



BRISBANE FESTIVAL

Boldly Brisbane

2020 In Review

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Thank You

Acknowledgement of Country

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 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.

Fast Facts

1.9M
overall
attendance

\$14M
economic
growth

38,000
visitors to
Brisbane

1002 local
artists and
artsworkers

60M
audience
reach

573
performances

120
productions
with **84%** free

28
commissioned
works

244
locations
across **190**
Brisbane
suburbs

Program Highlights

Our 2020 *Boldly Brisbane* program was live, local and bursting with love, joy and hope.



122
First Nations
artists



First Nations

Brisbane Festival is guided by its Indigenous Advisory Group (IAG), made up of Chair Michelle Tuahine (Gangulu and Ngati Kahungunu), Aunty Raelene Rallah-Baker (Birri Gubba and Jagera), Uncle Bob Weatherall (Kamilaroi and Ngemba), and Bridget Garay (Meriam).

Under the creative direction and Custodianship of Yuggera and Turrbal man Shannon Ruska, we were invited to cleanse and reset with *Jumoo* (Turrbal word for 'smoking'). This Welcome to Country offered a peaceful and respectful journey through the Festival.

In all, 12 productions in the program were First Nations led, featuring 122 First Nations creatives and artists.

In an industry first, we also saw the establishment of a First Nations Blak Curatorium – made up of four creative, cultural, and artistic leaders – to shape and create the 2020 First Nations Program.

Alethea Beetson (Kabi Kabi and Wiradjuri woman), Amanda Hayman (Wakka Wakka/Kalkadoon), Troy Casey (Kamilaroi) and Merindah Donnelly (a descendant of the Wiradjuri nation) led, developed and commissioned a powerful program of works.

"The Blak Curatorium broke new ground, signalling a long-overdue movement in the arts towards cultural stewardship."
Michelle Tuahine, IAG Chair

The audacity and tenacity of the original Aboriginal Tent Embassy ambassadors in 1972 inspired Kamilaroi, Kooma, Jiman and Gurang Gurang artist Richard Bell's installation, *Embassy*. First Nations artists and academics, including Judy Watson, Dr. Chelsea Bond, Warraba Weatherall and Ruby Wharton added their voice to the cause, discussing contemporary protest, First Nations incarceration and institutional racism.

The unfinished business of treaty was the theme for *SILENCE* by Bundjalung-Yugambah, Wiradjuri and Ni-Vanuatu dancer and choreographer, Thomas E.S. Kelly. In a contemporary expression of First Nations struggles and victories, the work called on audiences to listen deeply to the space between the silence.

remake-regenerate-reclaim culture was the call from a collection of performances presented by Digi Youth Arts. Articulating and reflecting on the narrative of oppression and displacement, these spoken and musical responses to Richard Bell's *Embassy* were powerfully delivered.

Established and emerging First Nations artists took part in the biggest music extravaganza in Brisbane's history, *Street Serenades*. The Ancient Bloods, Mack Ridge, and Balairi were among bands that serenaded the suburbs and connected with diverse audiences.

190
suburbs



Suburban Takeovers

Brisbane Festival took the art to the people, filling the streets, parks, walking paths, cul-de-sacs, and local businesses with a *Boldly Brisbane* live performance program.

Inspired by Rome Mayor Virginia Raggi's invitation to Roman citizens to open their windows or step out onto their balconies and sing, *Street Serenades*, *Exercise Surprises*, and *All You Need is Love* were conceived.

These suburban takeovers were in direct response to the COVID-19 crisis. Spread across Brisbane, they ensured hundreds of artists were employed and thousands of people could safely experience the joy of live music and performance.

Street Serenades was a major feature program, capturing the hearts and minds of Brisbanites. It was the largest music project in Brisbane's history with almost 400 local artists and arts workers traversing all 190 suburbs of Brisbane on four bespoke stages covering every music genre. It featured a diverse range of artists, including Busby Marou, Sahara Beck, Troy Cassar-Daley, Jaguar Jonze, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, and Briefs Factory. The program made national and international headlines for its ingenuity.

Exercise Surprises took a similar approach, although instead of musicians, it was prehistoric puppets, playful lollipop ladies, flash-mob cheer squads, and acrobats who took to our parks and pathways. In a series of delightful encounters, people were surprised with an impromptu performance as they were exercising or out and about with their family and friends.

In another loud declaration of love from the Festival, *All You Need is Love* – a flash-mob fanfare – also hit the streets. Drag artiste and dancer prance Fez Faanana led Brisbane Excelsior Band through markets and key gathering places on a march to remind everyone that all we really need is love.

"The global arts community took interest, observing how Brisbane Festival celebrated the reawakening of the city after a difficult and demanding period of isolation by focusing on homegrown heroes, local luminaries and exceptional experiences."

