



ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND

EOI INFORMATION PACK

SUBMISSIONS OPEN UNTIL WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2026



2027

WELCOME TO THE ENLIGHTEN FESTIVAL

The Enlighten Festival returns in 2027 for a celebration of art, light and entertainment from Friday 26 February – Monday 8 March.

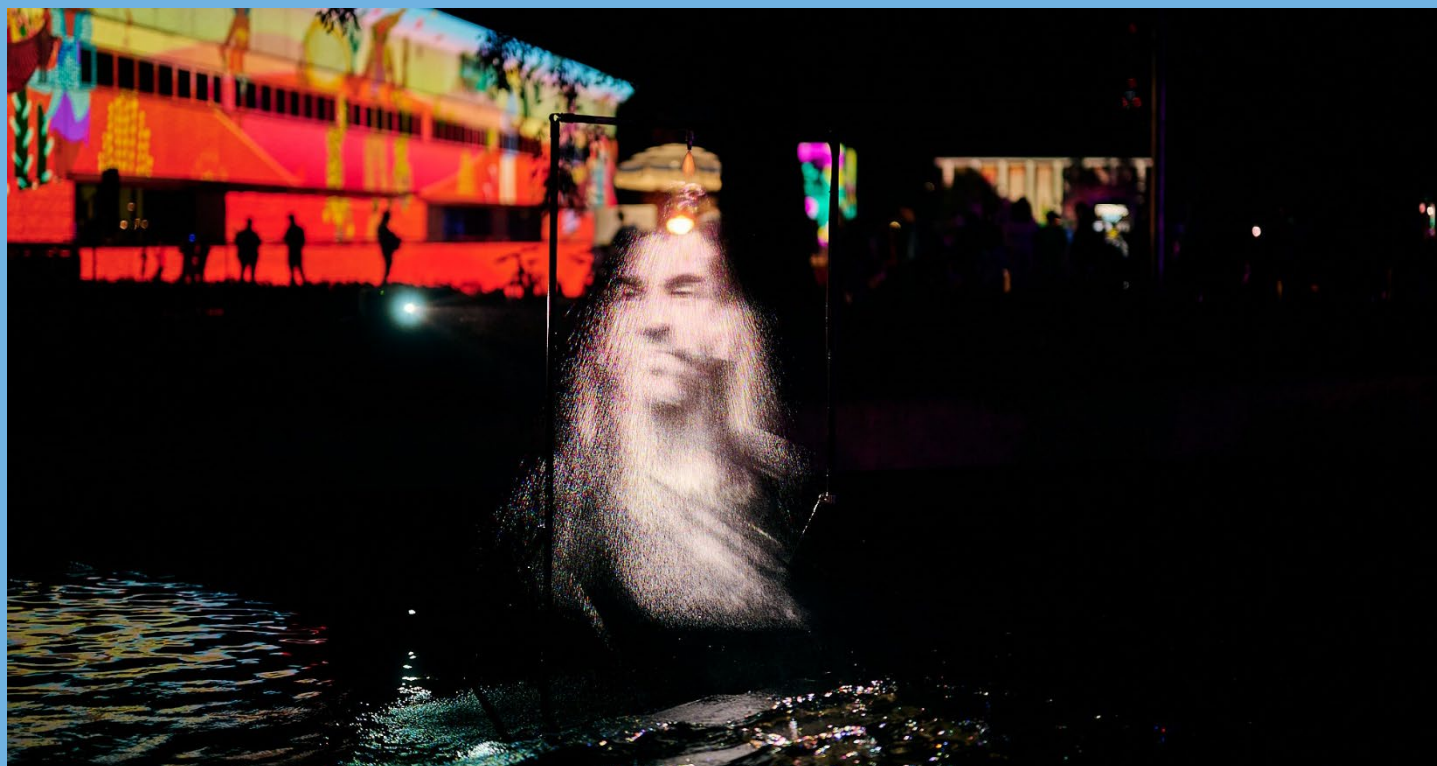
The Enlighten Festival brings Canberra to life each Autumn. The Festival Hub in the National Triangle unites a cohort of National Cultural Institutions across 11 days and nights, and with the Enlighten: Beyond program, the adventure extends across Canberra and the region.

A Festival of creativity and discovery, Enlighten shines a light on Canberra as the home of many whose role is collecting, sharing and telling the many stories of this continent, and invites audiences on this journey through spectacular Illuminations, stunning art installations, captivating performances, live music, food and experiences all over the city.

Canberra arts and cultural organisations, attractions, venues, producers and artists are formally invited to lodge their interest in being part of the ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND program, the Festival's program of compelling, adventurous, and unexpected events, performances and experiences happening all over the ACT.



WHAT IS ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND?



ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND takes the sense of excitement and discovery of the Enlighten Festival at the National Triangle and invites audiences to explore the wealth of experiences on offer all over Canberra during the Festival period.

Responding to 2027's Creative Vision of *HERE: celebrating place / landscape / environment*, events in the ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND program will entice audiences with surprising and entertaining experiences from Canberra's arts organisations, institutions and business outside the Festival site at the National Triangle.

These events will create an even greater sense of celebration and adventure across the whole city, encouraging participation beyond the festival site, beyond expectations, and beyond the ordinary!

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR



ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND programming should:

- Align with the 2027 Creative Vision *HERE: celebrating place / landscape / environment.*
- Offer a unique, innovative experience for audiences that is not just a ‘**business as usual**’ offering.
- Be held any time during the Festival period which is February 26 – March 8, 2027. Events can be held at any time, day or night.
- Be anything from a one-off event or a series of events
- Be self-funded by your organisation/business (there is no funding available from Events ACT)
- Any events requiring ticketing or registrations, must be run through the Enlighten Festival ticketing platform to provide a central point of services for festival patrons.

