

In Review

BRISBANE

FESTIVAL



2022



ALWAYS WAS

Brisbane Festival expresses its respect for and acknowledgement of the Brisbane Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of country, including the custodial neighbouring communities on whose land works are created, performed and celebrated by Brisbane Festival. We acknowledge the continuing connection to land, waters, and communities. We also pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise the integral role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to play in the creative and artistic events and celebration spaces. Brisbane Festival and the Indigenous Advisory Group will meaningfully engage, embrace culture, and commit to a progressive future together.

ALWAYS WILL BE



FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

When launching this year's Festival, I spoke to the concept of dynamic optimism as a foundation for our beautiful city to flourish. I looked to our artists to act as the wayfinders to help us navigate these challenging times in which we live.

In reflecting on this year's Festival, I am profoundly grateful to these artists for indeed acting as wayfinders, for challenging us, thrilling us, delighting us...making us laugh, cry, reflect, ponder, question...and so much more.

As I attended performance after performance, I was humbled by the diversity of the audiences who responded to our program in such an authentic and enthusiastic way. This year's Festival included a multitude of voices telling their stories – from our First Nations stories, to the stories of marginalised communities and individuals and the stories embedded in our communities.

I am committed to ensuring that the Festival continues to tell the stories of our city and our community – to show the world our personalities and our dynamism. To offer a window for those watching with anticipation in the leadup to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, of what Brisbane looks, tastes and feels like. I can think of no better way to do this than through the voices of our incredible artists.

Pride for Brisbane, passion for community, authenticity in our storytelling, joyous connections, inspired thinking, joined with hopeful connections across generations is our invitation to all. This is what we will bring to the city of Brisbane each September as we ignite the river, the sky, the theatres and green spaces with art in all its power and glory.

I thank you for your commitment, passion and support of Brisbane Festival 2022 and I look forward to welcoming you to Brisbane Festival 2023.

LOUISE BEZZINA
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



FROM THE CEO

As 2022 unfolded, we approached planning for our annual festival with a level of positivity that would see Brisbane Festival welcoming visitors from across Australia and the world for the first time in three years. And our audiences responded. We were thrilled to see residents alongside visitors to Brisbane enjoying the many offerings on show across 23 days in September.

Our river, parks, venues, restaurants, rooftops and community halls across the city were alive to the sights and sounds of performances and installations devised by local, national and international artists.

As always, our ability to deliver a plethora of productions, installations, events and spectacles is only made possible through the unstinting support of our festival family – our Board, advisory groups, stakeholders, partners, donors, our arts community from our collaborators to our artists and arts workers, through to our Festival team and volunteers and our community. To each and every person involved in the Festival, we thank you.

Festivals enliven cities. They draw people together to celebrate art in all its forms. And each September, Brisbane celebrates Brisbane Festival with gusto and joy. With planning for 2023 well underway, we look forward to celebrating September with you all once again as Brisbane Festival sets the city alight.

CHARLIE CUSH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



BRISBANE FESTIVAL ACKNOWLEDGES OUR JOINT PATRONS

**Her Excellency the Honourable
Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM
Governor of Queensland
and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD**


 **1.6 Million**
TOTAL AUDIENCE

 **83,473**
VISITORS TO BRISBANE


 **\$3.1 Million**
BOX OFFICE

\$47 Million
ECONOMIC GROWTH

 **718**
PERFORMANCES

240 FREE PERFORMANCES 

 **253** DONATIONS

RECORD PHILANTHROPIC INCOME
\$1,529,272 
UP \$806,012 ON 2021

126 
QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIONS

27 
INTERSTATE PRODUCTIONS

6 
INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTIONS

 **3** FESTIVAL PRECINCTS
BOQ FESTIVAL GARDEN/SOUTH BANK PIAZZA,
WEST VILLAGE AND NORTHSORE HAMILTON

 **146.5M**
MEDIA REACH

 **22**
NEW WORKS

CHANNEL 9'S RIVERFIRE
BY AUSTRALIAN RETIREMENT TRUST
BROADCAST AUDIENCE REACH

372,000
Viewers 

 **150**
VOLUNTEERS

 **67**
PARTNERS
(12 NEW IN 2022)

1,751
TOTAL ARTISTS

1,466
QUEENSLAND ARTISTS

160
FIRST NATIONS ARTISTS

BRISBANE FESTIVAL

2022 continued to see an unfolding of incomprehensible happenings both locally and globally. At Brisbane Festival, we ultimately look to our artists to help us shape and define critical moments in our history. In 2022, as the year began, our artists acted as wayfinders... telling our stories through a multitude of voices and perspectives. Together, we focussed on building a dynamic optimism for the people of our city to ensure we flourish and thrive.

