

# Highlights for Sustain 2020-2022 the first action plan for

*Creative Together 2020-2030:  
a 10-Year Roadmap for arts,  
culture and creativity in  
Queensland*

**October 2020 - June 2022**



**Queensland  
Government**

This publication may contain images or references to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are deceased. The Queensland Government does not wish to cause distress to any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community members.

## Acronyms

**QAGOMA:** Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art

**QMN:** Queensland Museum Network

**QPAC:** Queensland Performing Arts Centre

**SLQ:** State Library of Queensland

## Acknowledgement

The Queensland Government respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land.

We extend our respect to Elders, past and present, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as First Peoples of this country.

We acknowledge the continuation of diverse cultural practices and knowledge systems of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination is a human right as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The *Queensland Human Rights Act 2019* also recognises the particular significance of the right to self-determination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



## Message from the Premier and Minister

Queensland is on the road to renewal. The arts, cultural and creative sector has played a vital role over the past two years of bringing our communities together through storytelling and engaging audiences with vibrant experiences.

This journey is highlighted through the achievements of *Sustain 2020 – 2022*, the first action plan of *Creative Together 2020-2030: A 10-year Roadmap for arts, culture and creativity in Queensland*.

*Sustain 2020-2022* had a particular focus on generating employment and delivering COVID safe experiences to Queensland audiences. Underpinned by the \$22.5 million two-year Arts and Cultural Recovery Package and a further \$7 million for Queensland’s live music industry, *Sustain 2020-2022* supported the recovery and rebuilding of the arts and cultural sector through the impacts of COVID.

Delivering on our *Creative Together* priorities, departments and agencies across the Queensland Government worked with key stakeholders to:

- elevate First Nations arts
- activate Queensland’s local places and global digital spaces
- drive social change across the state
- strengthen Queensland communities, and
- share our stories and celebrate our storytellers.

*Sustain 2020-2022* has shown all that can be achieved in a spirit of creativity and cooperation, as we continue to work toward the vision of *Creative Together* for a state renewed and transformed by arts, culture and creativity.



### **The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP**

Premier of Queensland  
Minister for the Olympics

### **The Honourable Leanne Enoch MP**

Minister for Communities and Housing  
Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts

# Key areas of achievement in Sustain 2020-2022



**Grew First Nations-led arts outcomes** through the establishment of the First Nations Arts and Cultures Panel and investment in the development and production of new First Nations work.



**Supported Queenslanders and their communities** to address social challenges through engagement with the arts enabled by new investment and partnerships.

**Invested in the development and sharing of Queensland stories** and their storytellers, engaging audiences and securing jobs for local creative talent.



**Supported the creation of new high-quality digital programming,** including technology upgrades and capacity building, to respond to increased audience demand for quality digital content.



**Increased activation of outdoor and non-traditional spaces** with cultural programming, and invested in transformational cultural infrastructure.



**Provided critical investment into Queensland's COVID-19 impacted arts, cultural and creative sector,** to secure the viability of companies, and enabled the creation and presentation of bold new work.





# Building a strong and sustainable sector

Actions in *Sustain 2020–2022* focused on stabilising the sector through the impact of COVID-19, supporting skills and career development and enabling access to data to inform programming and business decisions.

## Highlights

- **Implemented** the two-year \$22.5 million Arts and Cultural Recovery Package, supporting over 400 applicants to stabilise their organisations, create over 10,000 employment opportunities and deliver COVID-safe arts and cultural experiences to over two million audience members.
- **Invested** in 26 Queensland live music venues across Queensland to relieve their immediate cost pressures, offset revenue and stabilise operations through the dedicated \$7 million live music industry support.
- **Introduced** a new stream for small and emerging organisations within the Organisation Fund 2022-2025, increasing and diversifying the number of organisations supported. The \$33.5 million four-year core funding program will support 46 Queensland arts and cultural organisations including 14 new recipients to grow sustainable business models.
- **Connected** more than 800 Queensland artists and arts workers with industry experts, through the new Creative Business Champion initiative, assisting artists to grow their businesses, secure career pathways and establish sustainable careers.
- **Boosted** employment across the arts sector with investment of nearly \$700,000 through the Independent Creation Fund enabling Queensland arts and cultural organisations to employ an estimated 250 independent artists and arts workers to deliver new projects.



