

Councillor Freeman - QoN - Arts and Culture Budget Allocation 2026/27

Tuesday, 11 August 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Eleanor Freeman

Public

Contact Officer:
Jo Podoliak, Director City
Community

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Eleanor Freeman will ask the following Question on Notice:

'Of the 2026/27 Business Plan and Budget approved by Council on 23 June 2026, can the Administration please confirm:

1. The total budget allocation for arts and culture initiatives in FY2026/27
2. Which arts and culture initiatives are included in the FY2026/27 budget allocation
3. How the FY2026/27 budget allocation compares to previous allocations within the previous five Business Plan and Budgets
4. Which arts and culture initiatives have seen a reduction or cessation of their operation due to loss of funding during that five-year period?'

REPLY

1. For the purposes of this response, the total 2026/27 budget allocation supporting the delivery of arts and culture specific initiatives is \$2,020,278.
 - 1.1. The Cultural Policy ([LINK](#)), endorsed in June 2025, defines culture broadly and establishes it as a shared responsibility across Council and its subsidiaries, meaning cultural investment may occur through other service areas, partnerships and capital projects beyond the Arts and Culture budget.
 - 1.2. The allocation includes employee costs, operating expenditure and strategic projects. It excludes capital expenditure.

Which arts and culture initiatives are included in the FY2026/27 budget allocation

2. The principal arts and culture initiatives funded through City Culture in 2026/27 include;
 - 2.1. Grants and partnerships, including Cultural Policy implementation, the Arts and Culture stream of City Community Grants including Aboriginal cultural and protocol initiatives, Quick Response & Major Grants and Strategic Partnerships funding.
 - 2.2. Public art, including commissions, exhibitions, collection management, partnerships and specialist advice supporting capital projects and asset management.
 - 2.3. Live music and venue support and Adelaide UNESCO City of Music initiatives.
 - 2.4. Performances, exhibitions, workshops and community-led programs delivered through Adelaide Town Hall, libraries and community centres and international and sister-city exchanges are excluded. Event facilitation and Placemaking activities are also excluded.

How the FY2026/27 budget allocation compares to previous allocations within the previous five Business Plan and Budgets

- 3. The comparable allocations across the five Business Plan and Budget periods related to specific arts and culture initiatives are:
 - 3.1. 2022/23 - \$2,644,963
 - 3.2. 2023/24 - \$2,495,469
 - 3.3. 2024/25 - \$2,285,102
 - 3.4. 2025/26 - \$2,148,549
 - 3.5. 2026/27 - \$2,020,278

Which arts and culture initiatives have seen a reduction or cessation of their operation due to loss of funding during that five-year period?’

- 4. The following are examples of changes to individual program allocations occurred over the five-year period
 - 4.1. Cultural Strategic Partnerships established in 2017/18 was not continued as a standalone program from 2024/25 however Strategic Partnerships reintroduced as a grants category in 2026/27.
 - 4.2. The Cultural Entrepreneurs Incubator Program – The Business of Being Creative established in 2017/18 also offered through the Cultural Strategic Partnerships was not continued as a funded program from 2024/25.
 - 4.3. Arts and Cultural Grants and the Aboriginal Protocol Grant received lower allocations in 2024/25. Arts and Cultural Grants were consolidated into Community Impact Grants in 2025/26, with the Aboriginal Protocol Grant incorporated into the consolidated Community Grants Program in 2026/27. The funding continued through the revised grant arrangements.
 - 4.4. The Welcoming Leaders Program was not continued as a funded initiative from 2025/26, while funding for related community-led cultural participation and connection activities was substantially reduced in 2024/25 and remained at the revised level through to 2026/27.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 9.5 hours.
--	---