



**CANBERRA
THEATRE
CENTRE**



**CANBERRA
MUSEUM
+ GALLERY**



**THE
NOLAN
COLLECTION**

**LANYON
HOMESTEAD**

**MUGGA-
MUGGA
COTTAGE**

**CALTHORPES
HOUSE**

2024-25



ACT
Government



**CULTURAL
FACILITIES
CORPORATION**



WELCOME YUMA

The Cultural Facilities Corporation (CFC) acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

Contents

- 1** WHO WE ARE
- 2** OUR VISION, MISSION & VALUES
- 3** OUR GOALS
- 4** REMARKABLE RESULTS
- 5** CANBERRA THEATRE CENTRE
- 7** GALLERIES, MUSEUMS & HERITAGE
- 9** 2024-25 HIGHLIGHTS
- 11** ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
- 13** FIRST NATIONS HIGHLIGHTS
- 14** CFC OPEN DAY
- 15** OUR PERFORMANCE GROWTH
- 16** 2024-25 ACHIEVEMENTS
- 19** A GROWING ARTS ORGANISATION
- 20** OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS
- 21** CONTACT US

Who we are

The CFC is a statutory corporation of the ACT Government and the ACT's largest cultural organisation, managing a unique mix of performing arts, visual arts, social history and heritage venues. The CFC connects people with rich and diverse cultural experiences, activities and functions with responsibility for:



**GALLERIES
MUSEUMS
+HERITAGE**

Galleries, Museums & Heritage

Canberra Museum & Gallery

The Nolan Collection

Lanyon Homestead

Calthorpes House

Mugga-Mugga



**CANBERRA
THEATRE
CENTRE**

Canberra Theatre Centre

The Canberra Theatre

The Playhouse

Courtyard Studio

Our Vision

**Building Australia's
arts and culture
capital**

Our Mission

**We create and
drive diverse and
remarkable experiences
that enliven and
elevate arts, culture
and heritage in
the capital**

Our Values

**Daring
Responsibility
Excellence
Agility
Magnetic**

Our Goals

1 Custodianship, Creativity, & Storytelling

We will deliver creative excellence and custodianship for the CFC's activities, deepen our contribution to the ACT's arts, culture, and heritage ecology, and grow our natural role.

2 Growth & Financial Sustainability

We will position the CFC for the future by expanding its income streams and relevance to the arts, culture and heritage sectors, audiences, and economy.

3 Redevelopment of the Canberra Theatre Centre and Canberra Civic & Culture District

We will provide a vision and key leadership for the redevelopment of the CTC and CCCD, including elevating CMAG's place in the district, and develop our organisation to leverage these opportunities.

4 Sector Leadership & Development

We will lead our sector in the ACT, growing audiences, engaging artists, and developing people.

5 Best Practice Governance, Organisational Capacity & Culture

Our operational model will be best practice.

Cultural Facilities Corporation 2024-25 REMARKABLE PEOPLE	431,110 total visitation 20% above target	Gender diversity 64% female workforce	65.5% Own sourced revenue 27% above target
Canberra Theatre Centre Canberra Theatre Courtyard Studio Playhouse	707 days of venue usage 18% above target	\$19,981,561 CTC Box Office gross up 6.5% from 2023-24	CTC ticketing sales up 9.95% from 2023-24
2024-25 REMARKABLE GROWTH	59.6% first time attendees up 12% from 2023-24	Food & Beverage revenue up 40% from 2023-24	Self sourced revenue up 34% from 2023-24
Galleries, Museums & Heritage Canberra Museum & Gallery (CMAG) The Nolan Collection Historic Places: Lanyon Homestead Calthorpes House Mugga-Mugga	28,638 attendees at public programs up 45% from 2023-24	306 education programs delivered across Galleries, Museums & Heritage	224 public programs delivered across Galleries, Museums & Heritage
2024-25 REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS	159,144 total visitation 62% above target	106,147 Canberra Museum & Gallery visitors 112% above target	52,868 Historic Places visitors 10% above target

Canberra Theatre Centre

CTC is the major presenter of performing arts in the region. CTC presents a range of program and independent productions and works with community and commercial hirers to deliver a broad program of theatre, dance and music.

In particular, the **New Works and Sector Development Program** supports local artists and producers in the commissioning, creative development, and presentation of productions.

In 2024-25, the program engaged with a total of **246 artists** through creative development programs, one-on-one engagement, artist chats, professional mentorship, networking events, and presentation of local independent productions.

CTC is also connected to major performing arts centres across the nation and **collaborates with leading national theatre and dance companies.**

CTC supports the region's theatre industry by purchasing productions, paying artist fees, covering presentation costs, offering rental subsidies, and supporting access to our technical, front of house, marketing and box office resources.

CTC initiatives result in excellent, vibrant, and dynamic performances for Canberra, establishing the ACT as a place to create work of national significance.

**CTC's
New Works
program supported
15 works & engaged
246 artists &
arts workers**

**11,000
school children
engaged with
the CTC**

CTC's
patron numbers
reached **272,156**
with **60%**
being first time
visitors



New Lyric Theatre

Construction of a new lyric theatre at Canberra Theatre, commencing in early 2026, will support the growth of Canberra's performing arts industry by creating additional spaces for artists and arts workers to develop, rehearse, and perform productions. The new lyric theatre and upgraded facilities will include modern rehearsal spaces, supporting the creation of productions that can tour nationally and internationally - raising the profile of Canberra creatives and enhancing the city's reputation as a performing arts destination.

