



The Arts Unit

Program Overview

The Arts Unit, part of Arts, Sports & Initiatives, supports schools through the delivery of programs in dance, drama, music, visual arts, debating, public speaking, reading, spelling, virtual excursions and special events that:

- complement and extend school and local programs
- build capacity to deliver arts education
- offer high profile public performance, exhibition and competition opportunities.

Annually more than 63,963 direct student and 8,597 teacher experiences were offered by The Arts Unit's programs. Over 593,711 students were associated with The Arts Unit's programs and 3,928,795 students experienced an Arts Unit program virtually.

Key Programs

Ensembles

The NSW Public Schools Performing Ensembles in dance, drama, vocal and instrumental music have an outstanding reputation for their high standards and the quality of the performances at high profile events. In 2017, 569 students from 293 schools attended weekly rehearsals at The Arts Unit.

Camps and Student Workshops

State dance, drama and music camps and workshops give students the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge in their chosen art form. Over 2,573 students attended a camp or workshop in 2017.

Exhibitions

ARTEXPRESS and Operation Art demonstrate achievements of visual arts students through major exhibitions – viewed by over 320,000 people in 2017.

Skills development opportunities were accessed by over 30,000 students and teachers in 2017.

Festivals and Events

High profile events and festivals showcase public school students' skills and talents in the arts. Over 5,500 student performers from more than 600 public schools participated in the 2017 Schools Spectacular, over 8,449 took part in a State Music Festival and over 2,300 performed in either the State Dance or Drama Festivals.

Arts Initiatives

A range of initiatives are offered to engage secondary students who may otherwise disengage from school. 1,111 Aboriginal students, 171 boys and over 85 students with disabilities took part in dance workshops and performances. 133 students from refugee and/or non-English speaking backgrounds wrote and performed their own plays.

Professional Learning

Teachers access a wide range of arts-related professional learning. Over 1,324 teachers attended 28 professional face to face learning activities, 1,821 teachers subscribed to our Learning Hub while 553 users completed 13 eCourses available through MyPL.

Speaking Competitions

This program coordinates debating, public speaking and spelling competitions and supporting workshops across the state. Over 170,638 students participated in 2017 programs.

Reading Initiatives

The unit coordinates the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge which was completed by more than 291,000 students in 2017

Arts, Sports & Initiatives

The Arts Unit Programs

Dance

Ensembles
State Dance Festival and Performances
Student and Teacher Workshops
Aboriginal Dance, Boys Hip Hop and Disability Dance Workshops and Ensembles

Debating

NSW Premier's Debating Challenges
Combined High School Debating Camps and Workshops for students

Drama

Ensembles
Performances
State Drama Festival
Camp and Workshops for students
Multicultural Playwright Program

Events

Special Event Production for Government and Corporate Events
Teacher Workshops

Media Arts

Film By The

Music

Ensembles – Instrumental and Vocal Performances
State Music Festivals
Camps
Teacher Workshops

NSW Premier's Spelling Bee

NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Public Speaking

Multicultural Perspective Public Speaking
Legacy Junior Public Speaking Awards
The Plain English Speaking Awards
Camps and Workshops for students

Schools Spectacular

Virtual Learning

eClasses, eModules, eClips, eXcursions

Visual Arts

Operation Art
ARTEXPRESS
Student and Teacher Workshops

Further program information

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