We could not be more thrilled with the response to the 2022 Program. From the 718 performances including 22 new works, to seven mini-festivals in our suburbs through to seeing over 1,000 Queensland artists taking to stages, community halls, rooftops and parks to engage with audiences across the city. We hope that BrisFest 2022 ushered us all into a brighter future.

“This year’s Brisbane Festival focuses on work that connects people across cultures and generations.”

The Saturday Paper





First Nations storytelling took centre stage inspiring audiences to engage dynamically with a collection of new work. Over 160 First Nations artists presented varied works in theatres, community halls and across our parks as they wove ancient narratives into song, dance and celebration. Resilience was at the heart of the World Premiere's of Alethea Beetsen's *Queen's City* and Anita Heiss's *TIDDAS*, alongside Andrea James' *Sunshine Super Girl*. *The House* and *Considerable Sexual License* both educated and enthralled audiences. Musicians including Jess Mauboy and William Barton filled our stages and Shannon Ruska ensured audiences were welcomed to country across Festival sites.

Brisbane Festival acknowledges the guidance and support of its Indigenous Advisory Group (IAG) and our First Nations curators and we look forward to continuing to share the stories of our First Nations through First Nations voices.

“Part gig, part theatre show, part political commentary, its multi-genre approach is all focussed on highlighting the danger of silence and showing how looking back is needed to move forward from our previously unbalanced, singular storytelling.”

Blue Curtains Brisbane on *Queen's City*



“*Slow Boat* demonstrates that theatre – and art in general – can movingly reveal dark truths...it was thrilling to witness the skill required to master these cornerstones of Chinese culture.”

“...it was a reminder that in spite of war, racism, homophobia, colonialism and dispossession, art endures – and that artists will always find a way to reimagine their worlds.”

The Saturday Paper

The power of storytelling was profound across this year’s Festival. Local stories thrived alongside epic tales. From Anna Yen’s *Slow Boat* to Anita Heiss’s *TIDDAS*; Alethea Beetsen’s *Queen’s City* to Shannon Molloy’s *Fourteen* and an epic retelling of *The Iliad* in *Holding Achilles*, our storytellers wove their spells, taking us to different places and times, often facing brutal realities, all the while inviting us to imagine different futures.



OUR STORYTELLERS



“The fact that a platform was created to serve as an ode to queer survival, resilience and joy feels like a magnificent feat.”

Nothing Ever Happens in Brisbane

“This is the sort of work you go to a Festival to see...something daring, something risky... something inspirational.”

The Courier Mail on *Holding Achilles*



OUR STORYTELLERS

“It’s an extraordinary, unexpected treat and it’s wonderful to have it here for Brisbane Festival.”

The Courier-Mail
on *Girl from the North Country*



“Dancenorth are hitting a sweet spot and their Brisbane show is positively transcendental.”

Phil Brown, The Courier-Mail

Festival audiences supported a wide array of contemporary dance this year. From Dancenorth's extraordinary new work *Wayfinder* to Joel Bray's *Considerable Sexual License*, Stephanie Lake's exuberant *Manifesto* to the crowd-pleasing new work *Cirque O L I O* and the thoughtful work of Restless Dance Theatre's, *Guttered*, our artists and choreographers created joyous, compelling performances that prompted a gamut of emotions.

OUR MOVERS



OUR MOVERS



We believe that unification and cohesion begins with placing community at the heart of Festival programming. This notion was the driving force behind this year's community program that entailed Brisbane Serenades – seven mini-festivals across the suburbs; *Dance Halls* – a series of six to eight-week workshop programs culminating in concert performances in eight community halls with professional arts company Finucane and Smith; and *Nightwalks with Teenagers* – a program where adults were invited to walk in a young person's shoes. This project sought to challenge stigma and negative perceptions of young people in public spaces.

