

2023-24

# Annual Report



An Initiative of  
Sutherland  
Shire Council

**The  
Pavilion**

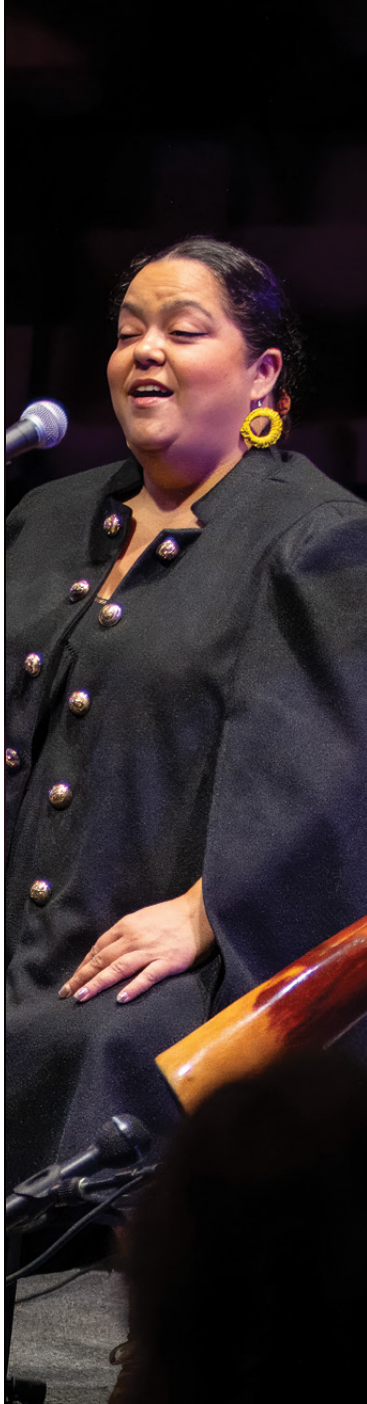
Performing Arts Centre Sutherland





IMAGE: SEAN MOLONEY PHOTOGRAPHY

The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre Sutherland acknowledges the Dharawal people as the Traditional Custodians of the land within the Sutherland Shire. We pay respect to the Elders and their families, past and present, and through them, to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples.



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# About us

## Mission & Values

### OUR MISSION:

To establish The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre Sutherland “The Pavilion” as the cultural heart of the Sutherland Shire, where local talent thrives alongside top Australian and international acts, fostering a community of creativity, learning and cultural appreciation.

### OUR VISION:

The Pavilion is dedicated to delivering exceptional artistic experiences and enriching our community through diverse programming.



IMAGE: GRANT LESLIE PHOTOGRAPHY

*In 2025, The Pavilion will develop a new multiyear strategy that drives growth, creativity, and community engagement. With our core values at the forefront, we're shaping a dynamic future for the local community, ensuring the newly refurbished venue can remain a vibrant arts hub for many years to come.*

### WE VALUE:

COMMUNITY



INCLUSIVITY



SUSTAINABILITY



EXCELLENCE



CREATIVITY





# Welcome

## From the Chair & Executive Director



IMAGE: GRANT LESLIE PHOTOGRAPHY

*As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude and pride. The Pavilion's first year has been one of artistic excellence, community engagement, learning and growth, with so many exciting moments that have shaped our identity as a premier performing arts venue in the Sutherland Shire.*

We extend our sincere thanks to our dedicated Board, whose vision and leadership have helped establish The Pavilion as a thriving cultural hub. Your dedication, insight, and commitment to The Pavilion's goals are the driving forces behind our achievements.

Equally deserving of recognition is our remarkable staff. From the technical team that ensures seamless productions, to the front-of-house staff who create a welcoming atmosphere, and our operations, programming and marketing teams who help us connect with new audiences—every person plays a crucial role. Your dedication, creativity, and passion make The Pavilion the vibrant venue it is, and we are truly grateful for your efforts.

We are also deeply appreciative of our principal funder, Sutherland Shire Council, whose support is vital to our ability to provide high-quality performances and events. This is also a significant investment in the future of our region, as we together contribute meaningfully to build our local arts landscape. To the artists who grace our stage—emerging talents and seasoned professionals alike—thank you for bringing your artistry, passion, and creativity to our audiences.

