

2025

AWESOME

international arts festival
for bright young things
presented by barking gecko arts



Kwinana: Saturday 20 September

Perth: Tuesday 30 September – Saturday 4 October

Esperance: Tuesday 30 September – Saturday 4 October

Beverley: Tuesday 7 October – Wednesday 8 October

Hopetoun: Tuesday 7 October – Tuesday 14 October

WELCOME

Acknowledgement of Country

Barking Gecko Arts and the AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things acknowledge Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters, and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to Elders past and present. We are proud that this Festival takes place on Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar.



Jenny Simpson, Festival Director

Welcome to the 2025 AWESOME Festival – a celebration of imagination, curiosity, and the boundless potential of children and young people.

This year, our program invites you to explore powerful stories of courage, connection, and creativity.

From the tender resilience in *Reasons to Stay Inside*, to the vibrant celebration of Noongar

Culture and Country in *Aliwah Bardinar!*, to the sensory-rich world of *Drip Drop Play*, and the delightfully ridiculous *Feetbus* – there is something here for every bright young thing (and their grown-ups, too).

As the Perth Cultural Centre begins a new chapter of renewal and revitalisation, we are excited to reimagine how we share stories across the city.

Beloved venues, including the State Theatre Centre of WA, PICA, the Urban Orchard, and the State Library of Western Australia, will come alive with experiences that invite you to play, wonder, and reflect.

We are also proud to take the AWESOME Festival on tour once again, reaching children and families in Kwinana, Hopetoun, Esperance, and Beverley because every child deserves access to transformative creative experiences, no matter where they live.

This Festival would not be possible without our extraordinary artists, partners, volunteers, and audiences – thank you for being part of the magic.

We're so glad you're here.





Hon Roger Cook MLA Premier of Western Australia

I'm thrilled to welcome you to the 2025 AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things! With support from my Government through the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport, and Lotterywest, the AWESOME Festival has become a cherished celebration for children, their families and their educators throughout Western Australia.

Through the magic of theatre, dance, music, storytelling, visual art, and creative play, the AWESOME Festival establishes a world of creativity, imagination and connection for our youngest Western Australians.

The AWESOME Festival features some of our best and brightest local artists - and 2025 is no exception. You can limber up your vocal cords and prepare to sing along with Gina Williams and the cast of *Aliwah Bardinar!*, which tells us how the cheeky little Bardinar (Western Rosella) got his beautiful colours. Or, you can be enchanted by Barking Gecko Arts' *Reasons to Stay Inside*; meet some intrepid sound collectors in *Drip Drop Play* and brush up your moves with the West Australian Ballet's Storytime Adventures.

This year's program has a reach well beyond Perth, bringing joy to communities in the Goldfields-Esperance and Wheatbelt regions, so even more families across our state can join in the fun. I thank the incredible artists, organisers, and everyone who has contributed to making this happen.



Hon Simone McGurk MLA Minister for Creative Industries

I am incredibly proud to support the 2025 AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things, presented by Barking Gecko Arts. This year's program truly celebrates everything we cherish in the arts for young people: curiosity, imagination, and creativity. Through theatre, dance, music, literature, visual art, and creative play, the AWESOME Festival warmly invites children to explore their ideas, express themselves, and connect with their communities. The State Government is wholeheartedly committed to ensuring that all Western Australian children have access to quality cultural experiences, regardless of where they live. I am thrilled that this wonderful event will be presented in both outer metropolitan Perth and regional areas, with Festival Hubs in Kwinana, Hopetoun, Esperance, and Beverley.

This year, the AWESOME Festival will showcase some of Western Australia's best and brightest artists, including Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse in *Aliwah Bardinar*, celebrated author Craig Silvey, the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, and beautiful shows by Ad Lib Collective, Sensorium Theatre, Whiskey & Boots, and Barking Gecko Arts.

I urge families to dive into this delightful event this September holidays. A heartfelt congratulations to everyone who helps bring the AWESOME Festival to life - it is such a vibrant and vital part of our state's cultural landscape.

I'll see you there!



Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Bruce Reynolds on behalf of the City of Perth

The City of Perth is delighted to support the AWESOME Festival, a lively celebration that brings thousands of families into the city for a week of wonder and delight. Presented by Barking Gecko Arts, the AWESOME Festival transforms our public spaces with vibrant colours, laughter, and energy. Head to the Perth Cultural Centre to play in the Teddy Bear's Garden or hop aboard the hilarious *Feetbus* and meet some of Australia's best children's book authors at the State Library. There's free ballet storytime sessions with the West Australian Ballet and shows galore at the State Theatre Centre.

The AWESOME Festival truly transforms Perth into a magical place where imagination shines bright and reinforces the City's vision of being a warm, creative, and inclusive destination for everyone. We can't wait to welcome families into the city to enjoy this beloved event together!



AWESOME

ACCESS GUIDE

The Festival supports the Social Model of Disability, and we are proud to work with children, artists and audiences within the disability community. Our approach to access and inclusion is informed by the voices of the community.

If you have a child with access or additional needs, we have created a guide to help you and your child get the most out of your Festival experience. We understand that all children are different, so the guide is designed to help you make informed choices based on your child's specific needs. The guide is available at [awesomearts.com](https://www.awesomearts.com). If you have a question about accessibility not covered in the guide, please contact us by calling (08) 6184 4905 or emailing gecko@barkinggecko.com.au, and we'd be happy to assist.

How to Book

Use the ticket link on the show or workshop page, or visit [awesomearts.com](https://www.awesomearts.com) to buy tickets online. You can also call us at (08) 6184 4905 during business hours. We're here to help!

Getting Here

Walk from the CBD across the Roe Street pedestrian bridge.

Train to Perth Train Station and take the short walk over the Roe Street pedestrian bridge located at the top of the station.

Bus to Perth Busport, then walk up William Street to the west entrance of Perth Cultural Centre at James Street.