Communities from across Brisbane came out in force...be it donning roller skates for a skating derby in Milton to hip-hopping with L-FRESH THE LION in Moorooka through to whiling away a Sunday in Victoria Park/Barrambin to the soothing sounds of Opera Queensland, our local audiences embraced this year's program, with some becoming stars in their own right.

“Dark night of the sole: teenagers are taking adults on tours of Brisbane – and it’s brilliant chaos.”

The Guardian, Anna McGahan



OUR COMMUNITY

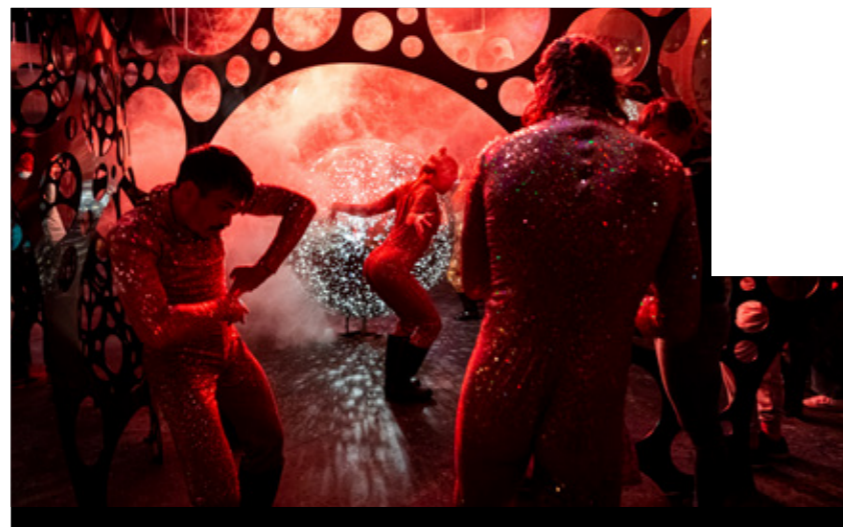


OUR COMMUNITY

“I want this to be a great celebration of Brisbane, and how it has wonderfully and graciously stepped up to become a city with its own character.”

Lindy Lee

A celestial floating art experience, featuring the work of internationally renowned visual artist Lindy Lee, *Brisbane's Art Boat* cruised Maiwar for the length of the Festival. Newly commissioned sound works, compositions and dance works responded to the artwork, *The Spheres*, which took its cue from Ancient Greek philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras.



“The installation is stunningly beautiful...Lindy Lee has crafted a beautiful and dynamic piece of art in *The Spheres*, where every step you take lets you see the world, and the art, in a slightly different way.”

Scenestr

ISBANE
FESTIVAL

BOQ FESTIVAL GARDEN



Brisbane Festival drew residents back outdoors to celebrate spring festively. The popular BOQ Festival Garden returned to its home, beside the river in the heart of South Bank. This inner-city wonderland of food, wine, entertainment and discovery has firmly entrenched itself as a popular Festival destination both day and night.

Two stunning installations took centre stage. *The Pool*, a work by UK artist Jen Lewin, drew in audiences with its tidal wave of lights and colourful effects, inspired by the tidal pools of Australia. Atelier Sisu's *Ephemeral* lit up the garden with an array of mesmerizing bubbles. The shifting personality of the sculpture from day to night created new experiences for audiences to explore.



West Village became a hive of activity and the centre of a social media storm as audiences experienced the planets like never before. UK artist, Luke Jerram's spectacular Planet Series had stargazers and those more earth-bound, returning week after week as the *Museum of the Moon*, *Gaia* and *Mars* excited and inspired over 300,000 visitors across the Festival.



CELEBRATING OUTDOORS



CELEBRATING OUTDOORS

In 2022, our partnership portfolio grew from 55 to 67 Partners across the corporate, arts and hospitality sectors.

Thanks to the support and commitment of all of our Festival Friends, we were able to deliver the most ambitious program in years for the people of Brisbane.