Casey Barnes, *Town of a Million Dreams Tour*, 2020. Casey Barnes received funding through the Arts and Cultural Recovery Package to tour *Town of a Million Dreams* to regional Queensland communities. Image courtesy Casey Barnes.

Vulcana Circus' *Disappearing Acts* at the 2022 Anywhere Festival. Vulcana Circus and Anywhere Festival both received funding through the Organisation Fund 2022-2025. Image: Nick Lefebvre.

- **Enabled** more than 80 young people to engage in training and industry experiences in arts organisations through the Youth and Arts Pathway Program.
- **Continued** to foster collaboration between arts statutory bodies and the education sector to foster the next generation of creative talent including engaging more than 1000 schools in education programming at the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) and over 100 school groups in the Scene Project with Queensland Theatre.
- **Engaged** First Nations writers through dedicated programs including First Nations Playwrights through the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) Sparks program and First Nations editors through the State Library of Queensland's black&write! Writing and Editing Project.
- **Supported** over 1790 students from 11 Queensland high schools through the Screen and Media Gateway to Industry Schools project, providing opportunities for students to participate in valuable experiential learning opportunities with the screen and media industry.
- **Collaborated** with national and international research agencies and other government arts agencies to provide data and insights regarding audience behaviour and future plans following COVID-19 to better inform programming and decision-making.

Lucas Proudfoot, Creative Business Champions recipient.  
Image courtesy Lucas Proudfoot.

## Case study

### Taking arts careers to the next level

The Creative Business Champions initiative, launched in April 2021, connects Queensland artists and arts workers with personalised professional guidance from recognised industry leaders, helping to create meaningful professional development opportunities with strategies to grow business and establish sustainable careers in the arts.

In its first year, Creative Business Champions has provided advice and mentoring to more than 800 Queensland artists and arts workers, supporting employment and career pathways for artists such as Lucas Proudfoot and Kate Douglas.

Creative Business Champions is delivered through the Regional Arts Services Network (RASN) and funded as part of a \$2.2 million Queensland Government skills funding package to assist arts sector recovery.





# Elevate First Nations arts

New programs and a greater focus on First Nations voices in decision making and investment, has promoted growth in the First Nations arts sector.

## Highlights

- **Established** the First Nations Arts and Cultures Panel, strengthening the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in decision making and investment regarding arts and culture.
- **Supported** sustained arts practice through increased investment in the Indigenous Art Centres (IACs) network, expanding the Queensland Government funded network from 14 to 17, including support for two IACs located outside Far North Queensland.
- **Strengthened** the First Nations arts sector with \$1.49 million to develop and present First Nations stories, arts and cultural experiences, products and celebrations through the First Nations Commissioning Fund and First Night Showcase Program – Bulmba-ja.
- **Established** First Nations Pathways – Performing Arts Emerging Organisations Fund 2022-2025, which is providing essential four-year core funding to support five Queensland First Nations organisations to grow sustainable arts businesses.
- **Presented** and exhibited works by First Nations artists, providing opportunities for Queenslanders and visitors to engage with Queensland First Nations arts. Exhibitions included: *Unfinished Business: The Art of Gordon Bennett* (QAGOMA), *Island Futures: What lies ahead for Zenadth Kes* (QMN); *Deadly Threads* (SLQ) and *Mavis Ngallametta: Show Me the Way to Go Home* (QAGOMA).
- **Co-presented** with Bangarra Dance Theatre, the season of *SandSong: Stories from the Great Sandy Desert* at QPAC.
- **Committed** more than \$625,000 in seven First Nations artists and organisations through the First Nations Art, Craft and Design: Transforming Marketplaces program to increase the production of high-quality artworks and products, create wider distribution to audiences and increase supply.




