

Media Release

The Hon Colin Brooks MP
Minister for Development Victoria
Minister for Precincts
Minister for Creative Industries



Thursday, 12 September 2024

CREATIVE UPGRADES THAT TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES

The Allan Labor Government is breathing new life into underutilised buildings across the state, providing local art and creative communities with reimagined spaces to perform, produce, create and deliver works.

Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks today announced the more than \$620,000 in funding will be used to transform existing buildings across the state and turn them into creative spaces – helping attract new audiences to the arts and create new revenue streams for Victorian creatives.

Nine council-owned facilities across the state are getting a creative makeover thanks to the latest round of the Labor Government's *Creative Neighbourhood Infrastructure Support Program*.

Greater Geelong, Central Goldfields, Glenelg Shire, Hume, South Gippsland and Swan Hill have all received funding to undertake projects ranging from purchasing equipment to fits outs and refurbishments.

Venues include Geelong Customs House which will undergo refurbishments to become a space for creativity and design, and the historic Maryborough Railway Station which will be transformed to incorporate creative co-working spaces, flexible staging and seating for performance and digital projection.

Four venues in Glenelg Shire are getting funding for local projects, with Portland Arts Centre, Portland Civic Hall, Heywood Community Hall and Casterton Town Hall using the money to make enhancements so that creative groups can use all four spaces to develop, rehearse, work and present performances .

Dance schools and community groups will be better placed to rehearse and hold performances at Craigieburn Community Centre, with new stage curtains, a lighting system, ballet barre and mirrors.

New furniture and equipment will be added to the Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery's new Creative Educational and Workshop Space, and much-loved venue Meeniyah Town Hall in South Gippsland will get a new sound system.

The *Creative Neighbourhood Infrastructure Support Program* is part of the Labor Government's \$6 million Creative Spaces and Places program and is supported by the Community Support Fund.

For more information about the program visit: creative.vic.gov.au

Quotes attributable to Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks

"From transforming heritage buildings into creative hubs, to backing significant equipment upgrades for performances, this program makes a big impact for local creatives and their communities."

"We're improving our creative spaces across the state – it's a very tangible way of helping the creative industry to continue developing and presenting their work, close to home."