



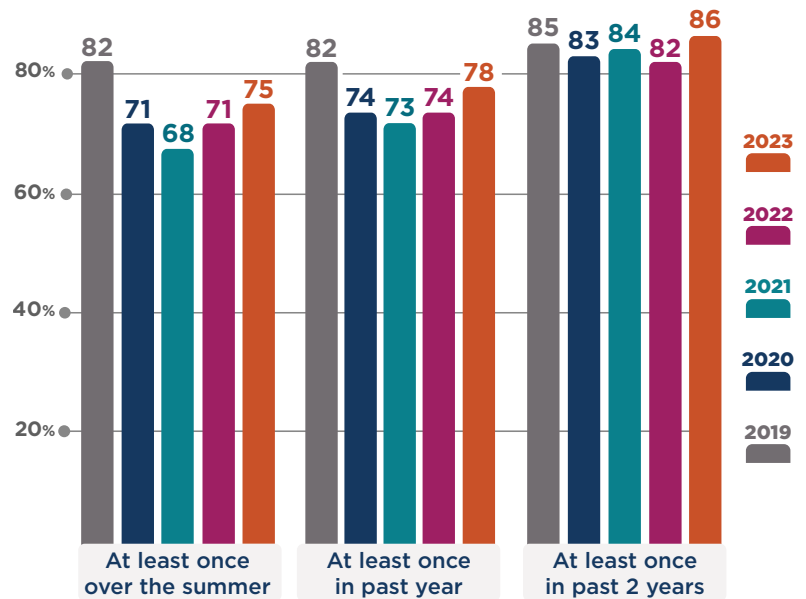
Arts and culture monitor

Western Australia 2023

Attendance and participation in arts and culture is recovering post COVID-19

A high number of Western Australians continued to attend and participate in arts and cultural activities in the past 12 months. **In 2023, 78 per cent participated in an arts and cultural activity**, up from 74 per cent in 2022 and closer to the pre-COVID level of 82 per cent in 2019.

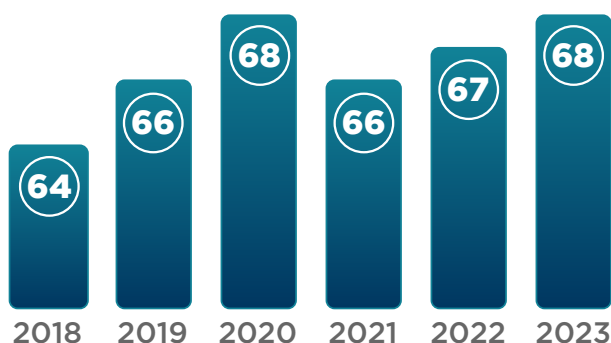
Attendance and participation in arts and culture over summer is recovering; **75 per cent of people attended arts and cultural activities over the 2023 summer months** prior to the survey. This is up from 71 per cent last year and is continuing to grow from a low of 68 per cent in 2021 when attendance was most severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



In the past two years, 86 per cent of people attended or participated in an arts and cultural activity (up from 82 per cent in 2022).

Although attendance and participation has increased, it is still lower than pre COVID-19 levels in 2019. 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.

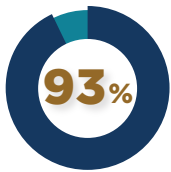
Easy access to arts and culture for most, but still a gap between metro and regional



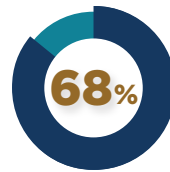
Western Australians' **ease of access to, and participation in, arts and culture has increased slightly to an index score of 68 out of 100**. Despite a slight drop in 2021, the results indicate that ease of access and participation is still increasing overall since 2018.

Although access in regional areas increased from an index score of 54 out of 100 in 2022 to 58 out of 100 in 2023, this is significantly lower than access in the metro area with an index score of 72 out of 100.

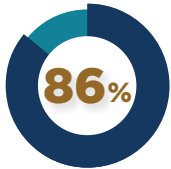
Positive levels of support towards arts and culture remain consistent



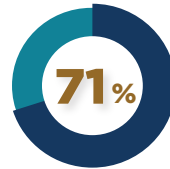
Consider it **important for children to access arts and cultural activities** as part of their education.