ENLIGHTEN CREATIVE VISION 2027

HERE:

celebrating PLACE / LANDSCAPE / ENVIRONMENT

In 2027 we look up, out and across the world around us, towards landscapes natural, cared for and created, reflecting on how spaces and places make us feel at home, help us to belong, and encourage us to explore.

The Enlighten Festival makes its home Ngunnawal Country in Canberra, where the mission of telling the many stories of this continent happens every day. In this place you can feel connection to the wider Australian landscape: the expansive skies that cover this Country, the waters of Lake Burley Griffin and the rising horizons of the neighbouring Brindabella Range.

In 2027 Enlighten will look to this place and explore what it means to us right now, today. We're asking what it means to have a Festival HERE, on Ngunnawal Country, in the National Triangle, in Canberra, on this continent and even on this Earth.

We'll also ask what is it that makes any place meaningful? We'll create space to explore what makes a landscape unique, how people and communities come together to bring place to life, and how in turn the environment makes its mark on us.



ALIGNING WITH HERE

Programming for ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND 2027 should be inspired by the question:

What is your place, your space, and what stories are told, do you tell and could be told there?

To help answer this, you could consider:

- *What are the physical, natural and built spaces you can or could program in to?*
- *Who made them/how were they made and who is there? Who could be there?*
- *Are the spaces natural, created, curated, imagined, ephemeral?*
- *What makes these spaces meaningful? Structures, people, environment, time, history or activity?*

These can be categorised into three main streams of interpretation:

CANBERRA ARTISTS AND STORIES

Expressing a direct connection to this place, but extending to other stories that can be connected back here

LANDSCAPES, ENVIRONMENT + SPACE

The physical world around us, interpretations of space, and different types of spaces, large and small, real or imagined.

A CONNECTION TO PLACE

Relationships to place, how meaning is made by and with place





ALIGNING WITH HERE

This exploration of place, landscape and environment offers a variety of aesthetic or conceptual prompts, such as:

- First Nations stories, history, culture + art
- Arrival + Departure in a place
- Buildings and their grounds and gardens
- Built landscapes, architecture
- Our relationship to place and our environment
- Natural world + environment
- Travel and liminal spaces, the in-between
- Australian landscape + environment
- Temporary spaces
- Waters, rivers, lakes
- Communities and how they gather
- The sky and the stars
- Digital worlds and augmented spaces
- Imagined and non-physical spaces
- Interior and exterior spaces
- The concept of home, sanctuary, haven

CRITERIA

When considering your event for inclusion in ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND, Events ACT will assess it against the following criteria:

Alignment with the *HERE* theme

What part of the prompts above are considered? How does it engage conceptually and/or aesthetically with the theme?

Overall Program balance and variety of offerings across the Festival

What experience is it offering visitors? Is there something unique or innovative in the offering? Does it reach or speak to a specific audience? Who and what does the offering represent?

Is it creative, awe-inspiring, thought-provoking and contemporary

What makes the offering exciting? What compelling ideas does it speak to? How will it excite audiences and create powerful experiences? How is it unique or different to the usual offering of the business or organisation?

SUPPORT FOR ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND EVENTS

While there is no funding available for ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND events, the Enlighten Festival will support all events that are included in this program stream by:

- Inclusion on the official Enlighten website (www.enlightencanberra.com) with a dedicated listing page that will include your provided pictures and marketing copy, with a direct link to purchase tickets if required.
- Providing an official Enlighten: Beyond marketing toolkit with brand assets and social tiles to use in your own event marketing.
- Inclusion on the official Enlighten ticketing landing page.
- Sharing or tagging of social posts where possible

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

You can submit an Expression of Interest at any time until **Wednesday 30 September 2026**, by completing a brief online EOI form.

[Access the online EOI form here:](#)

Complete the application details as prompted. You will be asked for details of the name, location, proposed dates and a summary of your program or activity.

If you would like to submit more than one event or idea for consideration, please submit a separate form for each one.

Please note that the submission of an EOI does not guarantee inclusion in ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND



Successful EOIs will be contacted directly by Events ACT and may require further information and negotiation.

If you have any questions regarding your submission, please email entertainment@act.gov.au

THANK YOU

[START YOUR APPLICATION HERE](#)

ARTWORKS PICTURED

Kukawarra kwatja, pmara nhanhanama marra inthurra, soft rain, strong Country, Grace Kemarre Robinya, Yarrenyty Artere Artists and Tangentyere Artists, National Gallery of Australia, Enlighten Festival 2026

The Page Turner, Eleanor & Giovanni, National Library of Australia, Enlighten Festival 2026

You Are Me, Niow, Enlighten Festival 2026

Glitch Monument, Collide Public Art, Enlighten Festival 2026

Amorphia, The Indirect Object, Enlighten Festival 2026

Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light, The Electric Canvas, Enlighten Festival 2026

Serendipity, Atelier Sisu, Enlighten Festival 2026

Queens of the Desert, Kaylene Whiskey, National Portrait Gallery of Australia, Enlighten Festival 2026

Flamingo Flock, Liz Lea Dance, Enlighten Festival 2026

Meliora, Atelier Sisu, Enlighten Festival 2025

The Guardians, Matthew Aberline, National Library of Australia, Enlighten Festival 2025