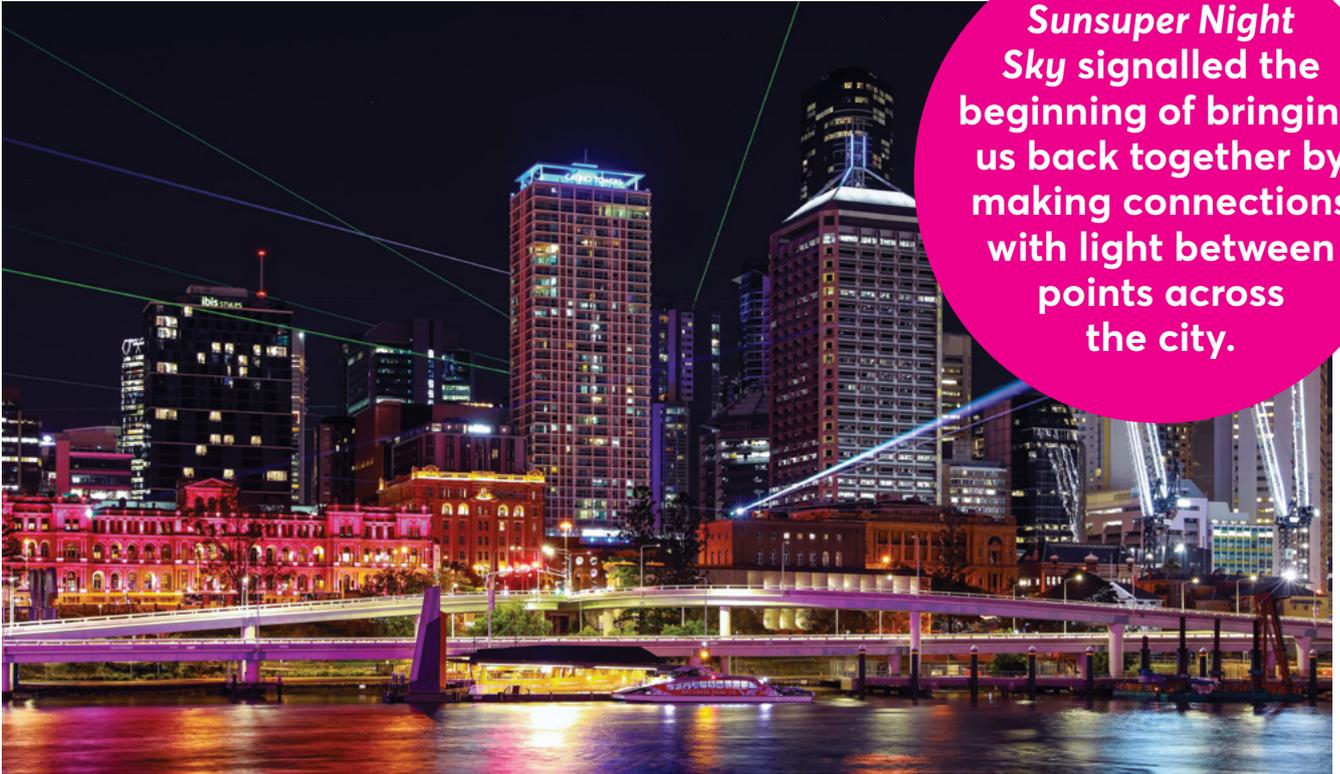
Belinda Seeney, *The Big Idea* (New Zealand)



6

**Gouldian
Finches**





Sunsuper Night Sky signalled the beginning of bringing us back together by making connections with light between points across the city.

Outdoor Installations

In a year where the first ever hiatus of Sunsuper Riverfire took place along with an absence of a major hub, a critical part of this year's Brisbane Festival was finding new ways to signal the Festival was on. This was established through the creation of two major and free outdoor installations, Messengers of Brisbane and Sunsuper Night Sky.

One of the most talked about and celebrated parts of the Festival were the six spectacularly coloured, oversized Gouldian Finches created by internationally renowned artist Florentijn Hofman. Perched throughout the inner city, these party hat-wearing finches watched over us and gave us something to look up and smile at.

Of the work, Hofman said: *"This work breathes hope for better days. It symbolises celebrating life and being positive... especially during this period."*

The public response was overwhelming. Such was the success of the finches that in early 2021, they will fly to North Queensland to spread more joy to regional communities.

The other major project created as a special commission was the exquisite visual and sound installation, *Sunsuper Night Sky*. For eight nights in September, pulsing lasers and lights beamed from 11 buildings were visible from hundreds of locations across the city. The extraordinary sight was created by Australia's most renowned audio-visual artist, Robin Fox, using technology never used before in Australia thanks to Oracle Liquid.

Sunsuper Night Sky encouraged locals to rediscover the city from the street, on evening walks or even by CityCat. It was an invitation to come together, contemplate life and wonder at the beauty of our world.

The final night of *Sunsuper Night Sky* and the Festival itself gave homage to *Sunsuper Riverfire* with a 20-minute *Women of Rock* soundtrack by Triple M which synced to the laser light beams.

The giant Gouldian finches were a glorious visual reminder that September is synonymous with Brisbane Festival.



Commissions

In a Festival created and realised in five months in the midst of a global pandemic, a record-breaking number of 28 commissions was a remarkable feat.

The artists of this city dug deep, they reimagined, pivoted and delivered wonder, joy, provocation, and inspiration to our audiences. We filled every arts venue in Brisbane with new work and conversation as well as opened Metro Arts at West Village with a stunning new commission by Hiromi Tango, *Brainbow Magic*. This fluorescent installation of pure happiness was enjoyed by thousands of people, heralding the opening of a new cultural precinct in our city.

The visionary artists behind the 28 commissions were from all genres of art and put the finest hometown heroes at the helm. One of these included *Leviathan* by CIRCA which was the first production to open QPAC's Playhouse after lockdown.

Leviathan was everything that COVID-19 was not, it was a mass of bodies coming together to defy gravity as they propelled across the stage, tumbling, balancing and soaring together as one. Under the direction of Yaron Lifschitz, 36 performers took to the stage for a staggering work of scope, scale and ambition.