Aboriginal Art Co (Brisbane) was one of the three new Indigenous Arts Centres (IAC) funded through the IAC Launch Fund. Other IACs supported were Djabugay Tribal Aboriginal Corporation (Kuranda) and the Salt Water Murris Quandamooka Inc. Art Gallery. Image: Aboriginal Art Co.

*Silence*, Karul Projects. Karul Projects was one of the five organisations to receive funding through First Nations Pathways – Performing Arts Emerging Organisations Fund 2022-2025. Image: Simon Wood.



- **Commissioned** and supported creative developments of new stories by First Nations playwrights including *Mudskipper* (Walter Waia and John Harvey), *Don't ask what the Bird look like* (Hannah Belanzsky) and *The Power of Bones* (Keelen Mailman).
- **Invested** in the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair to strengthen and celebrate culture and create professional development opportunities for artists, and cultural exchange between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and visitors.
- **Hosted** the Indigenous Business Month Launch in October 2021, profiling the growth of successful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and showcasing the creativity of First Nations peoples' arts and cultural companies across Queensland.
- **Commenced** the *First Nations First Program* at Queensland State Archives, fostering the use of the state's archival collection in truth telling and healing.
- **Progressed** the review of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* to provide effective recognition, protection and conservation of First Nations cultural heritage.
- **Supported** Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) in the development of a First Nations cultural protocols, providing the Queensland tourism industry and stakeholders with greater skills, knowledge and confidence when engaging with First Nations peoples, and projects or products that include First Nations cultural heritage and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property.
- **Partnered** with the First Nations Arts and Cultures Panel to release the draft *Cultural Engagement Framework - Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures in Queensland* to inform and guide respectful engagement with First Nations peoples, organisations and communities in the development and presentation of arts and cultural work.



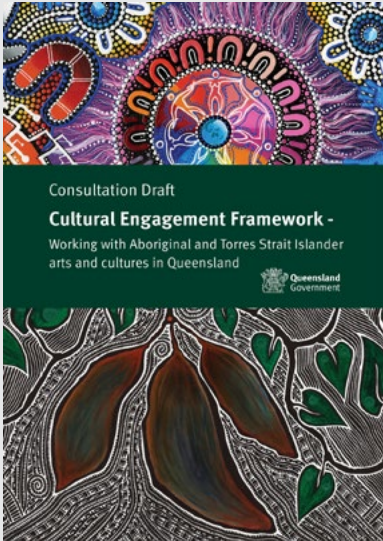
## Case study

### First Nations Arts and Cultures Panel

The First Nations Arts and Cultures Panel (the Panel) was established as a key action of *Sustain 2020-2022* to increase meaningful representation and engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the future of arts, culture and creativity in Queensland.

Since 2021, the Panel has informed the development of programs and strategies and identified opportunities to build sustainable and ethical Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industries in Queensland.

The Panel, in collaboration with Arts Queensland, developed the draft *Cultural Engagement Framework - Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures in Queensland* which will work to inform and guide respectful engagement with First Nations peoples, organisations and communities in the development and presentation of arts and cultural work.



# Activate Queensland's local places and global digital spaces

Investment in cultural infrastructure (physical and digital) is providing places for audiences to engage in quality cultural experiences and ensuring the sector has spaces to develop and present work.

## Highlights

- **Invested** in the creation of cultural spaces and significant cultural infrastructure including Rockhampton Museum of Art, Museum of Tropical Queensland (Townsville), Thomas Dixon Centre (Brisbane), Proserpine Entertainment Centre (Whitsunday) and the refurbishment of the Judith Wright Arts Centre (Brisbane).
- **Continued** construction of the new theatre at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in Brisbane.
- **Delivered** the Strategic Infrastructure Fund, a matched funding program investing more than \$755,000 in the upgrade of five cultural infrastructure projects across the state.
- **Supported** regional cultural and recreational infrastructure projects through the Building our Regions Program, enhancing community engagement and delivering economic and social outcomes in regional communities.
- **Activated** non-traditional arts spaces and outdoors venues with the delivery of 16 arts and cultural projects through Open Air Fund including Wynnum Fringe Festival, *Warrma* as part of the Cooktown & Cape York Expo 2021 and The Court House Lawn Alive (Cairns).



