

MEDIA RELEASE

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BUDGET DELIVERS BIG ON CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Arts and Culture in NSW has been given a major boost in the State Budget with key infrastructure being funded and continuing support for local organisations.

More than \$147 million has been allocated to a number of once-in-a generation cultural infrastructure projects including the renewal of the Sydney Opera House and redevelopment of the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct.

Funding for arts and culture in this Budget has increased to \$365 million, including almost \$53 million to support local arts organisations through the Arts and Cultural Development Program and a \$20m boost over 2 years for a new Screen Fund to invest in major Australian TV drama and attract international film and TV.

Deputy Premier and Minister for the Arts Troy Grant said this Budget allocates funds for key projects, while providing the security of ongoing support for our grass roots organisations and cultural institutions.

“Arts and culture is so important to this state and this Government is investing in key infrastructure projects to ensure generations to come can enjoy and appreciate art and culture to the fullest,” Mr Grant said. “We value the work of NSW artists and arts organisations, so we have secured a continuity of funding for them to further develop and support the sector.”

Highlights of the 2016-17 Arts budget include:

- \$129m over four years for Walsh Bay Arts Precinct redevelopment
- \$53 million for the Arts and Cultural Development Program to support artists and organisations across NSW
- \$20m over two years for a new Screen Fund to attract international films and TV and invest in major Australian TV drama
- \$12m for Stage One of the Opera House’s renewal
- \$3.4m over three years for building upgrades at the Art Gallery
- \$3.0m for the Australian Museum’s Long Gallery project
- \$2.1m in additional support for public libraries