CAT Bus the Blue CAT Line from Perth Busport (Stop 12) down Beaufort Street, stopping outside the WA Museum Boola Bardip (Stop 19). The Blue CAT from Perth Train Station (Stop 4) also travels down Beaufort Street, stopping outside the WA Museum Boola Bardip (Stop 5).

City of Perth Parking:

- State Library Car Park, Francis Street
- Cultural Centre Car Park, Roe Street

AWESOME City of Perth Parking Offer!

We've partnered with the City of Perth Parking to offer you 5 hours of parking for just \$9*.

Park at the State Library or Perth Cultural Centre City of Perth Car Parks between 30 September and 4 October 2025 and validate your ticket at the AWESOME Festival Information Booth at the State Theatre Centre to redeem the offer.

The AWESOME Festival Information Booth is open for ticket validation from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm from 30 September to 4 October at the State Theatre Centre of WA.

*Please note, this offer will be applied for people arriving and leaving between 6:00 am and 5:59 pm and is only applicable to those who park at the State Library Car Park (entry located at 15 Francis Street, Northbridge) and Perth Cultural Centre Car Park (entry located at 2 Roe Street, Northbridge).

Connect with us

 [facebook.com/awesomeartsau](https://www.facebook.com/awesomeartsau)

 [@awesomeartsfestival](https://www.instagram.com/awesomeartsfestival)

[#2025AWESOMEFestival](https://www.instagram.com/awesomeartsfestival)

[awesomearts.com](https://www.awesomearts.com)

Thanks WA!

Over **\$380 million** went back
to the **community** through
Lotterywest grants last
financial year.



lotterywest



REASONS TO STAY INSIDE

Ages: 7+ · Theatre · Origin: WA

Pedro used to run, skateboard, play soccer, and go to school... Not anymore. Pedro stays inside now.

His best friend Flora thinks that's boring and kind of freaky. But Pedro doesn't care. He's building a pillow fort (he would prefer you call it 'The Death Star'), and it's getting bigger. Every day, it's getting harder for Flora to reach him.

Pedro has the best reasons to stay inside, but Flora knows what he's missing. She will do whatever it takes to get her best friend to come outside.

You can't stay inside your fort forever, can you?

A show about best friends, a dancing pegacorn, pillow forts, and that weird anxious feeling.


 Studio Underground,
State Theatre Centre of WA

 Tues 30 Sept, 10 am & 6pm

Wed 1 Oct, 10 am* & 1 pm
(*Auslan Interpreted)

Thurs 2 Oct, 10 am & 1 pm

 55 minutes

 \$24 General Admission
\$19 Groups 4+
\$19 Concession

Available here:
bit.ly/RTSI25

Dance The Night
Written by: Ailin/Lipa/Ronson/Wyatt
Hi Fi Asset Acquisition Co LP BMI, Songs of Zelig, WBD
Music AS, WBD Music B
Administered by: Universal Music Publishing Pty Ltd



ALIWAH BARDINAR!

All ages · Musical Theatre · Origin: WA

Good things come to those who wait!
From the multi-award-winning composers of *Wanjoo* and *Koolbardi wer Wardong*, Gina Williams, and Guy Ghouse comes a new children's production - *Aliwah Bardinar!* (Look-out Rosella!). The performance celebrates the nyttiny (creation) story of how the Bardinar (Western Rosella) got its colours.

Featuring inspired set design by Fiona Bruce, vibrant costumes by Michelle Ward, gorgeous puppets, vivacious choreography, and original new music, audiences will be entranced by the cheeky frog, the elegant swan, and the beauty of Noongar language.

Aliwah Bardinar! will be performed by Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse alongside phenomenal artists Jarred Wall & Julianna Thomas, UWA Musical Theatre students and the Aquinas College Schola Cantorum, conducted by Pia Harris and directed by Matt Reuben James Ward.



Heath Ledger Theatre,
State Theatre Centre of WA



Tues 30 Sept – Thurs 2 Oct, 11 am & 1:30 pm



50 minutes



\$24 General Admission
\$19 Groups 4+
\$19 Concession

Available here: bit.ly/bardinar



Oh no! The cheeky little creatures from *Aliwah Bardinar!* have escaped the theatre and found their way into Chicho Gelato's kitchen, and what a colourful mess they made! They swirled strawberry and Milo gelato, dipped it in rich chocolate, and topped it off with rainbow sprinkles. The result? A deliciously bold new treat, the Bardinar Rainbow Pop!

Can you spot all the colours of the Bardinar (Western Rosella) in this sweet surprise?

Available exclusively at Chicho Gelato during the AWESOME Festival. Catch it while it lasts!

P.S. Don't worry, no animals made this gelato.
Just the brilliantly crafty humans at Chicho Gelato.

CHICHO



THE QUADRANGLE


Ages: 8+ · Verbatim theatre · Origin: WA

The Quadrangle is a unique verbatim theatre performance that explores the candid perspectives of young people. In this production, actors present live interviews with children, and relay the words exactly as they hear them, without any embellishment. Accompanied by live music, this performance captures the raw, heartfelt, and humorous insights of children as they share their views on life, the world, and their dreams for the future. The show inspires reflection on the value of young voices and their often profound wisdom.

 Studio Underground,
State Theatre Centre of WA

 Fri 3 Oct & Sat 4 Oct,
10 am & 1 pm

 60 minutes

 \$24 General Admission
\$19 Groups 4+
\$19 Concession

Available here:
bit.ly/quadrangle-25

DRIP DROP PLAY

Ages: 3 - 9 • Ad Lib Collective • Interactive theatre
• Origin: WA

Drip Drop Play is a calming and beautiful experience for you and your child featuring an immersive world of water and ice. Join our presenters Drip and Drop as they take you through enchanting spaces that leave room for discovery and creativity with your little one. There are some short performances from the musician facilitators, but mostly space for you to create and explore in the space together. You can expect to leave feeling inspired with ways to make music and sound using water in your own kitchen and backyard!



