Labor’s plan to support art and culture throughout NSW
I believe NSW can become one of the most culturally vibrant societies in the world.

Our state is already home to many exceptional artists, cultural organisations and institutions. However, I believe our true creative potential is yet to be fully realised.

Unfortunately, the Liberals and Nationals have the wrong priorities. Instead of supporting artistic and cultural endeavours throughout NSW, the Liberals and Nationals have chosen to:

• Concentrate $760 million worth of public funds on five cultural institutions which are all within a three kilometre radius of Sydney’s CBD;
• Spend up to $1.5 billion forcing the Powerhouse Museum to relocate from Ultimo – and sell the site to property developers; and
• Start spending $2.2 billion demolishing and rebuilding stadiums.

A government I lead will support art and culture throughout NSW. I will make sure Western Sydney and rural and regional NSW get their fair share.

For eight years, the Liberals and Nationals have neglected the arts in Western Sydney and rural and regional NSW. Labor will end that neglect by making significant investments for these communities.

Working in partnership with artists and cultural organisations, Labor will ensure everyone in NSW has an opportunity to participate in our state’s cultural life.
Art and culture are an essential part of life

Artistic and cultural activity are an essential part of life in NSW. Art and culture allow us to understand who we are as individuals and as a society.

Artistic and cultural activity also provides a significant contribution to the NSW economy. In 2017, more than 12.6 million international and domestic tourists visited NSW for cultural and heritage reasons. Collectively, these visitors stayed 83.8 million nights and spent $13 billion in our state. Nearly 60 per cent of international tourists visited a museum or art gallery.

A recent report by KPMG found the arts, screen and cultural sectors:

- Contributed around $16.4 billion to the NSW economy; and
- Involved the employment of around 120,000 full-time equivalent workers.

KPMG found every dollar invested by government to support art and culture generates an overall benefit for the NSW economy of $1.88 - almost doubling the investment.

The Liberals and Nationals have the wrong priorities

For the last eight years, the Liberals and Nationals have failed to support a vibrant and thriving artistic sector throughout NSW.

Instead, the Liberals and Nationals have concentrated funding on a handful of large cultural institutions in Sydney’s CBD.

The Liberals and Nationals have the wrong priorities for NSW. They have chosen to:

- Concentrate $760 million worth of public funds on five cultural institutions which are all within a three kilometre radius of Sydney’s CBD;
- Spend up to $1.5 billion to force the Powerhouse Museum from its Ultimo site; and
- Start spending $2.2 billion demolishing and rebuilding stadiums.
Labor’s plan

Labor will protect the Powerhouse Museum

A Daley Labor Government will:

• Support and protect the Powerhouse Museum, an existing world class institution; and
• Create a new world class institution in Western Sydney.

A Daley Labor Government will protect the Powerhouse Museum (the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences).

A Daley Labor Government will:

• Retain and protect the Powerhouse Museum at its existing Ultimo site;
• Invest $45 million over four years to make necessary repairs to the Ultimo site;
• Assist with the listing of the Powerhouse Museum’s Ultimo site on the State Heritage Register; and
• Invest $500 million to create a new world-class cultural institution at Parramatta in consultation with the community.

A Daley Labor Government will also:

• Establish a $100 million Arts and Cultural Fund for Western Sydney using money saved by not relocating the Powerhouse Museum;
• Invest an additional $100 million to double funding available through the Regional Cultural Fund;
• Continue with plans to redevelop the Riverside Theatre;
• Protect and preserve the North Parramatta heritage precinct – which includes the Parramatta Female Factory historic precinct – and pursue World Heritage listing for this important area; and
• Develop plans for the protection of Willowgrove and St George’s Terrace in Parramatta – and ensure that they are retained and not sold off to property developers.

The Liberals and Nationals announced their plan to relocate the Powerhouse Museum from Ultimo in February 2015. Estimates of the cost of relocation have varied significantly. A Parliamentary Inquiry found the cost could be as high as $1.5 billion, and the government’s own business case estimates the cost to be at least $1.1 billion.
Labor will invest $500 million to create a new cultural institution in Western Sydney

A Daley Labor Government will invest $500 million to create a new cultural institution in Western Sydney.

Labor believes Western Sydney deserves to have a major cultural institution of equal stature to the Sydney Opera House and the Art Gallery of NSW. A major cultural institution of this stature will give the people of Western Sydney the opportunity to express their unique voice.

A Daley Labor Government will undertake extensive consultation to ensure this new institution reflects the aspirations of the people Western Sydney.

