



BRISBANE  FESTIVAL

**Brightly Brisbane**

**2021 In Review**



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## **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.

Front cover image creative direction by Designfront | Cover image by Juli Balla

Inside cover image by Atmosphere Photography

# Snapshot



**1.5 Million**  
TOTAL AUDIENCE



**80,000**  
VISITORS TO BRISBANE



**\$2 Million**  
BOX OFFICE

**\$36 Million**  
ECONOMIC GROWTH

ECONOMIC GROWTH

**654**  
PERFORMANCES



**190**  
BRISBANE SUBURBS

**222**



LOCATIONS ACROSS THE CITY

**43**



QUEENSLAND COMPANIES



**134M**  
MEDIA REACH

BOX OFFICE TARGET EXCEEDED BY



**30%**



**128** SOLD OUT PERFORMANCES

**16**



WORLD PREMIERES



**150**

VOLUNTEERS

**55**



PARTNERS  
(13 NEW IN 2021)

**16**

FIRST NATIONS-LED PRODUCTIONS

**155**

FIRST NATIONS ARTISTS

**70%**



OF THE PROGRAM WAS FREE



MORE THAN **1,100** LOCAL ARTISTS AND ARTS WORKERS

**283 Donors**



RECORD PHILANTHROPIC INCOME  
\$723,260 - UP \$164,000 ON 2020



**2** NEW FESTIVAL PRECINCTS

BOQ FESTIVAL GARDEN/  
SOUTH BANK PIAZZA  
AND NORTSHORE HAMILTON



TRENT DALTON'S *BOY SWALLOWS UNIVERSE*

**Highest Selling** SHOW IN BRISBANE FESTIVAL HISTORY

TRENT DALTON'S *BOY SWALLOWS UNIVERSE*

**Season Extended**



THREE TIMES, RESULTING IN A SOLD-OUT SIX-WEEK RUN AT 100% CAPACITY IN QPAC'S PLAYHOUSE SEEN BY NEARLY 40,000 PEOPLE

CHANNEL 9'S *SUNSUPER RIVERFIRE* BROADCAST PEAK AUDIENCE OF

**300,000 Viewers**

AND AN AVERAGE AUDIENCE OF 272,000, RECORDING THE HIGHEST AVERAGE AUDIENCE IN FIVE YEARS.





2021 was the year to go big, live and local, producing work that was distinctly of this place. With the core themes of community and celebration at its heart, Brisbane Festival presented an exhilarating line-up of premiere productions, cutting edge collaborations, commissioned new work and award-winning performances across 23 days, popping up in surprising venues, in concert halls and theatres, across every suburb of Brisbane and with a brand-new Festival hub.

P4. *Jumoo (Smoking)*

*Restless Dream*

P5. *First Nations Fashion: Walking in Two Worlds*

*Weredingo*  
Image by Simon Woods

*Jumoo (Smoking)*

Images by  
Atmosphere Photography

## First Nations First

Under the guidance of our Indigenous Advisory Group and First Nations curators, Alethea Beetson and Merindah Donnelly, Brisbane Festival presented its largest First Nations program in 2021 with 16 First Nations-led productions. Celebrating talent across live music, dance, visual art and fashion, 155 First Nations artists shared their stories through ceremony, smoke, songline and performance. Opening and closing with *Jumoo* led by Shannon Ruska, Festival highlights included Joel Bray's *I Liked it, BUT...*, Karul Project's *Weredingo* and the world premiere of *Restless Dream*, the story of Uncle Bob Weatherall's repatriation work.

Commissioned by Brisbane Festival and created by artist and designer Grace Lillian Lee, *Walking in Two Worlds* melded contemporary garments and textiles of 11 First Nations designers with dance, film and live music in an evocative cultural celebration featuring 20 First Nations models. More than a runway event, First Nations Fashion was about mentoring, upskilling and creating pathways for First Nations people in the fashion industry, as well as a place for audiences to be immersed in Blak excellence.



## Outdoor Spectaculars

**This year's *Brightly Brisbane* vision rang true in a dazzling array of outdoor spectacles for all ages.**

Festival wonders included the microscopic world created by *IMB Institute of Light*, to the enchanting garden of endangered floral illuminations of *Lost* and the return of Florentijn Hofman's Gouldian finches, *Messengers of Brisbane*. Six-metre-high multisensory art installations by design team ENESS created treasured memories with the dreamscape of *Airship Orchestra* and the luminous arches of *Sky Castle*. *Piano Burning* stunned viewers with its power and beauty and *Sunsuper Riverfire* returned to light up Brisbane's skies in a joyous and fitting finale to Brisbane Festival 2021.