Captured by Katje Ford



🏠 Rehearsal Room 1,
State Theatre Centre of WA

📅 Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct
3 – 5 years – 9.30 am & 11 am
5 – 9 years – 12:30 pm

⌚ 40 minutes

🎫 \$15 per child
Free for one adult per child
\$5 per extra adult

Available here:
bit.ly/dripdropplay

Developed with support from
New Ideas Lab program at
Art Play in Naarm.

With thanks to lighting
designers Bronwyn Pringle
and Alex Spartalis from GSD.

Sensorium Theatre & the 2025 AWESOME Festival present

ODDYSEA

All ages • Sensory theatre • Origin: WA

Join Crab and Turtle for this fun-filled immersive journey into an undersea world, created for children with disability and suitable for the whole family.

Set in a beautiful ocean installation, there's plenty for your child to see, hear, smell, touch, and taste as the story unfolds around them.

Sensorium Theatre specialises in creating
inclusive theatre experiences,
taking the whole family
on an exciting
journey beneath
the sea!

Don't forget
to pack a towel!



Turtle by Ashley de Prazer

🏠 Middar Room,
State Theatre Centre of WA

📅 Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct,
10:30 am & 1:30 pm

⌚ 60 minutes

🎫 \$15 per child
Free for one adult per child
\$5 per extra adult

Available here:
bit.ly/oddysea



Captured by Jessica Wyld

SEAM TOGETHER

Ages: 5+ · Interactive theatre · Origin: QLD

Meet Polly and Esther, two unexpected modern-day superheroes, who travel the world in their menagerie gathering clothing and stories. They are on a mission to seam together the old into the new and reduce the clothing footprint on our planet. The Seamstresses menagerie is fuelled by your stories, along with 'Esme' the eighty-year-old crank sewing machine.



Courtyard,
State Theatre Centre of WA



Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct
10 am, 11:15 am, 12:30 pm
& 1:45 pm



35 minutes



Free – Tickets available on
the day at the venue

West Australian Symphony Orchestra in partnership with the 2025 AWESOME Festival present

CLASSIC ADVENTURES: WITCHES & WIZARDS

Ages: 5+ · Classical Music · Origin: WA

Magic and mischief for the whole family!
Get ready for a spellbinding symphonic event! Grab your capes and wands as WASO whisks you away on an enchanting journey through magical worlds. With thrilling music from Harry Potter, Wicked, The Sorcerer's Apprentice and Stravinsky's Firebird, this concert promises an unforgettable experience filled with wizardry and wonder!



Heath Ledger Theatre,
State Theatre Centre of WA



Sat 4 Oct,
11:30 am & 1:30 pm



55 minutes



\$30 per person

Available here:
waso.com.au/concerts-tickets/whats-on/concert/witches-wizards

Jen Winley is supported by the Simon Lee Foundation and the JACE Foundation.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

All ages · Harvey Arnephie-Cook · Visual Arts · Origin: WA

Harvey Arnephie-Cook is a 23-year-old artist from Perth, living in the northern suburbs. He is self-taught and mainly works with ceramics and digital art. Harvey has been drawing since he was a child, and loves to tell stories through his art. He takes inspiration from anime, mythology, folklore, and comic books, creating a unique mix of bold visuals and engaging narratives.

Harvey is active in the arts community, collaborating on character designs and concept art for the podcast *After Life*.

Looking ahead, he wants to build a career in animation and one day hopes to create his own comic book. His work showcases a blend of storytelling, emotion, and visual creativity, making him a promising new voice in contemporary art.



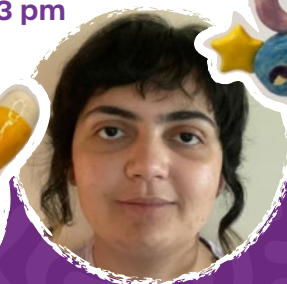
Studio Underground Foyer,
State Theatre Centre of WA



Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct,
10 am – 3 pm



Free



SKILLS & THRILLS CIRCUS PLAY

All ages · Yip Yip Circus! · Circus · Origin: WA

Do you have what it takes to be a circus performer? Festival favourites Yip Yip Circus are back to teach you some new tricks and wow your family and friends with new circus skills!



Courtyard,
State Theatre Centre of WA



Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct,
10 am – 3 pm



Free



Captured by Richard Watson

LITTLE IMPRESSIONS

All ages · Visual Art

What is curiosity? How does it shape our future?

In 2025, we asked children from schools across Western Australia, "What makes you curious?" Participants were invited to explore the world around them, channelling their creative energies into designing their own unique artworks for this special exhibition.



Foyer,
State Theatre Centre of WA



Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct,
10 am – 3 pm



Free



Captured by
Catch Create

Explore free creative fun for the whole family in the Heath Ledger Theatre foyer and the Courtyard at the State Theatre Centre of WA. Take part in hands-on activities inspired by *Reasons to Stay Inside* and *Aliwah Bardinari*!



Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct,
10 am – 3 pm

BALLET STORYTIME ADVENTURES

**Ages: 3 - 7 · West Australian Ballet ·
Dance & Storytelling · Origin: WA**

Step into enchanting worlds of beloved stories with West Australian Ballet's Storytime Adventures, exclusively at AWESOME Festival! Through a mixture of storytelling and movement, let us take your child on a journey designed to capture your child's curiosity and love of dance. This fun and interactive adventure will help make all children's dancing dreams come true.



**Geographe Room,
State Library of WA**



Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct,

- 10 am – 10:45 am – Cinderella
- 11 am – 11:45 am – The Rainbow Fish
- 12:00 pm – 12:45 pm – Possum Magic



Free – Bookings required

**Available here:
trybooking.com/DENQX**

LEAVE YOUR MARK

All ages · Exhibition

Step inside *Leave Your Mark*, a colourful exhibition created by the AWESOME Schools residency students celebrating community, diversity, and imagination. Explore vibrant self-portraits, then join the fun – make your own decorated handprint and add it to a growing artwork that shows how our unique stories connect us all.



