



**Vicki Ward MP**

Minister for Creative Industries

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee  
Inquiry into the 2026/27 Budget Estimates**

15 May 2026



Jobs, Skills,  
Industry  
and Regions

# State of the Portfolio

Victoria's creative industries:

- Contribute **\$41.1 billion** to the Victorian economy per year.
- Provide employment to more than **343,000** workers in Victoria, which is 9.0% of all employment.

The current Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation is the largest cultural infrastructure project in Australia's history.





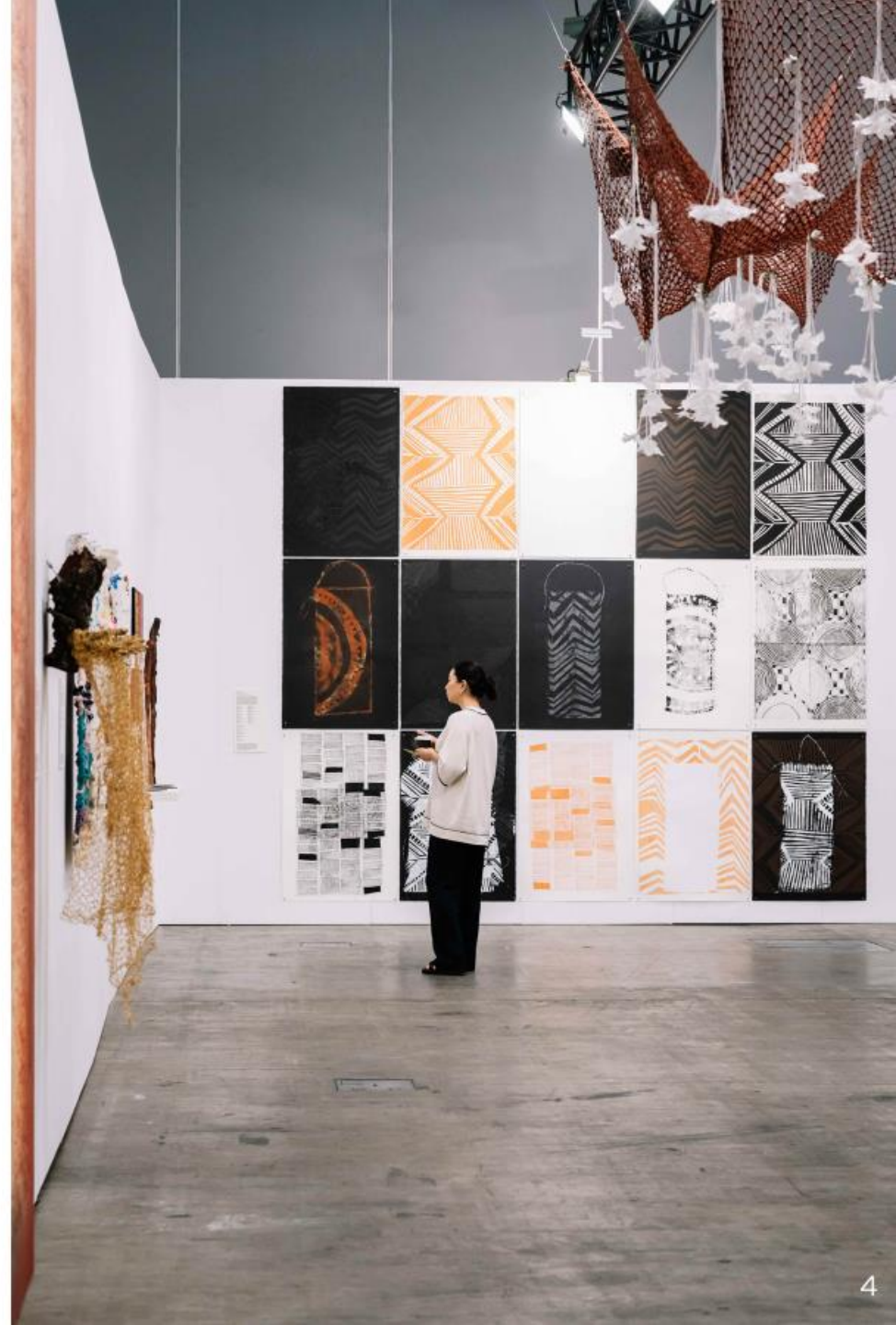
## Our Achievements

- Creative agencies welcomed **11.6 million visitors** in 2024-25.
- Record year for screen with **\$502 million** in screen related expenditure and more than **8,100 jobs** in Victoria in 2024-25.
- Record attendance of **more than 135,000** at Melbourne International Games Week 2025.
- Investment in **81 Victorian creative organisations** announced in the latest round of the Creative Enterprises Program, including 10 new organisations, 8 First Peoples led organisations, and 17 regional organisations as of December 2025.

# Our Achievements

## Breaking new ground

- The **First Peoples Art and Design Fair Showcase Exhibition**, took place at Melbourne Art Fair.
- **Circus Centre Melbourne** is providing a new hub for circus and physical theatre in Victoria.
- New partnership with Massive Monster to create **MASS games industry co-working space**.
- New strategy, **Creative State 2028** was launched last year.





## Budget Initiatives

Investing in the people, programs and facilities that power our creative state

- **\$4.5 million** supporting contemporary music
- **\$1.2 million** for regional touring initiatives
- **\$7.1 million** for maintenance and activation of state-owned cultural facilities
- **\$12.1 million** for infrastructure upgrades to Hamer Hall
- **\$27.2 million** for the Victorian Screen Incentive
- **\$29 million** in Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation operational funding