

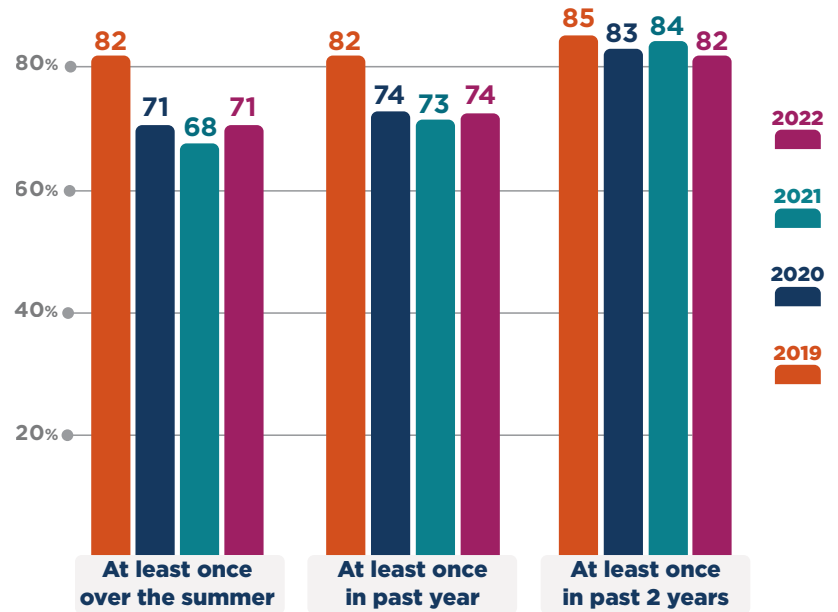


Arts and culture monitor Western Australia 2022

Attendance and participation in arts and culture

In 2022, Western Australians continue to report **good levels of attendance at arts and cultural activities**, with 71 per cent attending arts and cultural activities over the summer months prior to the survey (April 2022). The 2022 attendance returned to 2020 levels, which is likely to be due to summer festival events occurring before the COVID-19 restrictions were implemented with the border opening. Attendance levels are still significantly lower than pre COVID-19 levels in 2019.

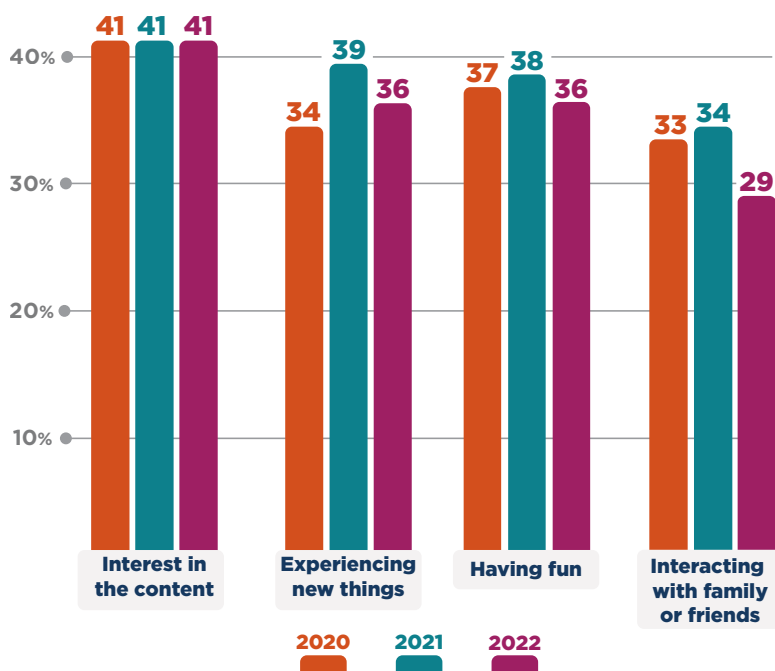
The percentage of respondents who attended or participated in at least one arts or cultural activity has increased slightly on 2021 figures to 74 per cent.