And finally, we thank our audiences. Your enthusiasm, loyalty, and love for the arts fuel everything we do. Whether attending a performance, participating in a workshop, or supporting us from afar, your engagement makes The Pavilion a true cultural home for the Sutherland Shire.

As we look ahead to 2025, we remain committed to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and diverse arts space. Together, we will ensure The Pavilion continues to thrive as a cherished cultural landmark for generations to come.



**Cr Carmelo Pesce**

*Chair, The Pavilion  
Performing Arts  
Centre Sutherland*



**Emily Silburn**

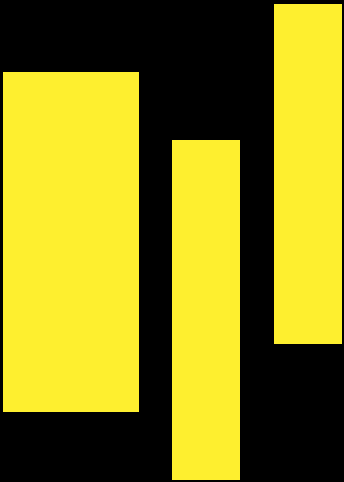
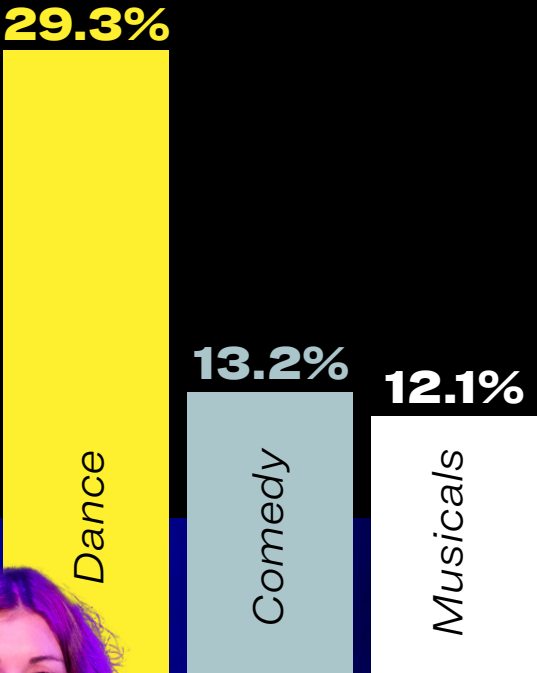
*Executive Director  
(Acting), The Pavilion  
Performing Arts  
Centre Sutherland*



# 2023-24 Snapshot

## Performances

TOP PERFORMING GENRES  
(BASED ON TICKET  
PURCHASE):



Events Performed:  
**201**

Total Audiences:  
**71,400**

Average  
Ticket Sales:  
**2.9**

Self-Presented  
Performances  
& Workshops:  
**51**

## Audiences

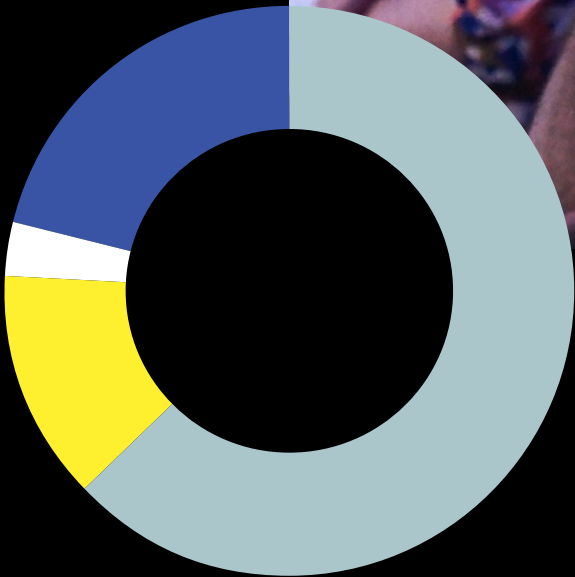
POSTCODE  
BREAKDOWN:

**63%**  
Sutherland  
Shire

**21%**  
Greater  
Sydney

**13%**  
St George  
/ Georges  
River

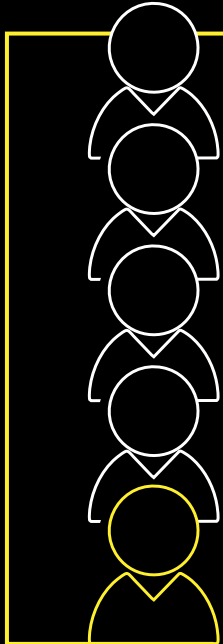
**3%**  
Illawarra



Website Traffic: **223,000**

Subscribed Contacts: **18,400**

Social Media Followers: **6,642**




Attendance  
Frequency:  
**1 in 5**  
returned in  
attendance



IMAGE: GRANT LESLIE PHOTOGRAPHY



# Our Aims



**Curate**  
Artistic  
Excellence



**Enhance**  
Access



**Nurture**  
Community  
Creativity



**Ensure**  
Sustainable  
Growth



# Curate Artistic Excellence

*The Pavilion is committed to showcasing a broad spectrum of performances that engage, inspire and entertain audiences of all ages and backgrounds.*

We achieve this through a mix of hired and programmed shows, which fill out our annual calendar with a range of performances spanning multiple genres and artforms.

Our curated program includes performances from leading national and international arts companies, which enhance our artistic offerings whilst fostering community engagement. Meanwhile, hired productions provide touring and local groups with a professional, world-class venue.

Events are held at The Pavilion on Eton Street and The Sutherland Arts Theatre on East Parade.



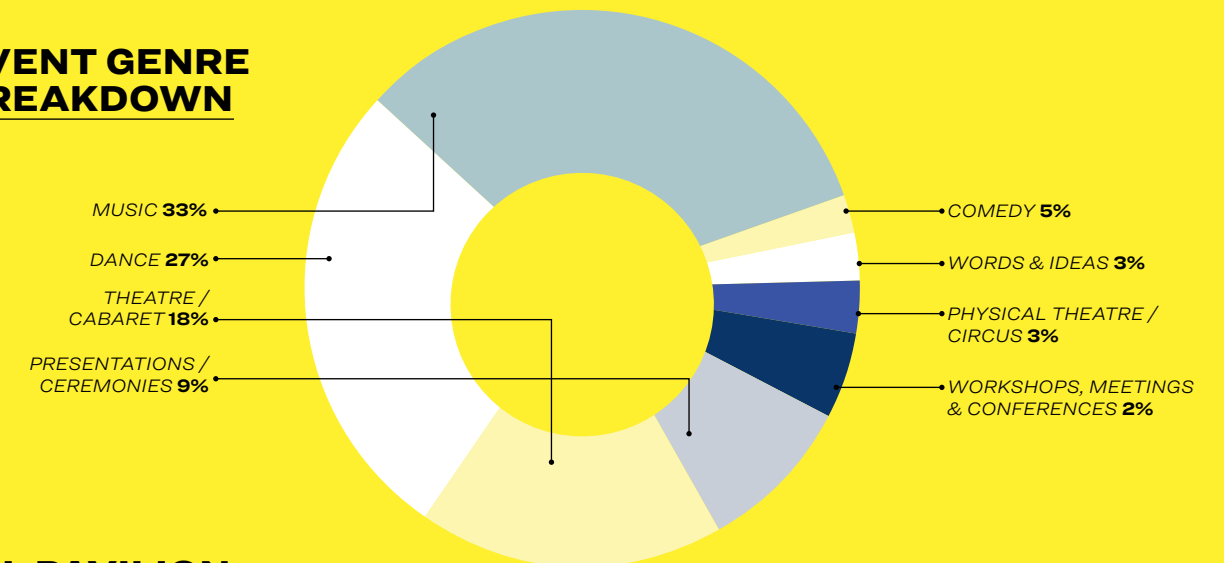
IMAGE: BRETT BOARDMAN

## The Pavilion

The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre Sutherland is a state-of-the-art, multi-purpose venue with world-class technical facilities and seating for up to 686 patrons.