P6, clockwise  
from left to right:

*Sky Castle*  
*Piano Burning*  
*LOST*  
*Sunsuper Riverfire*

Images by  
Atmosphere Photography

P7:  
*Brisbane's Art Boat*  
*Airship Orchestra*

Images by  
Atmosphere Photography  
Parzy Photography

## Brisbane's Art Boat

A Festival highlight and a sell-out sensation, this floating art installation immersed audiences in a glowing world as they witnessed our iconic river through an artistic lens. Brisbane's Art Boat featured *Airship Orchestra*, its soothing symphony of sound punctuated by a soundscape from Yuggera and Turrbal man Shannon Ruska providing context to the true history of the passing landscape. Adding to this multisensory experience was live music, a bar and entertainment.

The Art Boat set sail from Northshore, Hamilton, an industrial precinct making its Festival debut which also hosted a sunset bar, entertainment and our new performance space, The Warehouse, host to the breathtaking and brilliant *RED* by Dancenorth and *Collision* by Casus Circus and MAD Dance.

**"A floating success story."**

THE COURIER-MAIL



Brisbane's Art Boat image by Atmosphere Photography



## BOQ Festival Garden

**In 2021 Brisbane Festival unveiled its new party precinct, BOQ Festival Garden, set beside the river in the heart of South Bank.**

Quintessentially Brisbane, this central hub embraced South Bank Piazza and led down to a lush, sprawling garden and chill-out zone. Free and open to all, BOQ Festival Garden became the perfect meeting place for Festival goers and a welcoming space for visitors and families to enjoy Brisbane's spring sunshine and balmy evenings. Live entertainment, roving performers, children's activities, food, bars and an interactive adventure in the rainforest added to the allure alongside ENESS's playful *I Believe* swings and Light seesaws.

P10:  
BOQ Festival Garden  
P11, clockwise:  
from left to right:  
*Dirty Laundry*  
*Razzle Dazzle Riot*  
*Hugh Sheridan Live*  
*Skyfall*  
All images by  
Atmosphere Photography

## South Bank Piazza

The crowning jewel of BOQ Festival Garden, South Bank Piazza transformed into a sparkling performance space for a star-studded line-up of musicians and performers across the 23 days. This versatile venue hosted a diverse offering, from the swoon and swing music of *Hugh Sheridan Live* to the cabaret opulence of *Skyfall: The Music of James Bond* by The Little Red Company and the heart-warming

exuberance of *Auntie's Fiafia Night* by Casus Circus. Festival nights turned up the glam with highlights including the sequin-clad song and circus of *Razzle Dazzle Riot*, the cheekiness of *Dirty Laundry* by Briefs Factory International and a stellar sold-out concert from Brisbane's own superstar, Kate Miller-Heidke.





## Street Serenades

**A standout smash in 2020, Street Serenades hit the road again by popular demand in 2021.**

Presented with the support of Brisbane City Council, five mobile stages crisscrossed all 190 suburbs of Brisbane presenting show-stopping performances spanning circus, cabaret, dance, DJ sets and live music. This year there were more artists, and more performances and opportunities for Brisbane residents to explore their city and catch a free, live concert in their neighbourhood. Passionate suburban hosts were recruited to assist in connecting their community and promoting their suburb's Street Serenade throughout their neighbourhood. Popular Serenades included Luaté, Katie Noonan, Chris Tamwoy, Camerata, Queensland's Chamber Orchestra, the 7 Sopranos and Beddy Rays.

## At Our Place

*Street Serenades: At Our Place*, presented by the Queensland Government, was a new public program working with Neighbourhood and Community Centres in Inala, Acacia Ridge, Wynnum, Ellen Grove, Cannon Hill, Nundah, Mitchelton and Coopers Plains. Through music and movement, artists used their expertise to connect communities and individuals to strengthen social cohesion and create a sense of belonging.

Workshops culminated in participants presenting triumphant performances in their community as part of Brisbane Festival's Street Serenades program.