There has been a slight decrease to 82 per cent of respondents who attended or participated in an arts or cultural activity in the past two years and reflects the COVID restrictions experienced overall in WA in the past 12 months.

Arts and cultural activities include a range of activities such as the cinema, music, theatre, dance, visual arts, opera, festivals, libraries, galleries, museums, archives and community cultural events.

Top four motivators for participation



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

COVID-19 restrictions appear to have impacted some motivators in 2022. The decrease in the results for interacting with family and friends reflects the impact of the pandemic on arts and culture activity in the past year. There was also a reduction in the ability to experience new things and have fun as motivators.

The standout variance is that 67 per cent of respondents in the Gascoyne region are much more likely to mention interacting with friends and family as their top motivator compared to other regions.

Access and participation in arts and culture

Western Australians access to, and participation in, arts and culture has **increased slightly to an index score of 67 out of 100**. Despite a slight drop in 2021, the increase in 2022 levels is a good indicator that access and participation is still increasing overall since 2017.

Access in regional areas decreased to 54 out of 100 and access in the metro area is 71 out of 100. Peel and the Great Southern continue to report the highest levels of access in regional WA.



Community and individual value

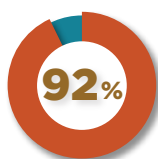
Western Australians continue to **highly value the role that arts and culture plays in their community** with continually high results providing an index score of 77 out of 100 in 2022.

Respondents appreciate how valuable the role of arts and culture is to their personal life with results remaining steady with an index score of 66 out of 100 in 2022.



Public attitudes

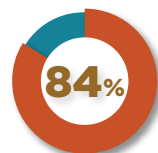
The 2022 survey highlights positive levels of support towards arts and culture in the community remain at consistent levels to previous surveys.



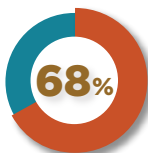
Consider it **important for children to access arts and cultural activities** as part of their education



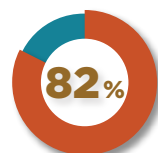
Consider the **contribution of arts and culture valuable to the identity of the State of Western Australia**



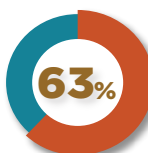
Believe that the **government should invest in arts and cultural activities**



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



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



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

Public value



Respondents were informed that the Western Australian Government provides \$2.73 of public funding per person for arts and cultural activities, services and facilities per week.ⁱ

When the respondents were asked whether in their opinion this amount was 'too low', 'about right' or 'too high', 58 per cent considered this amount to be 'too low'. Only nine per cent of respondents said it was 'too high'.

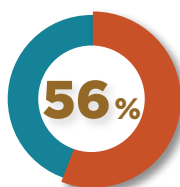
The percentage of respondents willing to pay more to improve access to arts and culture in WA is at an all-time high of 82 per cent.

Respondents were asked what amount they would be willing to pay per week to expand or increase access to arts and culture in WA:

- 31 per cent said they were prepared to pay up to \$2 per week more;
- 45 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. 18 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. **56 per cent of respondents missed arts and culture activities during COVID-19 restrictions.** Activities were missed the most by respondents living in the western and inner north suburbs of Perth. Across the regions, respondents in the Gascoyne missed attending activities the least.



of respondents missed arts and culture activities during COVID-19 restrictions

Even though arts and culture activities were missed, and more difficult to access and participate in due to COVID-19 restrictions, **82 per cent of respondents agree that the arts make them feel good.** People feel good about the arts and are motivated to attend and participate because it improves their social and emotional wellbeing.ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Calculation provided by Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and based on total Western Australian Government funding of \$114.98 per person per year towards Arts and Cultural activities as reported in the Meeting of Cultural Ministers Statistic Working Group, [Cultural Funding by Government 2019-20](#).

ⁱⁱ [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 2022 by [Catalyse Pty Ltd](#) on behalf of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. A total of 1,354 respondents aged 17 and over completed the online survey with 61% from Perth metropolitan area and 39% from regional Western Australia. To view the full survey report visit the [Research Hub](#) on the DLGSC website.