This sold out season was one of those special moments of 2020 as we came together once again for large-scale and ambitious live performance.

The lockdown provided unimaginable inspiration to our artists as they longed to be reunited with audiences. Responding beautifully to the times was The Good Room who made two new works, *(You don't have to put on your) Red Light* and *One Bottle Later*.

(You don't have to put on your) Red Light was ingenious. A project accessible to anyone across Australia, this very sexy new work was delivered directly to your phone each Wednesday night in September with three new saucy tales commissioned especially for the Festival by celebrated writers Benjamin Law, Krissy Kneen and Mandy Beaumont.

The Good Room's other masterpiece *One Bottle Later* brought basic human connection back after a year of isolation when it took over Brisbane Powerhouse for a no-holding back night of theatrical adventure.



**"The 70 minutes
really flew by and
exposed how well
planned and intelligent
The Good Room
co-creators are."**

Isabella Magee
The Courier-Mail

Boldly Brisbane Artists

While this year looked different, it was the biggest ever for our local artists. This new initiative highlighted the work and projects of trailblazing creatives engaged with Brisbane Festival 2020.

The outstanding talent that resides in Brisbane is a wonderful gift to its people.

The impact of COVID-19 has been devastating, not least on the creative industries. Now more than ever we need to support our artists, back our local luminaries and provide a stage to take us to places we never imagined.

This year, more than 80 per cent of the program budget was spent on engaging with homegrown talent to create new and exciting work for our city. As a result, this was the most locally focussed program delivered in the history of Brisbane Festival.

Boldly Brisbane Artists was a feature program to celebrate 20 of our Brisbane creatives. A campaign profiling the artists and the projects they are producing ran through our printed program, digital platforms and outdoor billboards.

In addition to Boldly Brisbane Artists, Brisbane Festival established the Working Title program with the support of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland. The inaugural program is an incubator for new creations at the Judith Wrights Arts Centre, creating much-needed opportunities for local performing artists to develop and present brave new work. So far, 10 new works have been supported, including this year's *Snapshot* by Polytoxic, *SILENCE* by Karul Projects, and *Hot Mess Mama* by singer Emma Dean.

We are incredibly proud to present and back our local artists.

"This is an amazing place to make work and there's a really strong sense of support and community in Brisbane that I think is quite unique to other arts communities."

Leah Shelton and Lisa Fa'alafi (Polytoxic), *Snapshot*

"There's a resilience to the art community here. We keep getting knocked down and keep getting back up again."

Brian Lucas, *Coming Back Out Brisbane*

"Brisbane has such a unique independent arts culture with a strong and supportive community. There seems to be a freedom in independent work in Brisbane that embraces a combination of bold, bright, daggy, funny and joyful."

Neridah Waters, *Common People Dance Eisteddfod*

"Brisbane's greatest strength is the supportive industry professionals who want to see you succeed and will help if you ask."

Anisa Nandaula, *How to Spell Love*

"Brisbane has a lot of creative folk with amazing vision and it's up to us as cultural leaders to ensure the city allows this next generation the opportunity to blossom."

Lawrence English, *The Listening Études*



**Alethea
Beetson**



Polytoxic



**Amy
Hollingsworth**



**Natano
Fa'anana**



**Anisa
Nandaula**



**Neridah
Waters**



**Brendan
Joyce**



**Dead Puppet
Society**



**Brian
Lucas**



**The Good
Room**



**Claire
Christian**



Blaklash



**Katie
Noonan**



**Thom
Browning**



**Merindah
Donnelly**



**Yaron
Lifschitz**



**Lawrence
English**



**Trent
Dalton**



**Naomi
Price**



**Elishia
Whitchurch**

Marketing and Publicity

Our marketing campaign, highlighting the world-class, *Boldly Brisbane* program, generated positive media coverage across the nation.



