

ART AT THE HEART OF THE CAPITAL

SUPPORTING A FUN, VIBRANT, CREATIVE CANBERRA

The Greens want Canberra to be a liveable city, enlivened by art, music and rich culture that everyone can access.

But at the moment, the cost of living crisis is hitting artists and the industry hard. Festivals, venues and individuals are struggling to stay afloat.

Most ACT Government funding for the arts goes to capital works, not creatives. The Government has a bold [Statement of Ambition](#) for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's arts capital, but hasn't followed through with the investment to meet these goals.

The Greens want to back the arts sector in line with its economic contribution. The ACT's creative industries [contribute \\$2.9 billion](#) and around 8% to our local economy, but they are in decline.

You wouldn't build a hospital and then run out of money for doctors and nurses. Why build galleries and theatres without funding them to put on art exhibitions and shows?

The Greens will put art at the heart of our capital by funding art, artists and arts organisations, not just buildings. We will foster new opportunities for the arts and make sure that art is accessible for all.

THE ACT GREENS WILL:

- ▲ Fund art, not just the buildings art goes in, by doubling the arts budget
- ▲ Pay artists fairly with multi-year contracts and track the fair Remuneration Principles
- ▲ Support First Nations art
- ▲ Create new artistic opportunities with a commissioning officer
- ▲ Make art accessible for all
- ▲ Back live music before it's gone

FUND ART, NOT JUST THE BUILDINGS IT GOES IN

FUND OUR ARTS ORGANISATIONS

The ACT's arts organisations are struggling to survive. Costs are rising, leaving organisations struggling to maintain facilities, roll out programs and pay proper wages to artists and arts workers. 21 arts organisations in Canberra recently signed [an open letter](#) pointing out their funding shortfall.

The message to the Government is clear: If we want Canberra to be the Arts Capital, we need to follow through with the investment needed to back the [Statement of Ambition](#).

The Greens will more than double funding for arts centres and arts organisations. We will also provide funding on a four-year basis with full CPI indexation each year.

PAY ARTISTS FAIRLY

If we, as a society, want great art, we need to support artists. The Greens will more than double grant funding for individual artists and emerging arts organisations.

After years of campaigning for fair pay for artists, the ACT Government committed to fair [Remuneration Principles](#). But we need to [track implementation](#) to make sure artists are being paid fairly.

Even when the ACT Government hires artists, it's rarely done in a way that creates the kind of stable long-term job opportunities that Canberrans expect. For instance, established festivals like Floriade, the National Folk Festival and Enlighten run every year but artists are only employed on a one-year gig basis.



Cityscape by [Yasmin Idriss](#)
made with recycled picture frames

MULTI-YEAR CONTRACTS, NOT JUST GIGS

The Greens will offer longer term multi-year contracts to artists for two or three festivals in a row. We will take opportunities to give artists longer-term job security and more certainty to build their lives and practices around.

WHAT'S THE INVESTMENT?

- ▲ \$17 million per year for arts centres and arts organisations (currently \$8 million per year).
- ▲ Four-year funding agreements with CPI indexation.

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- ▲ \$2 million per year for arts grants (currently \$959K per year).
- ▲ Multi-year contracts, not gig funding where possible.

GROW ARTISTIC OPPORTUNITIES

PLATFORM FIRST NATIONS ARTISTS

Canberra has an incredibly vibrant First Nations arts scene and we need to support First Nations artists and invest in and promote their work at every opportunity.

The Greens will double the Cultural Arts Program funding from \$100K to \$200K per year. We will also commission more First Nations art in government projects.

CREATING CONNECTIONS

The Greens will create a commissioning officer in ArtsACT who will better connect local artists with existing artistic opportunities and projects within ACT Government. We will prioritise commissioning First Nations art, and art that promotes and showcases the ACT's circular economy.

The commissioning officer will find existing ACT Government spaces that are underutilised. They will also make sure we include art spaces in new developments from the beginning, such as at shopping centres and in new suburbs and precincts.



Gaia Bowls by [Ngaio Fitzpatrick](#)
made with recycled glass

This Greens initiative will foster networks between the Government and the community, so that more of the ACT's local talent can be connected to subsidised studios and workshop spaces all over Canberra, including the south side.

MAKE ART ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

Canberra's theatres and galleries and shows host amazing work, but it's not always accessible to many people in our community.

Everyone has different needs when they're out and about, and it can be hard to work out whether it will be possible to comfortably, affordably and safely attend an event. Some events have accessibility features, like Auslan by Rebus Theatre and audio descriptions by Canberra Theatre, but some don't.

Arts organisers aren't always sure how to maximise accessibility at their events and they don't always know how to communicate with audiences about accessibility. Arts organisations need

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support and guidance from people with lived experience, so that everyone who buys a ticket can be confident they will be able to attend and enjoy the event.

The Greens will create a new accessibility fund of \$50,000 per year indexed to CPI to enable ArtsACT to provide accessibility support to artists and arts organisations wanting to make their work more accessible.

WHAT'S THE INVESTMENT?

- ▲ \$200K per year indexed to CPI for the Cultural Arts Program (currently \$100K per year)
- ▲ \$150K per year for a commissioning officer within the ACT Public Service
- ▲ \$50K per year indexed to CPI to fund accessibility support.

WHAT'S NEXT?

BACK LIVE MUSIC BEFORE IT'S GONE

The ACT Greens will back live music before it's gone by setting up Entertainment Precincts in each town centre plus EPIC, providing a new industry development officer and making public liability insurance work. Check out our [Live Music initiative](#) for more information.



Fell by [Ashley Eriksmoen](#)
made with salvaged discarded furniture

SUPPORT THE ARTS SCENE TO THRIVE

A plan for the arts is a plan for a fun, vibrant, creative Canberra. Building a liveable city is not just about bricks and mortar – it's about people and culture.

For too long, Labor has targeted arts investment at buildings, not people, undervaluing the contribution that art makes to the lives of individuals and our community as a whole.

The Greens will double investment in the arts and target investment at people, not just buildings. Supporting artists will make Canberra an even more liveable city, enlivened by art, music and rich culture that everyone can access.

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