**"It was clear that everyone really enjoyed the process and that they felt part of something special"**

ST DAVID'S NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE, COOPERS PLAINS





## Blockbusters

Trent Dalton's *Boy Swallows Universe*, adapted for the stage by Tim McGarry, broke box office records to become Brisbane Festival's highest selling show ever. Presented by Brisbane Festival, Queensland Theatre and Queensland Performing Arts Centre, the season was extended three times, resulting in a sold-out six-week run to nearly 40,000 people. Another epic world premiere, *Ishmael* by Dead Puppet Society, delivered boundary-pushing visual theatre as a trio of performers working with live filmmaking, miniature sets and puppetry took audiences on a voyage to the outer solar system.

**"A show of epic dreaming and scale."**

ARTS REVIEW ON TRENT DALTON'S BOY SWALLOWS UNIVERSE

## Powerhouse Productions

Brisbane Powerhouse hosted two vastly different but equally affecting world premiere events. Performance renegades Polytoxic dusted off the wrecking ball for their large-scale production of *Demolition*, an explosion of cabaret, physical theatre and social activism where femme tradies took a sledgehammer to the system in a hard-hitting and unapologetic reclamation of space. The Good Room's *Let's Be Friends Forever* blended documentary, theatre, live dogs and their real humans to share heart-warming and emotional stories, paying tribute to our canine companions and winning the hearts of audiences.

**"A show that was heart warming and heart-rending at the same time."**

THE COURIER-MAIL ON LET'S BE FRIENDS FUREVER

P 18, clockwise from left to right:

*Boy Swallows Universe*  
*Ishmael*

Images by David Kelly  
(*BSU*) and Dean Hanson  
(*Ishmael*)

P 19, clockwise from left to right:

*Let's Be Friends Forever*  
*DEMOLITION*

Images by  
Atmosphere Photography

# Marketing



WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS  
**2,259,638**

DESKTOP 24.5% MOBILE & TABLET 75.5%



FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS  
**107,000**



INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS  
**42,000**



TWITTER FOLLOWERS  
**178,000**



LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS  
**9,000**

Marketing

**Brisbane Festival's program was launched on 14 July with a brand campaign reflecting joy, optimism and celebration.**

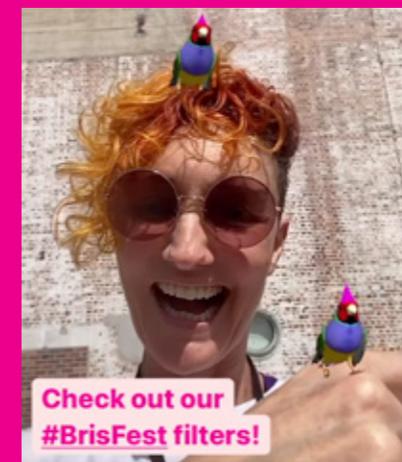
Despite being interrupted by an 8-day lockdown from 31 July, resulting in just a four-week ticket sales window, the marketing campaign hit its stride with the Festival exceeding box office targets in its opening week. The mainstay of the advertising campaign was a collection of striking visuals deployed across out-of-home (street furniture, transit, digital roadside), online video (BVOD and YouTube), television, print, digital display, lifestyle media and owned channels.

## Digital experience

We developed a 'festival within a festival' to help audiences navigate the expansive Street Serenades program in different ways, and find performances by location, artist or date.

## Instagram filters

Brisbane Festival commissioned internationally recognised Brisbane VR and new media artist Michelle Brown to create two interactive AR (augmented reality) Instagram filters, inspired by Brisbane Festival and Florentijn Hofman's work *Messengers of Brisbane*.



# Publicity

**Brisbane Festival made an indelible mark on a state and national level in 2021 with its Brightly Brisbane program delivered in the age of COVID.**

The significant increase in editorial clips and audience reach reflects the keen interest in Brisbane Festival as a dynamic, experimental, multi-arts and cultural event. Coverage spread across the country through media outlets including The Australian, The Guardian Australia, ABC TV, News Breakfast, Vogue Australia, NITV and ABC Radio National. The return of Sunsuper Riverfire resulted in a record-breaking uptake of media interest during the final week of the Festival, with media partner Channel 9 recording the highest average audience in five years with its broadcast of the fireworks spectacular.