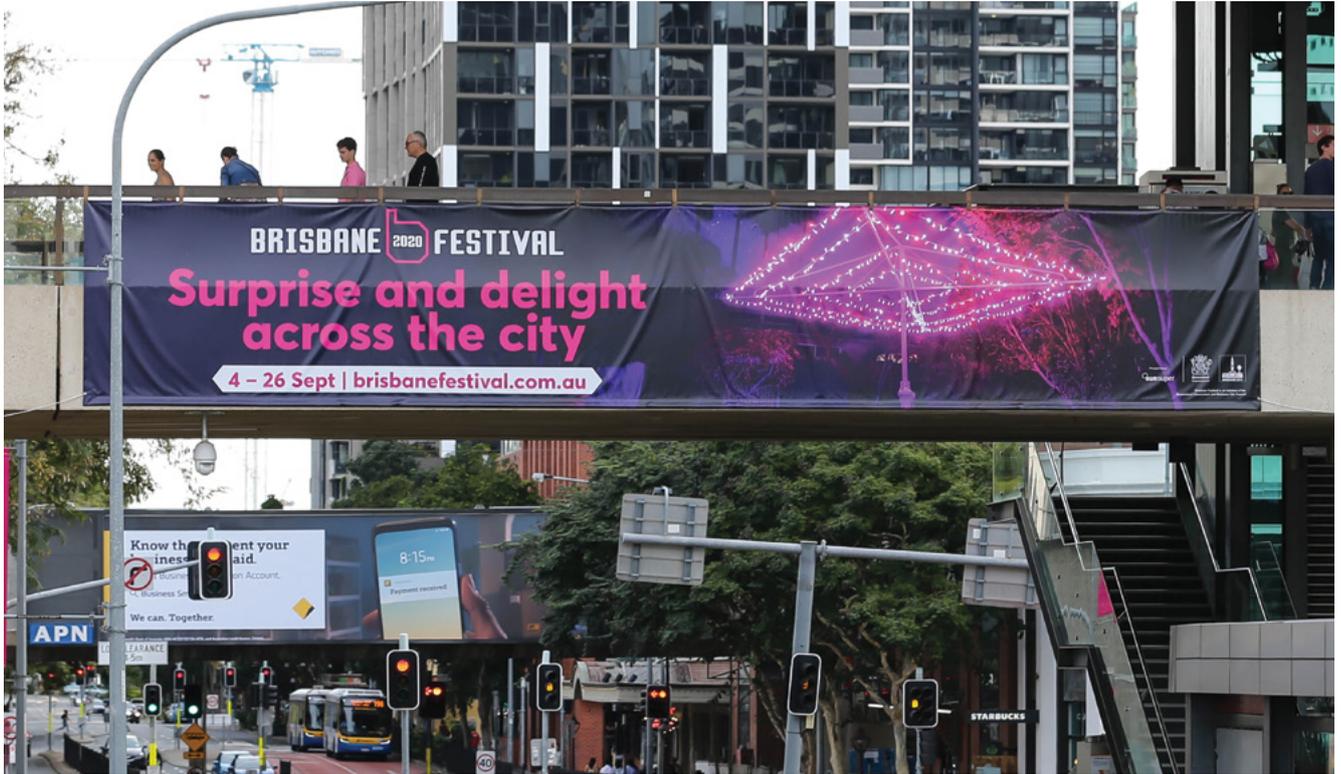
BRISBANE 2020 FESTIVAL

Boldly Brisbane

4 - 26 September

brisbanefestival.com.au





Branding

- The Brisbane Festival logo was updated this year, replacing the spark in the badge with 'BF' to modernise the brand
- A seasonal version of the logo was also created, replacing 'BF' with '2020', and this was used in all campaign material
- Averta Std became our new 'hero font' in our brand and campaign material, selected for its clean and effortless geometry while still being undemanding
- The hero image, a fairy-light-laden clothesline in a backyard, spoke to the suburban experience - the humble Hills Hoist being an icon of backyard parties and celebrating at home

Collateral

- 35,000 copies of the main, 68-page printed program distributed via Creative Distribution
- 600,000 highlight guides were mailed out to individual households in the greater Brisbane metro region

Press

- 1,052 unique editorial clippings
- ASR value of \$9.75million
- 990 syndications
- Front page cover story in *The Courier-Mail*, 6 section covers and 5 double-page spreads in metropolitan newspapers
- National weather crosses on *ABC News Breakfast*, *The Today Show* (5 live segments, 231 syndications) and locally on *Nine News Queensland*
- 81% of coverage was from outside the local area
- National coverage in *The Guardian*, *The Australian*, *Australian Financial Review*, *Life & Leisure Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and ABC (online, radio, TV)
- Potential Audience Reach of 60 million



Radio

- Gold partnership with Triple M
- 202 recorded and live promo spots across Triple M and B105
- 60 recorded promo spots on 96five Family radio
- 4 live promo reads during the breakfast show on 989fm Indigenous radio
- 10 recorded promo spots on 4ZZZ
- *Sunsuper Night Sky* soundtrack broadcast on 95.3FM every Friday and Saturday evening of the Festival
- Special edition soundtrack featuring all-female legends of pop and rock broadcast on Triple M on the final night

Television

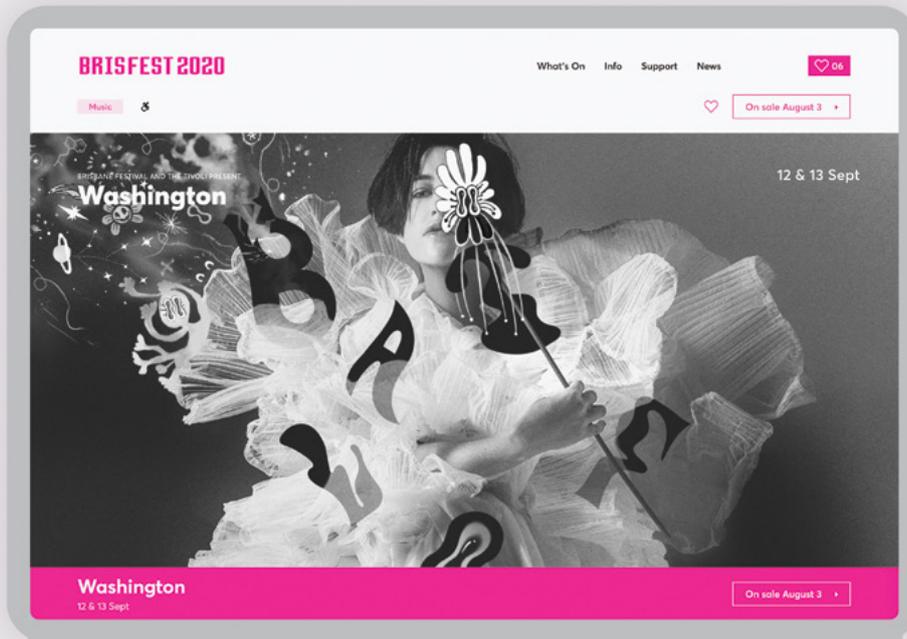
- Gold partnership with Channel 9
- 116 promo spots aired on Channel 9 between August and September
- 52 promo spots aired as part of a 9News Festival competition
- 9.30 minutes of promotional airtime on 9News Qld*
- 12.45 minutes of promotional airtime on Nine's Today Show*
- 301,578 completed views via video on-demand across 9, 7, Ten, SBS, Foxtel Now and Kayo**