Giringun Aboriginal Art Centre. Traditional Owner Kayla Henry, Giringun Aboriginal Art Centre. The Art Centre received funding through the Digital Adaptation Fund to undertake training in 3D infrared photography. Image: Giringun Aboriginal Art Centre.

Rockhampton Museum of Art. Photo courtesy of Rockhampton City Council.



- **Presented** significant cultural events which activated the Queensland Cultural Centre including *European Masterpieces from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York* (QAGOMA); *World Science Festival Brisbane 2021* (QMN); *Brickman® Wonders of the World* (QMN) and *The 10th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art* (QAGOMA).
- **Established** a partnership between Northshore Brisbane and Brisbane Festival for 2021-2023 to activate Northshore during the annual Brisbane Festival. In 2021, the site attracted visitors through cultural events including the inaugural Brisbane Art Boat installation, Queensland premiere of Dancenorth Australia's *RED* and temporary public art installations.
- **Enabled** the creation of new digital programming, with investment of over \$600,000 for 52 projects in production, technology upgrades and capability through the Digital Adaptation Fund.
- **Commenced** work on Digital Stage – a virtual venue at QPAC, connecting Queensland companies, artists and creators and audiences with online performing arts content.
- **Introduced** the Queensland Theatre digital play package in partnership with Australian Theatre Live, providing access to Queensland Theatre productions to a wider audience. This initiative included a free offering to aged care and disability residences in Brisbane and regional Queensland.
- **Upgraded** digital technology in Queensland Government owned cultural buildings including Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Judith Wright Arts Centre and Bulmba-ja (Cairns), supporting Queensland companies to record and stream arts content and integrate technology into their works.

## Case study

### Activating spaces: Wynnum Fringe Festival

From musical cabaret at Wynnum Opera House, comedy and theatre at the old church hall (Winston ChurchHall), circus acts in Mrs Quinn's Carpark, and dance performances at Kelleher's Dance Academy, Wynnum exploded with creative activity as the bayside community became home to the new Wynnum Fringe Festival in 2020, supported with funding of \$80,000 through the Arts and Cultural Recovery Package's Open Air program.

Across two days in November 2020, Wynnum Fringe activated laneways, carparks, loading docks, parks, a local beach and streets with arts experiences delivered directly to audiences, both in-person and through online streaming.

The event delivered an economic boost to the area, provided employment to local talent, and brought Wynnum a sense of community after months of isolation and uncertainty.

The Wynnum Fringe Festival returned in 2021 with a festival that nearly doubled in size from the inaugural 2020 event, engaging over 300 professional artists, 40 crew, 14 Community Groups and 8 student Ambassadors across 14 locations. Arts Queensland supported the 2021 festival through the Queensland Arts Showcase Program, with additional investment from Tourism and Events Queensland.





# Drive social change across the state

Arts-led initiatives are being used or supported to address challenges within communities including health and wellbeing, education, community cohesion, healthy ageing and youth justice.

## Highlights

- **Invested** more than \$1.1 million in 29 arts-led projects to support better outcomes for Queenslanders through the Arts Advantage Fund. Projects included Dance for Parkinson's Australia; music in hospitals to support wellbeing in Jugglers Art Space's Stairwell Project and the Big Anxiety Festival which fostered conversations about the role of arts in wellbeing.
- **Delivered** the Arts and Dementia program at QAGOMA in partnership with The Prince Charles Hospital Internal Medicine Dementia. In 2021, QAGOMA received Dementia Friendly Organisation status from Dementia Australia in acknowledgement of specialised programs and accessible experiences for visitors living with dementia.
- **Funded** the Queensland Writers Centre - led *Telling Our Stories to the World* project through the Sector Adaptation Plans Plus (SAP+) Program, fostering the development and sharing of place-based stories of climate change in an effort to build community resilience, social connection and wellbeing.
- **Funded** creative-led activities during Seniors Month in October 2021 to challenge negative stereotypes of ageing and to break down barriers to senior social participation including short films and dance activities.
- **Delivered** the Memory Lounge Program at the Queensland State Archives, offering photographic records as points of stimulus for memory recollection and shared storytelling while improving mental health and wellbeing of seniors through reducing social isolation.



