

Action Plan

2026-30

Northern Territory
Arts Strategy 2034



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Executive summary

This first 5-year Action Plan (2026–2030) sets the direction for delivering the NT Arts Strategy 2034. It outlines practical actions to strengthen the Territory's creative ecosystem, supporting artists, expanding regional participation, and building a sustainable future for arts and culture across the NT. Over the next five years, the Plan will guide how government, industry and community partners work together to turn ideas into action, grow creative career pathways, and ensure Aboriginal leadership and the Territory's multicultural richness remain central to cultural life.

The Plan reflects the voices of artists, organisations and communities across the Territory, whose insights and aspirations are woven throughout. It responds to their call for long-term vision, stronger collaboration, and meaningful opportunities for growth. Together, we will champion the arts as a powerful force for connection, resilience and opportunity, shaping a creative future that benefits all Territorians.

The Action Plan also recognises the arts as an important contributor to the Territory's broader future. By using public investment to attract private and community partnerships, it supports creative enterprise, cultural tourism, and new markets for Territory stories and talent, strengthening sector sustainability while delivering cultural, social and economic benefits.



Action Plan priorities for 2026–30

Over the next 5 years, we will focus on what you told us was important while strongly aligned to the Northern Territory Government priorities (see Annexure D for more information). The first Action Plan (2026–2030) focuses on three connected priorities that will guide how the Northern Territory invests in the arts over the next 5 years. Together, they strengthen artists, connect communities, and grow audiences, ensuring the arts continue to deliver cultural, social and economic benefits for all Territorians.

EMPOWER

- Strengthening Aboriginal leadership and community-controlled cultural governance
- Expanding professional development, mentoring and enterprise skills
- Supporting young and emerging artists to develop long-term career pathways
- Creating safe, inclusive and accessible arts workplaces

CONNECT

- Supporting regional arts organisations and community-based delivery
- Activating creative spaces, venues and festivals
- Growing partnerships across education, health, tourism and business
- Improving access and participation for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities

ENRICH

- Promoting NT artists locally, nationally and internationally
- Supporting cultural tourism and major arts celebrations
- Expanding digital platforms and new ways to engage audiences
- Measuring and communicating the social, cultural and economic value of the arts

Together, these priorities build a strong creative ecosystem where artists thrive, communities are connected, and Territory stories are shared with the world.

WORKING TOGETHER

This Action Plan is delivered through strong partnerships. While Arts NT coordinates the Strategy, many organisations help turn actions into outcomes for artists, communities and audiences.

Key partners include national arts bodies such as Creative Australia, Aboriginal art centre peak organisations including Desert and Arnhem Northern and Kimberley Artists (ANKA), Territory arts organisations such as Artback NT, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, regional arts centres, local governments and community groups.

Collaboration also occurs across NT Government agencies whose work connects with arts outcomes, including education, health, tourism, youth and economic development. Business and philanthropic partners contribute through sponsorship, co-investment and market opportunities.

Together, these partners ensure the Strategy is delivered in ways that strengthen cultural leadership, support artists, connect communities, and grow the social and economic benefits of the arts across the Northern Territory.

A comprehensive list of current key partners is available at Annexure B.

Artists and arts organisations will have clearer career pathways, safer and more inclusive workplaces, stronger leadership, and greater digital capability.

What success looks like

By 2030, more Territorians will be creating, participating in, and benefiting from the arts.

Communities will experience stronger connection, cultural pride, and wellbeing through accessible arts and cultural activity across the Territory.

Audiences and markets will grow, with Territory stories reaching wider local, national and international audiences.

The Territory's economy will benefit from increased creative employment, cultural tourism, and thriving local creative enterprises.

This Action Plan builds momentum, empowering artists, connecting communities, and enriching the cultural life of the Northern Territory, ensuring the arts remain central to the Territory's identity, resilience and future opportunity.

Arts and culture in the Northern Territory

The arts are a cornerstone of the Northern Territory's cultural identity, economic development, and social cohesion. As one of the most diverse and remote regions in Australia, the NT's artistic and cultural expressions are uniquely rich, deeply connected to Country, shaped by Aboriginal heritage and multilingual traditions, and central to community life. Creativity here is not only a reflection of who we are, but a driver of connection, resilience and opportunity.

The Northern Territory has long been a place where storytelling and cultural expression thrive across vast landscapes and diverse communities. From the richness of First Nations cultural practices to the dynamism of contemporary arts, the arts continue to shape our identity, strengthen our connections, and influence how we understand the world around us. Investing in the arts is therefore an investment in our people, our economy and our future.

The NT Arts Strategy 2034 sets out a bold vision for a creative future where the arts are valued, visible, and woven into the everyday lives of Territorians. This first 5-Year Action Plan (2026-2030) is the first major step in realising that vision. It outlines clear priorities and tangible actions that will empower artists, connect communities and enrich cultural life across the Territory.

At its heart, this plan places artists and creatives at the centre, supporting them to develop new work, reach wider audiences, and access pathways into the broader creative industries. It is also a whole-of-government effort: from education to tourism, youth to health, the actions in this plan embed creativity into public policy, service delivery and place-based initiatives. The arts are more than cultural enrichment, they are proven drivers of better health, stronger communities, and greater social cohesion. By leveraging these benefits, the arts become a powerful and practical policy tool that reduces pressure on health systems, improves educational outcomes, strengthens community resilience, and stimulates economic participation.





Key Facts

Arts by numbers

The Northern Territory continues to demonstrate national and international leadership in creativity. The arts are not an optional extra – they are central to our economy, our identity, and our way of life. At the core are our artists, whose talent and vision shape communities, strengthen cultural continuity, and inspire the nation.

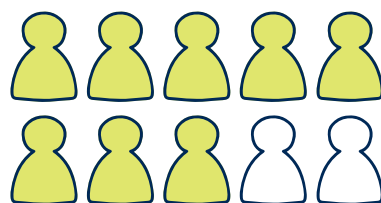
From Aboriginal art centres in remote regions to leading organisations and major events such as the Darwin Festival, the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair and Desert Mob, the arts remain the cornerstone of cultural life in the Territory. They generate employment, attract visitors, and provide Territorians with powerful opportunities to share their stories with the world.

The evidence is clear: thousands of Territorians are employed in the cultural and creative industries; major events generate millions in economic activity; and both Aboriginal and multicultural arts practices play vital roles in strengthening identity, connection and community cohesion.

To maintain and build on this momentum, the Northern Territory must continue to invest in workforce development, new training pathways, stronger regional programs, and the next generation of artists and creative workers. These investments ensure a sustainable arts sector that delivers cultural enrichment, economic return, and lasting benefits for all Territorians.

