

ENLIGHTEN FESTIVAL BEYOND 2025

Information for arts and cultural organisations, attractions,
and venues in Canberra interested in having events and
programs as part of the Enlighten Festival in 2025

WELCOME TO THE ENLIGHTEN FESTIVAL

The Enlighten Festival will be back for 2025 and will once again light up the nation's capital from Friday 28 February – Monday 10 March.

The Enlighten Festival brings Canberra to life with culture and creativity this Autumn. In 2025, Enlighten Festival will light up the National Attractions after dark in a stunning display of light, sound and movement, in celebration and revelation of Canberra's role in telling, caring for and sharing the story of this Country.

Now in its 15th year, the festival continues to go from strength to strength and in 2024 attracted over 301,000 visitors, generating \$3.84m of economic impact from visitor spend.

Canberra arts and cultural organisations, attractions, and venues 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?

Reframing the previous After Dark program, ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND takes the sense of excitement and discovery of the Enlighten Festival at the National Triangle and entices audiences to explore the wealth of experiences on offer all over Canberra during the Festival period.

Responding to 2025's Creative Vision of Reflecting Our Story, events in the ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND program offer 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!

ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND programming should:

- Align with the 2025 Creative Vision Reflecting Our Story
- Offer a unique, innovative experience for audiences (i.e.: not business as usual)
- Held anytime during the Festival period – Feb 28 – March 11, 2025
- 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 2025: REFLECTING OUR STORY

Reflecting our Story: Celebrating Canberra's significant role in *telling, sharing, holding* and *writing* the many stories of this country - reflecting back to us, and reflecting on, our histories and achievements, our aspirations and limitless potential

It is known and celebrated that Canberra is home to the National Cultural Institutions and a community of ACT arts and cultural organisations, all a cohort with the shared mission of collecting, sharing, telling and penning the Australian story. ENLIGHTEN is the rare moment in the annual calendar where these caretakers of our stories are unified in time and place. For the Festival, the National Triangle comes alive as the only time of the year they simultaneously activate in celebration.

In this, ENLIGHTEN becomes more than another light festival: The aptness of the name ENLIGHTEN awakens through a Festival experience of revelation and knowledge all by shedding light on our champions of the Australian story that make their home in Canberra.

ALIGNING WITH *REFLECTING OUR STORY*

When considering how you event can align with this year's vision of Reflecting Our Story, EOIs for ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND could engage with these questions:

What are our stories - our histories, who are we today, what our possible futures?

How can these stories be shared at ENLIGHTEN and/or prompt reflection?

To help answer thit, your work could consider:

- What are the greatest stories you tell and that you champion?
- How do you tell these stories?
- What stories could you tell?

Reflecting Our Story also offers a variety of conceptual and aesthetic prompts:

Reflection

Light moving and refracting

Something secret revealed

Surfaces, water

Leading to change and transformation

Mirrors, glass

Seeing oneself

Contemplation, Meditation

Self-reflection, consideration, examination

Storytelling

Past, present and futures

Writing, inscribing, noting and penning

Speaking and oral stories

Narratives

Untold or rarely heard stories

History and news

Books, pages, tomes

Shared stories and community

Recordings and documentation

Storytellers themselves - who are they



CRITERIA

When considering your event for inclusion in ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND, Events ACT will consider the following:

Alignment with the Reflecting Our Story vision

What part of the prompts above are considered? How does it engage conceptually and/or aesthetically with the vision? Is there a clear story being told or reflected?

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 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 TO SUBMIT YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

You can submit an Expression of Interest at any time until Friday September 20, by emailing entertainment@act.gov.au with the email subject ENLIGHTEN: BEYOND.

Your expression of interest should include:

- Name and details of your proposed event(s), including location, proposed dates, target audience, and a summary of the program or activity.
- Name and details of your organisation/business.
- Indication of if this will be a ticketed or free event.
- How your event aligns with the theme of Reflecting Our Story.
- Any attachments, links, images to help illustrate your event.

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

If you have any questions please get in touch with Enlighten Creative Director Adam Deusien at adam.deusien@act.gov.au