Every one of our partners contributes to the success of the Festival in a deeply unique and invaluable way, but we take this opportunity to make mention of our Foundation Partners – The Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and Brisbane City Council; our Platinum Partner Australian Retirement Trust; and our Gold Partners Australian Defence Force, Bank of Queensland, Channel Nine, Keylin, Northshore, Queen’s Wharf Brisbane, QPAC, South Bank Corporation, South Bank Parklands, The Courier-Mail, Tourism and Events Queensland, Triple M and the University of Queensland’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience.



CASE STUDY #1

AUSTRALIAN RETIREMENT TRUST

In 2022 *Sunsuper Riverfire* became *Riverfire by Australian Retirement Trust*, heralding the exciting merger of two loved and trusted Queensland superannuation funds - Sunsuper and QSuper.

With brand awareness and community engagement the highest priorities for the newly-formed Australian Retirement Trust, Brisbane Festival worked to amplify the impact of the new brand, leaning into our wonderful relationships with our media partners - Channel Nine, Triple M, B105, The Courier-Mail and ABC Radio - to achieve maximum exposure.

The event was attended by over 400,000 people, with almost the same number watching the broadcast on Nine, showing once again what an annual highlight *Riverfire by Australian Retirement Trust* is to the people of Brisbane and beyond.





CASE STUDY #2

NORTHSHORE BRISBANE

2022 was our second year working with Economic Development Queensland to activate Northshore Brisbane.

Once again home to *Brisbane's Art Boat* - the jewel of Brisbane Festival's crown - the activation of Northshore Brisbane generated crowds of festival-goers to the area.

With a strategic focus on driving visitation to the fast-growing Hamilton precinct, Brisbane Festival held many events both on-board *Brisbane's Art Boat*, departing from Northshore Brisbane, and on land at the purpose-designed Dock Bar. It was a sophisticated experience and one that was enjoyed by Festival partners, donors and audiences alike.

CASE STUDY #3

CPL – CHOICE, PASSION, LIFE

As a new partner to Brisbane Festival in 2022, CPL – Choice, Passion, Life came on board as our inaugural Access and Inclusion Partner. As fierce advocates for equal opportunity and representation in the arts, it was a chance for the greater Brisbane Festival team to learn more about inclusion and allyship at all levels.

As the Presenting Partner of two works in the program – *Guttered* by Restless Dance Theatre and *Brown Church* by the Naavikaran Collective – CPL – Choice, Passion, Life not only helped the Festival to create opportunities for disabled and diverse artists, but committed to a full accessibility audit of the Festival's practices, which will inform our 2023 growth and help us ensure that Brisbane Festival truly is for every body.



Foundation Partners



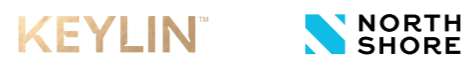
Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Brisbane Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council

Platinum Partner



Gold Partners



Silver Partners



Bronze Partners



Distinguished Partners



DYNAMIC OPTIMISM HAS BOOSTED THE 2022 GIVING PROGRAM, AS BRISBANE FESTIVAL DONORS MORE THAN DOUBLED THEIR RECORD-BREAKING PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FROM LAST YEAR.

“This could not have happened 20 years ago. We’ve matured and grown, and stepped into something that was always there. Brisbane has come of age.”

Lindy Lee, *The Guardian*

“Thank you so much for the absolutely amazing Moorooka Bloc Party. It was simply epic! I was on a total high and had a blast. My legs were sore the next day from dancing so much. It certainly drew quite a crowd and fulfilled on pretty much everything I wanted. I am ever so grateful to you all for using Ubuntu funds as requested. Thank you so much.”

Carolyn Vincent

“To me, the arts community really is the soul of a community. We love the idea of contributing to the arts community and contributing to the soul of Brisbane. It is the role of businesses and individuals to support the arts which is critical for a vibrant society to exist. To ensure the Festival is inclusive to the entire Brisbane community a lot of the events need to be offered free, and that is how philanthropy can assist – to support those programs. When you invest in something, you’re backing the people. You make your reputation in the tough times not the good times, and the last few years Brisbane Festival has really demonstrated how good they are.”