**PICA's Hatched:
National Graduate Show
exhibition space –
Forrest Chase, Level 3,
401 Wellington Street**



**Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct,
12 pm – 5 pm**



Free



Imagine More:

AWESOME

FESTIVAL GIVING

Your gift brings stories to life – for every child.

Did you know a full-price ticket to a show at the AWESOME Festival is valued at \$70?

With donor support,
we keep prices under \$30, or even free
– but we need your help to continue.

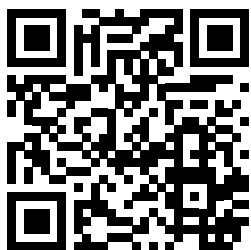
Help Keep Kids' Tickets Affordable

As a not-for-profit, Barking Gecko Arts believes every child deserves to experience the magic of creativity – but many families simply can't afford it.

Your donation helps us:

- Reach kids who wouldn't otherwise get the chance;
- Keep ticket prices low for families;
- Deliver 50% of the program for free;
- Bring creative programs to more WA schools and regions;
- Allow young people to engage with creativity in their own community.

Let's give every child the chance to feel seen, heard, and inspired.



**DONATE
NOW**



Every child
deserves creativity.
Your donation makes
it happen.



Captured by Catch Create



Captured by Richard Watson



Captured by Catch Create



Captured by
Catch Create

TEDDY BEAR'S GARDEN

Fun and creativity await in the enchanting Teddy Bear's Garden, where the Urban Orchard comes alive with whimsical teddy bear-themed creative activities and a delightful tea party for children and their adults!



MESSY BEARS

Under 5 • Samantha Hughes • Creative Hub • Origin: WA

Our Big Bears love messy art so help us decorate them. Paint, collage and draw on our bears. Then take some time to make quiet art in our squishy corner. Draw small bears and sculpt teeny, tiny bears from clay.

A joyful space for children under 5 to express themselves.

 Teddy Bear's Garden (Urban Orchard)

 Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct, 10 am – 3 pm

 Free



CRAFTY BEARS

Ages: 4+ • Annick Akanni • Creative Hub • Origin: WA

Get crafty with textile artist Annick Akanni and discover the magic of textile art in this bear-themed creative space. Come along and learn new skills and explore creative textile techniques.

Captured by
Great Minds Media

 Teddy Bear's Garden (Urban Orchard)

 Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct, 10 am – 3 pm

 Free





**CITY OF
PERTH**
City of Light

Your insider pass to family fun in the City

Perth is bursting with family friendly events. Think school holiday festivals, parks, immersive exhibitions, live shows, hands-on activities and playgrounds. Discover what's on, get exclusive previews, and plan your visit.

visitperth.com



Explore what's on

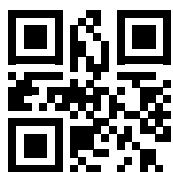


Photo credit: Danica Zuks

SCHEDULE



Act/activity/event	Venue	Genre	Page
All Ages			
Aliwah Bardinar!	State Theatre Centre of WA	Musical Theatre	7
Artist in Residence: Harvey Arnephie-Cook	State Theatre Centre of WA	Visual Arts	11
Ballet Storytime Adventures	State Library of WA	Dance/Storytelling	12
Book an Adventure! - 80 Years of Australian Stories for Children	State Library of WA	Literature	27
Creative Activities at the State Theatre Centre of WA	State Theatre Centre of WA	Creative Hub	11
Drip Drop Play	State Theatre Centre of WA	Interactive Theatre	9
Kids' Markets	Teddy Bear's Garden (Urban Orchard)	Community Activity	19
Leave Your Mark	Forrest Chase	Exhibition	12
Little Impressions	State Theatre Centre of WA	Visual Arts	11
Oddyssey	State Theatre Centre of WA	Sensory Theatre	9
Ribbon Dancing	Teddy Bear's Garden (Urban Orchard)	Community Activity	22
Skills & Thrills Circus Play	State Theatre Centre of WA	Circus	11
Storyteller in Residence	State Library of WA	Literature	26
Teddy Bear's Tea Party	Teddy Bear's Garden (Urban Orchard)	Creative Hub	19
The Change Maker Tent	Teddy Bear's Garden (Urban Orchard)	Community Activity	21
The Feetbus	Perth Cultural Centre Walkway	Street Performance	20
The Wanjoo Big Sing	State Theatre Centre of WA	Music	23
Uptown Brown	Teddy Bear's Garden (Urban Orchard)	Street Performance	20
Your AWESOME Moment	Teddy Bear's Garden (Urban Orchard)	Community Activity	21

Ages 0-5

Boodja Barna: Land Creatures with Jayden Boundry	State Library of WA	Literature	25
Messy Bears	Teddy Bear's Garden (Urban Orchard)	Creative Hub	14
Teddy Bear Story Time with Renae Hayward	State Library of WA	Literature	25

Ages 5+

Caity and the Crocodile	State Library of WA	Classical Music	22
Classic Adventures: Witches & Wizards	State Theatre Centre of WA	Classical Music	10
Crafty Bears	Teddy Bear's Garden (Urban Orchard)	Creative Hub	14
Reasons to Stay Inside	State Theatre Centre of WA	Theatre	6
Seam Together	State Theatre Centre of WA	Interactive Theatre	10
You're Too Little with Katie Stewart	State Library of WA	Literature	24

Ages 8+

Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping - Author Talk with Craig Silvey	State Library of WA	Literature	26
Spontaneous Stories by James Foley	State Library of WA	Literature	27
The Quadrangle	State Theatre Centre of WA	Verbatim Theatre	8
Weaving Wildlife Magic into Adventure Writing: A workshop with Deb Fitzpatrick	State Library of WA	Literature	24