Participation is high

Nearly 8 in 10 Territorians attend live arts each year



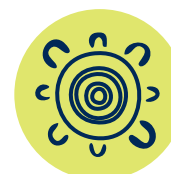
55%
participate
in arts and
culture



85%¹
engage digitally
with arts and
culture

Aboriginal arts are a powerhouse

contributing to one of the strongest Indigenous cultural economies in the world



56%
of NT residents
attend First Nations
arts events²



Aboriginal-owned
art centres support
over 14,000
Aboriginal artists
and arts workers³



Footnotes

Refer to page 33 to see sources

Multicultural arts strengthen community connection

45%

of Territorians engage with arts linked to their own cultural background

40%

attend cultural events connected to their language group or community,

highlighting the Territory's rich multicultural creative life. Music, visual arts, dance and festivals are the most common forms of engagement⁴



The arts are a driver of cultural identity, community wellbeing and economic opportunity. Continued investment in skills, training pathways and regional delivery ensures artists can build sustainable careers while communities benefit from strong cultural life, tourism growth, and social cohesion.

Arts drive jobs and the economy



2800+

Territorians work in the cultural and creative industries⁵



17% increase since 2018⁶



196,000

people collectively attended major events such as **Parrtjima – A Festival in Light⁷** and **Darwin Festival 2025⁸**



and generated more than

\$50 million in economic impact

and delivered up to **75,000 visitor nights**



25-30% of audiences from interstate

highlighting the sector's strong contribution to jobs, tourism, and the Territory economy⁹

National and international impact



Aboriginal art is a major reason visitors choose the NT, yet demand continues to outstrip supply.

Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair has generated

\$30.5 million in art sales since 2015¹⁰

directly benefiting Indigenous artists and art centres.



Desert Mob showcases hundreds of artists¹¹ across

40 art centres and

14 language groups¹²

covering more than **2 million km²**



Aboriginal art remains a major reason visitors choose the NT, and demand continues to outstrip supply⁹

Laying the foundations

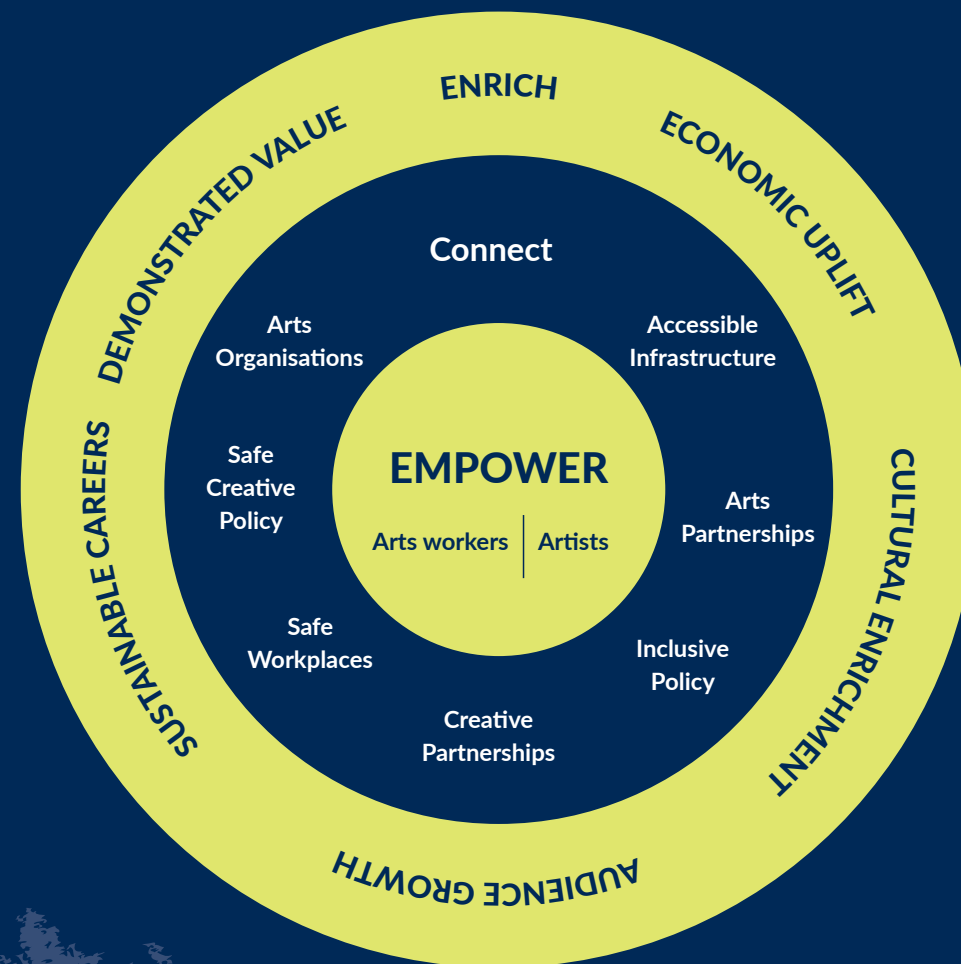
AN 'ARTIST AT THE CENTRE' APPROACH

The NT Arts Strategy is built on an 'artist at the centre' approach. Artists are the driving force of the arts, collaborating across the sector to create new work, engage diverse audiences, stimulate the creative economy, and enrich cultural life in the Territory.

Supporting artists to build sustainable careers ensures ongoing artistic production and sector growth. This depends on strong Aboriginal leadership, resilient arts organisations, productive creative partnerships, access to diverse funding sources, safe and inclusive workplaces, and opportunities for professional development and appropriate infrastructure.

A sustainable creative ecosystem also requires artists and arts organisations to diversify revenue streams, including earned income, philanthropy, sponsorship, social enterprise models and private investment partnerships.

By placing artists at the centre and strengthening these foundations, the NT can achieve both cultural enrichment and socio-economic benefits. A thriving arts ecosystem that broadens audience engagement, diversifies investment, and sustains a creative workforce contributes to economic vitality while strengthening the Territory's cultural identity.





Framework and timelines for delivery

The implementation of the first five-year Action Plan 2026-30 is aligned with the Northern Territory Government's priorities to restore lifestyle and rebuild the economy. The Department of People, Sport and Culture, through Arts NT, plays a central role in strengthening the arts and culture sector by enhancing visibility and accessibility, encouraging participation and engagement, and supporting capacity-building for the benefit of artists, organisations, and communities.

As stewards of the Strategy and Action Plan, The Northern Territory Government will prioritise the following underpinning responsibilities:



ADVICE

Provide policy, strategy, research, and advice on arts, culture, and the creative industries to the NT Government.



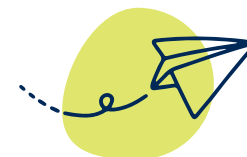
REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY

Represent the NT through Creative Australia's All Jurisdictions Senior Officials Working Groups, with the Minister for Arts representing the NT on the Cultural Ministers Meeting.