A key commitment of this project is to ensure continued access for local arts organisations to theatre venues and to support the development of new works. The CFC aims to nurture the next generation of performing

artists, foster the creation of locally produced works that tell stories of national significance, inspire young performers with access to a world-class facility, serve as a training ground for both on-stage and backstage talent, and uplift the entire local arts sector. The new infrastructure will also enable expanded opportunities across many performance genres - musical theatre, contemporary music, ballet, opera, classical music, circus, and immersive performances - while deepening artistic programming with a focus on First Nations, community, diversity, and youth representation.

Galleries, Museums & Heritage

Galleries, Museums & Heritage (GMH) has creative, curatorial, exhibition, collections management, research, and public engagement responsibilities relating to **CMAG, the Nolan Collection, Lanyon Homestead, Calthorpes House** and **Mugga-Mugga**, collaboratively, of the curatorial, collections management, social history, and heritage aspects more broadly within the CFC.

CMAG develops and presents exhibitions that interpret and promote significant events, places, people and collections associated with the social history and visual arts of Canberra and the region.

Notably, **CMAG has an award-winning permanent exhibition Canberra/ Kamberri, Place and People devoted to the unique story of Canberra.** CMAG also brings significant touring exhibitions to Canberra and provides opportunities for the exhibition of local community and private collections.

CMAG is also the **custodian of the 218 works that comprise the Commonwealth Nolan Collection, including the 24 Foundation Collection of iconic paintings from the Ned Kelly, St Kilda, and Burke and Wills series,** donated by the artist to the nation in 1974.

11,998
students attended
education
programs



CMAG
visitation
reached **106,147**
with **28%**
first time
attendees

Visitor numbers to historic places reached **52,865** with **55%** first time attendees

CFC's **three heritage-listed historic places** contain a wealth of information and wonder. Comprising distinct and different houses and land museums, and showcasing aspects of the ACT's significant natural and cultural heritage, these places are unique time capsules, providing a window into the lives of our predecessors. Smaller in nature than classical museum experiences, they create boutique heritage experiences for small groups and present exquisite backdrops for community events.

Lanyon Homestead, built in 1859, is located along the Murrumbidgee River and Brindabella ranges. Lanyon encompasses the important Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage values of the landscape, and the history of European settlement and pastoralism in the Canberra region.

Calthorpes House, built in 1927, was one of the earliest residences constructed in the new Federal Capital of Canberra. The Calthorpe family continuously lived in the home until the 1980s, when it was purchased by the Commonwealth government, including the domestic furnishings and personal belongings of the Calthorpe family. It provides an insight into the taste and experiences of the new population moving to Canberra in the 1920s and 30s.

Mugga-Mugga Cottage, built in the 1850s, is one of only three surviving workers' cottages built as part of the expansive Duntroon estate. It includes the rare domestic working-class collection of the Curley family, former Duntroon estate workers who moved to the Cottage in 1913 when Duntroon was resumed by the Commonwealth for the creation of the Federal Capital. The Cottage is also surrounded by listed endangered native temperate grasslands.



In the spotlight Chicago

Presented by CTC and Crossroads Live, **multi award winning musical *Chicago* broke CTC's box office records**, and was **seen by more than 30,000 people, across 28 performances**.

Starring **Anthony Warlow** as Billy Flynn, **Zoë Ventoura** as Velma Kelly, **Lucy Maunder** as Roxie Hart, **Peter Rowsthorn** as Amos Hart, and **Asabi Goodman** as Matron 'Mama' Morton. Created by the musical theatre talents of John Kander, Fred Ebb and legendary choreographer Bob Fosse, *Chicago* has been honoured with 6 Tony Awards®, 2 Olivier Awards, and a Grammy®. After a sensational media launch, the production **achieved the highest ever first-week sales for any major musical at the CTC**. Patrons also enjoyed fun photo opportunities in the foyer and 1920s-themed cocktails.

In the gardens Floriade @ Lanyon

Visitors enjoyed the beauty of **Floriade** within the picturesque grounds of **Lanyon Homestead**. This year's events celebrated the 2024 Floriade theme **Art in Bloom** and included ***Sky Stories*** with Peter Swanton (First Nations astronomer) sharing stories about the night sky from a First Nations perspective, a ***Flowers in the Garden Tour***, and ***Flowers in the House*** Floriade-inspired tour of Lanyon Homestead delving into the history and symbolism of the floral patterns that adorn textiles, wallpapers, ceramics, and artworks throughout the house. ***Beyond the Farm Gate***, a special guided tour of the natural wonders and historical marvels that define the iconic estate, and ***Sidney Nolan in Bloom*** provided an opportunity to experience a special garden bed designed by Oxigen, filled with an array of coloured flowers that echo Nolan's artistic vision. CMAG's Senior Visual Arts Curator provided a fascinating talk on Nolan's connection to Lanyon and why he chose to exhibit his famous Ned Kelly series there in 1975.



Inclusivity Accessible Performances

CTC significantly expanded its accessible performance offerings, delivering **39 inclusive performances across 31 seasons**. This included **11 Auslan-interpreted performances, 7 tactile tours, 8 audio-described performances, 14 live-captioned performances, and 6 relaxed performances**. CTC supported accessible seasons featuring diverse genres such as theatre, musical theatre, dance, circus, comedy, and children's productions. To enhance accessibility, CTC streamlined booking processes through online forms and dedicated Box Office support. Website functionality was improved with screen reader compatibility and font enlargement options. Hearing access was supported through FM radio-assisted hearing units and captioning services.

