The Department of Culture and the Arts was established under Section 35 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 on 1 July 2001.

The Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA) guides the delivery of culture and arts for Western Australia through the provision of policy development, coordination and support services.

The DCA is part of the Culture and Arts Portfolio which comprises of:

- Art Gallery of Western Australia (a statutory authority)
- Perth Theatre Trust (a statutory authority)
- ScreenWest (an incorporated association)
- State Library of Western Australia (a statutory authority)
- Western Australian Museum (a statutory authority).

In 2013, State Government investment enabled funded organisations to:

- Leverage an additional $1.74 from other funding sources for each dollar provided by State Government
- Present 5968 performances to audiences of more than 1.6 million
- Deliver 7989 educational programs and seminars to 118,000 participants
- Employ 1539 people supported by over 900 volunteers.

WA v National arts and culture attendance 2009-10 (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arts and culture activities</th>
<th>WA</th>
<th>Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art galleries</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museums</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libraries</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archives</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classical music concerts</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre performances</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance performances</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musicals and operas</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other performing arts</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What we do

**Assist**
Assist the Minister for Culture and the Arts to administer the statutory authority Acts and the *State Records Act 2000.*

**Contribute**
Contribute to the development of the State by delivering culture and arts policy to achieve State Government outcomes.

**Support**
Support the delivery of arts and culture activities across WA through policy development, grants and funding.

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**Key priorities**

**Outcomes**
Delivering State Government election commitments, programs and policies on arts and culture.

**Responsiveness**
Responsiveness to the changing environment.

**Engagement**
Community and arts sector engagement.

**Value**
Delivering value on behalf of the community.

**Partnerships**
Strategic partnering with industry, government and the community.

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*Image right:* ArtSpark, Propel Youth Arts WA. Photo by Jarrad Seng.
Purpose

The cultural development of Western Australia through the provision of quality services and funding programs, and the implementation of Government policies and initiatives.

Vision

A valued and respected government agency that has the expertise to support the arts and culture sector in enriching the lives of the Western Australian community.

Values

Professional
Innovative
Responsive

Image left: Doll making workshop, Yarns of the Heart exhibition; Community Arts Network WA. Photo by Nicola Davison.
Corporate objectives

1. Deliver the State Government’s arts and culture priorities.

2. Provide leadership through strong evidence-based policy, planning and legislative reform.

3. Promote a diverse, vibrant and sustainable cultural sector.

4. Ensure effective management of the State Government’s investment in culture and the arts.

5. Establish efficient and effective business systems and processes.

6. Develop a workforce that is engaged, capable, adaptable and agile.

## Strategic initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Strategic initiative</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 1. Deliver the State Government’s arts and culture priorities | Deliver on the New Museum Project milestones.  
Establish the Arts Leadership Group to provide advice on Portfolio objectives and State Government initiatives.  
Prepare Strategic Directions paper for the culture and arts sector 2015-2030.  
Review funding criteria and assessment processes to ensure merit-based decisions.  
Ensure effective implementation of the Perth Theatre Trust venue management model.  
Resolve issue of ownership and management of the Albany Entertainment Centre.  
Effective implementation of the new management arrangements for the Perth Concert Hall. |
| 2. Provide leadership through strong evidence-based policy, planning and legislative reform | Review and revise the Creating Value policy framework to address emerging issues and opportunities.  
Finalise the Culture and Arts legislative reform agenda.  
Promote the State Records Office as a leader in records and document management, collections and digitisation across the public service.  
Roll-out of the Public Value Measurement Framework including benchmarking with arts organisations in Australia and internationally.  
Prepare an economic assessment of the sustainability of the funded arts sector in WA for 2015-2030. |
| 3. Promote a diverse, vibrant and sustainable cultural sector | Implement the Regional Arts and Cultural Action Plan.  
Administer the regional touring program to increase access to the arts and support the development of arts and cultural organisations in regional WA.  
Develop policy to increase philanthropic and private sector support of the arts in WA.  
Implement the Royalties for Regions regional arts funding initiative.  
Review and develop international policy and strategies to provide a strong base for cultural exchange and expansion of Western Australian arts and culture.  
Review and develop cross-government and inter-agency partnerships and initiatives.  
Develop strategies for increased participation in the arts by children and young people. |
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| **4.** Ensure effective management of the State Government’s investment in culture and the arts | Work with the Portfolio agencies and the Department of Treasury to identify how structural operating deficits can be resolved.  
Reform arts funding policies and processes to improve outcomes and reduce the administrative burden on the sector.  
Establish outcomes based performance measures for the Portfolio which are approved by the Department of Treasury.  
Develop a cultural infrastructure management policy for metropolitan and regional areas that addresses the maintenance, optimisation and utilisation of current infrastructure.  
Review the storage requirements of the State’s Archives and visual art collections. |
| **5.** Establish efficient and effective business systems and processes | Successfully implement the Online Grants Management System.  
Develop and deliver on service level agreements with the Portfolio agencies.  
Review agreements on infrastructure-related services provided to the Portfolio agencies to ensure optimum cost/benefit.  
Support the implementation and use of technology for business improvement across the Portfolio.  
Revise the communications strategy to promote active engagement with Portfolio boards, the broader cultural sector, arts organisations and the community. |
| **6.** Develop a workforce that is engaged, capable, adaptable and agile | Review the existing DCA structure and budget to ensure better alignment of DCA resources to deliver on strategic and operational outcomes.  
Establish guidelines for flexibility in recruitment and retention to further develop an adaptable workforce.  
Develop and implement a learning and development strategy that builds business capability to meet strategic objectives.  
Assess opportunities for whole of Portfolio flexible staffing initiatives. |
Contact

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