TUESDAY, 30 SEPT

WEDNESDAY, 1 OCT

THURSDAY, 2 OCT

FRIDAY, 3 OCT

SATURDAY, 4 OCT

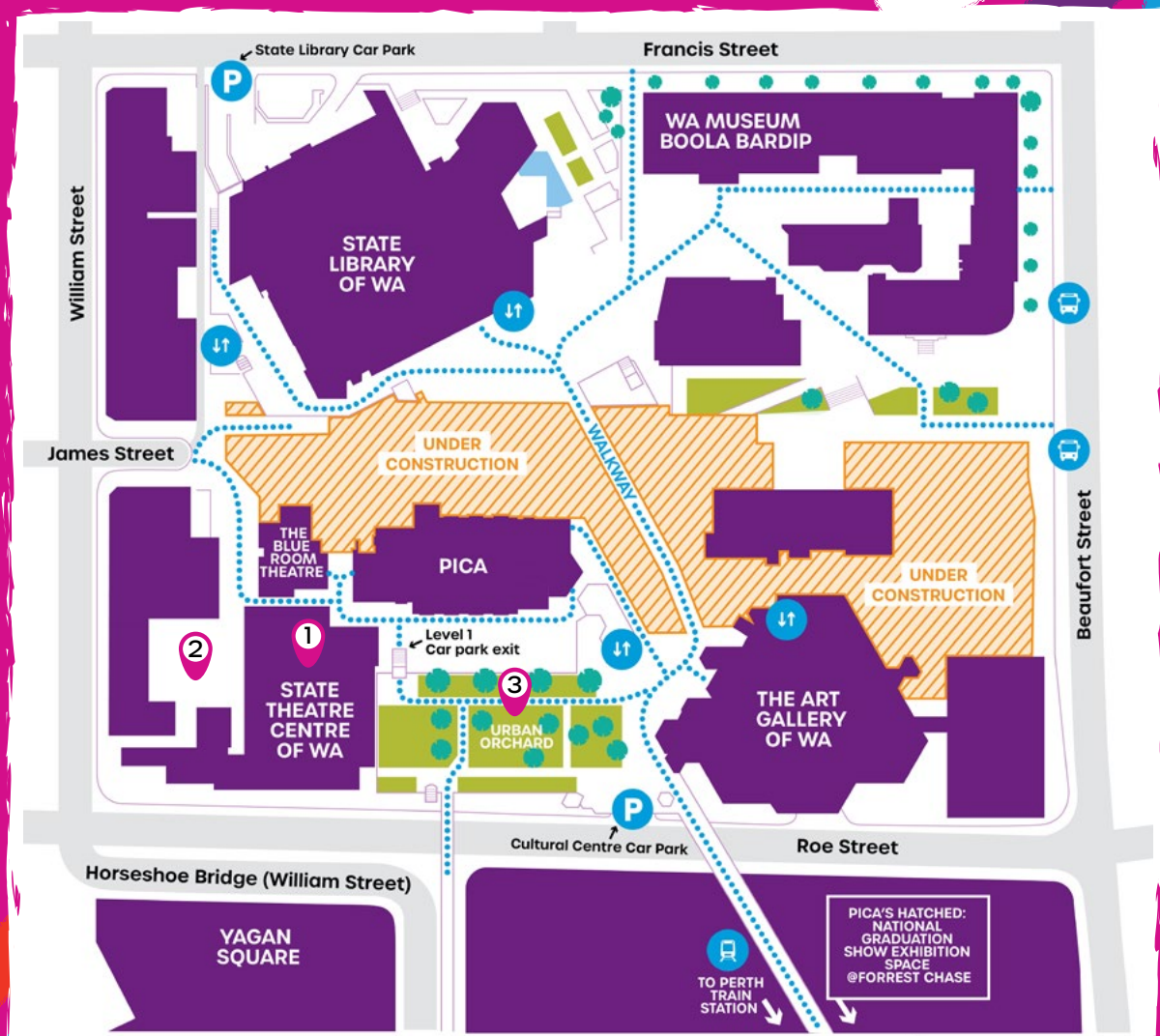
11:00 am, 1:30 pm	11:00 am, 1:30 pm	11:00 am, 1:30 pm		
10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm
10 am, 11 am, 12 pm	10 am, 11 am, 12 pm	10 am, 11 am, 12 pm	10 am, 11 am, 12 pm	10 am, 11 am, 12 pm
9 am - 8 pm	9 am - 8 pm	9 am - 8 pm	9 am - 5:30 pm	10 am - 5:30 pm
10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm
9:30 am, 11 am, 12:30 pm	9:30 am, 11 am, 12:30 pm	9:30 am, 11 am, 12:30 pm	9:30 am, 11 am, 12:30 pm	9:30 am, 11 am, 12:30 pm
10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm
12 pm - 5 pm	12 pm - 5 pm	12 pm - 5 pm	12 pm - 5 pm	12 pm - 5 pm
10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm
10:30 am, 1:30 pm	10:30 am, 1:30 pm	10:30 am, 1:30 pm	10:30 am, 1:30 pm	10:30 am, 1:30 pm
		10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	
10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm
10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm
10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm
10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm
11 am, 1 pm	11 am, 1 pm	11 am, 1 pm	11 am, 1 pm	11 am, 1 pm
	2:45 pm			
10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm	10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm	10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm	10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm	10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm
10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm

			11 am	
10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm
10 am				

	10 am, 11:30 am	10 am, 11:30 am	10 am, 11:30 am	
				11:30 am, 1:30 pm
10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm	10 am - 3 pm
10 am, 6 pm	10 am, 1 pm	10 am, 1 pm		
10 am, 11:15 am, 12:30 pm, 1:45 pm	10 am, 11:15 am, 12:30 pm, 1:45 pm	10 am, 11:15 am, 12:30 pm, 1:45 pm	10 am, 11:15 am, 12:30 pm, 1:45 pm	10 am, 11:15 am, 12:30 pm, 1:45 pm
		11 am		

12 pm				
	11:15 am		11:15 am	
			10 am, 1 pm	10 am, 1 pm
				11 am

FESTIVAL MAP



KEY

- 1 Box Office/Information
- 2 The Courtyard
- 3 Teddy Bear's Garden

..... Accessible pedestrian paths

- P** Parking
- Train
- Lifts
- Bus



TEDDY BEAR'S TEA PARTY

Ages: 3+ · Kate Page · Creative Hub · Origin: WA

Join artist Kate Page for an enchanting Teddy Bear's Tea Party in the Tea Party Marquee! Children are encouraged to bring their teddy bears or cuddly friends for creative adventures and unforgettable fun with their grown-ups



Teddy Bear's Garden
(Urban Orchard)



Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct,
10 am – 3 pm



Free

AWESOME

KIDS' MARKETS

The AWESOME Kids' Markets are back! The next generation of local young creatives and entrepreneurs have been busy creating a vast array of homemade creations which they'll have on sale throughout the festival.