PARTNERSHIPS

Leverage cross-sector opportunities that build capacity, sustainability, jobs and career pathways, grow audiences and visitation, and raise the profile of NT arts and culture.



CREATIVE SPACES AND PLACES

Develop and support access to affordable, environmentally sustainable, arts venues and facilities within NT Government-owned and leased assets.



FUNDING

Support artists, arts workers, organisations, and community groups to deliver arts initiatives that expand access and participation, encourage innovation, and foster leadership and excellence.

Guided by the Strategy, delivery will follow a staged approach through two five-year Action Plans, supported by an annual Creative Impact Report to track progress and a five-year evaluation report. The first Action Plan (2026–2030) sets immediate priorities and actions to strengthen a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable arts sector across the Territory.



Collaboration and alignment to NT Government priorities

Connectivity is a central theme of the NT Arts Strategy 2034, and this Action Plan focuses on identifying and investing in opportunities where Northern Territory departments, the Commonwealth, jurisdictions, the NT art sector and community can work together. Strengthening these partnerships is essential to growing the creative and cultural life of all Territorians. The Action Plan has been designed to align with key Northern Territory and national policies and strategies, ensuring the arts are embedded within broader social, cultural, and economic agendas. Partnership Actions identified through the development of the NT Arts Strategy 2034 will continue to be reviewed and updated regularly in consultation with government agencies.

The Arts Strategy supports all three Northern Territory Government priorities - **Rebuilding the Economy**, **Restoring the Territory Lifestyle** and **Reducing Crime** - by increasing economic participation, strengthening community connection, and addressing the root causes of crime through engagement in arts and culture. This alignment includes interconnections with the current strategies and action plans:

- ✓ NT Arts Strategy 2034
- ✓ Northern Territory Youth Strategy 2023-2033 and Action Plan
- ✓ Northern Territory Disability Strategy 2022 – 2032 and Action Plan
- ✓ Department of People, Sport and Culture Strategic Plan 2025-2028
- ✓ Northern Territory Department of Education and Training Strategic Plan 2025-2028
- ✓ National Cultural Policy 2023 – 2028 Revive
- ✓ Australia's Disability Strategy and Equity: the Arts and Disability Associated Plan

This alignment work will continue as the following strategies are finalised:

- ✓ Northern Territory Multicultural Strategy
- ✓ Northern Territory Gender Equity Strategy
- ✓ Northern Territory Seniors Strategy
- ✓ Northern Territory Sport and Recreation Strategy
- ✓ Northern Territory Visitor Economy Strategy 2032

Accountability and governance

The governance framework supporting delivery of this Action Plan establishes a transparent and cyclical flow of information between government, advisory, and sector partners. This structure ensures evidence-based decision-making, accountability and consistent communication across all levels of the Northern Territory arts ecosystem. Delivery is underpinned by three key components:



Department of People, Sport and Culture (DPSC) as the lead agency, through Arts NT

As the central facilitator, Arts NT leads coordination and policy alignment across the arts and creative industries. Responsibilities include:

- Provide secretariat and policy support to the Working Group and MACA.
- Synthesise information from agencies, data systems, and the sector.
- Issue communiqués and public updates to maintain transparency and accountability.
- Annual Creative Impact Report published on the Department's website.

The NTG Inter-Agency Working Group for the Arts (Working Group)

Working Group provides coordinated cross-government input and advice to MACA and is comprised of representatives from NT Government agencies that support and contribute to the arts and culture sector. Responsibilities include:

- Align arts priorities with economic, social, and infrastructure outcomes.
- Review progress on the Action Plan's implementation.
- Escalate inter-agency issues and opportunities to MACA.
- Ensure alignment with NT Government priorities: Rebuild the Economy, Restore Lifestyle, Reduce Crime
- Department-led inter-agency meetings three times per year.

The Ministerial Advisory Committee for the Arts (MACA)

MACA membership brings together funded arts organisations, independent artists, creative industries, Aboriginal art centres, regional councils, education, tourism, and community partners with an active interest in the arts. MACA receives consolidated analysis and advice from the Inter-Agency Working Group (via Arts NT), provides strategic feedback to Arts NT and the Minister, and endorses public communiqués for distribution to the arts sector through Arts NT. Responsibilities include:

- Provide high-level strategic and cultural policy advice to the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage.
- Review reports and recommendations from the Working Group.
- Identify emerging sector issues requiring government response.
- MACA communiqués shared publicly following each meeting to keep the sector informed of progress and decisions, tri-annually.



Monitoring, reporting, evaluation and reviews

Delivery of the NT Arts Strategy Action Plan 2026–2030 will be tracked through measurable actions, data indicators, and qualitative outcomes. Arts NT will lead monitoring and reporting in partnership with NT Government agencies and arts sector stakeholders. Progress will be communicated through the annual Creative Impact Report, with supplementary communiqués following each Ministerial Advisory Committee for the Arts (MACA) meeting.

Success will be measured across three key priorities - Empower, Connect and Enrich - through a combination of quantitative and qualitative indicators:

- Output measures: Data on activities, participation, and delivery.
- Outcome indicators: Evidence of impact, behaviour change and long-term benefit.
- Evaluation tools: Inter-agency reports, sector surveys, and the annual Creative Impact Report.

How we measure success is summarised after each key priority, aligns to actions and quantifies how we measure outputs, and monitor outcomes. An impact evaluation will be undertaken at the end of the Strategy in 2035. Planning for the second Action Plan (2030-2034) will begin in 2028 and will include a review of achievements, consultation to identify shifts in sector needs, and consideration of wider cultural, economic and policy developments, including any relevant national reforms or inquiries.



How you can be involved

The Action Plan is a living document, updated annually to reflect investment outcomes and the evolving needs of the sector and community. As a whole-of-government initiative, it provides opportunities for all Northern Territory Government agencies that engage artists or support creative activity to contribute, strengthening program delivery and enabling more sustainable strategic outcomes.

The Action Plan acknowledges that successful implementation relies on the collective efforts of government, the arts sector, community organisations, private partners, and the wider public. If you are interested in contributing to the development and delivery of future arts programs and action plans, we encourage you to contact Arts NT at arts.office@nt.gov.au.

Priority 1 Empower

Invest in people to build a strong, creative and culturally diverse arts sector

The **Empower** priorities strengthen the arts sector by investing in people actively engaged in the arts, to build a diverse, innovative, and inclusive community of artists and arts leaders. Priorities develop Aboriginal leadership through community-controlled mechanisms and supports artists to thrive in sustainable careers. The Empower priorities will enable the provision of resources, training, and skills development and the nurturing of emerging artists.

