



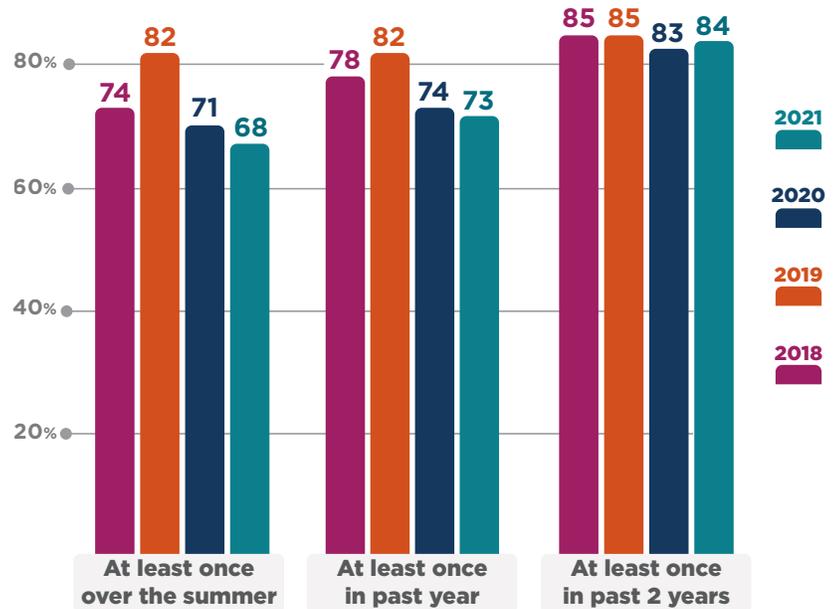
# Arts and culture monitor Western Australia 2021

## Attendance and participation in arts and culture

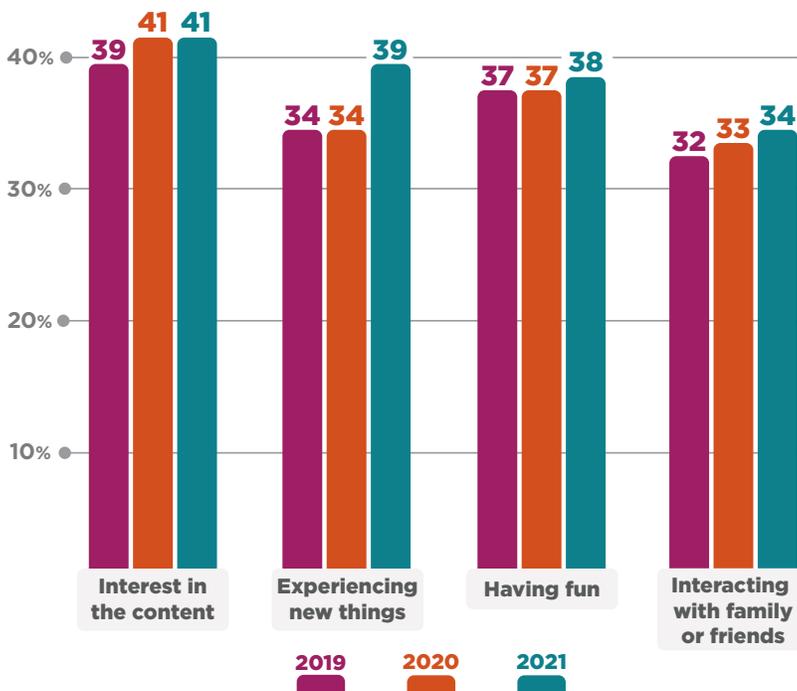
In 2021, Western Australians continue to report **good levels of attendance at arts and cultural activities**, with 68 per cent attending activities over the summer months prior to the survey (April 2021). **Lower attendance is likely to be due to audience response to COVID-19 restrictions.**

The percentage of respondents who attended or participated in at least one activity decreased only slightly to 73 per cent. A slight increase of 84 per cent of respondents attended or participated in an activity in the past two years.

Arts and cultural activities include cinema, music, theatre, dance, visual arts, opera, festivals, libraries, galleries, museums, archives and community cultural events.