In the Gallery

Taglietti: Life in Design

CMAG's exhibition **Taglietti: Life in Design** celebrates the centenary of Enrico Taglietti's birth, and explores the life, philosophy, and legacy of one of Australia's most original architects. Visitors experience Taglietti's unique design language through immersive interventions complementing displays of original architectural drawings, models, photographs, rarely seen personal objects, fashion, and furniture, revealing how Taglietti's creative ethos and holistic approach permeated every aspect of his life. The exhibition of "**The Global Architect**" showcases a visionary whose design principles shaped modern Australian architecture and left an indelible imprint on Canberra, the city he and his wife Franca chose to call home. The Taglietti's Canberra map features a diverse selection of public and commercial Taglietti designed properties throughout Canberra.



In the Hub

Pop-Up Bar

CMAG and the CFC's Events and Activations Team unveiled a **Pop-Up Bar** in the heart of the city, offering an intimate celebration of local craftsmanship. Each Thursday to Sunday, throughout September, visitors indulged in Canberra's finest artisan offerings, including premium wines from **Ravensthorch Wines**, craft beers from **Capital Brewing Co.**, as well as artisanal cheeses from **Le Cheeserie**, all complemented by live music and entertainment on weekends. In collaboration with **Mount Majura Vineyard**, CMAG also hosted **Le Cheeserie x Mount Majura Vineyard Masterclass**, offering participants the opportunity to learn about, and sample, perfect fine wine and cheese pairings.



In the UK

Staff Development Scholarship

With thanks to a generous donation, staff members are able to apply for a **CFC Staff Development Scholarship** for up to \$10,000 in professional development that would otherwise not be possible. It is awarded on the basis of personal professional development, contribution to the organisation's mission and strategic direction, and how the experience will bring broader benefits to the cultural sector in an intentional way. This year's recipient, **Kat Voss** from CTC Box Office, attended the international Ticketing Business Forum in the UK to deepen her expertise in ticketing platforms, customer relationship management, marketing and data analytics, and patron engagement, and to **raise the profile of the CFC internationally**.



SIDNEY NOLAN'S



GIFT TO THE NATION



Sidney Nolan at Lanyon Homestead for the launch of the first public exhibition of his gifts. Image: National Archives of Australia

Nolan50

Sidney Nolan's Gift to the Nation

50 years ago, Sidney Nolan donated 24 of his most significant paintings to the people of Australia, one of Australia's largest bequests of artwork and an extraordinary gift that became the **Nolan Foundation Collection**. Initially exhibited at Lanyon Homestead in 1975, the Collection now resides at **CMAG** and encompasses **218 works**. In March, CMAG launched **Nolan50**, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Sir Sidney Nolan's gift, and providing the opportunity to reflect on Nolan's vision, as well as his unwavering belief in the power of art. Nolan50 celebrates with a three year program of exhibitions, concerts, talks, and symposia.

A Total Work of Art Sidney Nolan and the Stage

A Total Work of Art: Sidney Nolan and the Stage

showcases Nolan's dynamic and innovative, but lesser-known, designs for opera, theatre and ballet. The **CMAG** exhibition provides visitors with opportunity to see rare and original stage works, including *Icare* (1940), *The Rite of Spring* (1963), and *The Display* (1964) - performed at the **opening of the CTC 60 years ago**. A highlight is Nolan's iconic Lyrebird (male) costume, created at the invitation of Robert Helpmann for the first production of **The Australian Ballet**, highlighting Nolan's pursuit of a 'total work of art' encompassing costuming, set design and lighting.



The Lyrebird (male) in the Australian Ballet production of The Display, 1964. Image: Sarah Nash



David Bridie - Resonant Spaces, CMAG



Sophie Hutchings Images: Dominic Northcott

Concert Resonant Spaces at CMAG

Live music and visual art came together at **CMAG** with **ARIA Award-winning artists David Bridie** and **Sophie Hutchings** performing original solo piano compositions inspired by the works of **Sidney Nolan**. Their contemporary musical interpretations reflected Nolan's themes of landscape, myth, and identity in distinct and compelling ways. **Resonant Spaces** performances were followed by discussions with curator **Ross Heathcote** featuring the artists and providing insights into their creative approaches and the interplay between visual art and music.



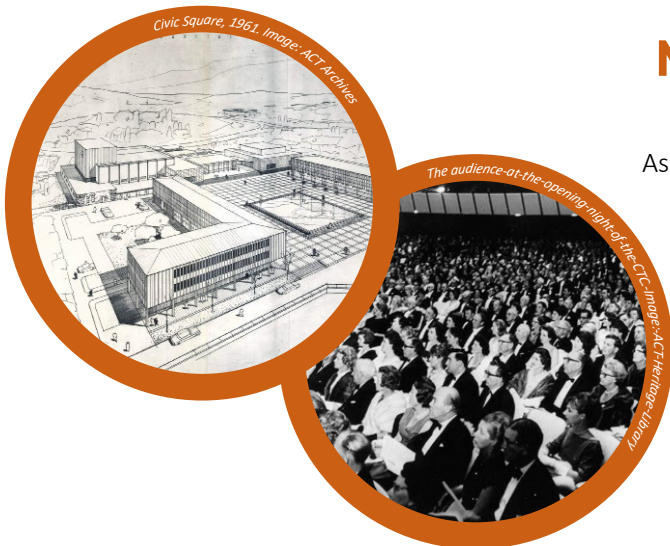
60 years Canberra Theatre Centre

Canberra Theatre Centre opened its doors in 1965, becoming the **first completed Australian Government-initiated, and multi-venue performing arts centre**. The theatre initially doubled as a cinema and classical music hall and consisted of two separate buildings, the Canberra Theatre and The Playhouse, linked by a covered walkway. **60 years on**, CTC has grown and now comprises three performance spaces, The Canberra Theatre, The Playhouse and Courtyard Studio, and is a regular stop on the tour circuit for Australia's leading theatrical producers and performing arts companies. To commemorate its diamond anniversary, a **range of celebratory events and performances are being held throughout 2025**.