A TOTAL OF  
**6,125**  
EDITORIAL CLIPS



**3,675**  
SYNDICATED  
ARTICLES

**203%**  
INCREASE IN MEDIA  
CLIPS FROM 2020



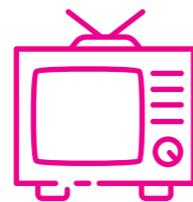
ASR VALUE OF  
**\$6.2**  
**Million**



**134**  
**Million**  
ESTIMATED  
MEDIA REACH



**3,799**  
BROADCAST  
CLIPS

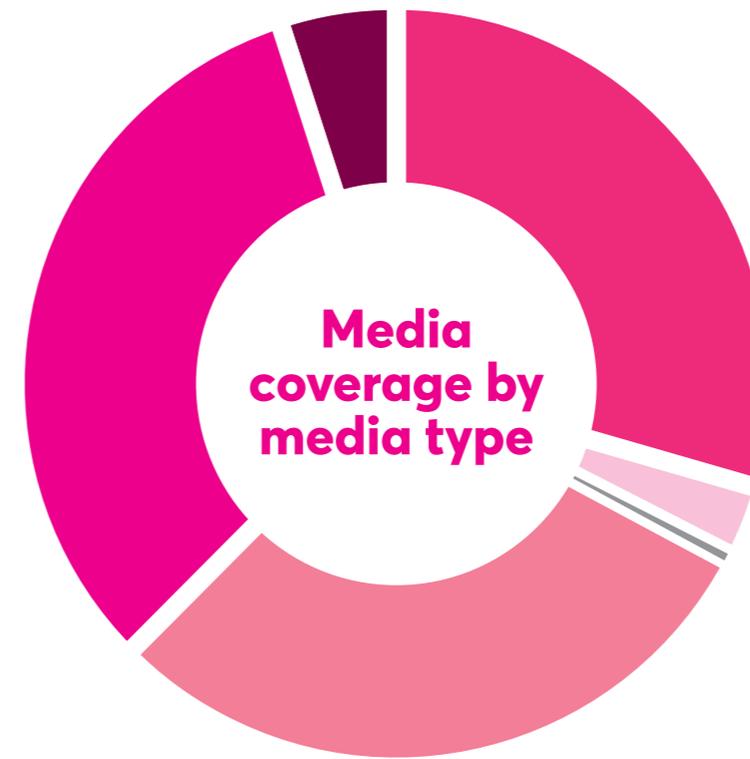


**2,960**  
INTERSTATE/  
NATIONAL CLIPS

## National coverage



ACROSS THE AUSTRALIAN, THE GUARDIAN AUSTRALIA, ABC TV NEWS BREAKFAST, VOGUE AUSTRALIA, NITV AND ABC RADIO NATIONAL



**1,816**  
ONLINE



**190**  
PRINT



**17**  
MAGAZINE



**1,820**  
TV



**1,979**  
RADIO



**303**  
SOCIAL



**Highest volume  
of coverage  
nationally**

**"Bezzina's artistic directorship is a lesson in resilience. She brilliantly snatched the Festival from the jaws of defeat last year, pivoting to present a Covid-safe event that was a triumph against the odds."**

THE COURIER-MAIL QWEEKEND 7 AUGUST

**"Cover story: From September 3-25, the city will come alive with a huge range of events for all ages at over 200 locations around the southeast. Lots of the events are free including the Sunsuper Riverfire, which is set to light up the sky on September 25."**

THE SUNDAY MAIL FACTOR X 15 AUGUST

**"Empowerment and reaching for the stars could well describe the driving force behind the Indigenous fashion sector. It is also the theme of an Indigenous fashion show at this year's Brisbane Festival, the first such show in the Festival's history."**

THE AUSTRALIAN 30 AUGUST

**"Live Weather Cross from Northshore, Hamilton featuring Brisbane's Art Boat, Airship Orchestra and Sky Castle."**

NATIONAL NINE NEWS 2 SEPTEMBER

**"On Friday, as this year's festival gets underway with the long awaited stage premiere of Trent Dalton's *Boy Swallows Universe*, festival director Louise Bezzina has the distinction of launching two festival programs mid-pandemic."**

THE AUSTRALIAN 3 SEPTEMBER

**"On the streets of suburban Brisbane this month, audiences will see ballet performances and classes, be enrapt in chamber music and listen to an array of sopranos as part of Brisbane Festival."**

LIMELIGHT 6 SEPTEMBER

## **Dancenorth RED**

**"I have never seen anything like this. Nobody has. Brisbane Festival could have run this show for another two weeks and it would have sold out every night."**