Blue Light Learner Driver Program in Cunnamulla. The program provides learner drivers who are unable to obtain the necessary hours and professional experience to graduate to their provisional licences with access to a vehicle and time with local officers. Working with a graffiti artist, young people and local officers designed the artwork for the vehicle building a sense of pride and ownership. The program aimed to achieve road safety, enhance equality across the community and build positive relationship between the Queensland Police and the community. Image courtesy Cunnamulla Police.

Dance for Parkinson's Australia received funding through Arts Advantage to deliver the *Reframing our stories* project. This project is supporting positive creative and wellbeing outcomes for Queenslanders with Parkinson's and their families through dance. Image courtesy Dance for Parkinson's and the Queensland Ballet: Christen Tiger.

- **Delivered** the first Queensland incarnation of The Smith Family SmARts Program at QPAC. The program provides access to industry experience and information for students interested in pursuing a career in the arts and cultural sector program from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Integrated** arts activities into Transition to Success (T2S), a vocational training and therapeutic service model in 20 sites across Queensland for young people who are involved in or at risk of contact with the youth justice system, to connect to culture and country.
- **Hosted** the Creative Generation – State Schools Onstage (CGEN), an annual produced performing arts event which engages Queensland state school students. Seventy-four schools participated in 2020 and 129 in 2021.
- **Presented** the Yuuingan Dhilli Yari: Indigenous Languages Symposium, attracting 140 people in Brisbane and 374 online, which explored the opportunities for Queensland Indigenous languages and their importance in social cohesion and inclusion, cultural rights, health and justice.
- **Enabled** the development and presentation of arts events and experiences through the Thriving Queensland Communities Grants program at neighbourhood and community centres, supporting greater social connection in communities.
- **Fostered** collaborations between local government, communities and local police officers through arts-led community projects including art works on police vehicles to support better community outcomes and connection with local police officers.
- **Established** a two-year sponsorship between Health and Wellbeing Queensland and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra with a focus on boosting the physical, mental and emotional health of Queenslanders through music.

## Case study

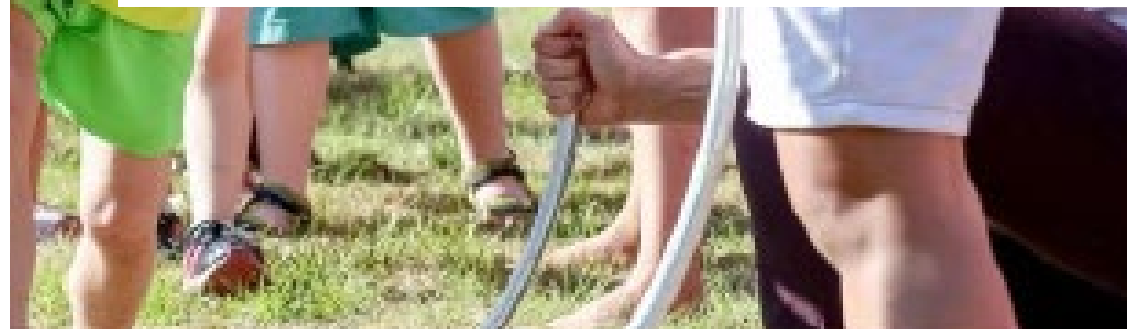
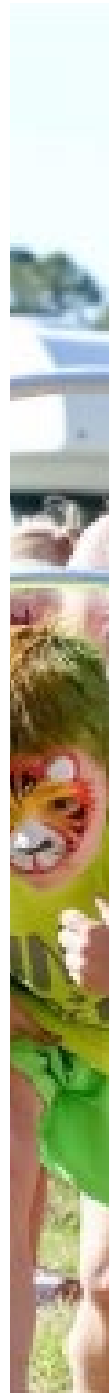
### Street Serenades – At Our Place

*Street Serenades: At Our Place* was a community program within the broader Brisbane Festival 2021 Street Serenades initiative aimed at connecting local communities using arts and creativity.