Our commitments

- ✓ We commit to empowering leaders of Aboriginal community-controlled arts organisations to shape decision-making and cultural governance across the Territory.
- ✓ Support artists to create new work, develop new skills and access pathways to employment and career development.
- ✓ Support artists and arts organisations to build enterprise capability, diversify income sources, and access private markets alongside public funding.
- ✓ Remove barriers to preventing emerging and professional artists and arts and cultural workers with disability from realising their ambitions.
- ✓ Support targeted investment in skills, education and training, using and growing local leadership capacity including digital literacy and technology readiness.
- ✓ Support lifelong learning, employment and opportunity in the arts and inspire the next generation of arts and cultural leaders.
- ✓ Support arts organisations to be leaders within the sector, and strengthen leadership and workforce development in the arts.

1.1 Aboriginal leadership in the arts is promoted and strengthened

OUR ACTIONS	TIMING
1.1.1 Increase Aboriginal participation in arts policy, program and leadership structures.	2026
1.1.2 Increase employment and leadership opportunities for Elders to share cultural knowledge, mentor emerging artists, and guide community-driven arts projects.	2026
1.1.3 Deliver the First Nations Capacity Building Investment to grow Aboriginal-led leadership and governance, to sustain and grow flagship events.	Ongoing

1.2 Artists are supported to thrive in safe, inclusive and sustainable careers

OUR ACTIONS

TIMING

1.2.1 Support initiatives that embed and strengthen disability access across programs and funding in alignment with the NT Disability Strategy and the National Arts and Disability Plan.

Annually

1.2.2 Support opportunities for artists to create new work, grow employment and develop sustainable income streams through creative enterprise, market development and business capability support.

Ongoing

1.2.3 Deliver programs that promote safe, inclusive and culturally responsive workplace practices, using the arts as a mechanism to reconnect people to community and culture, and to support local approaches to reducing harm and crime.

Ongoing

1.2.4 Work with key partners to apply positive duty standards and build culturally inclusive workplaces that reflect respect for Aboriginal artists, language and cultural practices.

2027

1.2.5 Strengthen access to training and professional development in governance, financial management, legal rights (copyright, IP, emerging technologies), and workplace safety including training in pricing, contracts, licensing, digital sales platforms, sponsorship negotiation and export readiness.

Ongoing

1.2.6 Support artists and small arts enterprises to develop investment-ready projects, products and services capable of attracting earned income, sponsorship, philanthropy and private market opportunities.

Ongoing

1.3 The arts sector has access to resources, training, and skills development to support education and career pathways

OUR ACTIONS

TIMING

1.3.1 Invest in professional development opportunities to strengthen the arts sector by:

- Delivering the annual Meeting of Arts Professionals (MAP) conference.
- Undertaking a feasibility study on extending the MAP model into year-round, mixed-mode opportunities for continuous professional development and increased sector access.
- Supporting upskilling opportunities such as the business of being an artist, organisational governance and financial literacy
- Deliver creative business workshops covering entrepreneurship, e-commerce, investment readiness and social enterprise model

Annually

By 2026

By 2027

From 2026

1.3.2 Strengthen opportunities and pathways from school to work, grow artist retention and long-term career engagement.

- Partner with the Department of Education and tertiary providers to grow value and expand the Artists in Schools and NXT Gen Arts programs.

By 2029

1.3.3 Enable artists with export ready skills and resources, to take up employment and showcasing opportunities as they arise.

Ongoing

1.4 The next generation of emerging artists is nurtured within a culturally diverse and responsive arts sector

OUR ACTIONS

TIMING

1.4.1 Promote resources that support youth and emerging artists in safe, professional creative practice.

From 2026

1.4.2 Develop and deliver an arts mentorship program, activating the exchange of skills and knowledge to grow arts sector leadership across generations.

From 2026

1.4.3 Deliver programs and services for young NT artists to develop pathways into sustainable creative careers.

Ongoing

1.4.4 Support opportunities for young and emerging artists in cross-collaboration with cultural organisations and entities to foster culturally rich, diverse and vibrant arts production across the Northern Territory.

Annually

Priority 2 **Connect**

Invest in connecting the arts, culture and creativity to communities to grow the creative and cultural life of the Territory

The **Connect** priorities foster creativity and innovation to enhance the Territory's cultural life by linking arts, culture and community. They promote inclusivity, foster creative partnerships, ensure safe and diverse workplaces, and invest in accessible infrastructure.

Our commitments

- 

Support opportunities that increase access and engagement in arts and culture for people of all ages, backgrounds, and ability
- 

Invest in the development and implementation of initiatives that support safe, respectful, and fair workplaces that attract and grow the Territory's creative workforce.
- 

Establish an Arts and Culture Advisory framework with regional arts representation to advise government on current and emerging issues and opportunities relevant to regions, arts practice and expertise.
- 

Ensure infrastructure investment models maximise utilisation, reduce lifecycle costs, and leverage co-investment to improve return on public assets.

2.1 Arts organisations are supported to be leaders in their regions, cultivate connections and grow valued creative communities

OUR ACTIONS	TIMING
2.1.1 Support sector sustainability and diversity through five-year funding to arts organisations and venues across the Territory.	2026-2030
2.1.2 Work with funded arts organisations and the youth sector to develop and deliver programs and services for young NT artists.	Ongoing
2.1.3 Support co-location and shared use models for arts spaces to strengthen collaboration between organisations, enable resource sharing and maximise efficiency of use of government owned properties.	Ongoing
2.1.4 Invest in the development of an Aboriginal-led NT-wide Arts and Culture sector strengthening plan to guide long term, community-controlled sector development.	From 2026

2.2 Inclusivity, and diversity is promoted to increase connection, access and participation for all in arts and culture

OUR ACTIONS

TIMING

2.2.1 Increase awareness of sports vouchers to increase access and participation in arts and culture activities.

From 2026

2.2.2 Ensure inclusive representation and best practice across programs and strategies.

Ongoing

2.2.3 Leverage government networks and expertise to engage with arts organisations, offering tailored advice to enhance the accessibility and inclusivity of their programs and facilities.

Ongoing

2.3 Creative partnerships, collaborations, and innovation are supported locally, nationally and globally

OUR ACTIONS

TIMING

2.3.1 Investigate opportunities and leverage partnerships with the Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations, Territory Business Advisor Network to develop ongoing professional development workshops including business development, governance and financial literacy.

From 2026

2.3.2 Continue to develop and maintain partnerships with national peak bodies, to strengthen two-way information sharing that enriches understanding of, and opportunities for, the NT Arts sector.

Ongoing

2.3.3 Invest in collaborative innovation projects that link the arts with other sectors such as health, tourism, education and environment, to increase community impact and creative outcomes and embed Arts in health and social policy.

Annually

2.3.4 Continue to partner with Creative Australia to deliver the federal Visual Art, Craft and Design Framework through sector investment.

Ongoing

2.3.5 Leverage opportunities for NT artists to export their works nationally and internationally, including through festival and tourism initiatives, and international cultural exchanges.