THE COURIER-MAIL 13 SEPTEMBER

## **Street Serenades**

**"The best thing about having *Street Serenades* ... was that there were a lot of people in our community that had never experienced anything like the performance."**

RESIDENT, ASPLEY

## **Skyfall**

**"... rewards audiences with an aural treat and overall damn good entertainment."**

LIMELIGHT MAGAZINE 15 SEPTEMBER

## **Auntie's Fiafia Night**

**"Enthralling, enchanting, powerful, moving and inspiring. This was one show that I didn't want to end."**

CREATIVE FUTURES ONLINE 3 SEPTEMBER

## **Demolition**

**"The Brisbane Festival is a broad church and local company Polytoxic's show *Demolition* proves that."**

GOLD COAST BULLETIN 8 SEPTEMBER

## **Boy Swallows Universe**

**"The landmark *Boy Swallows Universe* is something truly special and likely the best theatre you will have seen in a long time."**

BLUE CURTAINS BRISBANE 17 SEPTEMBER

## **Weredingo**

**"An amazingly poignant and important work. The performance of first nations artforms in a contemporary narrative was beautiful and inspiring."**

ATTENDEE

# Social Media



@liliroesselphotography



@snapsproject



@festival\_lyfe



@otway\_photography



@brisvegasdad



@karulprojects



@lilith.revere



@bne



@brisbanefestival



@lougilbertphotos

**Jane**

You pulled together a fantastic Festival in-spite of all the logistics and hurdles along the way. Congratulations on a fabulous 3 weeks of amazing performances!!



**Lyn**

One of your best. Brisbane is so fortunate to be able to still do festivals. Loved all the shows and I saw quite a few.



**Saskia**

So glad I got to enjoy so much of it - your timing was the luckiest! BrisFest is my favourite time of year and I am already looking forward to the next one. Best part was definitely dancing by the river with so many groovy people [...]

Trent Dalton's  
Boy Swallow's Universe

**Tracy**

Loved it! Well done to all, great show and fantastic to have such talent here in QLD.

Trent Dalton's  
Boy Swallow's Universe

**Ian**

Bris Festival Swallows a Winner! Great achievement.

Ishmael

**Greg**

Absolutely incredible production. Excellent work DPS

**Bonnie**

What an Incredible Team that put it all together



Street Serenades

**Diana**

Sooooo enjoyable!

Let's Be Friends Furever

**Cathy -**

A beautiful show, and lots of ugly-crying! We don't deserve dogs



Ishmael

**Elizabeth**

A remarkable production. As interesting to watch the set manipulation to the side of stage. Wonderful.

Brisbane's Art Boat

**Patrick**

I did this cruise last night with live opera playing. Absolutely magical. Loved it.

Brisbane's Art Boat

**Ainsley**

Terrific time last night onboard! Tom Thum was also amazing



Let's Be Friends Furever

**Tara**

...from one dog lover to another, you need to go to this! On all next week at the powerhouse.

Let's Be Friends Furever

**Helen**

If you want to know what love is ... see this show



Let's Be Friends Furever

**Robert**

I had no idea what to expect when I went to the Powerhouse tonight. What a brilliant production!! Memorable, delightful and moving. Extraordinary theatre. Thank you.

Brisbane's Art Boat

**Anne**

We had a lovely evening on the art boat. Thanks Brisbane festival. Also have to call out the staff on the boat for exceptional customer service. We were delayed by rain that cleared up, and they managed the situation perfectly.

BOQ Festival Garden

**Steve**

Fantastic set up at SouthBank! We were there last night to see Razzle Dazzle

BOQ Festival Garden

**Jaggi**

South Bank - Truly a Spectacular Entertainment Destination all year round ! Well done to all involved in making this possible!

RED

**Siân**

This was brilliant.

Trent Dalton's  
Boy Swallow's Universe

**Melissa**

Saw the show last night and it was AMAZING! Joe Klocek showed such beautiful raw emotion and the rest of the cast supported him brilliantly



Trent Dalton's  
Boy Swallow's Universe

**David**

Return season? Tour? Yes please!

Auntie's Fiafia Night

**Kylie**

Fabulous - highly recommend

Weredingo

**Kevin**

A brilliant narration of current times through amazing storylines that only these amazing performers can give us.

Street Serenades

**Jenny**

Thank you to everyone from Street Serenades for making our concert happen last night. It was a huge success and brought so much joy to our little part of the world.