Eight neighbourhood and community centres across Brisbane were activated in August and September 2021, engaging individuals and families in over 60 workshops in hip-hop, dance, ukulele, singing, circus and ballet.

Participants learned new creative skills, expressed themselves in safe and supportive environments and connected with the services at their local neighbourhood and community centre.

*Street Serenades: At Our Place* was funded through the Queensland Government's Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy.



Images right - (Image inset) *Street Serenades: At Our Place*, Brisbane Festival 2021.  
Image: Atmosphere Photography.

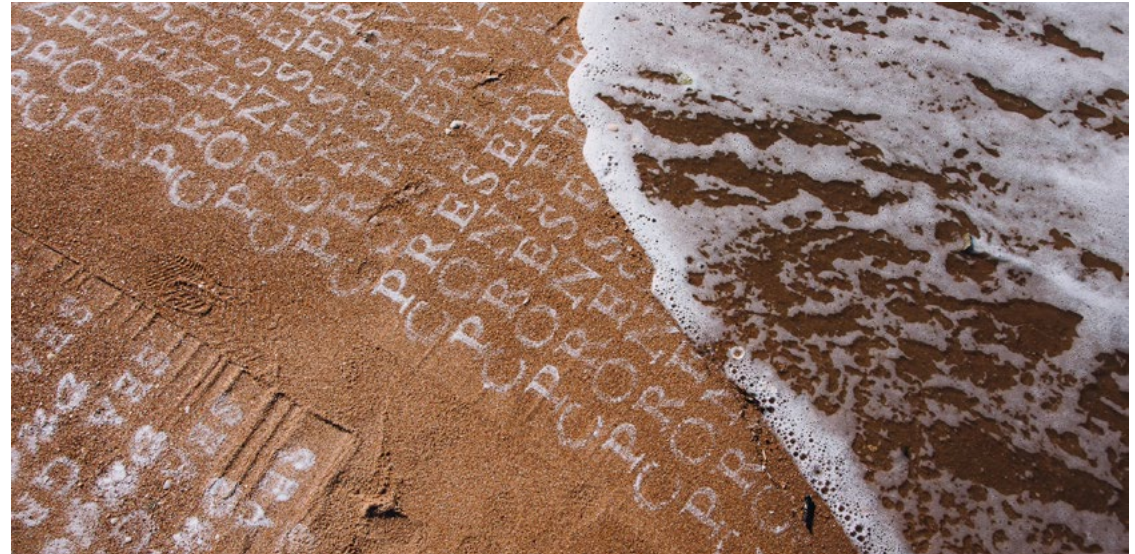


# Strengthen Queensland communities

Partnerships between communities, local government councils and the sector, are ensuring access to high-quality arts and cultural experience in Queensland communities and fostering economic outcomes including attracting visitors.

## Highlights

- **Assisted** 74 live music and performing venues, organisations and artists to develop new arts products or present local artists' work through Play Local, First Night Showcase – Judith Wright Art Centre and First Night Showcase - Bulmba-ja, attracting a total audience of over 150,000.
- **Fostered** access to arts in regional communities through support for over 100 tours through Creative to Go, Touring Queensland Fund and Touring Queensland Quick Response fund.
- **Worked** with regional galleries and museums to support access to quality cultural experiences including *Asia Pacific Contemporary: Three Decades of APT (QAGOMA)* and *World Science Festival (QMN) Queensland* events.
- **Implemented** the \$6.5 million Regional Arts Services Network (RASN) (2018 to 2021). RASN provided over 1,990 new employment opportunities for regional artists and arts workers and over \$8.5 million of new partnership investment in regional arts and culture. RASN has brokered partnerships and invested in signature cultural tourism projects, such as *Trailblazing the West* in Western Queensland and the *Savannah Way Art Trail* in Far North Queensland, and supported the establishment of the Woorabinda Arts and Cultural Centre.