Come along and check out all the glorious goods on offer.



Teddy Bear's Garden
(Urban Orchard)



Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct,
10 am – 3 pm



The 2025 AWESOME Festival presents

UPTOWN BROWN

All ages · Street Performance · Origin: VIC

Captured by James Campbell



Uptown Brown is a singing gentleman-adventurer performing a program of primitive 1920s-1930s jazz and blues on a self-invented one-man band. His contraption is built from cedar, leather, and brass, whilst vocals & fingerpicked ukulele are amplified through old megaphones, mimicking the effect of a 78 record.



Teddy Bear's Garden
(Urban Orchard)



Tues 30 Sept - Sat 4 Oct
10 am, 12 pm & 2 pm



45 minutes



Free

Cluster Arts, Folly Games & the 2025 AWESOME Festival presents



THE FEETBUS

All ages · Street Theatre · Origin: QLD

A box on bicycle wheels disguised as a bus, the *Feetbus* invites 15 to 20 "passengers" to climb aboard and join the fun. Once on board, they become instant performers, signalling turns with their arms, beeping when reversing, and sometimes breaking into song or playful antics led by the driver. Equal parts spectacle and silliness, the *Feetbus* turns its passengers into entertainers and its audience into delighted onlookers, making the simple act of catching a ride an unforgettable comedy of movement.



Perth Cultural Centre
Walkway



Tues 30 Sept - Sat 4 Oct
11 am & 1 pm



60 minutes



Free

YOUR AWESOME MOMENT

All ages · Community Event

Share your *AWESOME* moment! Visit our bright red “wishing line” and tell us what made the Festival special for you. Write or draw your favourite memory, feeling, or story, then hang it up to join a colourful display of the joy, wonder, and creativity we’ve shared together.



**Teddy Bear’s Garden
(Urban Orchard)**



**Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct
10 am – 3 pm**



Free

THE CHANGE MAKER TENT

All ages · No Place for Poverty · Community Event

Kids' Voices Matter!

They have big ideas, kind hearts and strong voices. When they speak up about what’s fair, what’s kind, or what needs fixing, grown-ups listen. That’s what the Change Maker Tent is all about – helping children to use their voice to make the world better.

Join us in a welcoming space to explore an important issue facing lots of West Australians, you’ll find the tools to speak out against poverty in WA and join in a simple but powerful way to be part of the solution.



**Teddy Bear’s Garden
(Urban Orchard)**



**Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct
10 am – 3 pm**



Free



CAITY & THE CROCODILE

Ages: 5+ • Perth Symphony Orchestra • Music •
Origin: WA



Experience the magic of *Caity and the Crocodile*, a vibrant Australian twist on Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, brought to life by the trailblazing Perth Symphony Orchestra.

Follow adventurous Caity and her Granddad "Pop" on a journey through the stunning Kimberley, where music and storytelling unite to inspire young imaginations. This captivating performance introduces children to orchestral instruments while celebrating Australia's unique culture and biodiversity.

Bringing the magic of live music to schools across WA, *Caity and the Crocodile* is an unforgettable adventure that educates, entertains, and inspires. Perfect for curious young minds.

 Ground Floor Theatre,
State Library of WA

 Wed 1 Oct – Fri 3 Oct
10 am & 11:30 am

 40 minutes

 \$10.75 per adult or child.
Price includes booking
and processing fees.

Available here:
trybooking.com/DEPCL

RIBBON DANCING

All ages • Key Assets • Community Event

Key Assets believes all children and young people deserve to thrive and connect to family, community, and culture, and have opportunities to express themselves through the arts.

Join Key Assets for a joyful ribbon dancing experience! Children will receive their own ribbon and learn basic figures including spirals, circles, and snakes.

This engaging activity encourages imagination, creative self-expression, and develops coordination and flexibility.

 Teddy Bear's Garden
(Urban Orchard)

 Thurs 2 Oct – Fri 3 Oct,
10 am – 3 pm

 Free



THE WANJOO BIG SING

All ages · Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse · Music ·
Origin: WA

Do you know the Wanjoo Song? Maybe you've learned it at school, or play group, or even seen it on Play School?

Wanjoo is a fantastic way of learning some Noongar language and a great reminder that the AWESOME Festival takes place in Boorloo (Perth), which is Whadjuk Noongar Country.

In partnership with AWESOME Festival, Gina and Guy warmly invite you to join them for *The Wanjoo Big Sing* at the Heath Ledger Theatre.

Tune up your tonsils and join them to sing this beautiful song and be part of a 500-voice singalong that celebrates Noongar language and culture.



© Words and Music – Gina Williams 2010.
Used with permission



Captured by EDIFY MEDIA

 Heath Ledger Theatre,
State Theatre Centre of WA

 Wed 1 Oct, 2:45 pm

 30 minutes

 Free – Bookings required

Available here:
bit.ly/wanjoo

Wanjoo, wanjoo
Kwobidak koorda
Wanjoo, wanjoo
Moorditj koorda
Ngalak djerabiny
Noonook djinaniny
Ngalak warangka
Wanjoo

Welcome, welcome
Beautiful friends
Welcome, welcome
Strong friends
We are happy
To see you
We sing
Welcome

Djiraly-ak (wanjoo)
Koongal-ak (wanjoo)
Boyal-ak (wanjoo)
Marawar-ak (wanjoo)
Ngalak djerabiny
Noonook djinaniny
Ngalak warangka
Wanjoo

From the north (welcome)
From the south (welcome)
From the east (welcome)
From the west (welcome)
We are happy
To see you
We sing
Welcome

WEAVING WILDLIFE MAGIC INTO ADVENTURE WRITING: A WORKSHOP WITH DEB FITZPATRICK

Ages : 8+ · Literature · Origin: WA


Award-winning author Deb Fitzpatrick loves weaving Australian wildlife into her adventure stories and creating young characters who make a difference. This workshop will explore how young writers can fuel their fiction with things that fascinate them in real life.