*Channel 9 post-campaign report 9 Oct 2020

**Mediacom post-campaign report 16 Oct 2020

Outdoor

- Distinguished partnership with GOA
- 434 street banners throughout Brisbane's inner city
- Outdoor billboards in 11 regional Queensland locations
- CityCat branded with Brisbane Festival logo
- Major landmarks and city bridges lit up in Festival pink
- Four branded *Street Serenades* vans crisscrossed 190 suburbs throughout the Festival
- Signage installed at all venues and event locations, including riverside walking trails



Digital

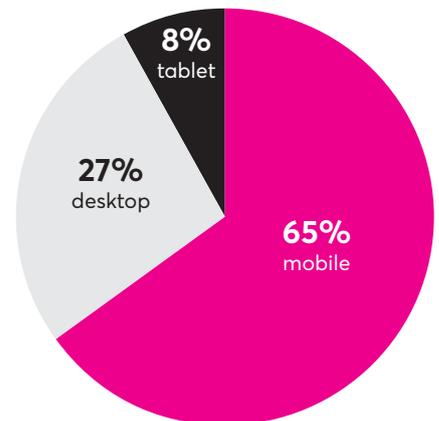
- Email marketing engaging more than 60,000 eNews subscribers and past attendees
- Online advertising focused on building awareness with new audiences in Brisbane metro and driving visitation from intrastate
- A web app was developed to play the *Sunsuper Night Sky* soundtrack on personal devices in synchronisation with the laser display

Social

- Facebook 102,000 followers
- Instagram 36,700 followers
- Twitter 181,200 followers
- LinkedIn 7,200 followers
- YouTube 136,100 video views

Website

- New mobile-optimised website with a content-rich focus
- 416,963 visits
- 1,072,318 page views



Audience

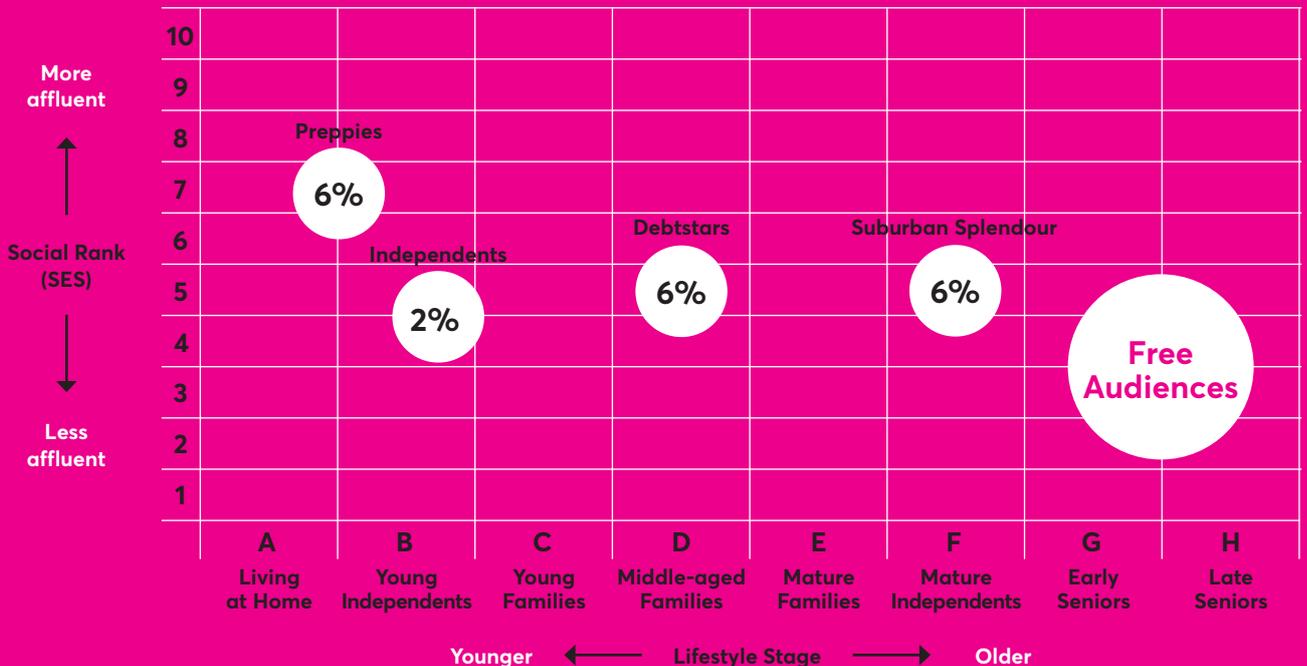
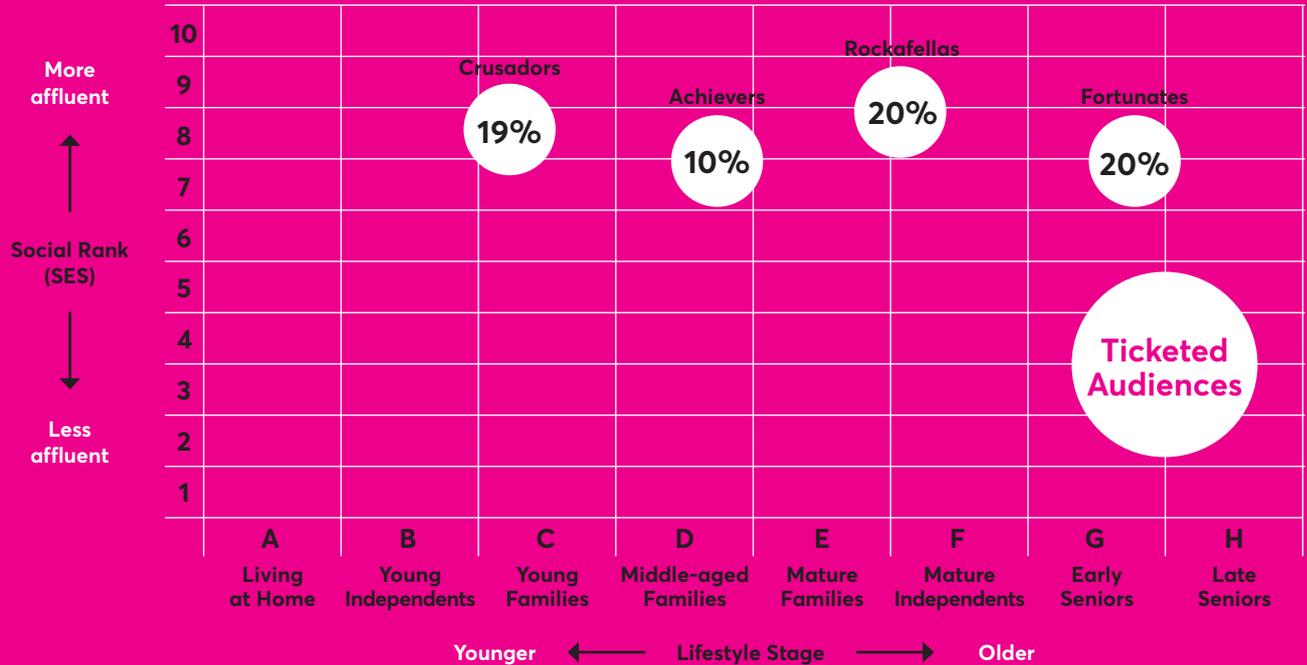
With joyous events in every suburb,
2020 welcomed thousands of new arts lovers
to our Festival family.