Jill Chism, *Preserve/Conserve – Invocation #3: Openness – Going with the Flow*, 2021, Pop Up North Queensland Festival. Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts received funding through Spaces and Places, as part of the Arts and Cultural Recovery Package to support PUNQ 2021, celebrating the visual and performance artists of North Queensland. Image: Aaron Ashley.

The Stars Project delivered by Torres Strait Islander artist Joey Laifoo connected Torres Strait Islander youth with traditional arts and cultural activities, culminating with a performance at Bulmba-ja, Cairns. The arts and education program was supported through the First Night Showcase Program – Bulmba-ja. Image courtesy of Island Stars.



- **Ensured** the sustainability and growth of the Woodford Folk Festival through an investment of \$4 million over four years to support this regionally significant cultural tourism event to evolve, provide employment opportunities for hundreds of artists and arts workers and foster a vibrant arts and cultural sector in Queensland.
- **Enlivened** spaces and engaged audiences through \$1.5 million investment in regional events and experiences through the Art and Cultural Recovery Package's Spaces and Places Program including the Pop Up North Queensland Festival (PUNQ) in Townsville which reached an audience of over 990,000, and QMF's Outback Music Trail which engaged more than 14,000 in regional Queensland.
- **Partnered** with local government and communities to invest over \$8.6 million in matched funding (Queensland Government contribution \$4.2 million) to foster local-driven arts and cultural projects through the Regional Arts Development Fund and Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund from 2020-2022.
- **Supported** more than 80 arts and cultural events through investment of over \$20 million through Tourism and Events Queensland's Major Events and Queensland Destination Events Program. Cultural events supported included Blues on Broadbeach Music Festival, Caloundra Music Festival, Festival of Outback Opera, BLEACH\* (Gold Coast), Port Douglas Carnivale & Wynnum Fringe.
- **Established** an Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) at Injinoo and developing a new IKC at Mapoon, in partnership with local government councils, supporting greater access to library services, activities and events in local communities.
- **Invested** over \$61.75 million in partnership with local governments to support the delivery of public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres, including the First 5 Forever program.

## Case study

### Music festival meets road trip

Created by QMF, Queensland Music Trails is a cultural tourism initiative that places music at the core of regional travel. From stunning hinterland mountains to the coastal plains, Queensland Music Trails will deliver a series of world-class music events that are connected to, and showcase Queensland's communities.

QMF piloted The Outback Music Trail, hosted from June to July 2021, which linked regional events from Opera at Jimbour to the Big Red Bash in Birdsville. This trail showcased stellar Queensland artists, created 32.8 FTE jobs, and engaged over 14,000 Queenslanders and visitors across the state.

In April 2022, Queensland Music Trails presented The Long Sunset at Elysian Fields in the Scenic Rim region. This placemaking event, headlined by indie-folk duo Angus and Julia Stone, featured a program of live music and attracted close to 5000 visitors.

Future trails will be designed to deliver significant economic, tourism, cultural, and social benefits to each community they activate.

In June 2022, the Queensland Government, through the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport, announced \$20 million over three years for the Queensland Music Trails. The 2021 Queensland Music Trails pilot was supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and Tourism and Events Queensland and the Australian Government, Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Funding. The Long Sunset was also supported by the Queensland Government and Scenic Rim Regional Council.



# Share our stories and celebrate our storytellers

Queensland artists and arts workers and organisations were supported to develop, deliver and share Queensland stories, cultures and heritage.