Paul Taylor, *Beginners’ Call Podcast*

We are incredibly grateful for the support Brisbane Festival received from donors to further strengthen the Giving Program again this year, growing to more than double our record-breaking position of 2021. The 2022 Giving Program stretch target for philanthropy income was originally \$1M. Donations substantially exceeded that goal with over \$1,500,000 raised from 253 donations, an increase of \$806k on 2021 giving. The Philanthropy team also generated income in addition to donations through our successful VIP ticketing service and facilitating corporate hospitality packages for donors.

Giving Program fundraising events were inspired by the vision of Louise Bezzina’s five programming pillars. Donors responded to the philanthropic needs of the program and passionately backed the artistic ambition of Brisbane Festival 2022. Many thanks to our incredible Giving Committee, exceptionally led by the Honourable Justice Thomas Bradley, who generously matched donations received from donors during our end of financial year campaign. Justice Bradley and the Committee successfully stewarded the giving message to “double your gift” that positively and powerfully enabled the vision of Brisbane Festival 2022 to be realised.

The highlight of the Giving Program this year was the official announcement by Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD of the new Vice-Regal Patronage of Brisbane Festival. We welcome the first ever Patron of Brisbane Festival and wish to thank the Governor and Professor Nimmo for so graciously hosting Festival Artists, Board Directors, Giving Committee Members and donors who were delighted to attend a special Government House reception in August.



Brisbane Festival was thrilled to celebrate some significant achievements by our valued donors, in particular the nomination of Gina Fairfax AC for the QCF Philanthropist of the Year Award and we congratulate Gina on her well-deserved win in the Community category. Giving Committee Member Paul Taylor was also recognised for his Philanthropy Leadership at the 2022 Creative Partnerships Awards and we were pleased to feature Paul's perspective on giving in Brisbane Festival's *Beginners' Call* Podcast.

This year our donors supported an enormous program featuring 22 new works and over 718 performances across the 23 days of Festival. Visitors were once again welcomed back to the Festival from across Australia and across the globe. Brisbane was alive this September. You could feel the Festival everywhere - the city was pink, venues bursting with new creations, the Art Boat set sail once again and the BOQ Festival Garden was the place to be. And just like that, Brisbane Festival is over for another year. We take this opportunity to offer our heartfelt gratitude to you, our donors, for your generosity in making Brisbane Festival the wonderful success that it was.

We would particularly like to acknowledge the game-changing gift from Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax AC that enabled Lindy Lee's glorious artwork *The Spheres* and the significant performance program on the Art Boat this year, along with ensuring the delivery of *Wayfinder*, *Sunshine Super Girl* and *Aftermath*. Other projects to receive specific project funding from major donors include *Manifesto*, *Slow Boat* and *Queen's Wharf Disco Wonderland* which were supported through the Giving Program by Philip Bacon AO. Free programming in the BOQ Festival Garden and the installations of *Ephemeral* and *The Pool* were generously supported by Paul and Susan Taylor. Key community program highlights, *Brisbane Serenades* (including 7 events) and *Dance Halls*, would not have been possible without the support of Carolyn Vincent and the Ubuntu Foundation.

The Giving Program supports key areas of need within artistic programming, creating opportunities for local artists, commissioning new work and ensuring access for all through reduced-priced tickets and free events.



ALL PHILANTHROPIC INCOME FROM THE GIVING PROGRAM GOES DIRECTLY TOWARDS BRISBANE FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING. THE GENEROSITY OF FESTIVAL DONORS WAS CRUCIAL IN DELIVERING THE FOLLOWING KEY PROGRAMMING THIS YEAR:

BRISBANE'S ART BOAT
LINDY LEE'S WORK

BRISBANE'S ART BOAT
PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

WAYFINDER

AFTERMATH

RAISE THE ROOF

HOLDING ACHILLES

SUNSHINE SUPER GIRL

GIRL FROM THE NORTH
COUNTRY

SLOW BOAT

TIDDAS

BROWN CHURCH

FOURTEEN

MANIFESTO

NIGHTWALKS WITH
TEENAGERS

GUTTERED

BRISBANE SERENADES

DANCE HALLS

HEARTLAND

CLOSING NIGHT QUEEN'S
WHARF DISCO WONDERLAND

BOQ FESTIVAL GARDEN

EPHEMERAL

THE POOL



THANK YOU!