Memory Capture Project Canberra Theatre Centre

As part of **CTC's 60th year of celebrations**, CTC embarked on a **Memory Capture Project** to connect with the community to hear their stories and share their photos, videos and memories of time spent at the theatre as a way of remembering the people, shows and experiences shared by Canberrans in decades gone by. The launch of an online portal invites members of the community and media to submit their memories to contribute to the Project. Stories are collated and shared on the CTC website.



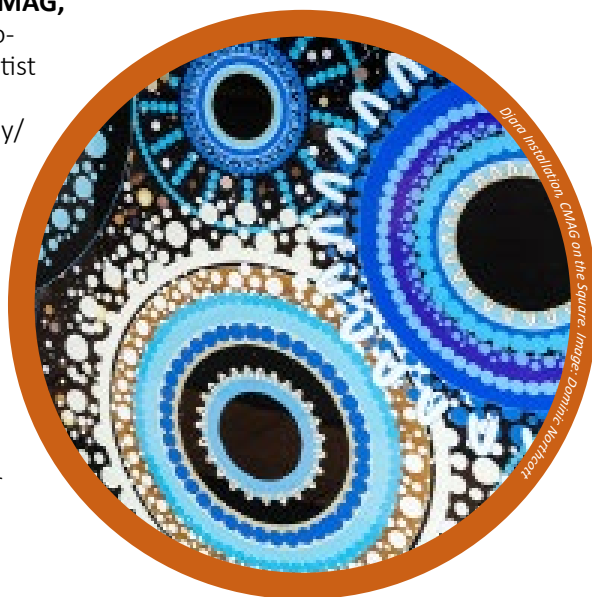
Carmen The Australian Ballet

On 24 June, 1965 **The Australian Ballet** performed at the **gala opening night** of the Canberra Theatre Centre. As one of Australia's most treasured performing art companies, The Australian Ballet returned **exactly 60 years on**, to perform Johan Inger's award-winning production of **Carmen**. CTC hosted a dazzling post-performance celebration in honour of the anniversary, and the return of the Australian Ballet. Patrons were invited to dress in 1964 glamour and to raise a glass of champagne to mark the extraordinary milestone.



DJARA Exhibition

The **Djara** (Stars) exhibition, a collaboration between **CMAG**, **Questacon**, and the **ANU**, provided an immersive audio-visual experience by Ngunawal/Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi artist Lynnice Letty Church, Ngunawal artists Jazz and Kristal Matthews, Ngunawal Storyteller Jai Bell, and Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaraay astrophysicist Peter Swanton, ANU. The installation in CMAG on the Square **highlighted the connections of First Nations people with the stars, sky and Country** and how they are used to navigate Country, track seasons, and for ceremony. This knowledge has been passed on to generations through storytelling, dance and song. A Panel Talk was held in **Reconciliation Week - Djara and First Nations Sky Stories**, moderated by Professor Brian Schmidt, to hear Lynnice Letty Church, educator Tyronne Bell (Ngunawal) and Peter Swanton share their knowledge and first-hand experience of **First Nations peoples' millennia long connection with the sky**.



Emma Laverty - COUNTRY

The First Nations Artist in Residence Program, jointly delivered by **CTC** and **artACT Cultural Arts Fund's** New Works Program, provided Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artists the opportunity to work with CTC to develop new creative works. **Emma Laverty**, (Boorooberongal Clanswoman of the Darug Tribe now living on Ngunnawal country), is one of the 2025 First Nations Artists in Residence. **COUNTRY**, performed on 26-27 April in the Courtyard Studio, is a collaborative work by Emma and **Project Dust**, a First Nations contemporary dance and community group exploring what Country means to us in our everyday lives. **COUNTRY** brings together artists who live off country to dance, build skills, share stories, and to embed a strong sense of culture in the younger generations.

Bangarra Dance Theatre - WARU

CTC presented **Bangarra Dance Theatre's** first dedicated work for children. Based on a contemporary saltwater Lagaw Kazil (Island Children) story inspired by the totemic system of the green turtle, **WARU - Journey of a Small Turtle**, is an interactive and immersive introduction to Torres Strait Islander culture and dance for 3 to 7 year olds. The work came from Bangarra's former artistic director, Stephen Page, and his son, Hunter Page-Lochard, who wrote the storyline. With creative input from Bangarra dancers and in particular from **Torres Strait Islander woman, Elma Kris**, who takes on the leading role of storyteller Aka Malu (loosely translated as grandmother), we hear the story of Migi, the turtle. After Migi is born on an island in the Torres Strait, it navigates out to sea with others born at the same time, then returns to the island to give birth to its own baby turtle.



