

Submission to the National Cultural Policy ACT Cultural Facilities Corporation

The Cultural Facilities Corporation (CFC) is a statutory corporation of the ACT Government, managing the Canberra Theatre Centre; the Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG) including the Nolan Collection; and the ACT Historic Places.

We note that the original five goals of the 2013 Creative Australia National Cultural Policy were:

1. Recognise, respect and celebrate the centrality of First Nations cultures to the uniqueness of Australian identity.
2. Ensure that government support reflects the diversity of Australia.
3. Support excellence and the special role of artists and their creative collaborators.
4. Strengthen the capacity of the cultural sector to contribute to national life, community wellbeing and the economy.
5. Ensure Australian creativity thrives here and abroad in the digitally enabled 21st century.

And for the purposes of the consultation these are distilled these into 5 pillars: **First Nations, A Place for Every Story, the Centrality of the Artist, Strong Institutions and Reaching the Audience.**

Our brief responses to the challenges, opportunities and importance of these pillars are below.

	Challenges and opportunities	How these are important to you and your practice
First Nations	<p>We recognise that, in order to elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultural and artistic practices, we need to build stronger partnerships with the First Nations artists of our city and region.</p> <p>The Cultural Facilities Corporation endeavours to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultural and artistic practices are strongly represented in our programming and exhibitions to fully reflect Canberra's unique culture and identity.</p>	<p>The Ngunnawal word that gave us the place name, Canberra, means "meeting place" and we believe the National Capital, as both an age-old Aboriginal meeting place and the contemporary seat of the Federal Parliament, has an important story to share about the centrality of our First Nations families, history, art, and cultures to the collective Canberra identity and to broader understanding of the Capital in the national consciousness.</p>



ACT
Government

CANBERRA
MUSEUM
+ GALLERY

THE
NOLAN
COLLECTION

ACT
HISTORIC
PLACES

CANBERRA
THEATRE
CENTRE

	Challenges and opportunities	How these are important to you and your practice
A Place for Every Story	<p>The Cultural Facilities Corporation encompasses the Canberra Theatre Centre, the Canberra Museum and Gallery, and the ACT Historic Places (Lanyon Homestead, Calthorpes' house, and Mugga Mugga Cottage). This diverse range of cultural institutions and venues affords the CFC the ability to provide a range of places for stories of every nature on any scale, by artists at all stages of their careers and in both built and natural environments. As the largest arts organisation in the ACT we have a responsibility to make our spaces available for the telling of these stories and to help them reach the widest possible audience. This involves being agile enough to harness great local ideas, opportunities, and collaborations as they arise while also planning far enough ahead to attract large, important shows, exhibition, and events to the ACT for the benefit of the people who live in or visit our city.</p>	<p>The Cultural Facilities Corporation actively seeks build a greater understanding of the value of the arts, and of our cultural heritage, through our programs and activities that provide meaningful engagement for all people in their diverse needs, ages, experiences, and backgrounds. In this way we contribute to the telling of the Canberra story and to the shaping of individual and community identity through the arts. This is also how we contribute to cultural democracy in creating avenues for all people to engage with the arts and experience their benefits to personal wellbeing.</p>
The Centrality of the Artist	<p>The Cultural Facilities Corporation fosters and elevates local arts practice through theatre programs that engage with Canberra artists through consultation, development, commissions, and presentations; and by collecting and exhibiting the work of both emerging and established Canberra artists, and staging public programs that highlight these exhibitions and further explore the work of these artists.</p> <p>We also support local artists and craftspersons through our existing modest retail offerings but we hope to scale up to more substantial retail at many of our locations so we can provide greater avenues for the artists, designers, and makers of our region to earn an income from their practice.</p>	<p>The Cultural Facilities Corporation acknowledges the importance of supporting the work of artists and creating avenues for them to flourish, not only for arts practice to be a viable career, but also for the way that artistic expression underpins cultural, social and economic outcomes for the broader community.</p>

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Strong Institutions	<p>The Cultural Facilities Corporation aspires to be a cultural leader in the ACT community and region, with our distinctive institutions providing enriching cultural experiences that contribute to Canberra's identity. We deliver a range of cultural services to the community by providing activities such as performing arts presentations, exhibitions, education programs, community programs, and through conserving and presenting significant aspects of the ACT's cultural heritage.</p> <p>We are well-positioned to drive ever closer cooperation with the National Cultural Institutions, leading an agenda of enhanced collaboration in programming which will leverage each other's collections, human capital, and marketing reach to build audiences and attract greater interstate visitation.</p> <p>We have an opportunity with the recently announced ACT Government funding for the major redevelopment of the Canberra Theatre Centre, to build a world-class, sustainable best practice, technologically cutting-edge performing arts centre for the Nation's Capital.</p>	<p>We seek to lead strategic partnerships that will support the wider Canberra and region arts sector, while working toward ensuring our venues are accessible, inclusive, innovative, and sustainable.</p>
Reaching the Audience	<p>The Cultural Facilities Corporation is committed to building and reaching new audiences through investing in new events and collaborating with partner events throughout our city. We are also seeking to create a first permanent digital gallery for the ACT both to engage new audiences and to provide exhibition opportunities for new media artists.</p> <p>We also recognise the benefits of working closely with the education sector at all levels, nurturing the next generation of audiences as well as fostering the artists of tomorrow.</p> <p>The physical accessibility of our facilities is critical but presents challenges,</p>	<p>We want both to ensure all Canberrans have access to the stories of the National Capital as told by our visual arts and social history collections and performing arts, and to bring interstate and international visitors to the ACT.</p> <p>Better data will support this aspiration by helping to demonstrate and promote the cultural, social, and economic impact of arts, culture and creative industries for our city and nation.</p>

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	<p>particularly in ageing, heritage, and retro-fitted buildings and at historic rural sites but we are committed to ongoing improvement. We are also striving to offer dementia-friendly experiences and improve the accessibility of the arts to people living with mobility and sensory disabilities, sensitively co-creating programs and events that reflect Canberra’s diverse community and support community wellbeing.</p> <p>We recognise the importance of data in understanding our audiences and for building new audiences. This is an area in which the CFC needs to grow our sophistication.</p>	

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Organisation: ACT Cultural Facilities Corporation (a statutory corporation ACT Government)
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