 The Story Place -
Mezzanine Level,
State Library of WA

 Sat 4 Oct, 11 am

 60 minutes

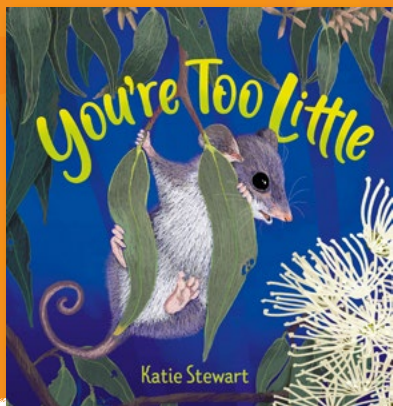
 \$5.28 per child, \$26.13
with *Tawny Trouble* book
included. Accompanying
adults free (Prices include
ticket and processing fees).

Available here:
trybooking.com/DEKGI

YOU'RE TOO LITTLE WITH KATIE STEWART

Ages : 3+ · Literature · Origin: WA


Katie Stewart will read her latest book, *You're Too Little*. Then there will be games with puppets, bringing out the themes of the book (believing in yourself, knowing your strengths, and giving a go at everything you have). A craft activity will follow, making a pygmy possum.



 The Story Place -
Mezzanine Level,
State Library of WA

 Thurs 2 Oct, 11 am

 60 minutes

 \$5.28 per child, or \$26.13
with book included.
Accompanying adults
free. (Prices include ticket
and processing fees).

Available here:
trybooking.com/DEKGW

TEDDY BEAR STORY TIME WITH RENAE HAYWARD

Ages 0 - 3 · Literature · Origin: WA

Grab your teddy bears and your grown-ups for a special story time for little kids! Join Renae Hayward and her teddy, Harriet, for some nursery rhyme fun and a reading of her latest book, *Say Goodnight*.




Captured by James Foley

 The Story Place -
Mezzanine Level,
State Library of WA

 Tues 30 Sept, 10 am

 60 minutes

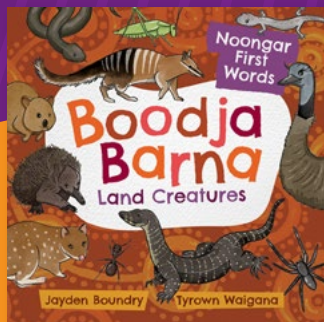
 \$5.28 per child, or \$26.13
with book included.
Accompanying adults
free. (Prices include ticket
and processing fees).

Available here:
trybooking.com/DEKHA

BOODJA BARNA: LAND CREATURES WITH JAYDEN BOUNDRY

Ages : 3+ · Literature · Origin: WA


Join Noongar language teacher and cultural consultant Jayden Boundry for an enriching workshop celebrating *Boodja Barna: Land Creatures*, part of his Noongar First Words series. This beautiful picture book introduces babies and toddlers to Australian animals through their traditional Noongar names - Yongka (Kangaroo), Weitj (Emu), and Nyingarn (Echidna).



 The Story Place -
Mezzanine Level,
State Library of WA

 Fri 3 Oct, 11 am

 60 minutes

 \$5.28 per child, or \$26.13
with book included.
Accompanying adults
free. (Prices include ticket
and processing fees).

Available here:
trybooking.com/DEKHE

The State Library of Western Australia in partnership with
the 2025 AWESOME Festival, Westbooks, and Allen and Unwin present

RUNT AND THE DIABOLICAL DOGNAPPING – AUTHOR TALK WITH CRAIG SILVEY

Ages : 9+ · Literature · Origin: WA

Award-winning author Craig Silvey is back with the much anticipated sequel to his highly acclaimed, best-selling family favourite, *Runt*.

Join the State Library of Western Australia for this special event to celebrate the launch of Craig Silvey's brilliant new novel. Enjoy a lively author talk and Q&A, with the chance to purchase your own copy of this delightful sequel and have it personally signed.

 Ground Floor Theatre,
State Library of WA

 Tues 30 Sept, 12 pm

 60 minutes

 \$5

Available here:
slwa.wa.gov.au/whats-on/runt-and-diabolical-dognapping



STORYTELLER-IN-RESIDENCE

All ages · Literature Creative Hub · Origin: WA

Join the amazing Glenn Swift, a storyteller and host, for an exciting time at the Story Place located on the mezzanine of the State Library of Western Australia. If you enjoy picnics, you can also catch Glenn at The Teddy Bear's Tea Party, at 12:30 pm daily in the Teddy Bear's Garden. Come and enjoy stories, books, rhymes, and fun literary events. Immerse yourself in the wonderful world of words and participate in creating and sharing stories. Everyone is welcome!

 The Story Place,
State Library of WA &
Teddy Bear's Garden
(Urban Orchard)

 Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct,
10 am – 3 pm

 60 minutes

 Free



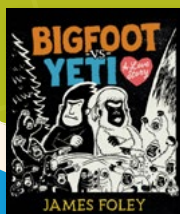
Captured by Catch Create



SPONTANEOUS STORIES WITH JAMES FOLEY

Ages 8 - 12 • Literature • Origin: WA


Join James Foley for a laugh-out-loud session where the kids are in charge. Bring your weirdest and wackiest ideas for stories, because we'll be mashing them up into the funniest Franken-tale you've ever heard - which James will illustrate, live.



 Education Room,
State Library of WA

 Wed 1 Oct & Fri 3 Oct,
11:15 am

 60 minutes

 \$21.51 per child.
Accompanying adults free
(Prices include ticket and
processing fees).