Ongoing

2.3.6 Invest in opportunities to help artists to access sponsorships, donations, and philanthropic support.

Ongoing

2.3.7 Expand digital platforms that showcase NT artists. Deliver digital literacy workshops to grow market access.

From 2026

2.4 Creative workplaces are supported to implement safe and sustainable practices and be culturally diverse and desirable places to work and create

OUR ACTIONS

TIMING

2.4.1 Co-develop a framework for cultural safety and inclusive practice in arts organisations working with Aboriginal artists and communities.

By 2030

2.4.2 Continue to partner with Creative Workplaces to invest in and establish a framework supporting fair, safe and equitable workplaces and beyond.

2026-2030

2.4.3 Provide upskilling opportunities for Territory creatives on legal matters such as copyright, intellectual property, and the use of emerging technologies.

Ongoing

2.4.4 Contribute to local and national policy, protocols and resource development that protect artists, workers and children and create safe working environments.

Ongoing

2.5 Arts infrastructure is fit for purpose and accessible, connecting arts, culture and creativity to community

OUR ACTIONS

TIMING

2.5.1 Develop a 'creative spaces and places' register to facilitate co-location, shared services and partnership activation.

By 2030

2.5.2 Support affordable and accessible venue and facility needs of the arts sector through the annual arts grant program.

Annually

2.5.3 Invest in new technologies and practices to maintain and create safe and accessible facilities that are efficient and contribute to environmental sustainability.

Ongoing

2.5.4 Implement sustainable arts practice, including circular economy initiatives and sustainability principles into creative and business practice, governance and audit processes.

From 2026

2.5.5 Increase access to fit-for-purpose and affordable spaces for arts practice through investment in infrastructure, shared studios, and activation of underutilised community assets including models where private operators, community groups and councils co-invest in activation and management.

2026-2030

2.6 The arts and culture sector is strengthened through robust arts and cultural policy and program development that is inclusive of all Territory voices

OUR ACTIONS

TIMING

2.6.1 Establish and manage a regionally representative Ministers Advisory Committee for the Arts (MACA).

By 2026

2.6.2 Continue to regularly audit arts policy and procedures to understand critical gaps and opportunities for the sector.

By 2028

2.6.3 Collaborate with key partners to strengthen digital literacy and use of technology in the arts.

By 2027

2.6.4 Share national arts policy updates to help Territorians stay informed and take part in national conversations.

Ongoing



Priority 3 **Enrich**

Invest in audiences and celebrate the value of Territory arts and culture

The **Enrich** priorities aim to boost the arts, cultural and creative economy of the Territory by investing in audiences and celebrating the impact of arts and culture. Priorities acknowledge the diversity of languages and emphasise the central role of culture for Aboriginal initiatives, embrace our rich multicultural communities and promote Territory artists locally and globally, grow audiences and markets and communicate the value of the arts.

Our commitments

- ✔ Work with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and peak bodies to leverage new audiences elevating Aboriginal arts and cultural knowledge and leadership.
- ✔ Strengthen international engagement and exchange, leverage cross sector partnerships and celebrate success.
- ✔ Invest in initiatives that respond to changing audience needs and market dynamics to grow reach and demand for Territory arts and culture.
- ✔ Invest in research and evaluation, to measure, map and promote the value of arts and culture in the Territory and grow audiences globally.
- ✔ Leverage opportunities across arts and culture portfolios, all levels of government and across borders to deliver against arts and culture strategies and respond to priorities of the sector as they arise.
- ✔ Position arts and culture as a driver of regional economic growth, First Nations cultural leadership, and visitor economy outcomes through partnership-led investment.

3.1 A 'culture-first' approach is embedded across all Aboriginal arts and culture initiatives

OUR ACTIONS	TIMING
3.1.1 Identify and leverage opportunities to elevate Aboriginal arts and cultural knowledge and leadership and strengthen the sector.	Ongoing

3.2 Territory artists are celebrated and promoted and supported to grow demand in local, national and international markets

OUR ACTIONS	TIMING
3.2.1 Develop an Artist and Creative Practitioner Register and best practice framework to support the commissioning and engagement of NT artists.	2026-2030
3.2.2 Enable artists with export ready skills and resources to take up employment and showcasing opportunities as they arise nationally and internationally and to grow markets, touring income and cultural tourism demand.	Ongoing

3.3. Audiences and markets for Territory stories, creativity and performance are nurtured and grown

OUR ACTIONS

TIMING

3.3.1 Support NT-wide arts celebrations that drive visitation and extend length of stay across regions and seasons – includes investigating the feasibility of a Territory-wide Arts Week that celebrates and showcases local creativity, boosts community participation, and strengthens wellbeing and social connection.

By 2030

3.3.2 Support initiatives that enable artists and arts organisations to grow their audiences and maximise opportunities to grow markets including market development strategies and commercial audience growth.

Ongoing

3.3.3 Develop a data informed audience growth strategy in partnership with industry and the tertiary sector to increase audience participation and access.

By 2028

3.3.4 Expand access and inclusion through digital innovation that enhance engagement for people across diverse locations and with varying needs.

Ongoing

3.3.5 Support initiatives that build community social cohesion and cultural diversity, prioritising diversity in voices and perspectives, to address complex social issues and celebrate diversity.

Ongoing

3.3.6 Work with the arts sector and national organisations to attract national arts and cultural marketplaces to the NT and leverage national and global showcasing opportunities.

Ongoing

3.3.7 Partner with multicultural councils and organisations to co-design and increase participation opportunities in arts and cultural programming including festivals, arts and cultural conferences, tourism events.

From 2026

3.3.8 Work with key stakeholders to integrate arts experiences into destination development and cultural tourism investment.

From 2028

3.4 The value of the arts is measured and communicated

OUR ACTIONS

TIMING

3.4.1 Collaborate with key partners to support arts organisations use of digital tools more effectively, making their business systems stronger and reaching more people through social media and marketing.

From 2026

3.4.2 Collaborate with key partners in the development of a data and evaluation framework that measures social and economic impact of arts funding, to ensure the NT arts sector is recognised in the national arts dialogue.

By 2027

3.4.3 Support the establishment of a Territory arts website to promote Territory arts and culture, funding outcomes, research and opportunities, including a departmental activities calendar.

2026-2030

3.4.4 Support the representation of the NT arts sector at a Commonwealth level to contribute to the national arts and culture dialogue.

Ongoing

3.4.5 Undertake longitudinal research on emerging artist retention in the Northern Territory.

By 2030





Annexure A

How the arts grow the Territory

The NT Arts Strategy 2034 and first 5-Year Action Plan (2026–2030) deliver measurable social, cultural and economic outcomes aligned to the NT Government's priorities: Restoring Lifestyle, Rebuilding the Economy and Reducing Crime.