## Highlights

- **Invested** in more than 600 projects through arts grant programs which supported Queensland storytellers to create, develop and share Queensland stories across a number of art forms.
- **Enabled** access to more than 15 million visitors (in person and online) to Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art; Queensland Museum Network campuses (Southbank, Ipswich, Townsville and Toowoomba); QPAC and State Library of Queensland.
- **Showcased** Queensland stories and collections through exhibitions including *I do! Wedding Stories from Queensland* (QMN); *Sovereign Stories* exhibition (SLQ) and *Toowoomba Floods 2011...Reflections* (QMN).
- **Produced** and presented Queensland stories including *Return to Dirt* (Queensland Theatre) *Bluey's Big Play The Stage Show* (QPAC with Andrew Kay Associates (AKA), BBC Studios and Windmill Theatre) and *Boy Swallows Universe* (co-production between Queensland Theatre, QPAC and Brisbane Festival).
- **Developed** and published *Stories for little Queenslanders* - 12 new children's books reflecting the diversity of Queensland as part of the First 5 Forever program.
- **Supported** more than 30 organisations through the 2021 Indigenous Languages Grant to promote, preserve and revive Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.



*Boy Swallows Universe* a co-production between Queensland Theatre, Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) and Brisbane Festival. Adapted for the stage from Trent Dalton's book of the same name, the production has its world premiere in September 2021 the production became the highest selling drama production in the history of Queensland Theatre. Image: David Kelly.

*Re: Collections, Delta Yarns*, Burdekin. The Delta Yarns received funding through the Queensland Arts Showcase Program to support *Re:Collections*. The project engaged the Burdekin community, creatively sharing local stories through fashion, art and writing. Image: David Fell.



- **Commenced** the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages project at Queensland State Archives (QSA), building relationships with communities and language organisations to gain a better understanding of the language-related records in the QSA collection and making language-related records more accessible.
- **Launched** Curriculum Connect, the State Library of Queensland's dedicated teaching and learning website connecting teachers and students to unique digitised original materials and primary resources.
- **Showcased** the stories of Queensland culturally diverse communities through dance, music, short films and storytelling with support from the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland program.
- **Invested** \$1.2 million across 48 projects to conserve heritage places in Queensland through the Community Sustainability Grants.
- **Established** the Queensland Heritage Advisory Panel to provide a structured collaboration process between state and local government to better protect Queensland's significant heritage places.
- **Celebrated** and recognised Queensland storytellers through a number of awards including: Queensland Premier's Drama Award, Queensland Literary Awards, Australian Women in Music Awards and the Billy Thorpe Scholarship.

*Stories for Little Queenslanders*. Image courtesy State Library of Queensland.

## Case study

### Stories for Little Queenslanders

In 2020, State Library of Queensland published the *Stories for Little Queenslanders* series of 12 new picture books for children 0-5 years as part of the First 5 Forever early literacy initiative.

The uniquely Queensland books showcase local connections, settings, characters and stories created by 21 authors and illustrators with a connection to Queensland, many who hail from across the state, including creatives from regional Queensland and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The *Stories for Little Queenslanders* series promotes early literacy and was created to inspire a love of reading. The books help Queensland children develop a sense of identity, connection and belonging through their quirky local settings and fun characters which reflect the diversity of families in Queensland.

Copies were distributed to Queensland's network of more than 320 public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres, with audio books and ebooks also available on the First 5 Forever website. To increase accessibility for all Queensland families, the stories have now also been adapted into braille, translated into multiple community languages and digital recordings in Auslan and ten community languages have been filmed.

The Book for Every Little Queenslander initiative, launched in March 2022, further leverages these successful Queensland stories. Through a process of creative adaptation, every baby born in Queensland in 2022 will receive a copy of the *Shoosh!* board book, distributed through Bounty Bags for new parents, connecting every family with Queensland stories, First 5 Forever and their local public library.







The Queensland Government is committed to providing accessible services to Queenslanders for all cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

If you have difficulty understanding this publication and need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS National) on telephone 131 450 and ask them to contact the department on 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

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