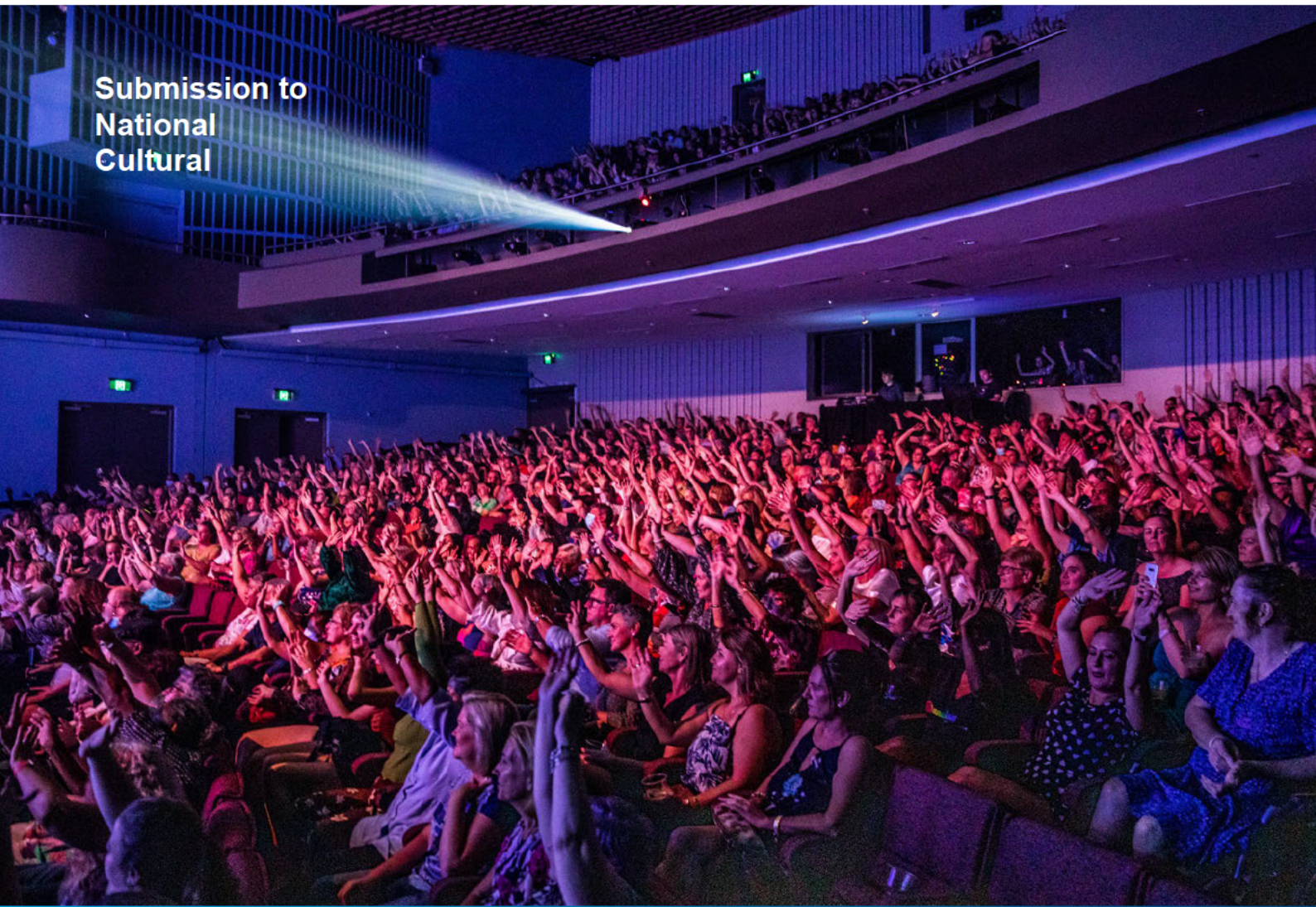


Submission to
National
Cultural



National Cultural Policy Submission

01 May 2026

**CITY FOR PEOPLE.
CITY OF COLOUR.**



City of Darwin supports the development of the next national cultural policy and encourages considered long term investment in the way the Federal Government empowers, celebrates, supports and leads innovation in the creative and cultural industries.

We ask the Federal Government to prioritise regional infrastructure, long term sector development and public art.

In February 2024 City of Darwin released its Creative Strategy 2024-2030 which included significant consultation across the municipality.

Council's vision for their Creative Strategy is a capital city where creativity is amplified. Where talent, skill and tradition are nurtured and elevated for the enrichment of all.

The key focus areas of our Strategy are:

- Celebrating Larrakia
- Distinctly Darwin
- Invigorating Spaces

Taking the lead from the national cultural policy of First Nations First our cultural community repeatedly told us that working with and celebrating arts and culture of the Larrakia traditional owners is critical. We know that this celebration of Larrakia empowers our community, responds to place and is a drawcard for both locals and tourists. City of Darwin regularly commission work by Larrakia artists and have been pivotal in providing opportunities for development. Over the last 12 months 15 different Larrakia artists have been engaged directly by City of Darwin across a wide range of projects including delivery of creative workshops, copyright agreements and street art.

Distinctly Darwin correlates strongly with the national cultural policy assertion that there is a place for every story. A key outcome of our strategy has been the development of a new program Arts Sector Connect trialled this year as a partnership with Darwin Community Arts. This two-day professional development program for Artists and Artworkers covered how to apply for grants, Arts Law and your rights, Awards and residencies as well as cultural safety and marketing.

Invigorating Spaces has seen City of Darwin introduce a percentage for arts policy which will ensure our commitment to public art and integrated design will grow. We are also poised to release a digital public art map which includes interviews with artists and navigation support for moving around the municipality. City of Darwin believe Strong Cultural Infrastructure requires significant federal investment and want to see increased opportunities for federal and local government to upgrade and redevelop aging infrastructure – particularly in regional areas like Darwin where they are most needed.

Co-investment by the Federal Government in Darwin's Amphitheatre and the AANT Entertainment Centre are critical. These venues are rapidly aging, no longer fit for purpose and unable to meet the needs of our diverse community in terms of access.

City of Darwin encourage the Federal Government to look to Local Government for greater opportunities to co-invest or partner to deliver outcomes in the next National Cultural Policy in the areas of:

- Infrastructure redevelopment
- Public Art
- Sector development

Image on cover by Helen Orr Playhouse audience for AANT Centre, 2024.