This Annexure outlines how each pillar of the Strategy contributes to Territory growth, supported by defined success measures and clear data indicators. Together, these actions strengthen people, activate communities and generate economic, social and cultural value.

Priority 1: Empower

Invest in people to build a strong, creative and culturally diverse arts sector

Strong artists. Strong careers. Strong leadership.

Empower strengthens the capability, sustainability and leadership of the Territory's arts workforce. It ensures Aboriginal leadership, youth development, safe workplaces and enterprise growth.

Action No.	Action	Timing	Success Measure
1.1.1	Aboriginal participation in policy and leadership	2026	Aboriginal leadership participation
1.1.2	Elder mentoring roles	2026	Aboriginal leadership roles supported
1.1.3	First Nations Capacity Building	Ongoing	Aboriginal-led organisations strengthened
1.2.1	Disability access initiatives	Annually	Programs with disability inclusion
1.2.2	Creative employment	Ongoing	Artists generating earned income
1.2.3	Safe workplace programs	Ongoing	Inclusive workplace practices
1.2.4	Positive duty standards	2027	Cultural safety benchmarks met
1.2.5	Professional development	Ongoing	Artists completing training
1.2.6	Investment-ready enterprises	Ongoing	Projects prepared for investment
1.3.1	MAP and enterprise workshops	Annual	Sector participation in PD
1.3.2	School-to-work pathways	By 2030	Emerging artist retention
1.3.3	Export-ready development	Ongoing	Artists accessing showcasing
1.4.1	Youth artist resources	From 2026	Youth participation
1.4.2	Arts mentorship program	From 2026	Mentorship participation
1.4.3	Youth career programs	Ongoing	Emerging career engagement
1.4.4	Cross-collaboration	Annually	Diverse creative projects

Priority 2: Connect

Invest in connecting the arts, culture and creativity to communities to grow the creative and cultural life of the Territory

Spaces. Partnerships. Access for all.

Connect focuses on sustainable organisations, regional access, cultural safety and cross-sector partnerships that activate communities and leverage investment.

Action No.	Action	Timing	Success Measure
2.1.1	5-year funding	2026–2030	Org sustainability indicators
2.1.2	Youth partnerships	Ongoing	Youth participation
2.1.3	Co-location models	Ongoing	Shared-use facilities
2.1.4	Aboriginal-led sector plan	From 2026	Aboriginal-controlled frameworks
2.2.1	Sports voucher awareness	From 2026	Participation access
2.2.2	Increase access and opportunity	Ongoing	Diverse participation and representation
2.2.3	Accessibility advisory	Ongoing	Improved access
2.3.1	Business partnerships	From 2026	Business training
2.3.2	National partnerships	Ongoing	Partnerships maintained
2.3.3	Cross-sector innovation	Annually	Cross-sector collaborations
2.3.4	VADC framework	Ongoing	Framework implementation
2.3.5	Export initiatives	Ongoing	Artists exporting
2.3.6	Sponsorship access	Ongoing	Private funding leveraged
2.3.7	Digital platforms	From 2026	Digital reach
2.4.1	Cultural safety framework	By 2030	Cultural safety adoption
2.4.2	Creative workplaces	2026–30	Fair workplaces
2.4.3	Legal/IP training	Ongoing	Legal training uptake
2.4.4	Safety protocols	Ongoing	Policy contributions
2.5.1	Creative spaces register	By 2030	Shared-use planning
2.5.2	Venue grants	Annually	Venue access
2.5.3	Sustainable facilities	Ongoing	Facility upgrades
2.5.4	Circular economy	From 2026	Sustainable practices
2.5.5	Infrastructure co-investment	2026–2030	Co-investment leveraged
2.6.1	MACA establishment	By 2026	Advisory governance
2.6.2	Policy audits	By 2028	Policy reviews
2.6.3	Digital literacy	By 2027	Digital capability
2.6.4	National policy updates	Ongoing	Sector awareness

Priority 3: Enrich

Invest in audiences and celebrate the value of Territory arts and culture

Growing audiences and celebrating Territory culture.

Enrich builds markets, increases participation, strengthens cultural tourism and positions NT stories nationally and internationally.

Action No.	Action	Timing	Success Measure
3.1.1	Culture-first initiatives	Ongoing	Cultural leadership
3.2.1	Artist Register	2026–2030	Artists engaged
3.2.2	Export-ready support	Ongoing	Touring/export
3.3.1	NT arts celebrations	By 2030	Attendance and tourism
3.3.2	Market growth initiatives	Ongoing	Earned revenue
3.3.3	Audience growth strategy	By 2028	Participation increase
3.3.4	Digital inclusion	Ongoing	Digital engagement
3.3.5	Social cohesion programs	Ongoing	Community engagement
3.3.6	National marketplaces	Ongoing	Showcasing events
3.3.7	Multicultural partnerships	From 2026	Multicultural participation
3.3.8	Cultural tourism	From 2028	Tourism activity
3.4.1	Digital business tools	From 2026	Digital systems use
3.4.2	Impact framework	By 2027	Impact reporting
3.4.3	Territory arts website	2026–2030	Public reach
3.4.4	National representation	Ongoing	National engagement



Key partners

Key partners including government and non-government entities	Key responsibility and strategic alignment
Department of People, Sport and Culture (DPSC)	Lead the delivery of the NT Arts Strategy 2034 and work in collaboration with Sport and Recreation, the Offices of Youth Affairs, Multicultural Affairs, Senior Territorians, Veterans, Gender Equity and Diversity, Disability and the Arts and Culture division.
Department of Children and Families (DCF)	Partner to increase the accessibility, reach, and impact of arts-based programs - particularly in remote and Aboriginal communities. Aligns with DCF Strategic Plan 2025-29 and Aboriginal Cultural Security Framework.
Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD)	Lead digital transformation, data management, evaluation and ICT infrastructure initiatives.
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (DCMC)	Lead strategic oversight, whole-of-government coordination, and Cabinet-level governance for implementation and reporting. Restoring the Territory Lifestyle Strategy 2025, NT Government Strategic Plan 2025–2028 and Public Sector Governance Framework.
Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations (DTBAR)	Lead support for creative industries, skills and innovation through business capability, trade and export programs. Aligns with Northern Territory Economic Strategy 2025 and International Engagement Strategy 2022–2026.
Department of Education and Training (DET)	Partner in arts-in-education initiatives, skills pathways and youth engagement. Aligns with Education Engagement Strategy 2022–2031.
Department of Tourism and Hospitality	Lead cultural tourism, creative visitor experiences and showcasing Territory artists through major events. Aligns with Tourism Industry Strategy 2030, Northern Territory Visitor Economy Strategy 2032, and Aboriginal Tourism Strategy 2020–2030.
Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI)	Lead the planning, delivery and maintenance of cultural and creative infrastructure, including museums, galleries and public venues.
Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (DLPE)	Lead in the development and access to creative spaces and facilities through land-use planning, leasing and environmental sustainability frameworks including circular economy. Aligns with Planning Reform Framework and Environmental Sustainability Strategy.
Department of the Attorney-General and Justice (AGD)	Partner to advise best practice in safe, fair and inclusive arts workplaces, and community-led justice and rehabilitation through arts. Aligns with Justice Reform Framework and Positive Duty and Anti-Discrimination Reform Initiatives.

