



# BRISBANE FESTIVAL

Thank you Ubuntu Foundation!



# BRISBANE FESTIVAL 2022

## Introduction

In 2022 the Ubuntu Foundation contributed a generous donation to Brisbane Festival's Giving Program which allowed the commissioning of two community engagement programs. Brisbane Serenades and Dance Halls focussed on providing Brisbane's suburbs with free artistic programming and workshops.



Carolyn Vincent - Ubuntu Foundation and Louise Bezzina - Artistic Director of Brisbane Festival

Brisbane Festival is deeply committed to making the impossible possible for our audiences and our artists. September is an important time of the year when our artists are pushed beyond the horizon to make the work of their dreams come to life. Free programming is a cornerstone of Brisbane Festival's program from year to year, with donations like those from the Ubuntu Foundation making it possible.

# BRISBANE SERENADES 2022

Brisbane Serenades in 2022 was the evolution of the beloved 2021 Street Serenades Program, which, with the help of the Ubuntu foundation, morphed into a program of bespoke mini festivals, celebrations and gatherings, traversing the river across North, South, East and West of the city.

## Moorooka Block Party

The energy of the Moorooka Block Party, hosted at Pegg's Park, was a true example of when the Serenades program works at its best – a day of fun, inclusive activities where a diverse range of the community can come together to celebrate and be inspired by song and performance. An audience of 2500 was entertained by over 20 musicians taking to three stages and a workshop space.

The mainstage was headlined by L-Fresh the Lion, one of Australia's leading Hip Hop artists, and Bustamento, a tropical shaking six piece that pays homage to the upbeat rhythms of the Caribbean, covering the Calypso, Mento, early Reggae and Ska styles. Basketball court-turned dance stage saw performances from African Fusion and Sean Parker and Company with their work Found Objects. The Troubadour featured artists Skillz FJ, Jess Harlen, and Pauline Maudy and Paddy McHugh. A welcome to country by Uncle Desmond commenced the event, then Yani Mills running a "Sing with Yani" session, followed by Palestinian Dance Group Al Zayton.





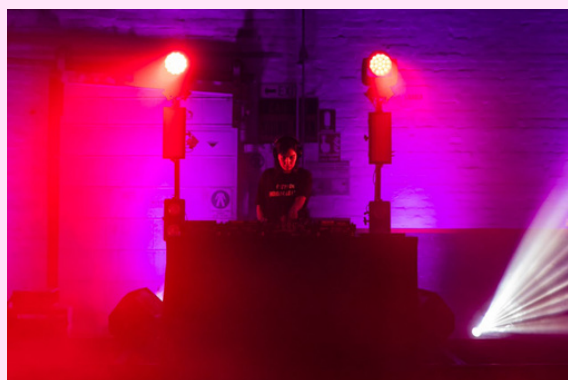
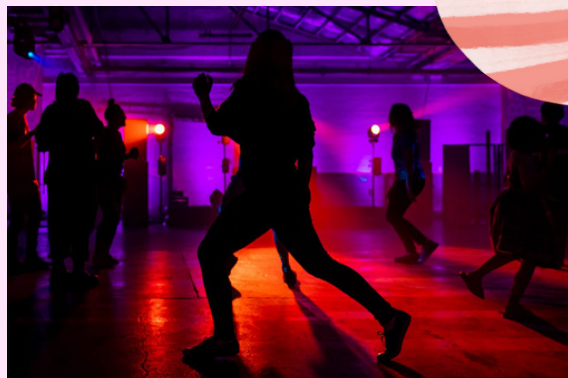
# BRISBANE SERENADES 2022

## Blak Warehouse Party

Curated by Blak Social, this inclusive, all ages dance party attracted patrons from 4 months to 70 years old. With guidance from the Indigenous Advisory Group, the team created an alcohol-free event for the whole community, hosted at The Paint Factory, Yeronga.

Featuring four First Nations dance music DJs, traditional kup murri food, Sobah beverages and a very popular “sip and paint” workshop where the audience could paint images of their favourite DJ.

A small but dedicated audience of 150 people danced, yarned and connected across the generations in this celebration of First Nations dance music and intergenerational community. The first event of its kind in the city, Blak Warehouse Party laid the blue print for future First Nations dance events.



# DANCE HALLS 2022



Finucane and Smith's extraordinary community engagement project Dance Halls celebrated the diversity and beauty of our community under twinkling lights, velvet drapes, satin table seating and disco fever!

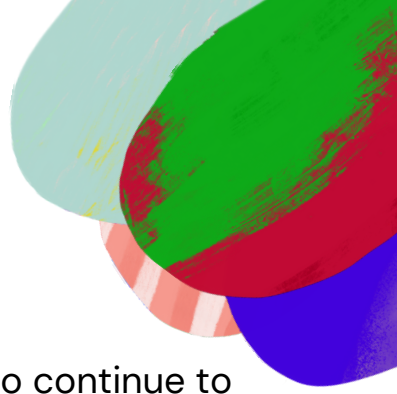
**56** workshops through July, August and September with local artists  
**8** performances in **8** different suburbs  
**7** community centres  
**3** housing services engaged  
**197** community performers  
**1233** audience members

*"[Dance Halls] are a wonderful way to bring the community together... I've had so much fun each week at the workshops and made friends with other participants. It's made me feel more connected with my community. I definitely want to participate again next year. It's been such a wonderful, memorable experience both participating as a performer and watching the other performers." – Workshop participant.*

*"A wonderful experience. A true celebration of the cultural diversity of the area. The compare was absolutely fabulous and carried it off with a-plum. The best community arts event I have ever been to." - Audience member.*



# DANCE HALLS 2022

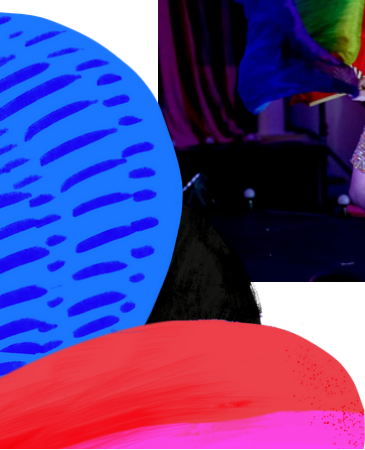


## Community Impacts

Approximately **9 in 10** participants said they were very likely to continue to engage in the arts (91%) and seek out similar workshops in the future (88%). Almost all workshop participants (94%) met new people through the workshops, with **3 in 5** participants saying they are very likely to stay in touch with someone they met through the workshops.

Delivering free, high-quality arts experiences in the suburbs is the most common point of praise for this program. Dance Halls gave people an opportunity to engage with the arts and Brisbane Festival in a way that many had never experienced before. This was the key factor that enabled participants to engage with the project and Brisbane Festival overall.

*“Being relatively new to singing and performing, my involvement [in Dance Halls] gave me a big boost of confidence and encouragement in this endeavour” – Dance Halls community performer.*



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DONORS MAKE IT HAPPEN

## BRISBANE FESTIVAL

Festival House, L2, 381 Brunswick Street  
PO Box 384, Fortitude Valley Qld 4006

-  07 3833 5400
-  [brisbanefestival.com.au](http://brisbanefestival.com.au)
-  [brisbanefestival@brisbanefestival.com.au](mailto:brisbanefestival@brisbanefestival.com.au)
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Brisbane Festival is an initiative of  
the Queensland Government and  
Brisbane City Council