## EVENT GENRE BREAKDOWN



## ALL PAVILION HIRER EVENTS

Elvis - One Night Only  
Australian Classical Grand Prix Finals  
Citizenship Ceremony  
The Beatles 50 Years On  
Safety and Wellbeing Meeting  
Mark Vincent Live in Concert  
Ross Noble: Jibber Jabber Jamboree  
Marcia Hines: Still Shining Concert Tour  
Council Orientation  
50th Celebration of The Eagles  
Twist & Shout - A Salute to 50's & 60's Rock n Roll  
Sutherland Shire Schools Music Festival (SSSMF) 2023  
Twinkle Stars - Don't Stop Me Now  
DIESEL  
2023 NSW Team Championships  
Oh What a Night  
ABC - TGIF - Richard Glover Show Live  
Community Grants Presentation  
MMTC School of Rock

Primary Schools Olympics  
Music of the Night  
Public Safety Training Meeting  
Training Meeting  
Yowie Bay Pubic School Performing Arts Concert  
Yes23 Wrap Event  
Songs in the Key of Motown  
Salute to Roy Orbison  
Gurawul The Whale Book Launch  
CARE Award of the Year 2023  
KRS Dance in Concert 2023  
End of Year Concert  
St George Christian School Junior School Performance Evening  
Ev & Bow  
UOW Sutherland Campus 20th Anniversary  
Neil Diamond's Hot August Night The Concert  
Queen: Bohemian Rhapsody  
Robertson Brothers 60's Variety TV Show  
Les Divas  
Inspiration Dance Academy Concert 2023

Ignite Dance Co. End of Year Concert 2023  
Connells Point Public School EP Dance Annual Concert  
Seniors Christmas Concert 2023  
Basile - Blame it on the Greek  
Annabell Crabb  
PRO Graduation Show  
Planet Dance/All Starz Concert  
Studio 23 End of Year Concert  
Heathcote Public School Presentation Day  
Loftus Public School Presentation Day  
Public Safety Meeting/Training  
Oyster Bay Public School Presentation Day 2023  
Elite Concert  
Ettinghausens Youth Division Concert  
AP Performers Concert  
Compeat Dance End of Year Concert 2023  
Monthly Division Meeting  
LD Dance  
Rogerson End of Year Showcase 2023



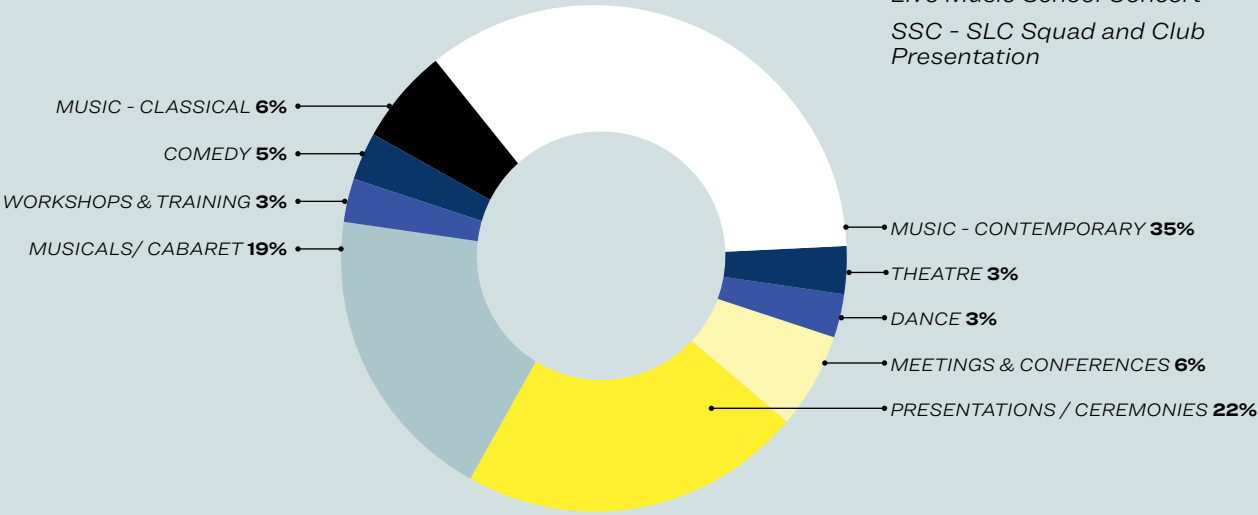
*The Avenue Dance Concert*  
*K&V Dance Corp Concert (name TBC)*  
*Mark Vincent - A Christmas Concert*  
*Cruel Intentions - The Musical*  
*Orientation - Council*  
*Kate Miller-Heidke*  
*Sutherland Shire Football Association*  
*Georgie Carroll*  
*Invincible*  
*Boney M Xperience and Fabba*  
*Zeppelin: Ledded and Unledded*  
*The Australian Tenors*  
*The Good Old Days*  
*Brad Blaze - Speed Painter*  
*Senior Leadership Forum*  
*ONE NIGHT IN MEMPHIS - Presley, Orbison & Cash*  
*Hermans Hermits*  
*SSC Planning Division Meeting*  
*Start & Succeed - Sutherland Shire Council*  
*Council Event - Seniors Concert*  
*Next Time*  
*Catch Me If You Can*  
*Spellbound*  
*Cinderella*  
*Sh!tfaced Shakespeare - MacBeth*  
*Sydney Comedy Festival Gala*  
*Bushcare Gathering*  
*NSW Calisthenics*  
*Dylan Wright*  
*Vika & Linda*  
*Sydney Writers Festival*  
*Sydney Performing Arts Competition Experience*  
*Paul McCartney 50 Years*  
*The Prom Spectacular*  
*Sutherland Dance Festival*  
*Tommy Little*  
*The Tap Pack*  
*The Animals UK*  
*The Grandparents Club*  
*Tom Gleeson: Gear*  
*The Scots College Brighton Performance*  
*History of British Rock*  
*Adrenaline Dance Competition*  
*Create South - The Atypical Hat*  
*Ettinghausens Pro Concert*  
*The Beatles 50 Years On*



