

Showcase: Festival Creativity stimulated

Context Writers Festival returned to the Adelaide City Library in October 2021 as a free, three-day festival for writers. Ngarrindjeri, Kaurna and Italian poet Dominic Guerrera curated the 2021 program which included an opening event with academic Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson and the Unbound Collective. Context provided a stage for new voices and ideas through a diverse and multidisciplinary line-up. It encouraged artistic excellence of Australian writing and literature and engaged communities in discussions for positive social change.

"It was great to be able to hear from people whose work I admire, in person, in the city I live in." Max, opening event attendee

"Great to see libraries as spaces for established and emerging writers and readers, especially First Nations peoples."

Longtable: Smashing the Glass Cabinet participant

"An extremely powerful event to hear, to witness, and be moved. Building and deepening cultural understanding of all the issues that are central in Aboriginal education of Australia."

Marea, Longtable: Smashing the Glass Cabinet participant

**Context Writers Festival returns
with a program that pushes back**



Context Writers Festival 2021 opening event with Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson and the Unbound Collective. Presented in partnership by Writers SA and City of Adelaide.
Photographer: Nat Rogers

Showcase: Public Art

Aesthetic enrichment

“Bauble Canopy” (Dichroic Bubble-tecture, 2021)

was a public art collaboration between award-winning artists Renzo B. Larriviere and Zara Pasfield of Atelier Sisu and City of Adelaide. Presented as part of City of Adelaide’s Christmas Festival 2021, these stunning light displays at Vaughan Place (off Rundle Street) and Peel Street (off Hindley Street) surprised and delighted East and West ends visitors during the 2021 Christmas season. The installations featured eighty vivid colour spheres that changed colours with the sun and were illuminated at night. These light laneways were the most attended Christmas Festival activity in 2021 demonstrating the importance of integration of arts and culture elements as part of the Christmas Festival.

“I ran through here the other day and saw shadows on the ground, stopped looked up and thought wow! Don’t you just love Adelaide?

This city has such a good vibe.” City visitor

“The display looked amazing! There were regular visitors / tourists who came down daily to take photos and the engagement on our social media posts was huge.” Vaughan Place business owner

Adelaide’s Christmas Festival 2021



“Bauble Canopy” (Dichroic Bubble-tecture, 2021) by artists Renzo B. Larriviere and Zara Pasfield of Atelier Sisu on display at Vaughan Place during Christmas Festival 2021.

Photographer: Catherine Leo

Showcase: Creative Entrepreneurs Program

New knowledge, ideas and insight

City of Adelaide partnered with Expressions Media to deliver *Vaulting Ambitions* in 2021, an incubation program that supported and mentored twenty creatives from all backgrounds and disciplines to learn the business of being creative. The program included workshops, group check-in sessions, one-on-one consultations, panels, networking and showcase events. Topics covered by industry experts included publicity, promotion, digital marketing, SEO and website creation, resilience and wellbeing, contract law and copyright, financial literacy, grant applications and pitching your project.

"I found the whole program really beneficial. I learned a lot. It was great to meet experts in the field, have a mentor and do goal setting. I really enjoyed meeting other artists in Adelaide from other disciplines and finding out where we all commonly struggle and where we can help each other. But the most important thing for me was that in a time where the arts industry has been completely decimated with no control over that, this was something we could do to work on ourselves, better ourselves and feel like we had a little bit of control over our careers. Do it again for more artists, please!"

Jason Chong, comedian, writer, filmmaker.

[**Vaulting Ambitions Wrap Clip**](#)



Creative Entrepreneurs Program *Vaulting Ambitions* 2021.
Image courtesy of Expressions Media

Showcase: Theatre

Diversity of cultural expression

In 2021 City of Adelaide partnered with AJZ production's True Ability to develop a contemporary disability-led theatre piece about visibility, representation and disability. Kelly Vincent and Alirio Zavarce ran a series of city-based workshops at Nexus Arts and City of Adelaide community centres that provided people living with chronic health conditions the opportunity to share their stories through theatre. The final performance, *UnSeen*, featured a series of monologues performed by a cast with a lived experience of disability, combining dance, documentary, prose and music including original sounds and soundscapes by Tahila Weaver and Tyson Olson. The performance was presented at Adelaide Festival Centre's Space Theatre as a prelude to International Day of People with a Disability (December 3).

"In the morning I can see colours, flowers and things so clearly but as soon as the sun comes down everything becomes blurry... sometimes I can see you, sometimes I can't but I can always feel you."

Lucy L. Rivera in True Ability's *UnSeen*

[UnSeen video](#)



UnSeen performance presented by True Ability in partnership with City of Adelaide. December 2021.
Photographer: Raegan Krista.
Image courtesy of True Ability.

