

**Submission  
No 85**

## **INQUIRY INTO ARTS AND MUSIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Organisation:** Campbelltown City Council

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23 July 2024

Parliament of NSW  
6 Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Chairperson

**Campbelltown City Council submission: Inquiry into Arts and Music Education and Training in New South Wales**

Arts and music education is a human right. Located on Dharawal Country in South West Sydney, Campbelltown is at the heart of Australia's fastest growing region and is home to an increasing number of culturally diverse residents with 144 languages spoken and 35% of residents born overseas. Campbelltown is home to one of the largest urban concentrations of Indigenous residents in Sydney, with 4.1% of residents identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. It is also notable that 35% of residents are under 25 years of age, with 38% of households are couples with children. Campbelltown's broader catchment (GSC's 30 minute city) is currently 455,000 and is expected to exceed over 1,000,000 by 2036. Regardless of the demographics in the region, access to creative experiences and education opportunities is demanded within our community and has proven to be incredibly impactful with positive outcomes including, but not limited to:

- Improved artistic skills and professional development pathways
- Increased interest and participation in the arts
- Personal development
- Cultural engagement
- Community building
- Critical and new ways of thinking/innovation
- Emotional expression
- Physical and mental well-being
- Civic engagement and social cohesion
- Lifelong learning

Campbelltown Arts Centre (C-A-C) is a cultural facility of Campbelltown City Council and is recognised locally, nationally and internationally offering a dynamic, multi-disciplinary artistic and education program for all age groups. This includes a tailored program for children and young people ranging from pre-school to tertiary groups. The programs connect our communities with practicing artists and the C-A-C team, fostering creativity, deepening engagement with contemporary artistic practices, and promoting equal participation and access to exceptional artistic experiences. Throughout the year a range of exhibitions, workshops, events, and excursions are available for artists and audiences including schools, education organisations, community groups, and service providers, tailored to the ages, abilities, and subject areas of each group. Some of these programs include:

- Exhibition visits
- Sensory tours

- Artist-led workshops aligned with the current exhibition in a variety of media including ceramics, drawing, painting, print making, sculpture, mixed media, photography, animation, dance, performance and more
- Industry tours and forums with C-A-C staff
- Tailored educational experiences
- Artists talks
- Community based interdisciplinary programs and workshops
- Art holiday workshops and programs
- Afterschool Art Club
- Screen craft skills intensive
- Artist masterclasses
- 'Make Her' creative program for women
- Skills and professional development opportunities
- Creative Careers expo (the only event of its kind in the state)
- Conscious emerging Hip Hop artist development program
- Artist residencies – visual arts, music, theatre, dance
- Exhibition programs including regional partnerships
- Mentorships and work placements

Annually, C-A-C attracts approximately 130,000 visitors and over 15,000 people participate in our extensive range creative learning, community engagement, education and training programs. Over the past ten years, we received contributions from the Crown Resorts Foundation and Packer Family Foundation specifically for arts and education outcomes for young people in Campbelltown and South West Sydney. Unfortunately, this funding no longer exists. Despite the proven impact of our arts and education program, we now find the greatest challenge is access to funding that will assist growth of existing arts education programs or develop new programs. Access to greater financial resources would allow us to expand our current offerings and reach a broader audience, and most importantly respond to community interest and need. With increased funding, we could enhance program quality by providing better resources and materials and ensure substantial time to create and develop exciting program offerings thereby enriching the experiences of our participants particularly young people. Moreover, additional financial support would ensure more consistent opportunities for local artists and educators, further strengthening our community's creative landscape.