95%
of attendees
agreed BrisFest
enriches the
cultural life
of Brisbane

Event Attendees

The diverse, multi-artform program of Brisbane Festival attracts a broad spectrum audience covering the majority of socio-economic and life-stages groups. The Festival has a comprehensive understanding of the target markets for all of its programs and their motivation to attend events. Audience profiles paint a vivid picture of entertainment, media and lifestyle behaviours of Festival attendees.



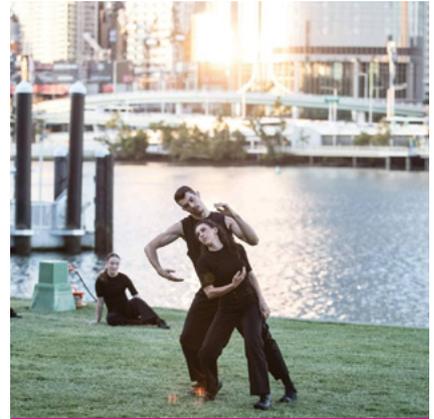
#BrisFest



♡ 293



♡ 177



♡ 156



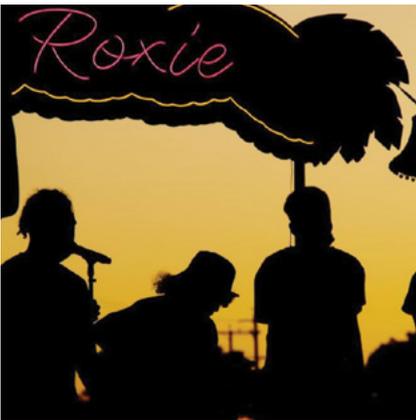
♡ 273



♡ 75



♡ 59



♡ 60



♡ 59



♡ 63



740



52



127

From top to bottom, images by @qldmuseum, @craigwilkinson, @aislinkriukelis

Audience Comments

"The IsoLate Late Show LIVE was absolutely brilliant! So much talent! And so much fun!"

Heidi Cooper

"Leviathan was beautiful and awe-inspiring."

Ginny Barbour

"Jumoo (Smoking) was a beautiful event. Honoured to have witnessed it."

Matt Young

"Street Serenades was a great night of entertainment right at our front door! Topham St was alive with colour and live music enjoyed by all ages of our street."

Terri Craig

"Saw Washington on Sunday night. Just amazing. Thank you, Brisbane Festival!"

Danella Perrins

"Went to Common People Dance Eisteddfod tonight and it was so much fun for this oma and her 10-year-old grandson!"

Veronica Connors

"I've been entertained by Sunsuper Night Sky every night! I have a fantastic view from my apartment in Toowong."

Sharon Hanson

"Snapshot was such an extraordinary show! Congrats to Polytoxic and Brisbane Festival!"

Blair Connor

"SILENCE was incredibly powerful. Sublime performance."

Tamara Fahy

"One Bottle Later was a fantastic event! Definitely one to bring back again."

Vicki Peglas

"Really enjoyed dancing with LGBTQ+ elders and performers yesterday at Coming Back Out Brisbane. The event was so amazing."