GAME CHANGERS

Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax AC

COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR

Philip Bacon AO

Vasudhara Wild Women Fund

Paul and Susan Taylor

Carolyn Vincent - Ubuntu Foundation

HIGH COMMISSIONER

Justice Thomas Bradley and Dr Matthew Yoong

Dalwood-Wylie Charitable Foundation

Frazer Family Foundation

Simon and Prue George

Cass and Ian George

Andy Greig and Ingrid Asbury

Cate Heyworth-Smith KC and Ben Duke

Shaun and Sue Kenny

Wayne N Kratzmann AM

Mather Foundation

Simon and Nicole Morrison

Liz and Graeme Wikman

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Gallus Partners

Jodie Siganto

The Siganto Foundation

Courtney Talbot

M and M Taylor

Phillip, Marisa and Bella Vecchio

CREATIVE CHAMPIONS

The Hon Justice Sue Brown and Lisa Worner

Nick and Gayle Carter

Drs Ailbhe and Frank Cunningham

Judith Cush

Rhyll Gardner and Rusty Graham

Kim and Michael Hodge

Elizabeth Jameson

John and Holly Livingstone

Libby and Jared Patrick

Kevin and Laura Perkins

Judy and Rod Pilbeam

Ray White New Farm

Marie-Louise Theile

Penny J Wolff and Peter J Wolff

If you would like to become involved with the Giving Program by making a tax-deductible donation to Brisbane Festival, please contact Head of Philanthropy Fabienne Cooke on fabienne@brisbanefestival.com.au or 0411809047.

COMMISSIONERS

Antoinette Aquilina and Gary Hutchins

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Cathi Collier - Sagacity Associates

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Kate Fell

Cory Heathwood

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Judy and David Usher

Jenny Usher and Peter Good

Sylvia Wilson

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Anonymous X 2

Raelene Baker

Veeta Bassi

Isabel Brew

Pamela Buchanan

Greg Clarke

Ingrid Costello

Nina Lamprell

Justice John Logan RFD

Lorraine Martin

Sandra and Peter Moffat

Anne-Maree Moon

Lois Penney

Joanna Elisabeth Mellefont Peters

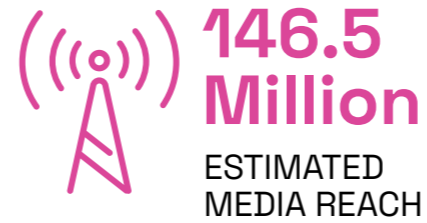
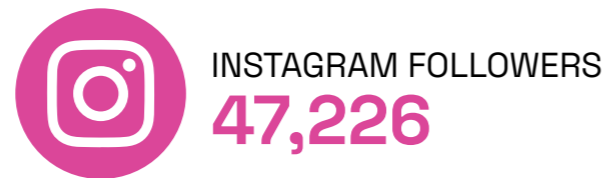
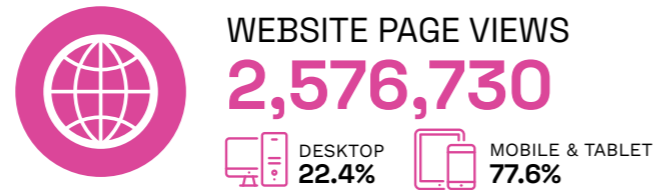
Karen Prentis