Key partners including government and non-government entities	Key Responsibility and Strategic Alignment
Department of Corrections (DoC)	Lead art therapy and rehabilitation initiatives, including Artists on the Inside in 2026, fostering wellbeing, skill-building and pathways to reintegration. Aligns with Justice Reform Framework and Reducing Crime Strategy 2025.
Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services (NTFES)	Lead support for arts organisations to embed emergency planning and safe fire-related practices in arts workplaces and events.
Department of Health (DoH)	Partner on the development of an Arts in Health Framework, to guide stronger outcomes for arts and wellbeing initiatives in community health programs. Aligns with Health and Wellbeing Framework.
Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development (DHLGCD)	Lead support aligned with the Empowering the Bush Strategic Framework. This framework prioritises strengthening community-led decision-making, enabling place-based development, and ensuring government investment aligns with locally identified priorities to drive sustainable regional economic growth. Through its Community Development division, DHLGCD can support initiatives by facilitating community linkages, incorporating local knowledge and input, and contributing to the effective implementation of the Action Plan.
Creative Australia	Lead national partnerships including delivering the Visual Arts, Craft and Design Framework and federal investment under Revive: A National Cultural Policy 2023–2028 including Equity: The Arts and Disability Associated Plan.
Local Government and Regional Councils	Partner in the delivery of local infrastructure, venues and arts activation through regional and community initiatives where strategic priorities align. This includes continued participation on the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee and alignment with local frameworks such as the City of Darwin's Creative Strategy 2024–2030, the Palmerston Creative Industries Plan 2022–2027, and Local Government and Regional Plans.
Northern Territory Arts Organisations	Partner within the delivery of a diverse range of arts programs and services across all regions so all Territorians can participate in a creative and cultural life. Aligns to the NT Arts Strategy 2034, and Revive: A National Cultural Policy 2023–2028 including Equity: The Arts and Disability Associated Plan.
Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations and Peak Bodies	Inform culture-first initiatives, strengthen cultural governance and ensure Aboriginal leadership in decision-making. Aligns with Closing the Gap National Agreement and Aboriginal Leadership Frameworks.
Education and Training Providers (VET, CDU, Batchelor Institute and Registered Training Organisations)	Lead delivery of accredited training, qualifications and creative industry pathways. Aligns with Workforce Development Framework and Education Engagement Strategy.

Northern Territory Arts Strategy 2034

Vision

To empower creativity, connect culture and enrich communities.

Mission

The Northern Territory is a thriving community enriched by vibrant arts, culture, and creativity, vital to the Territory's social, cultural and economic future.

EMPOWER

Invest in people to build a strong, creative and culturally diverse arts sector

- Aboriginal leadership in the arts is promoted and strengthened by recognising, acknowledging and using well established Aboriginal leadership structures
- Artists are supported to thrive in safe, inclusive and sustainable careers that foster creativity and innovation in creative practice
- The arts sector has access to resources, training, and skills development to support education and career pathways
- The next generation of emerging artists is nurtured within a culturally diverse and responsive arts sector

CONNECT

Invest in connecting the arts, culture and creativity to community to grow the creative and cultural life of the Territory

- Arts organisations are supported to be leaders, cultivate connections, and grow valued creative communities in their regions
- Inclusivity and diversity are promoted to increase connection, access and participation for all in arts and culture
- Creative workplaces are supported to implement safe and sustainable practices, culturally diverse and desirable places to work and create
- Partnerships and collaboration are facilitated across regions and sectors
- Arts infrastructure is fit for purpose and accessible connecting arts, culture, and creativity to community
- The arts and culture sector are strengthened through robust arts and cultural policy and program development that is inclusive of all Territory voices

ENRICH

Invest in audiences and celebrate the value of Territory arts and culture to grow a strong arts, culture and creative economy

- A 'culture-first' approach is embedded across all Aboriginal arts and culture initiatives recognising the crucial place of Aboriginal artists
- Territory artists are celebrated and promoted to grow demand in local, national, and international markets
- Audiences and markets for Territory stories, creativity and performance are nurtured and grown
- The value of the arts is measured and communicated

Principles

Cultural heart

The crucial place of Aboriginal stories is recognised and respected at the centre of the Territory's arts and culture

Creative communities

Access and opportunity to arts and culture enriches the lives of all Territorians

Artistic ambition

Empowered artists thrive and innovate in sustainable careers and contribute to the creative and cultural economy

Territory identity

The Territory's vibrant arts and culture is recognised at home and abroad, is reflected in our stories and connects us with a sense of belonging and achievement

Connecting culture

Future focused arts leadership enables diverse connections and a robust and valued arts and culture sector

Values

- **Recognition**
- **Respect**
- **Empowerment**
- **Collaboration**
- **Inclusivity**

How this Action Plan supports the Northern Territory Government priorities

The NT Arts Strategy Action Plan contributes directly to the Northern Territory Government's priorities by strengthening liveability, growing the economy, and supporting safer communities.

Restoring the Territory Lifestyle

Restoring the Territory Lifestyle: Increasing regional access and participation in arts and culture to foster social inclusion and strengthen health, wellbeing and education outcomes through creative engagement.

- Celebrating culture, heritage and Territory identity through arts programs, festivals and events
- Activating public spaces, venues and regional facilities for community participation
- Supporting inclusive access to creative activities for young people, families, and diverse communities
- Contributing to wellbeing and social connection through shared cultural experiences

Outcome: Enhanced liveability, stronger community connection, and improved wellbeing for Territorians.

Rebuilding the Economy - NT Economic Strategy

Rebuilding the Economy: Expanding employment and leadership pathways in the creative industries, growing the local creative economy and supporting complementary industries such as tourism. Supporting artists and creative workers to develop sustainable income and enterprise capability.

- Growing creative markets, export opportunities and private sector partnerships
- Strengthening cultural tourism and major arts events that attract visitors
- Leveraging co-investment to expand economic impact

Outcome: More creative employment, stronger local enterprises, and increased economic activity linked to arts and culture.

Reducing Crime - Northern Territory Crime Reduction Strategy

Reducing Crime: Expanding access to arts participation for marginalised and at-risk communities, particularly young people, to build identity, belonging and resilience through creative expression.

- Providing youth arts programs, mentoring and career pathways
- Supporting culturally strong, inclusive and community-led initiatives
- Creating safe environments for participation and skill development
- Strengthening connection to culture, identity and community

Outcome: Greater community connection, improved wellbeing, and more positive pathways for young Territorians.

