



## ARTS FOR ALL VICTORIANS: A CULTURE OF PARTICIPATION

All Victorians should have access to arts and cultural activities.

In a democratic society all citizens have the right to experience the stimulation of a rich cultural life and to develop their own creative, intellectual and expressive capacities. Regional or social background should not be a barrier.

Individuals who can imagine, invent and interpret are happier, healthier and have more potential for quality of life.

Communities that embrace diversity, creative expression and cultural activity are richer, stronger and more able to deal with social challenges.

The arts are a powerful catalyst in building strong communities. Engagement with the arts can address social inequality and disadvantage, and create community vitality and shared identity. The arts can improve other areas of society including education, health, the justice system, community building and reconciliation.

A community where people participate in cultural activity has greater potential for connection, caring and social development.



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There is enormous potential to build on the high level of involvement which the Victorian community displays in its engagement with the arts. Already there are eight million visits each year to our cultural agencies. These agencies are extending access and providing lifelong learning through regional outreach, education programs and intelligent use of new technology.

The five million annual visits to websites run by these agencies is an indication of their international reach. The volunteers and high level of donations are strong indicators of the sense of ownership and commitment to these community assets.

In achieving this goal, we will:

- » widen opportunities for access to the arts
- » increase participation and engagement in arts and cultural activities
- » enhance community creativity and community wellbeing
- » promote community cultural participation through volunteering.

### **Measures of progress:**

- » More Victorians from more varied backgrounds will engage with cultural activities.
- » Access to the arts will be increased across Victoria.
- » More Victorians will participate in arts and culture as volunteers.



## Lifelong learning Museum Victoria

Museum Victoria contributes to a more tolerant and informed community. This includes a deeper understanding of environmental and social issues, health, Indigenous reconciliation, cultural diversity, science and innovation, and the richness of our history.

As well as encouraging debate, Museum Victoria increases public knowledge and contributes to the lifelong learning of all Victorians. It provides access for all Victorians through exhibitions and events at its three public campuses, the Melbourne Museum, Scienceworks and the Immigration Museum, and through travelling exhibitions, publications, websites and outreach programs.

Museum Victoria's collections record Australia's environmental and cultural history. They are an irreplaceable resource for understanding the past, reflecting on the present and looking into the future. Public programs linked to research add to the understanding of critical contemporary issues in science, the environment and society and create new debates and knowledge.

Future initiatives for Museum Victoria will include:

- » upgrading Scienceworks including new exhibitions and a digital planetarium
- » travelling exhibitions to regional Victoria and beyond and support for regional museums
- » partnerships with educational bodies
- » working with Indigenous communities to enhance access through return of Indigenous cultural property, collection access projects, roving curator program, travelling exhibitions, Indigenous employment strategy and the development of Indigenous tourism
- » expanding access to collection information for schools, general public and specialist researchers through digital and web projects
- » broadening the Museum's international programs through travelling exhibitions, collaborative research projects, exchanges and partnerships
- » developing new exhibitions for the Immigration Museum and building on its work with communities, multicultural awareness programs and family history resources
- » supporting the candidature of the Royal Exhibition Building as a World Heritage Site
- » playing a key role in the Victorian Government's Design initiative through the Victorian Design Showcase.



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