Available here:
trybooking.com/DEKFT

The State Library of Western Australia present

BOOK AN *Adventure*



To celebrate 80 years of the Children's Book Council of Australia championing children's literature, *Book an Adventure!* is an exhibition presenting a captivating collection of original picture book artwork from the State Library's Peter Williams Collection.

Step into a world where stories leap off the page and imagination knows no bounds. From timeless tales to modern favourites, journey through the rich and wondrous worlds found in the pages of Australia's best-loved children's books.

Discover beloved artworks by iconic illustrators, including Kelly Canby, Bob Graham, Alison Lester, Briony Stewart, Shaun Tan and many more.

No matter your age, if you believe in the magic of stories, this exhibition promises a delightful escape into the wonder of storytelling.

All ages • Literature

 The Story Place Gallery
- Mezzanine Level,
State Library of WA

 Sat 16 Aug - Thurs 15 Jan

 Free



2025

AWESOME

FESTIVAL IS HITTING THE ROAD!



We're taking our premier program of quality arts entertainment for young people to communities across Western Australia this school holidays.

Beverley

 **Beverley Station Arts**

 **Tues 7 Oct – Wed 8 Oct,
10 am – 2 pm**

Join us for two exciting days of creativity in the beautiful Avon Valley! Take part in workshops led by award-winning children's authors and enjoy engaging drama and improv sessions with actors from Barking Gecko Arts. Kids will have the opportunity to participate in *El Presidente Minusculo*, a special interactive street theatre experience that allows them to pretend to be in charge! Don't miss the incredible Kids' Markets and make sure to visit our Textile Hub, where you can get hands-on experience with our talented teaching artist.



Contact your local venues or visit awesomearts.com for more information.

Kwinana

 **Koorliny Arts Centre, Kwinana**

 **Sat 20 Sept, 10 am – 2 pm**

Join us for a fantastic one-day event featuring an exciting performance of *Reasons to Stay Inside*. Children will have the chance to experience what it's like to be a ruler in *El Presidente Minusculo*, complete with fun motorcades and ceremonies! The day will also include a community concert and a special book launch. Plus, don't miss the incredible Kids' Markets and the Imagination Playground!



Esperance

 **Esperance Civic Centre**

 **Tues 30 Sept – Sat 4 Oct**

Hopetoun

 **Hopetoun Youth and Art Space**

 **Tues 7 Oct – Tues 14 Oct**

Our amazing and talented teaching artists are bringing a dynamic array of FREE workshops to the Goldfields-Esperance region! Dive into the world of songwriting, filmmaking, looping, and beatboxing, and unleash your creativity like never before. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to express yourself and learn from the best!



**RAVE
ABOUT**



Reasons to Stay Inside



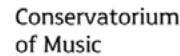
The Quadrangle



WHISKEY+BOOTS



Aliwah Bardinar!



Drip Drop Play



Oddyssey



Artist in Residence



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



Classic Adventures: Witches & Wizards



The Wanjoo Big Sing



Leave Your Mark



Skills & Thrills Circus Play



The Feetbus



Folly Games

Cinderella Ballet Workshops



WEST AUSTRALIAN BALLET

The Change Maker Tent



Caity & the Crocodile



Ribbon Dancing



You're Too Little with Katie Stewart



Weaving Wildlife Magic into Adventure: writing workshop with Deb Fitzpatrick



Teddy Bear Story Time with Renae Hayward



Boodja Barna with Jayden Boundry



Book an Adventure! - 80 Years of Australian Stories for Children



THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA
SINCE 1945 — YOUR CONNECTION TO STORY



THANK YOU



The 2025 AWESOME Festival is made possible thanks to the contributions of many talented and generous individuals. We sincerely thank our dedicated production crew and our partner venues for their invaluable support.

Barking Gecko Arts would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the local businesses that support our volunteer program: Livingstone Café, Chicho Gelato, The Court, Ruck Rover, Stretch Coffee, Planet Books, and Hoodburger.

Finally, we extend our deepest appreciation to our fantastic team of volunteers who selflessly donate their time, skills, smiles, and infectious enthusiasm to the Festival. We truly could not do this without you.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the AWESOME Festival, and we're always on the lookout for superstar volunteers!

If you want to gain industry experience while sharing your passion for events and the arts, volunteering at the AWESOME Festival is a fantastic way to give back to the community. With various volunteer roles on offer, each day at the festival provides a fresh opportunity for something new!

If you're keen to learn new skills, gain industry experience, or just have some fun on your day off, express your interest today! (Ages 15+)

Email: volunteers@barkinggecko.com.au

STAFF AND BOARD

Staff

Ryan Taaffe
Chief Executive Officer

Jenny Simpson
Festival Director

Sam Longley
Artistic Director

Stewart Campbell
Production Manager

Natalie Di Risio
Senior Producer

Rebecca Nelson
Producer

Brianna Wotzko
Operations & Philanthropy Manager

Aiman Ridzuan-Morley
Marketing & Audience Development Manager

Carla Nirella
Creative Lead - Learning & Engagement
(currently on maternity leave)

Nadia Bischof
Administration, Logistics and Volunteer Coordinator

Kim Walsh
Learning & Engagement Coordinator

Heather Bongiovanni
Learning & Engagement Administration Officer

Kristy Cheng
Finance Manager

Céline Fitzpatrick
Finance Coordinator

Samuel Bennett
Marketing Coordinator

Angelica Han
McCusker Centre for Citizenship Intern

Jasmine Berry & Chloe Wilkinson
Illustrator/Graphic Designer

Board

Tony Chong
Chair

Guy Boyce
Treasurer

Kaylene Gulich PSM

Andries Weidemann

Kamal Thurairajah

Dane O'Callaghan

Dr Emma Jayakumar

Patron

Hon David Templeman MLA

PARTNERS

Major Partners



ARTS AND
CULTURE TRUST



Creative Futures Partner



Media Partners



Presenting Partners



Outer Metro Partners



Regional Partners