## Top four motivators for participation



The main motivators are **interest in the content, experiencing new things, having fun** and **interacting with family and friends.**

COVID-19 restrictions do not appear to have impacted motivators, with the possible exception of wanting to experience new things which increased by 5 percentage points. The increased access to free online content during the pandemic may have allowed Western Australians to try new activities that they have not had access to previously.

The standout variances are that 74 per cent of respondents in the Gascoyne region are much more likely to mention interacting with friends and family.

## Access and participation in arts and culture

Western Australians access to, and participation in, arts and culture **decreased slightly to an index score of 66 out of 100** due to the number of events that could be delivered in 2020-21. Even though the results have dropped slightly in 2021, access and participation is still increasing overall from 61 out of 100 in 2016.

Access in regional areas decreased to 59 out of 100 and access in the metro area is 70 out of 100. Peel and the Great Southern continue to report the highest levels of access in regional WA.



## Community and individual value

Western Australians **continue to highly value the role that arts and culture plays in their community** with the highest result achieved in the past 13 years providing an index score of 78 out of 100 in 2021.

**Respondents appreciate how valuable the role of arts and culture is to their personal life** with results remaining steady and dropped by only one point to an index score of 65 out of 100 in 2021.

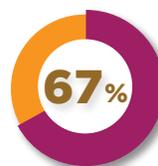


## Public attitudes

The 2021 survey highlights **positive levels of support** towards arts and culture in the community.



Consider it **important for children to access arts and cultural activities** as part of their education



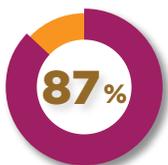
Consider the **contribution of arts and culture valuable to the identity of the State**



Believe that the **government should invest in arts and cultural activities**



Consider the **contribution of arts and culture valuable to their sense of community**



State that the **arts make them feel good**



Believe that the **arts should not rely on ticket sales alone**

## Public value



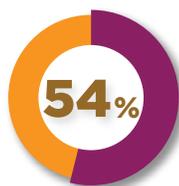
The Western Australian Government provides \$2.21 of public funding per person for arts and cultural activities, services and facilities per week.<sup>i</sup>

When the respondents were asked whether this amount was 'too low', 'about right' or 'too high', 57 per cent considered this amount to be 'too low'. Only nine per cent of respondents said it was 'too high', with 17 per cent of respondents providing an 'unsure' answer.

**The percentage of respondents willing to pay more to improve access to arts and culture in WA is at an all-time high of 80 per cent.** Respondents were asked what amount they would be willing to pay per week to expand or increase access. 35 per cent said they were prepared to pay up to \$2 per week more; 40 per cent said they were happy to pay between \$2 and \$10 per week more; and six per cent said they would be happy to pay over \$10 per week more. 20 per cent said they would leave funding at current levels.

## COVID-19 impact

Since March 2020, COVID-19 restrictions have impacted on opportunities to attend and participate in arts and culture activities. Respondents were asked to what degree did they miss being able to attend or participate in activities. **54% of respondents missed activities during COVID-19 restrictions.** This response compares to the slightly lower scores in attendance and access experienced in all areas of the 2021 survey. Activities were missed the most by respondents living in the western and outer north suburbs of Perth. Across the regions, respondents in the Gascoyne missed attending activities the least.



**missed arts and culture activities during COVID-19 restrictions**

Even though arts and culture activities were missed, more difficult to access and participate in due to COVID-19 restrictions, **87% of respondents agree that the arts make them feel good.** This agreement score is the highest value recorded since 2013. People feel good about the arts and are motivated to participate because it improves their social and emotional wellbeing.<sup>ii</sup>

<sup>i</sup> Calculation provided by Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and based on total Western Australian Government funding of \$114.91 per person per year towards Arts and Cultural activities as reported in the Meeting of Cultural Ministers Statistic Working Group, [Cultural Funding by Government 2017-18](#).

<sup>ii</sup> [DLGSC Social Impacts of Culture and the Arts WA, 2019](#). The report and its application are further development of the Public Value Measurement Framework.

**Methodology** — This fact sheet was compiled from a survey conducted in 2021 by [Catalyse Pty Ltd](#) on behalf of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. A total of 1,328 respondents aged 17 and over completed the online survey with 58% from Perth metropolitan area and 42% from regional Western Australia. To view the full survey report visit the [Research Hub](#) on the DLGSC website.