

Media Release

Tuesday, 21 June 2022

NSW GOVERNMENT MAKES ARTS ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

The 2022-23 NSW Budget makes the State's arts, screen and culture offerings more accessible for all, with the NSW Government spending over \$1.4 billion on arts and creative infrastructure in 2022-23.

The NSW Government will fund a range of initiatives, including free general admission to cultural institutions, extending cost-of-living programs, support for artists at all stages of their careers and developing new cultural infrastructure projects across the State.

Treasurer Matt Kean said the arts, screen and cultural sectors are pivotal to boosting the economy as the State looks to rebound from the devastating effects of the pandemic.

“The commitment to arts and culture in this year’s State Budget demonstrates how the NSW Government understands the significant value the arts bring to the economy and the social fabric of our society,” Mr Kean said.

“Increasing access to our cultural institutions and developing new cultural infrastructure will help create jobs and stimulate the economy by attracting people back into city and town centres to enjoy our best cultural offerings.”

The 2022-23 NSW Budget for the arts, screen and cultural sector follows a record commitment of over \$350 million over the past 24 months to ensure the arts, screen and cultural sectors remained viable throughout the pandemic.

Minister for the Arts Ben Franklin said the arts sector was among the hardest hit during COVID-19 and the 2022-23 Budget will continue supporting artists and performers, and ensure everyone across the state has the opportunity to access their works.

“It’s been an incredibly tough couple of years for the arts, and as we look to recover from the effects of that period, this year’s State Budget is an investment in the future that will create more jobs and more opportunities across the sector,” Mr Franklin said.

“This year’s Budget will make arts offerings accessible and affordable for everyone with \$22.9 million for an extension of the popular Creative Kids cost-of-living program for families and \$5.9 million to support free entry over the next 12 months, to the Australian Museum and Sydney Living Museums.

“The Government is also committing a further \$58 million to ensure our museums, galleries, performing arts spaces and cultural institutions are world-class and fit-for-purpose to attract local and international visitors and give our artists the platforms they deserve.

“In 2022-23, we will publish a strategy to guide infrastructure investment for theatre and film studios across in NSW, and work will also commence on a business case to consider the viability of restoring the much-loved Minerva Theatre in Sydney.”

NSW is known for producing some of the world’s best arts and culture. To further enhance arts and culture in our State, in 2022-23 we will also invest:

- \$9.4 million over three years to renew the National Art School and increase public accessibility to the historic site
- \$3.5 million towards WorldPride arts events in Sydney in 2023
- \$900,000 over four years for a dedicated repatriation of ancestral remains program, Returning Them Home, to be led by the Australian Museum

The NSW Government will continue to invest \$67.8 million in the Arts and Cultural Funding Program which includes the \$6 million annual boost announced in 2021. This funding boost will provide residents and visitors more opportunities to access the creativity of our State's great art and artists.

MEDIA: Matthew Bridges | Minister Franklin | 0428 231 771