The new Western Sydney cultural institution will be:

• Created through an Act of Parliament; and
• Overseen by a strong board.

Labor will continue redevelopment of the Riverside Theatre

In addition to investing $500 million to create a new cultural institution for Western Sydney, a Daley Labor Government will proceed with the planned redevelopment of the Riverside Theatre.

Labor will honour the agreement made in July 2017 between the NSW Government and Parramatta Council to redevelop the Riverside Theatre. In accordance with that agreement:

• A Daley Labor Government will purchase the riverfront site at Parramatta, which will become the site of a new major cultural institution; and
• A Daley Labor Government and the City of Parramatta will enter into a partnership worth $100 million to redevelop the Riverside Theatre, with the NSW Government taking a 50 per cent interest in the project.
A Daley Labor Government will provide $100 million to establish a Western Sydney Cultural Fund.

The Western Sydney Cultural Fund will:

• Provide funds which may be used for programs and staffing; and
• Allocate funds to initiatives which reflect the cultures of Western Sydney’s Indigenous population and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Within six months of forming government, Labor will work with stakeholders through Create NSW to develop a Strategy for the Arts in Western Sydney.

In addition, a Daley Labor Government will work with the $100 million Western Sydney Performing Arts Centre at Rooty Hill – which will include a 2,000 seat theatre – to provide support to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Ballet, Opera Australia and other major arts companies to perform at this exceptional venue.

The Liberals and Nationals have neglected art and culture in rural and regional NSW.

A Daley Labor Government will end that neglect by investing $100 million in the Regional and Cultural Fund. This will double the size of the fund from $100 million to $200 million.

By doubling the funding available for artistic and cultural organisations and projects in rural and regional NSW, a Daley Labor Government will support a thriving and vibrant cultural scene throughout NSW – ensuring art and culture do not become an exclusive privilege for Sydney’s elite.

A Daley Labor Government will allow the Regional Cultural Fund to provide funding for staffing and programs, as recommended by the Parliamentary Inquiry into Museums and Galleries.12

Within six months of forming government, Labor will work with stakeholders through Create NSW to develop a Strategy for the Arts in Rural and Regional NSW.
Labor will invest $40 million to create a Regional Conservatorium Fund

Labor recognises the importance of regional conservatoriums in rural and regional NSW. Labor also acknowledges the work of the Association of NSW Regional Conservatoriums and its role supporting music education and performance in regional communities.

Regional conservatoriums have been in existence since the late-1970s, growing from modest beginnings in Bathurst to a network of 17 conservatoriums serving most regional centres in NSW.

A Daley Labor Government will establish a $40 million Regional Conservatorium Fund to support and expand the outstanding work already being done by regional conservatoriums.

Labor’s investment will help more children from rural and regional NSW receive the benefits of musical education.

Labor will invest $15 million to support playwriting and theatrical productions

Labor recognises the invaluable contribution of playwrights and theatrical productions to the cultural landscape of NSW. Playwrights and theatrical productions make a particularly important contribution to the creation of new Australian stories.

Some of the most exciting new productions are being staged in NSW’s smaller theatre spaces.

A Daley Labor Government will invest $15 million to support emerging playwrights and theatrical productions, especially at smaller and independent venues. As part of this investment, Labor will:

- Provide up to $2 million to help Urban Theatre Projects:
  - Secure a permanent independent presentation venue and hub; and
  - Grow their activity in Sydney’s south west;
- Provide $1.86 million to Belvoir Theatre’s revitalisation plan which includes:
  - Expanding their drama education program in Western Sydney and rural and regional NSW;
  - Redeveloping the warehouse at 18 Belvoir Street and the theatre at 25 Belvoir Street; and
  - Establishing a set construction workshop program;
- Provide Playwriting Australia with a new one-off $100,000 funding grant to foster the work of NSW writers with disabilities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, First Nations people, LGBTIQ people and people from rural and regional NSW.

A Daley Labor Government will also work toward the establishment of a National Aboriginal Theatre to foster and create First Nation stories. A Daley Labor Government will deliver this important cultural project by working with Elders and indigenous communities; other key stakeholders; and Federal Labor and other states and territories.
Labor will invest in public libraries

Labor believes public libraries are the heart of local communities. Public libraries provide a place for people to meet, access information and learn.

For the last eight years, the Liberals and Nationals have neglected public libraries. For eight years, there has been no real increase in the per capita subsidy provided by the State Government for public libraries. This has meant the subsidy has remained at $1.85 per capita since 2011.