CFC 2025 OPEN DAY celebrated **Canberra Theatre Centre's 60th (CTC60) anniversary** and **50 years of Nolan's Gift To The Nation (Nolan50)**. Canberra Theatre Centre and Canberra Museum & Gallery opened their doors to the public for a rare, behind-the-scenes look at both venues. **Over 5,000 visitors** explored ACT's premier performing arts venue and participated in a day of art, history, and creativity. Event communications for both open days reached **audiences of up to 865,146 people across media, social media and marketing activations**.

Performances

Local artists were engaged throughout the event, including 6 musicians, 8 actors, 2 scenic/technical artists, a conservator, and Street Artist.

Backstage

Audiences experienced a variety of tactile and interactive installations and tours. Visitors could wander the halls of the iconic venue, experience what it's like to stand on The Playhouse stage, learn about how productions come to life behind-the-scenes, and wander through dressing rooms.

Career conversations

CFC's Human Resources team ran a Creative Industries Careers booth, distributing over 300 flyers promoting career pathways, work experience, casual employment, and study options within the cultural sector. The booth attracted interest from prospective employees and students, with representatives from ANU, UC, and CIT also contributing materials and support.

Family Activities

Families enjoyed open day activities with 80+ visitors joining in the face painting, treasure hunt, chalk art, or painting Mini Nolan masterpieces and creating Nolan inspired lyrebirds.

Collaboration

The event provided a welcome opportunity to collaborate with partners across the ACT, including The Canberra Times, City Renewal Authority, Events ACT, University of Canberra, Australian National University and Canberra Institute of Technology.

Tours

Curator-led Nolan Gallery Highlight Tours ran throughout the day showcasing the spectacular Lyrebird Costume designed by Sidney Nolan for *The Display* ballet, performed at Canberra Theatre's opening in 1965.

Food & Beverages

CMAG Café's first 50 visitors received a complementary Ned Kelly Cupcake, celebrating Nolan's 50-year milestone, with commercial vendors Grease Monkey, Capital Brewing Co, TacoTento, Happy Time Donuts, and Cannoli Brothers providing tasty food and drink options.

Conservation

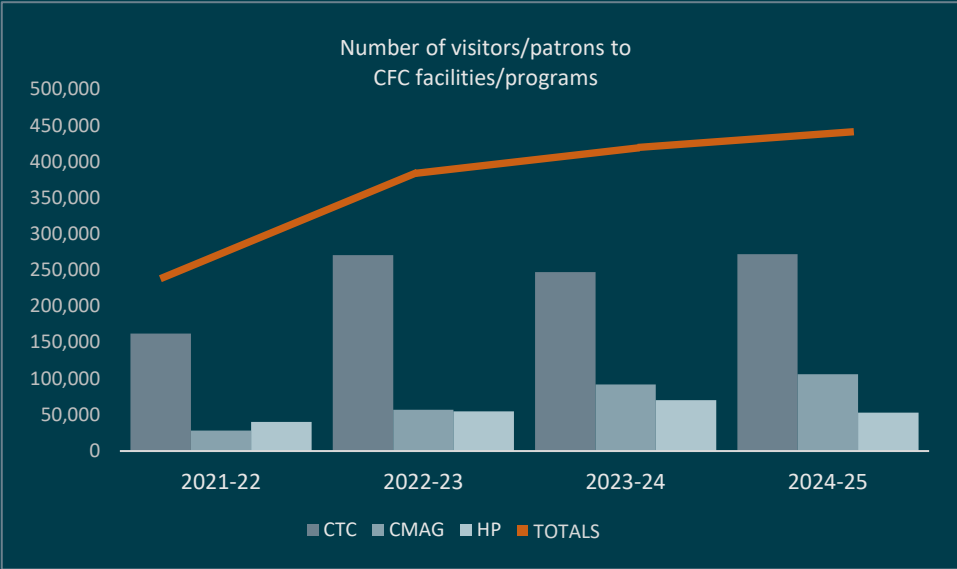
Conservation Cleaning Demonstrations by Celia Cramer allowed visitors to witness a conservator at work doing a conservation clean on one of Nolan's artworks.

Amazing staff

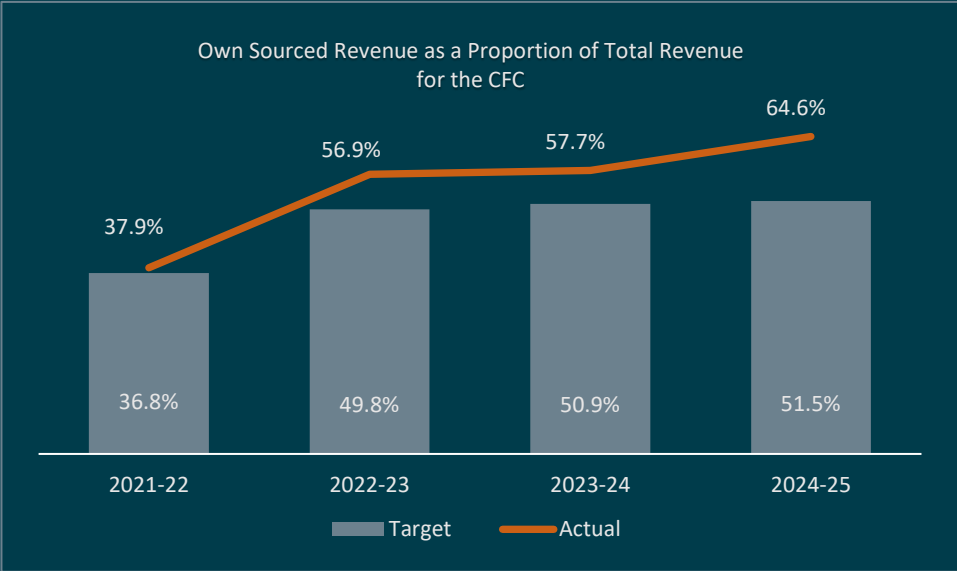
197 Staff members from across the CFC worked together to bring both events to life on the day, dedicating well over 975 hours.