C-A-C relies upon partnership and collaboration opportunities with artists, arts and cultural institutions, community groups, businesses, schools, universities, and other educational institutions to enrich its programs and engage diverse audiences. Some of our most successful educational partnerships and programs include:

- National Art School x C-A-C Art Intensive Program
- Ticket Parade Program (various partners) <https://c-a-c.com.au/ticket-parade-2024/>
- Creative Careers Expo (various partners) <https://c-a-c.com.au/creative-careers-expo-2024/>

- Tertiary Talks and Tours with TAFE <https://c-a-c.com.au/tertiary-talks-with-christopher-bassi/>
- NAISDA x C-A-C have collaborated on a program that engages young people in high school, delivering intensive workshops and mentorship program, nurturing professional dance pathways and cultural knowledge for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people from the Macarthur region. [Burra Bumal: In-School Dance Workshops | Campbelltown Arts Centre \(c-a-c.com.au\)](#)

Partnerships enhance our audience and community access (specifically young people) to quality arts programs that promote further collaboration with, and access to, artists and industry professionals to share knowledge and skills.

To optimise Campbelltown Arts Centre's education and training efforts, policy changes and government support would be beneficial in aiding:

- Increased and dedicated funding: specifically allocated for arts education programs would allow us to expand offerings, enhance resources, and reach a broader audience
- Recognition and integration: policies that recognise the importance of the role of arts education in gallery and cultural centre setting would strengthen our impact and relevance
- Support for artist residencies: government support for artist residencies for educational programs at the Arts Centre would foster direct engagement between students and practicing artists, enriching learning experiences
- Infrastructure and accessibility: policies that improve access for schools to arts facilities and remove financial barriers would ensure broader participation in arts education initiatives
- Career pathways and skill development initiatives: encourage and empower young people to skill up and consider a career in the arts. Specifically provide unimpeded access to the arts for emerging artists from First Nations and Culturally Diverse backgrounds
- Creative Kids Voucher scheme – continuing this initiative for all families with school-aged children to incentivise accessing and participating creative/cultural activities with vouchers at registered facilities like C-A-C. The scheme also supported the health and wellbeing of school-aged children.

Specific recommendations to the Joint Select Committee on Arts and Music Education and Training, include:

- Advocacy for dedicated funding: encourage the allocation of dedicated funding streams for arts education programs
- Partnerships and collaboration: support initiatives that foster partnerships between arts organisations, educational institutions, and government bodies to enhance arts education access and quality

- Research and evaluation: recommend funding for research initiatives that assess the impact of arts education on student outcomes and advocate for evidence-based policies
- Develop a comprehensive strategy to prioritise funding for arts and cultural education in Western Sydney, including a commitment to a long-term investment strategy (not subsidy) to acknowledge the existing small-medium arts and cultural sector in Western Sydney already providing these services. This would include simplifying processes, fostering innovation, utilising data-driven decision-making, nurturing professional development, and promoting local philanthropy and partnership. This is essential for Campbelltown Arts Centre given the monumental population growth in the region alongside the Western Sydney Aerotropolis and a \$79 million commitment through WestInvest for a major capital expansion of C-A-C which will see the cultural facility double in size, attracting an increased number of visitors to the Arts Centre and the region.
- Work collaboratively with other government agencies (local, state, federal – cross sectors – sports, tourism, health, education, other) to unlock resources to inject investment into the arts education and youth engagement in Western Sydney.
- Establish alternative capacity building and arts education pathways, notably through subsidised apprenticeships and traineeship programs. These pathways should be meticulously designed to cater to a range of creative, technical and production roles, catering to the burgeoning demand for skilled professionals.
- Develop better access to local arts education, cultural equity and representation. Western Sydney embodies cultural diversity. A policy spotlight ensures this richness is not just celebrated but embedded in the arts and cultural landscape. Underrepresented voices get a platform to share stories, traditions and to shape the narrative, spaces and future of our city with a focus on empowering young people from First Nations and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds
- Investing in the nurturing of local talent. Opportunities for growth, training, and mentorship elevate artists, enrich the creative economy, and boost artistic quality.

Enhancing arts and music education specifically in South West Sydney and across Western Sydney is vital for nurturing creativity, cultural understanding, and holistic youth development. By ensuring equitable access, fostering community engagement, and advocating for sustained investment and research, we can amplify a vibrant educational environment where every student can explore and excel in the arts beyond the traditional classroom setting. This commitment not only enriches individual lives but contributes to a culturally enriched society that values creativity and innovation.

Yours sincerely

Lindy Deitz  
**General Manager**