)			
ED	East Gungahlin High School	New High School facility in the newly developed suburb of Kenny. School project will include internal/external artworks and/or landscaping features by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.	Works will be completed by the start of 2024.
ED	Strathnairn Early Childhood Education Care (ECEC) to Year 6 School	New ECEC and Primary School facility in the newly developed suburb of Strathnairn. School project will include internal/external artwork and/or landscaping features by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.	Works will be completed by the start of 2025.
ED	Garran Primary School Modernisation	The modernisation of the existing Garran Primary School project will include internal/external artwork and/or landscaping features by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.	Works will be completed by the end of 2025.
ED	Margaret Hendry School Expansion	The expansion of the existing Margaret Hendry Primary School project will include internal/external artwork and/or landscaping features by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.	Expansion works will be completed by mid of 2023.
ED	North Gungahlin High School	The new North Gungahlin High School facility project will include internal/external artwork and/or landscaping features by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artist engaged to develop a school artwork (digital and hand painted) and painted seating area in collaboration with students	Works will be completed during 2024.
ED	Whitlam Early Childhood Education Centre (ECEC) to Year 6 School	School project will include internal/external artwork and/or landscaping features by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.	Works will be completed during 2025.
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD)			
City Renewal Authority	Acton Waterfront park	Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture will be a key aspect of the park development	Procurement of an Arts Curator underway to deliver a Public Art Plan for the site followed by

Directorate /Unit	Project Title	Project Description	Project Status
			appointment of artists. It is expected a significant proportion of artists will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
Suburban Land Agency	Whitlam Display Village	Heartbeat café mural by Ngunnawal knowledge holder Richie Allan. 55 artworks on loan are being showcased at the Display Village. A proportion of artists are women with a focus on the environment and place.	Café mural completed November 2022 Artwork showcase underway
Suburban Land Agency	Whitlam Electricity Infrastructure Artwork	Artist Bohie Palacek’s work on electricity infrastructure in Whitlam provides a window into our shared local environment.	Completed November 2022
Major Projects Canberra (MPC)			
MPC	Canberra Hospital Expansion Project, Artworks	Artists including women, LGBTIQ+ and Aboriginal artists are involved in these projects.	Work in progress
MPC, CIT Campus Woden Project	CIT Woden Campus, Artwork Commissions	Commissioning of artwork proposed, responding to Ngunnawal Country project theme.	Consultation about the proposed art strategy proposed for first quarter of 2023. Engagement of artist/s to follow.
MPC, CIT Campus Woden Project	Painted mural, Steven Kennedy – Killara Art	Mural for bus driver amenities block	Design provided by artist. Approval process underway. Mural completion expected in first quarter of 2023.
MPC, Light Rail Stage 2	Canberra Light Rail Stage 2 – artwork planning	Public Art and Culture Strategy is being developed for Canberra Light Rail Stage 2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and women’s stories will be a focus of the strategy	Preliminary development phase
Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS)			
City Services - Infrastructure Projects	Gundaroo Drive Duplication	Artwork by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artist	Underway