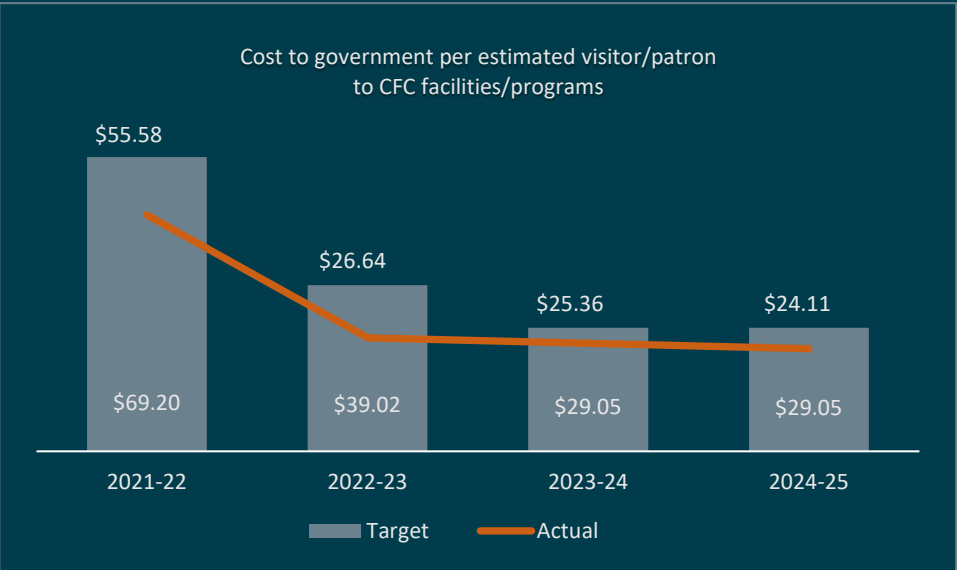
Our performance growth



Visitation remains strong across all CFC venues, driven by engaging programs and distinctive, place-based cultural experiences.



In 2024-25, the CFC significantly increased the amount of income it generated on its own, reaching 64.6% of total revenue - well above the target of 51.5%. This marks a strong improvement from the previous year and is the highest level of self-generated income in the organisation’s history.



The cost to government per visitor to the CFC is decreasing year on year, demonstrating a maturing model of cultural stewardship, where public investment increasingly translates into broader access to the arts and deeper community impact.

2024-25 Achievements

CANBERRA THEATRE CENTRE

teamed up with industry partners **CMAG**, **CYT**, **Australian Theatre Live**, and **The Last Great Hunt** to host **ACT UP!**:
30 teachers
310 students
19 schools, and
14 local artists employed

achieved a **94.5%** customer satisfaction rating

provided valuable work experience (**WEX**) and **vocational training** for **66** participants

delivered **capacity building and artistic development** through its **New Works program**, with **246 artist engagements** including:
In the Belly of the Whale by **Michael Simic** and **Tracy Bourne**,
Resonance by **James Batchelor**,
These Other Things by **Michele Lee** with **Claire Granata**, *Karbai* by **Yolanda Lowatta** with **Aba Bero** and **Harlisha Newie Joe**, *Silver Spinning* by **Luciana Harrison**, and artist **Mary Rachel Brown's** *Life in Mime* and *Other Tragic Stories*

partnered with CIT to support **21 graduates** from the **Certificate III in Live Production and Technical Services**

supported the **local theatre industry** by:
providing opportunities to connect with the **international and national arts community**; purchasing productions; offering rental subsidies; supporting access to technical and FOH; and marketing and box office

hosted **40 events** and over **50 artists** for the **Canberra Comedy Festival** and attracted **9,550 patrons**

presented **15 works for young audiences** and schools, including successful productions such as *Trophy Boys*, *The Peasant Prince*, *360 All Stars*, *Waru*, *Saltbush*, *Room on a Broom*, *Mimi's Symphony*, *Night Night* and *1984*.

attracted high quality **contemporary musical events** with **25,000 attendees**

provided inclusive employment partnerships with **The Disability Trust** and **Rebus Theatre** creating supported **work and training opportunities for people with disability**

presented **570 individual performances**, **181 events**, **51 works** and **130 programmed works**

saw over **2.8million social media** visitors to CTC's website, facebook, tiktok and instagram

collaborated with **First Nations and young artists** through its inaugural **First Nations Artist in Residence** program- **COUNTRY** by **Emma Laverty** with **Project Dust**

presented its inaugural family **Summer Holiday Fun** featuring productions: *Steve Blackall Ocean*, *78-Storey Tree House*, *The Listies*, and *Sea of Light*, along with *Bluey's Big Play* and *Australian Ballet's Storytime Ballet: The Nutcracker*. Over **20,000 patrons** attended