# Partnerships



Thanks to the support of our partners, we brought Brisbane another Festival during a time of uncertainty. The confidence from our partners shone through, and together we delivered a Brightly Brisbane Festival.

## Case Study #1

### Bank of Queensland

As a new partner to Brisbane Festival in 2021, Bank of Queensland (BOQ) enabled the Festival to deliver a successful hub that became a central element of the 23-day celebrations. BOQ Festival Garden, which was situated in South Bank Parklands, offered free programming, food, bars, a range of ticketed shows, and a beautiful space for all to visit. Using the partnership to show their support of what makes Brisbane great, BOQ was also able to deliver a range of unique experiences including client events, competitions through social media as well as opportunities to engage and reward staff.

**“BOQ Festival Garden was the perfect location for us to host clients and friends. The entertainment, theming and atmosphere all made it a truly wonderful experience.”**

BILL OWENS, MANAGING DIRECTOR, VERACITY



## Case Study #2

### South Bank Corporation

A long-term supporter of Brisbane Festival, South Bank Corporation tasked Brisbane Festival with enlivening the precinct after a challenging period of lockdowns. Hosting BOQ Festival Garden in South Bank, showcasing a full ticketed program at South Bank Piazza and activating the Little Stanley Street Lawn with free, fun Light Seesaws resulted in the precinct becoming a buzz of activity throughout the Festival. During September South Bank Corporation noted a significant uplift in retail sales and traffic to the precinct, with many restaurants having one of their busiest months in the last year.

P 32:  
BOQ Festival Garden  
P 312  
IMB Institute of Light  
All images by  
Atmosphere Photography

## Case Study #3

### UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB)

*IMB Institute of Light*, created by techno-troublemakers Counterpilot, was the result of a creative partnership between Brisbane Festival and IMB. The audience became part of the experience as they brought this large-scale sound and lighting installation to life, illuminating the often-mysterious work of researchers at IMB. Through an artistic and storytelling lens, this unique partnership enchanted audiences and revealed some of the great discoveries, for a global health impact, that are underway at IMB.

# Giving Program



The impact of the investment made by Festival donors has been profound - Brisbane Festival 2021 shone brighter than ever.

The Giving Program enjoyed strong growth this year, attracting a record number of donors and contributing a record-breaking level of support for the 2021 Brightly Brisbane Festival.

Louise Bezzina's second Brisbane Festival as Artistic Director encountered endless twists, turns and pirouettes, yet in each difficulty, we found opportunity. Over 23 days, we presented 17 new works, 16 world premieres, delivered 654 performances and presented events in 222 locations across the city.

The Festival engaged 43 Queensland companies, employed more than 1,100 local artists and art workers, and importantly delivered the largest First Nations program yet.

Productions like Trent Dalton's *Boy Swallows Universe*, *RED* by Dancenorth and The Good Room's *Lets Be Friends Furever* - commissions supported by the Giving Program - are world class new works that have a life beyond Brisbane Festival 2021.

From the main stage to community workshops, this year's big, live and local Festival was an opportunity to connect with one another, and it couldn't have happened without the backing of Festival donors.

We are incredibly grateful for the tremendous support of donors to the Giving Program in 2021. Heartfelt thanks for your trust and generosity.

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*
- 

*Street Serenades*
- 

*RED*
- Sky Castle*
- Trent Dalton's Boy Swallows Universe*
- First Nations Fashion*
- Airship Orchestra*
- Ishmael*
- Skyfall*
- Messengers of Brisbane Return*
- Let's Be Friends Furever*
- Collision*
- Imaginaria*

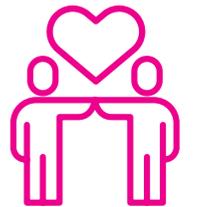




GIVING PROGRAM 2021

**\$723,260** RAISED FROM  
AN INCREASE OF \$164,000 ON 2020.

**283**  
FESTIVAL DONORS



TOTAL PHILANTHROPIC INCOME  
**\$2,308,501**  
(2016-2021)

TOTAL NUMBER OF DONATIONS (2016-2021)  
**1,059**



2021	<b>\$723,260</b>	<b>283 Donors</b>
2020	<b>\$559,053</b>	<b>135 Donors</b>
2019	<b>\$417,576</b>	<b>250 Donors</b>
2018	<b>\$397,169</b>	<b>171 Donors</b>
2017	<b>\$148,483</b>	<b>129 Donors</b>
2016	<b>\$62,960</b>	<b>91 Donors</b>



