



18 September 2025

MEDIA RELEASE

WA artists shine as over half a million patrons visit State Government-managed performance venues

The Arts & Culture Trust (ACT) experienced strong patronage in the last financial year despite two venues being closed for renovations.

ACT has celebrated a strong year of engagement, welcoming 525,056 patrons across its venues.

ACT CEO, Janis Carren, said this was a remarkable result given the temporary closure of two major venues, the Perth Cultural Centre and Perth Concert Hall, for redevelopment.

“High patronage numbers are a reflection of our community’s enduring passion for the arts and the strength of our local creative talent,” she said.

“Even with two venues offline, ACT has continued to deliver world-class experiences and supported the sector.”

In 2024, total audience numbers reached 719,627 however targets were adjusted to reflect an expected drop in patronage whilst works were undertaken. Pleasingly, the turnout in 2025 has been strong and remains a powerful testament to the resilience and vibrancy of Western Australia’s creative industries.

In 2024–2025, 70% of performances at ACT venues were delivered by Western Australian artists or production companies, showcasing the depth of local talent and reinforcing ACT’s commitment to nurturing homegrown creativity.

“Together we are helping to embed the creative industries within the broader economic fabric of Western Australia,” Ms Carren said.

“We make world-class experiences right here in WA with our people, in our places.”

ACT also played a pivotal role in subsidising the sector, offering reduced hire and tenancy fees for its Residential Companies at ACT-managed venues, ensuring continued access and support for local creatives.

In alignment with key government priorities, ACT has made significant progress in pre-operational planning for the Perth Film Studios, a purpose-built screen production facility that will position WA as a global destination for film and television. This initiative is expected to generate substantial employment opportunities and further embed the creative industries within WA’s broader economic framework.

“Supporting the arts and artists means more job opportunities for Western Australians and a thriving cultural economy,” Ms Carren said.

As ACT continues to champion local talent and invest in the future of WA’s creative industries, ACT remains a cornerstone of cultural life in the state, proving that even in times of transition, the arts continue to thrive.

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