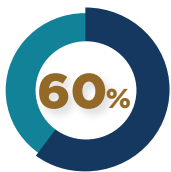
Consider the **contribution of arts and culture valuable to the identity of the State of Western Australia.**



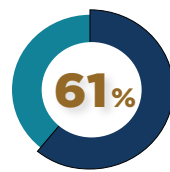
Believe that the **Western Australian Government should invest in arts and cultural activities.**



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



Believe that the **arts help the broader community and not just those who participate.**



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

People are willing to contribute more money for arts and culture

The Western Australian Government provides \$2.12 of public funding per person per week for arts and cultural activities, services and facilities¹. In 2023, **54 per cent of people believe this amount is too low**. Only 8 per cent believe it is too high.

In 2023, 81 per cent of people would be prepared to contribute more money to expand provision of and access to arts and culture.

Of the 81 per cent:

- 35 per cent would be prepared to pay up to \$2 per week more
- 41 per cent would be prepared to pay between \$2 and \$10 per week more and
- 5 per cent would be prepared to pay over \$10 per week more.

19 per cent of people would not be prepared to pay any more.

Willing to pay more money to expand provision of and access to arts and culture:

Willing to pay **\$0.01 to \$2 more per week**

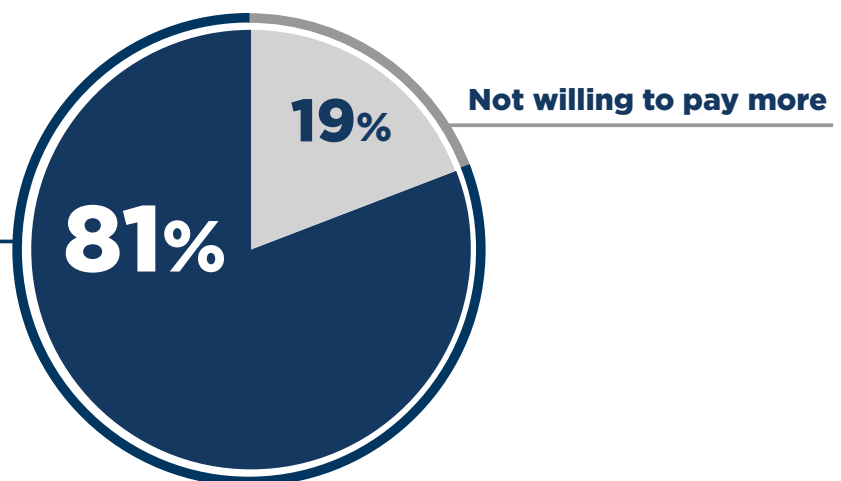
35%

Willing to pay **\$2.01 to \$10 more per week**

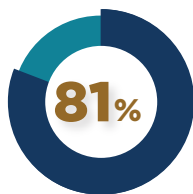
41%

Willing to pay **over \$10 more per week**

5%



The arts continue to make people feel good; people value arts and culture in their life



of Western Australians agree that the arts make them feel good

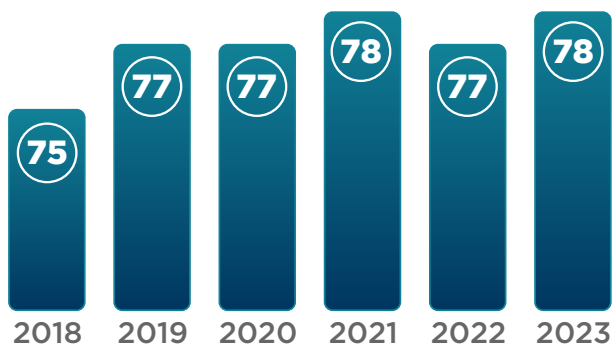
People feel good about the arts and are motivated to attend and participate because it improves their social and emotional wellbeingⁱⁱ

People highly value the role of arts and culture in their personal lives.

With an all-time high index score of 67 out of 100 in 2023, results have increased steadily over recent years.



Perceptions of community value remains high



Western Australians continue to **highly value the role that arts and culture plays in their community.**

Results have been continually high in recent years, with an index score in 2023 of 78 out of 100.

ⁱ Calculation provided by Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and based on total Western Australian Government funding of \$110.42 per person per year towards Arts and Cultural activities as reported in the Cultural and Creative Statistics Working Group, [Cultural Funding by Government, Australia, 2020-21](#)

ⁱⁱ [DLGSC Social Impacts of Culture and the Arts WA, 2019](#) The report is further development of the DLGSC Culture and the Arts Public Value Measurement Framework.

Methodology — this fact sheet was compiled from a survey conducted in 2023 by Catalyse Pty Ltd on behalf of DLGSC. A total of 1,392 respondents aged 17 and over completed the online survey with 61 per cent from Perth metropolitan area and 39 per cent from regional Western Australia. To view the full survey report, visit the [Research Hub](#) on the DLGSC website.