Henry Smerdon

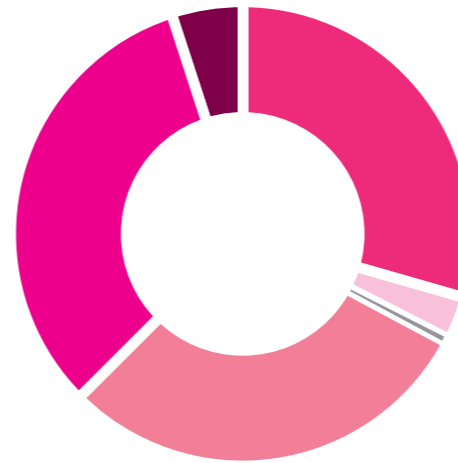
Amy Uhlhorn

BRISBANE
FESTIVAL
DONORS MAKE IT HAPPEN

Brisbane Festival burst forth in April with a refreshed brand that set the scene for things to come. Whilst the Festival's beloved pink was retained, the colour palette was broadened to deliver a contemporary and challenging refreshed brand. The brand refresh centred around a constantly adapting design system that had consistency and unification but offered surprises along the way. A series of abstract B's rendered in many different forms created a unique adaptive brand for the Festival and its breadth of layers across events, partners, donors and shareholders.



Media coverage by media type



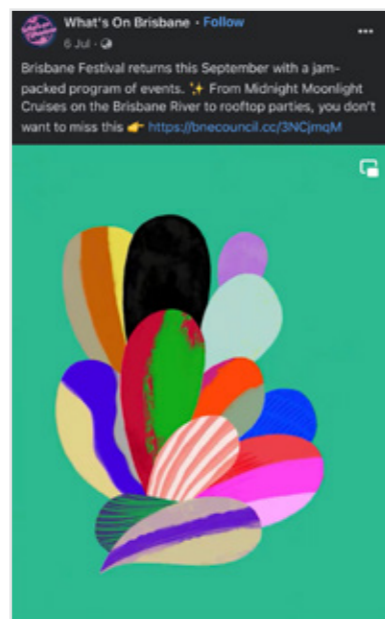
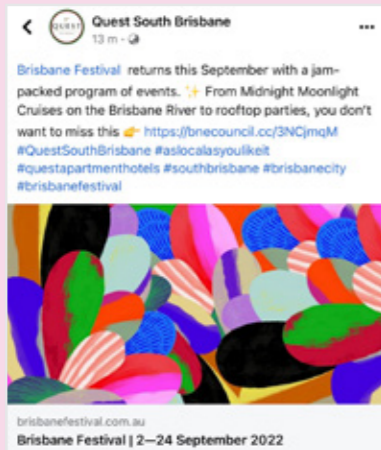
National coverage



ACROSS THE AUSTRALIAN, THE GUARDIAN AUSTRALIA, ABC TV NEWS BREAKFAST, NITV, LIMELIGHT MAGAZINE, TODAY SHOW AND ABC RADIO NATIONAL

Highest volume of coverage nationally





ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Louise Bezzina

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Charlie Cush

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Alison Smith	Chair
Philip Bacon AO	Deputy Chair
Raelene Baker	
Cory Heathwood	
Simon Morrison	
Amanda Newbery	
Karen Prentis	
Anna Reynolds	
Chris Tyquin	

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Sarah Farnsworth	Business and Production Administration Manager
Kate Fell	Program Director
Julia Herne	Head of Business Administration
Anne-Maree Moon	Marketing and Communications Director
Tim Pack	Technical Director
Rachael Rigg	Head of Partnerships and Engagement

INDIGENOUS ADVISORY GROUP

Michelle Tuahine	Chair – Gangulu, Ngāti Kahungunu
Raelene Baker	Yuggera, Birri, Bindal Warrunghu nations
Bob Weatherall	Kamilaroi Elder
Bridget Garay	Kemer Kemer Meriam Nation
Shannon Ruska	Brisbane Traditional Owner
Benjin Maza	Meriam, Tanna, Birri-Gubba and Yidindji

GIVING COMMITTEE

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Eliza Baxby	
Heidi Cooper	
Simon Morrison	
Ben Poschelk	
Anna Reynolds	
Paul Taylor	

DESIGN, PUBLICITY AND PHOTOGRAPHY







Bigfish	Festival Brand
Dowling & Dowling Design	Festival Design
Aruga	Publicity
Atmosphere Photography	Festival Photography
Josh McIntosh	Festival Site Design
Farley Wood	TIDDAS Photography
Joel Devereux	Holding Achilles Photography

BRISBANE FESTIVAL



BRISBANE FESTIVAL

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Brisbane Festival is an initiative of
the Queensland Government and
Brisbane City Council