

MRAG 2030: Your gallery, your say

Community engagement summary

From May to July 2025, **1,125 contributions** from more than **1,000 community members** helped shape the direction of Maitland Regional Art Gallery's (MRAG) programs and services over the next five years. We asked what you love, what you want more of and what new ideas we should explore.



How we engaged

- Community survey
- Visitor check-in survey
- Interactive ideas wall
- Conversations with program participants
- Targeted surveys for artists and educators
- Community Infrastructure Strategy survey



Our reach at a glance

380 
community survey responses

68 
artist and educator responses

20 
contributions to our ideas wall

56
Community Infrastructure Strategy survey responses related to arts and culture

594 
visitor check-in responses

1,450 
visits to the project page

25,596
impressions on social media

What you told us

How often you visit MRAG:

69% visit monthly or every two to three months

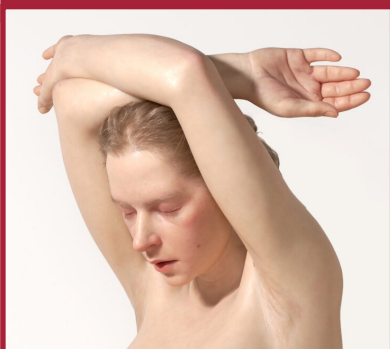
39% attend programs and events four or more times a year

78% attended a program or event in the past year

2024 highlights

Ron Mueck, *Pregnant woman* (detail) 2002, National Gallery of Australia, Kamberri/Canberra © Ron Mueck courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac Gallery, London.

Pregnant woman



Leila Jeffreys and Melvin J. Montalban, still image from *Temple*, 2022, digital work, multi-channel, continuous loop 6 minutes 26 seconds.

Twitcher



Top 5

most attended programs:

- 1 Exhibitions
- 2 Opening events
- 3 Gallery Store
- 4 Artist talks and panel discussions
- 5 Evening events

What you want more of:

- 1 Artist talks
- 2 Adult art classes
- 3 Exhibition tours
- 4 Live music events
- 5 Opening events



The community wants local artist opportunities, workshops for all ages and community-inclusive projects.



Families value interactive activities for children including treasure hunts and workshops.

Community impact

High satisfaction and pride

MRAG is widely praised as welcoming, inclusive and of high curatorial standard, often exceeding expectations for a regional gallery.

Supporting local

Visitors appreciate MRAG's commitment to championing local artists and community, while striking a balance with showcasing national and international artists.

Art for all audiences

Visitors value the diversity of exhibitions, offering a mix of artistic voices, experiences and accompanying programs that appeal to varying age groups, backgrounds and interests.

78% feel inspired by MRAG

60% say it's a place to learn

50% enjoy free, family-friendly fun

Accessibility and inclusivity

91% feel welcome and included

95% can access all areas

94% find exhibitions accessible

Improvement areas



Outdoor access (parking, shelter, pathways)



Accessible opening events for people with sensory needs



Seating and mobility aids



Larger font labels, Auslan resources and a proposed disability advisory group

What's next?

Your feedback will shape the MRAG 2030 Business Plan, which will guide how we deliver cultural, education and tourism services for our growing community and visitors.

Keep up with future projects at yoursay.maitland.nsw.gov.au

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