Image: Matt Byrne
Sea of Light: Summer Holiday Fun

welcomed
106,147
visitors

showcased
photographic works
from **75 entries and**
35 students who entered
the **CMAG Secondary**
School Photography
Prize linked with the
Materiality... But Not As
We Know It
exhibition

achieved a
92%
customer
satisfaction
rating

featured
181 Canberra artists
through its exhibition
program and held
30 artist-led
public programs

prepared 912
objects/works for
display at
CMAG, Lanyon,
Calthorpes, and
Mugga-Mugga
Cottage

99 First
Nations Artists
featured

delivered
297 education
and public
programs, up
253% from
target

commenced
celebrations of
Nolan50 with exhibition
highlights including:
For the Term of His National
Life, A Total Work of Art: Sidney
Nolan and the Stage, and
Dean Cross: Looking for the
Lyre digital work shown in
Civic Square



CANBERRA MUSEUM + GALLERY

saw over
2.3million
visitors to social
media including the
CMAG website,
facebook and
instagram
pages

recorded
242,575 visitors to
outreach exhibitions
that included items
from the CMAG
collection

delivered
13 First Nations
led public
programs

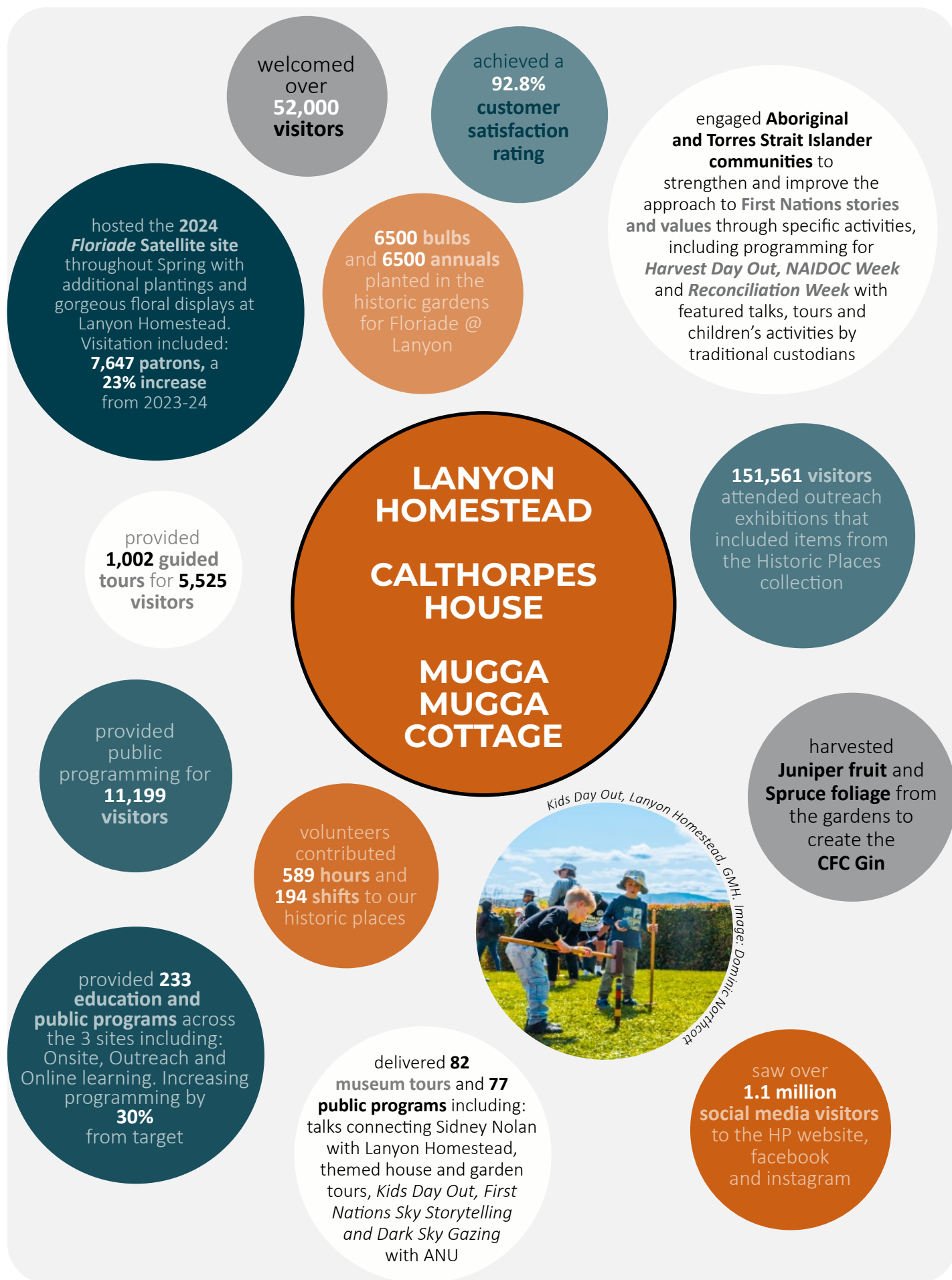
CMAG delivered
127 public programs with
9,640 participants in
workshops, talks, concerts,
special tours and
children/family friendly
programming

featured **Canberra**
stories and social history
including:
Growing Up Modern: Alex Jelinek
and Canberra's Round House,
Tartans and Thistles: Burns Club
100 Years, Sylvia Curley:
Woman on a Mission, and
Celebrating 50 Years of the
Australian Honours
System

accessioned
375 objects
and curated
33 out of 34
exhibitions
in-house

acquired
64 objects/
artworks
across
GMH

welcomed
28% first-time
attendees at
ticketed
CMAG events/
programs



A growing arts organisation

The **CFC will continue celebrations of two major milestones** - the **50th anniversary of Sidney Nolan's foundational gift to the nation** and the **60th anniversary of the CTC** through 2025-26 - offering a unique opportunity to honour the past while shaping the future. For The Nolan Collection, the anniversary program extends into 2027 and is followed in 2028 by the 30th birthday of CMAG. These anniversaries serve as a springboard for the CFC to advance its strategic priorities across all areas of operation.