Showcase: Adelaide City of Music

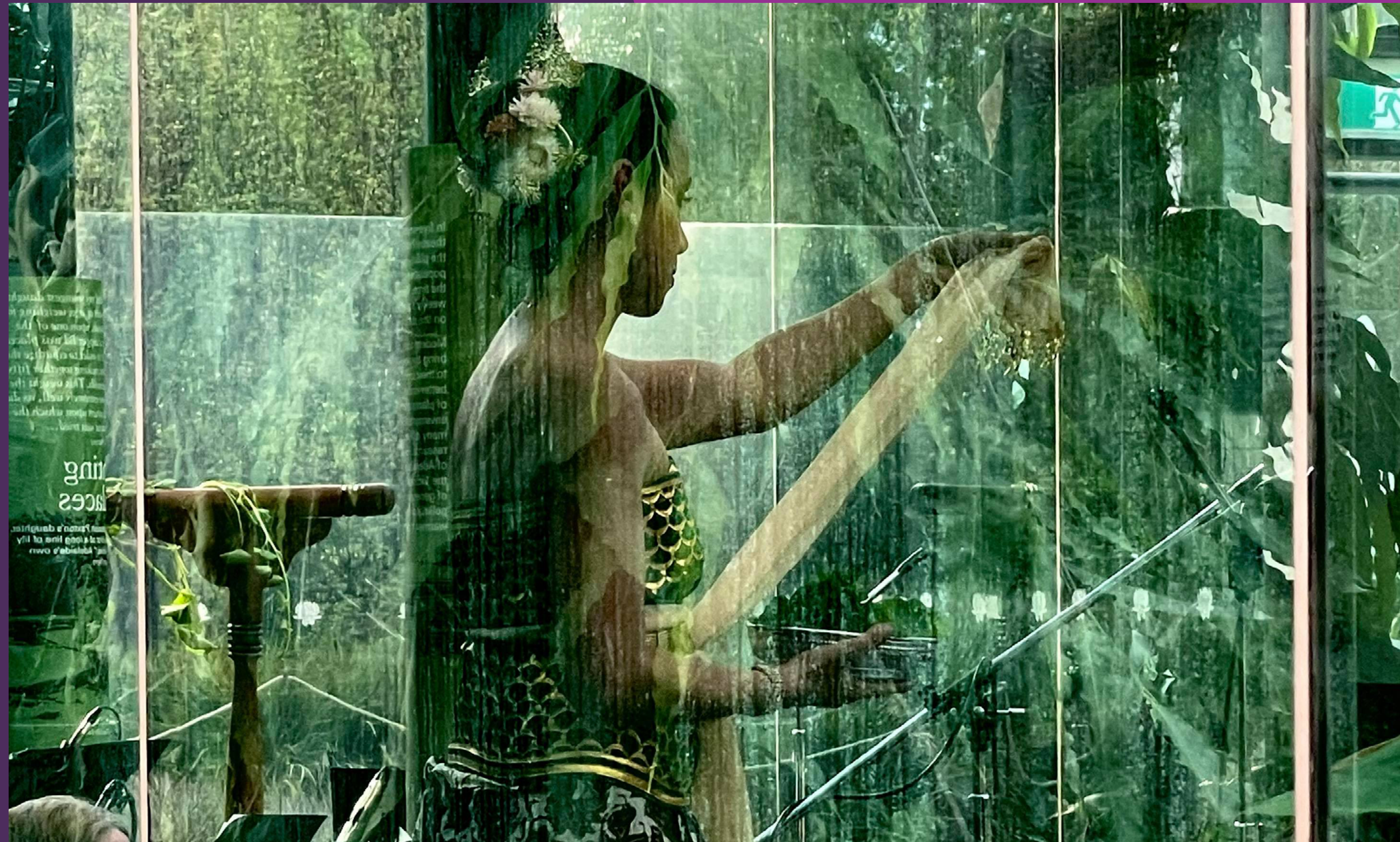
Belonging to a shared cultural heritage

Flora Blora was a set of two enchanting concerts played on an antique gamelan set from Blora, Central Java (Indonesia), by Queens of the Bronze Age at the Amazon Waterlily Pavilion of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. The performance combined classical Javanese gamelan music with avant-garde works by renowned local composer David Kotlowy, creating a hypnotic sonic atmosphere specially for the plants of the pavilion. *Flora Blora* was supported by a City of Adelaide Arts and Culture Grant and presented as part of Nature Festival 2021.

"Imaginative, intimate and transcendent performance (that) sat sublimely in its surrounds. The whiff of tropical plants, the humid air of the pavilion, the hypnotic ringing of the gamelan did transport me to Java. I loved the concept of the audience bearing witness to a performance for the plants (I swear I saw a lotus bud unfurling to the music). ...What a privilege listening to pieces of original music, inspired by nature, amidst nature. The movement of the audience between the exterior and interior of the pavilion to witness dance and music felt like a soothing ritual – as if not only the musicians but we too were paying homage to nature. Divine!"

Lindl, *Flora Blora* participant

[Flora Blora video](#)



Katrina Lucas as The Plant Queen character in *Flora Blora* giving life to David Kotlowy's compositions and drawing audiences to the plants in the Amazon Waterlily Pavilion.
Image courtesy of Queens of the Bronze Age.