A Daley Labor Government will:

• Double the per capita subsidy for public libraries; and
• Link increases in the subsidy to the consumer price index to ensure the subsidy maintains its real value into the future.

In total, a Daley Labor Government will provide more than $60 million of additional funding for public libraries.

A Daley Labor Government will also invest an extra $10.5 million to support public libraries. This commitment of $10.5 million is in addition to Labor’s commitment to double the per capita subsidy.

Labor will expand the Sydney Writers Festival’s activities for children

A Daley Labor Government will invest $300,000 over three years to expand the Sydney Writers’ Festival’s activities for children in Western Sydney and rural and regional NSW. These activities include the Festival’s book van program, which currently reaches 7,000 children.
Labor will support screen and television production in NSW

A Daley Labor Government will support film, screen, television, digital and videogame production in NSW.

Labor will continue to support programs to attract productions to NSW through a stable, four-year ongoing funding arrangement.

Labor will also:

• Examine the policies used by overseas jurisdictions to attract and support productions – including Canadian provinces and American states; and
• Work with NSW Government Trade and Investment offices to attract foreign production companies to film in NSW – particularly rural and regional NSW.

Labor will expand the Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s outreach to Western Sydney and Rural and Regional NSW

A Daley Labor Government will support the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (SSO) to expand its activity to Western Sydney and rural and regional NSW.

Labor will provide an additional $3 million a year for three years from 2020 to expand the SSO’s activity in Western Sydney and rural and regional NSW through the Regional Access Music Project.

This funding will help to deliver at least:

• Two more concerts to Parramatta in 2021, bringing the total to four performances a year; and
• Three weeks of performances for school children, which will be delivered in Parramatta and Penrith in 2020 and 2021.

Labor will support community-based art and cultural projects

Labor recognises the importance of individual art and cultural projects across NSW.

A Daley Labor Government will:

• Provide up to $3 million toward the $9.5 million plan to revive the Victoria Theatre as a new, 1,000 seat theatre in Newcastle’s city centre;
• Provide up to $14 million toward the redevelopment of the Newcastle Art Gallery;
• Provide $12 million to help Gosford City Council build a new performing arts centre;
• Provide up to $3 million over four years to help establish an education and cultural centre at the historic Myall Creek massacre site in northern NSW – supporting one of the State’s most significant reconciliation projects;
• Provide up to $3.4 million to upgrade Bega Valley Regional Gallery;
• Provide one-off emergency funding of $500,000 to re-build the roof on the Old Bega Hospital – which the community will upgrade to a regional community cultural centre;
• Ensure the iconic Bondi Pavilion remains in public hands;
• Provide $350,000 toward technological and sound improvements in Bondi theatre as part of Waverley Council’s $25 million plan to restore and maintain Bondi Pavilion; and
• Contribute $50,000 to help the Haymarket Chamber of Commerce prepare concept plans and financial frameworks for an Australian Chinese creative and cultural centre at the Haymarket.
Labor will deliver fair pay for visual and performing artists

A Daley Labor Government will work with unions and organisations including the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA) to ensure visual, performing and other artists are paid fairly.

Labor will achieve this by requiring organisations which receive funding from the NSW Government to ensure that artists are paid the appropriate rates under their respective agreements.

Labor expects that, if an organisation receives funding from the NSW Government, the employees and contractors to that organisation will be paid fairly and in accordance with applicable agreements. This will occur under transitional arrangements.

Labor will convene a Philanthropic Roundtable

A Daley Labor Government will organise a Philanthropic Roundtable with business and community leaders to expand the current level of financial support from private and corporate donors to the arts in NSW – including rural and regional areas.

Labor will also assist regional galleries to establish sustainable acquisition funds to purchase works for their permanent collections.
Labor will restore the integrity of arts board appointments and grants

Strong boards should promote good governance within organisations, provide financial accountability and safeguard artistic expression.

The Liberals and Nationals have politicised appointments to boards and arts advisory bodies in NSW – and there has been direct political interference in relation to grant allocations.

A Daley Labor Government will:

- Review recent appointments to significant cultural institutions;
- Ensure that Western Sydney and rural and regional NSW have appropriate representation on boards and advisory bodies; and
- Require all major State-run cultural institutions to provide a regional activity statement in their annual reports which details their activities outside Sydney’s CBD – including Western Sydney, Illawarra, the Hunter, and rural and regional NSW.

Labor will make additional announcements regarding our support for arts and culture in NSW before the 2019 State Election.

This policy is fully funded and has been fully costed by the independent NSW Parliamentary Budget Office.

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