At the heart of this momentum is the construction of a new lyric theatre, a **flagship initiative that will transform the CTC into a contemporary arts centre of national and international significance** - integrated into the city's identity and designed to foster storytelling, creativity, and cultural exchange across generations and communities.

The CFC is also preparing for the operational demands of a significantly larger and more complex theatre centre. In collaboration with Infrastructure Canberra, planning has focused on design excellence, operational functionality, and value for money. **A robust programming strategy is in place** to manage disruption during construction, and the organisation is scaling its capacity to meet future demands.

This major cultural infrastructure investment will deliver long-term community, cultural, and economic benefits for the ACT. It will **increase visitation, support job creation, and open new commercial opportunities**. The CFC will continue to diversify its revenue streams through **philanthropic partnerships, commercial site activation, and expanded ticketing, retail, and hospitality offerings**.

Beyond the CTC, the **CFC is positioned as a central stakeholder in the transformation of the CCCD**. This includes envisioning a future for **CMAG that reflects its role as a cultural anchor in the heart of Canberra - reimagining its building, collections, programs, and audiences**. The **CFC will continue to champion Canberra as a creative capital, with a strong focus on First Nations engagement and inclusive programming**. The CFC is strengthening its internal structures to ensure transparent governance, a unified identity, and a future-ready organisation.

Our generous supporters

Mary Agoni
Michael Allam
Vernise Ayson
Michael Bailey
M Beanland
Holly Berry
Judith Bibo
Andrew Blanckensee
Richard Blavins
Peter Bradley
David Brand
The Brock Family
Peter Browning
Nancye Burkevics
Rosanna Burston
Julia Butler
Hannah Chan
Elizabeth Charles
Sophie Chessell
Dr Sheon Chua
Alex & Linda Church
F J Clarke
Vanessa Collier
Cocco Corporation
Corinna Cullen
Glenn Davidson
Kate Deacon
Prue Deacon
Sarah Deves
Jim Donaldson
Annette Donovan
Robyn Duncan
Kathy Ehmann
Harriet Elvin AM
Prof Helen Ennis
Dr Dianne Firth OAM
Merilyn Fisher
Beverley Francis
Matthew Frawley
Friends of Mugga-Mugga
Frances Gardini
Sue Gregson
Sandra Griffin
The Griffin Foundation P/L ATF
Rohan Goyne
A J Hall
Sam Harkiss

Meredith Hinchliffe
Steven Holland
Kylie Hull
John Hunt
Gary James
Stephen Jobling
M Johnston
Allison Jones
L Jones
Richard Jones
Sarah Jones
Phil Keir- The Keir Foundation
Sara Kelly
Tania Kraus
Daniel Lee
Connie Leikas
Beverley Liddicoat
Mandy Lister
Allan Mallory
Joseph Mann
Anthony & Madeleine Maple
Alex Marsden
Tony Melville
Anne Merkel
Caitlin McCoull
Noela McDonald
F McGee
Phillipa McIntyre
Jeannie McLellan
A McGuinness
Heath McMichael
Stephen Mills
Simon Mitchell
Lyn Moorhouse
Lily Mulholland
Louise Murphy
Barbara Myers
Helen O'Neil
Jenny & Chris Oates
Sarah Philpot
Jacqui Pinkava
Robyn Priddle
Tracey Radbourne
Gordon Ramsay
Andrew Reading
Astrid Reed
Anthony Reid

Charisse Ribo
Jane Roberts
Marie Anne Robinson
Pam Rodda
Glenys Roper
Adele Rosalky
Trish Ryan
E Sadler
Kerry Sattler
Glenn Schwinghamer
Garth Setchell
Dr Maggie Shapley
Ann Smith
Christine Smith
Helen Smith
Wendy Smith
M J Smythe
Michael Sollis
Carmel Summers
Nick Swain
Alan Traves
Sarah Treble
Sandra Gaye Watson
Antony Webber
Robert Williams
Julie Winter
Kerry Wray
Ken & Maggie Taylor
R & S Telford
Margaret Toner
Ian Torrance
Maryanne Voyazis, Fred
Smith and Olympia Smith
J Wagner
Annabel Wallace
David Wardle
Dr Hilary Warren
Danielle Wickman
Lily Withycombe
Lachlan Woods
Kathy Wong
Dr Linda Young
Peter Zanetti
Amelia Zaraftis

Thank you

Contact us



(02) 6207 3962



cultural.facilities@act.gov.au



CULTURAL FACILITIES CORPORATION
GPO Box 782
Canberra City ACT 2601



culturalfacilities.act.gov.au
canberratheatrecentre.com.au
cmag.com.au
historicplaces.com.au

Open Day Smoking Ceremony performed by Richie Allen (Ngunnawal / Kamilaroi). Image: Martin Ollman