**FESTIVAL DONORS  
MAKE IT HAPPEN**



# Social Gallery



# Thank You

**That we were able to present a Festival, second time around, amidst the chaos of COVID-19 is testament to the passionate and committed extended family that is Brisbane Festival – our Board, advisory groups, stakeholders, partners, donors - our many artists and arts workers, collaborators, producers, venues, suppliers - our incredible Festival team and volunteers - and of course the community of Brisbane who didn't miss a beat and came out by the thousands to party in the spring sunshine with us.**

We thank you all for your love of the Festival and trust in our offering; for opening your hearts, minds and many of you, your wallets to support, celebrate and commune with art and each other.

In 2021 we promised a September that was Brightly Brisbane. Louise Bezzina's artistic program more than delivered. From the glowing wonder of Brisbane's Art Boat and the technicolour splendour of Airship Orchestra and Sky Castle to the endangered, fragile beauty of floral illuminations in *LOST*, *IMB Illuminate's* fantastical microscopic world writ large in the lush rainforest and the return of spectacular skies in Sunsuper Riverfire, this was a Festival that drew us out of ourselves and the ordinary and propelled us into joyous new places through music, dance, performance, art and play.

There was fun, contemplation, colour and light to ignite the city from day into night and together as a community we could celebrate and smile again.

We know now that this city and this community can achieve anything. If 2022 can be even brighter than this Festival just past, together we will make it so.

See you in September!

**Charlie Cush**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

# Looking Forward

**In September 2021, I delivered my second Brisbane Festival under a pandemic. We were lucky, held our nerve, evolved the program with each border closure and found new offers for our audiences each time.**

It was an honour and privilege to make and present live performances and experiences during these exceptional times, but it was also our responsibility – to the artists and artworkers, venues and many associated industries and to our audiences. Our pledge was to create employment and share hope, joy and human connection.

Blessed with an abundance of great artists, we were able to produce work distinctly of this place. September was a time to celebrate and embrace our community. Once again, the arts brought us together.

In 2022, we will remain true to our instincts: that the Festival should reach out to Brisbane people wherever they are, and that the program be about the exhilaration of live performance.

Next year with the world open, we will reach for the stars and present national and international artists and profound, extraordinary works to sit alongside our stellar local offering. There will be premieres, award-winning productions, works of scale, installations, collaborations and commissions.

Our program will continue to honour the stories of the diverse communities that make Brisbane unique and shine a light on our city's place in the world. Works of and by First Nations peoples will be integral to the Festival program.

In 2022 we will welcome all comers from near and far. We will see new faces, make new friends and hold our old ones close.

Mark your diary for 2 – 24 September and standby for three weeks of wonder, delight and celebration.

**Louise Bezzina**  
*Artistic Director*

# Partners

## Foundation Partners



Queensland  
Government



BRISBANE CITY

*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



# Festival Team

## Artistic Director

Louise Bezzina

## Board

Alison Smith, Chair  
Philip Bacon AO, Deputy Chair  
Raelene Baker

## Chief Executive Officer

Charlie Cush

Cory Heathwood  
Simon Morrison  
Amanda Newbery

Karen Prentis  
Anna Reynolds  
Chris Tyquin

## Leadership Team

Dana Brown  
Fabienne Cooke  
Rebecca Drummond  
Kate Fell  
Julia Herne  
Tim Pack  
Karen Soennichsen

Head of Partnerships and Engagement  
Head of Philanthropy  
Finance Director and Company Secretary  
Program Director  
Head of Business Administration  
Technical Director  
Marketing and Communications Director

## Indigenous Advisory Group

Michelle Tuahine  
Aunty Raelene Rallah-Baker  
Bob Weatherall  
Bridget Garay  
Shannon Ruska  
Benjin Maza

Chair – Gangulu, Ngāti Kahungunu  
Birri Juru, Birri Gubba, Wurrungu, Yuggera  
Kamilaroi Elder  
Kemer Kemer Meriam Nation  
Brisbane Traditional Owner  
Meriam, Tanna, Birri-Gubba and Yidindji

## Giving Committee

Justice Thomas Bradley, Chair  
Courtney Talbot, Deputy Chair  
Philip Bacon AO  
Eliza Baxby  
Heidi Cooper  
Simon Morrison  
Ben Poschelk  
Anna Reynolds  
Paul Taylor



# BRISBANE FESTIVAL

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

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