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Image credits:

Cover page: Katanga Junior performing at the NT Music Awards in Alice Springs. Photography by Oliver Eclipse.

Inside cover: 'Touch' by Suzi Lyons & Mel Robson, presented at the Apmere Mpartnwe, Australian Ceramics Triennale. Photography by Oliver Eclipse.

page 3: Glow exhibition at Katherine Regional Arts.

page 5: SUB by GUTS Dance x Ash Musk's in Mparntwe, Alice Springs. Photography by Ivan Trigo Miras.

page 7: Darwin Symphony Orchestra NT Tour 2025, Education workshop, Katherine. Photography by Naiara Carrillo.

page 11: A celebration of Woman through Dance. Image courtesy of Nina Bower.

page 15: NXT Gen ARTS recipient Johnathan Tan performing in POD by Luminous Productions. Photography by Tarz Jungle Queen.

page 20: Ciella Williams as Writer in Residence at Corrugated Iron Youth Arts developing 'Life is Swift'. Photography by Patch Clapp.

page 23: AANT Centre Turns 40: Behind the Curtain, Darwin Chorale. Photography by Pema Pakhrin.

page 27: Recipients of the 2025 NT Performing Arts Awards. Photography by Georgia Politis.

page 31: SUB by GUTS Dance x Ash Musk's in Mparntwe, Alice Springs. Photography by Ivan Trigo Miras.

Glossary of key terms

This glossary defines key terms used throughout the Northern Territory Arts Strategy 2034 and the 5-Year Action Plan 2026–2030. It is designed to assist readers from non-arts or cross-government backgrounds to understand arts-sector terminology and context.

- **Aboriginal arts and culture:** Artistic and cultural practices led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, often based on connection to Country, language, and traditional knowledge. In this Plan, “Aboriginal” refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the NT.
- **Aboriginal community-controlled organisation:** An Aboriginal-run entity governed by Aboriginal people to represent Aboriginal interests and deliver culturally appropriate programs. In arts, this includes Aboriginal art centres and peak bodies.
- **Action Plan:** A 5-year implementation roadmap that sets out specific priorities, actions, and timelines to achieve the NT Arts Strategy 2034 vision.
- **Artist at the Centre:** A guiding principle of the NT Arts Strategy meaning artists, rather than institutions or administrators, are the core of the system. Policy, funding, and programs are designed to enable their creativity and livelihoods.
- **Arts NT:** A business unit within the Department of People, Sport and Culture (DPSC). Arts NT leads arts policy, strategy, and grants programs, and coordinates cross-government delivery of the Arts Strategy.
- **Arts organisation:** An incorporated body that produces, presents, supports, or promotes the arts, such as galleries, festivals, theatres, or art centres. May be not-for-profit, Aboriginal-owned, or government-funded.
- **Arts sector:** The ecosystem of artists, arts organisations, creative businesses, festivals, events, and audiences that make up the NT’s arts and cultural landscape.
- **Arts in Health:** The use of creative activities and cultural engagement to support health, wellbeing, and recovery outcomes in healthcare or community settings.
- **Capacity building:** Programs and supports that strengthen an individual or organisation’s capability; for example, governance training, financial management, or digital literacy.
- **Circular economy:** An environmental approach where materials and resources are reused, repaired, or recycled rather than discarded, applied here to sustainable arts practice and infrastructure.
- **Closing the Gap:** A national agreement aimed at improving life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Arts Strategy aligns with its Priority Reforms on partnership, shared decision-making, and data.
- **Creative industries:** Businesses and professionals whose work is based on creativity, skill, and intellectual property, such as design, film, music, publishing, and digital media.
- **Creative Impact Report:** An annual NT Government publication that measures and communicates progress against the Action Plan, combining data, case studies, and impact stories.
- **Cultural governance:** Decision-making that reflects cultural protocols, community authority, and Aboriginal law/lore, ensuring cultural safety and authenticity.
- **Cultural tourism:** Visitor experiences that are based on arts, heritage, and culture, including Aboriginal art, festivals, and performances, which contribute to the Territory’s tourism economy.
- **DPSC (Department of People, Sport and Culture):** The NT Government department responsible for arts, culture, sport, heritage, and community wellbeing. Arts NT sits within DPSC.
- **Empower, Connect, Enrich:** The three priority pillars of the Action Plan: Empower – Build leadership and workforce capability; Connect – Strengthen community, partnerships, and infrastructure; Enrich – Grow audiences and celebrate the value of arts and culture.

- **First Nations Capacity Building Investment:** A funding initiative to strengthen Aboriginal-led leadership, governance, and flagship events like the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair and Desert Mob.
- **Fit-for-purpose spaces:** Facilities or venues that are suitable, affordable, and safe for creating, rehearsing, exhibiting, or performing art.
- **Governance:** The structures and processes that ensure an organisation is accountable, transparent, and well-managed — including board oversight, policies, and compliance.
- **Intergovernmental Working Group for the Arts (IGWGA):** A group of Northern Territory department representatives that provide strategic advice to the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and help guide implementation of the Arts Strategy.
- **MACA (Ministers Advisory Committee for the Arts):** A group of arts sector leaders who provide strategic advice to the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and help guide implementation of the Arts Strategy.
- **Meeting of Arts Professionals (MAP):** An annual NT conference that brings together artists, organisations, and government to share knowledge, training, and networking opportunities.
- **Multicultural participation:** The involvement of culturally and linguistically diverse communities in arts programs, festivals, and creative projects.
- **Positive Duty:** An obligation under anti-discrimination law for organisations to take active steps to prevent harassment, discrimination, and victimisation, not just respond after incidents.
- **Sector sustainability:** The long-term health of the arts sector, financially, environmentally, and socially, ensuring organisations and artists can continue their work into the future.
- **Shared-use model:** A cooperative approach where multiple arts groups share a facility or resources to reduce costs and increase collaboration.
- **Social cohesion:** The degree to which people feel connected, valued, and included in their community. The arts contribute to cohesion through participation and shared experiences.
- **Territory arts ecosystem:** The network of artists, organisations, government, education, tourism, and community partners working together to deliver creative outcomes across the Northern Territory.
- **Workforce development:** Training and professional development programs that help artists and arts workers build skills for sustainable careers.

Acknowledgment

We extend our sincere thanks to all who contributed to the development of the Northern Territory Arts Strategy 2034 and the 2026-2030 Action Plan.

Your input, through submissions, consultations, interviews, and workshops, has played a vital role in shaping this and future Action Plans. The experiences, insights, and aspirations shared by individuals and organisations across the Territory have been instrumental in defining a shared vision for the future of arts and culture in the Northern Territory.

For more information or to contribute, please contact Arts NT at: arts.office@nt.gov.au.