Xin-Pin

Partnerships

Even in the uncertainty of 2020, our partners
fiercely embraced Brisbane Festival, helping
make the impossible possible.





Case study: AAMI

With the changing landscape of the Brisbane Festival 2020 program, many of our partners took a new approach to their partnership.

AAMI were willing to change how they traditionally structure their partnership. Taking on the Presenting Partner rights for the *Street Serenades* program, AAMI were able to leverage off the community success of this program.

Just as important to the partnership was the way to engage with AAMI customers through AAMI Lucky Club. Traditionally focussed on mass ticket sale programs, Brisbane Festival and AAMI were able to pivot and offer AAMI customers an exclusive opportunity to win their own *Street Serenades* performance in their chosen suburb and location.

Every competition winner was treated to a performance from *Street Serenades* artists Ella Fence, Melissa Western, Luke Kennedy, and Oscar Production Company. Each winning location was different and provided the winner with local pride. To further amplify the program, Brisbane Festival engaged with our PR agency and sponsor, Aruga, who were able to interview each winner and create blog posts that could be shared on multiple platforms. This provided AAMI with a suite of content assets to leverage the program on their channels.

"I'm so glad that I entered and was able to lift people's spirits in some small way during what has been a really lousy year for a lot of people."

Mark Ashgrove, AAMI winner

"It was such a great atmosphere with people cheering and having fun and it felt fantastic to get out and do something 'normal'. Even though we were all socially distanced, we all felt connected, there was a real sense of community."

Kristy Smith, Coorparoo resident



Case study: West Village

Brisbane Festival were excited to work with West Village in 2020 as a new partner. As a growing new precinct in Brisbane and the new home of Metro Arts, West Village were looking to be a leader for arts engagement in the city. Brisbane Festival were able to curate a strong arts program for the precinct in September, including the engagement of world-renowned artist Hiromi Tango.

Works were created in collaboration with West Village to further enhance the overall precinct plan and attract foot traffic from Boundary Street. *Rainbow Magic (Healing circles)* was the perfect engagement piece for the space and proved to be one of the most photographed activations during festival.

In addition to the partnership in September, Brisbane Festival took a brief from West Village to create a fun and engaging brand activation for their summer campaign. This included creating 12 individual photographable segments that could be hosted at the West Village Common lawn space. This activation went live in November 2020 and increased foot traffic to the West Village precinct.



Case study: Cross River Rail

As a new partner in 2020, Brisbane Festival were proud to work with Cross River Rail. The key objective for Cross River Rail was to find new and innovative ways in which they could remind the public of worksite locations and possible disruptions to traffic and transport services.

Partnering with Brisbane Festival for our Opening Weekend was a great opportunity for Cross River Rail to make an initial impact. The Opening weekend celebrations centred in the Roma Street Parklands and included First Nations smoking ceremony, (*Jumoo*), a celebration of song and dance (*All you Need is Love*), and a community celebration of music (*Street Serenades*).

To showcase major works further still, Brisbane Festival in collaboration with Aruga PR also curated an underground performance at the Woolloongabba worksite.

Brisbane Festival secured Camerata Orchestra to perform *Art Underground*. A stunning performance that was captured and edited for distribution via Brisbane Festival, Camerata and Cross River Rail channels. A great piece of content that had strong engagement and really showed the creative ways to leverage a partnership with Brisbane Festival.



"Sponsorship was a hard decision this year but one of the best I made. I don't think we would have survived without it."

Claire Parviz, Spaghetti House

Partners

Foundation Partners



Queensland
Government



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

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

Principal Partner



Gold Partners



Institute for
Molecular Bioscience



Silver Partners



Bronze Partners



Distinguished Partners



Supporters

Champagne Lanson

Philanthropy

The dedication and passion of our growing group of Festival Donors was vital to the success of Brisbane Festival 2020.

"Thank you to our devoted Festival Donors. This year would not have been possible without your philanthropic support."

The Hon. Justice Thomas Bradley
Giving Committee Chair

Giving Program

Generous donations made to Brisbane Festival were crucial to deliver our vibrant artistic programming in 2020. They allowed more local artists to be employed than ever before and lifted the spirits of audiences all over our beautiful city.

We are incredibly grateful to have received a record level of philanthropic support for the Giving Program in this difficult pandemic year. A heartfelt thank you to our generous Festival donors for backing Brisbane Festival 2020.

If you would like to become involved with the Giving Program by making a donation to Brisbane Festival, please contact Head of Philanthropy Fabienne Cooke on email fabienne@brisbanefestival.com.au or on +61 7 3833 5400.

Community Ambassadors

Philip Bacon AM
Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax
Susan and Paul Taylor

High Commissioners

Justice Thomas Bradley
and Dr Matthew Yoong
Frazer Family Foundation
Andy Greig and Ingrid Asbury
Shaun and Sue Kenny
Wayne Kratzmann
The Hon Justice Anthe Philippides
Courtney Talbot

Internationals

Sue Brown and Lisa Worner
Judith Cush
Cass and Ian George
Cate Heyworth-Smith and Ben Duke
Simon and Nicole Morrison
Ben and Fiona Poschel
Sue Shepherd
The Siganto Foundation
Dr Phillip Vecchio and Marisa Vecchio AM

Commissioners

Brian Bartley
Eliza and Matt Baxby
Louise Bezzina and John Gass
Virginia Bishop
Michelle Boyd
Bryce Camm and Mark Lightfoot
Gayle and Nick Carter
Fabienne and Marshall Cooke
Heidi and James Cooper
José and Lucy Coulson
Charlie and Alicia Cush
Stuart and Genevieve Fraser
Marian Gibney
Greg and Kerry Gillett
Goodman Foundation
Valmay Hill and Russell Mitchell
Kim and Michael Hodge
Susan Learmonth and Bernard Curran
John and Holly Livingstone
Ari and Sarah McCamley
Donna and Tony Orazio
Parascos Eagles Family
Prue and James Pateras
Libby and Jared Patrick
Dr Kieran Rowe and Suzie Rowe
Jodie Siganto
Alison Smith
Paul Spiro
M and M Taylor
Drs Rupert and Penelope Templeman
Hon Justice David Thomas
and Jane Thomas
PJ and PJ Wolff
Linda and Tony Young

Independents

Sonia Anderson
Anonymous x 2
Melissa Brown
Nanette Carroll
Liam and Julia Copley
Louise and Robert Corrigan
Geoffrey and Trish Diehm
Claire Fell
Jeff and Amanda Griffin
Cory Heathwood
Kerrie and Ian Leslie
Anna and Tim McKinnon
Robert Messori
Sally Mitchell
Amanda Newbery
Patrick and Gabrielle O'Shea
Todd and Natalie Parolin
Anna Reynolds
Andrea and Craig Templeman
Timothy Thomas
Chris Tyquin - goa billboards
Amy Uhlhorn
David and Judy Usher
Jenny Usher and Peter Good
Simon White and Chanelle Simpson

BFFs

Anonymous
Pamela Buchanan
Scott and Carla Burns
- Vanilla Pod Specialty Cakes
Vanessa Cardillo
Paul and Janelle DeSouza
Fern and Matt Dowling
Anna Feros
Marcia Ferreira
Connor Gass
Isabella Gass
James and Sarah Goodman
Leeor Groen
Julia Herne
Nina Lamprell
Adelaide McDonald
Julie and David Morrison
Diane Murphy
Dare and Andrea Power
Robert and Pattie Pozzebon
Karen Prentis
Steven Richardson
Georgie Robson
Henry Smerdon AM
Liz Ward



Looking Forward



In September 2020, we delivered a Festival against all odds. It was live, local, and bursting with love, joy, and hope. It was *Boldly Brisbane* – the perfect antidote to our times.

Now, as we look to the future, we must also reflect on the recent past.

As the various stages of lockdown gripped our city, people felt significant losses in their everyday lives. We became nostalgic for things previously taken for granted – the simple joys in life like catching up with friends, dining at a restaurant, or sitting in a theatre waiting for the curtains to open. And we longed for a physical connection – to greet someone with open arms or dance freely at a celebration with people we love.

Not only for us in the arts, but for the broader population it was dance that was especially missed by so many. Dancing brings us together to share a multitude of emotional, physical, and spiritual sensations. The great philosopher Alan Watts said, “The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.” And that is what we will do – dance.

The joyous, basic human desire to move freely will be at the heart of the Brisbane Festival 2021 program. Dances of gratitude and dances to connect will bring positivity and relief following such uncertain times.

While Brisbane Festival will remain *Boldly Brisbane* with a line-up of our incredible luminaries, the 2021 program will also welcome the best of Australia and the Pacific to our city. We will continue to connect and collaborate with artists, production companies and other festivals from around the world as we always have.

Through premieres, commissioned new works, collaborations, and award-winning productions from Brisbane and beyond, it will be an en masse celebration of all the wonderful things that make us human and keep our spirits alive. You can expect powerful and compelling stories, highly physical works of scale, major temporary public art installations, music and – of course – dancing.

I look forward to dancing with you all in 2021.

Lou

Louise Bezzina
Artistic Director

Thank You



In 2020, the Brisbane Festival team did something quite remarkable. We were one of the first in the world to deliver a major, live performance event during the COVID-19 pandemic. This took a bit of guts and a deep sense of obligation to our artists, our audiences, and our partners.

We knew a festival could be many things. That we could adapt and change to whatever landscape we found ourselves in and that we could make sense of a program to fit the times, to deliver a program of this place, and provide a beacon of hope for the city when it needed it most.

To respond to these times, we embodied our vision of *Boldly Brisbane*.

From the party-hat-wearing *Messengers of Brisbane*, the lively nights at The Tivoli, brilliant circus at QPAC, to the 190 suburbs which welcomed *Street Serenades* pop-up performances, Brisbane Festival truly was an iconically Brisbane spectacle.

While we evolved how the Festival looked, we also transformed how the partnerships were formed. Their flexibility, openness, and genuine desire to see the Festival succeed was a big reason we had the success we did in this year. It was support that was much needed and we thank them for that.

We want to continue to build on the success of this year. We plan to use the wins of 2020 as foundations laid for 2021 and beyond. There is a bright future ahead for Brisbane Festival and we want to bring everyone on the journey with us.

Charlie

Charlie Cush
Chief Executive Officer

Management Team

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Louise Bezzina

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Charlie Cush

BOARD

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

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Dana Brown Head of Partnerships and Engagement
Fabienne Cooke Head of Philanthropy
Rebecca Drummond Finance Director and Company Secretary
Kate Fell Program Director
Julia Herne Head of Business Administration
Tim Pack Technical Director
Karen Soennichsen Marketing and Communications Director

INDIGENOUS ADVISORY GROUP

Michelle Tuahine, Chair
Raelene Rallah-Baker, Elder
Bridget Garay
Benjin Maza
Shannon Ruska
Bob Weatherall, Elder

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