# Sutherland Arts Theatre

The Sutherland Arts Theatre is a versatile 160-seat venue in the heart of Sutherland, ideal for theatre, live music, film screenings, and community events. As a sister venue to The Pavilion, it offers an intimate performance space with professional facilities, supporting local and touring productions.

## EVENT GENRE BREAKDOWN



## ALL SUTHERLAND ARTS THEATRE EVENTS

*Winter Wonder Man - Christmas in July Cabaret*  
*Late, Late at Night*  
*Yes23 Sutherland Shire*  
*Battle of the Bands*  
*Southern Brass Concert*  
*Kirrawee Piano Concert*  
*Morning Masters: Claire Edwardes*  
*Winter Wonder Man*  
*Sutherland Music Club Concert*  
*Homeschool Creative Arts*  
*The Lex Man*  
*Senior Leadership Forum*  
*All the Lols*  
*A Night at Casablanca*  
*Sutherland Music Club*  
*Art Umbrella - Mid-Year Showcase*  
*The Sunshine Club Production*  
*Ettinghausen - Grad Performance*  
*“Unplugged” The Music of Eric Clapton*  
*Hot n Fresh Burlesque*  
*Grigoryan Brothers*  
*International Women’s Day - SSC*  
*Live Music School Concert*  
*SSC - SLC Squad and Club Presentation*



# Pavilion Presents Season

Over the year, The Pavilion presented 18 individual performances across a range of genres including comedy, contemporary and classical music, theatre, dance and circus, totalling 51 unique events. The season included the return of Play! Kids Festival in the October School Holidays, which included 7 individually programmed events and creative workshops designed for kids.



IMAGE: BRETT BOARDMAN



IMAGE: VISHAL PANDEY



IMAGE: MARIA BOYADIS

## Wil Anderson: Wiluminate

**COMEDY**  
8 July 2023

Wil Anderson's *Wiluminate* delivered 70 minutes of sharp, post-pandemic stand-up. Known for Gruen, he mixed personal insights with razor-sharp wit.

## Australian INXS Show

**MUSIC – TRIBUTE**  
21 July 2023

Featuring Dellacoma Rio and a six-piece band recreated a high-energy INXS concert, delivering classic hits with immersive visuals and electrifying performances.

## Tubular Bells for Two

**MUSIC – CONTEMPORARY**  
4 August 2023

Two musicians juggled 20+ instruments live, celebrating 50 years of Mike Oldfield's *Tubular Bells* in a breathtaking, virtuosic performance.

## Mel Buttle

**COMEDY**  
31 August 2023

Mel Buttle's *Let Me Know Either Way?* showcased her signature dry humour, offering sharp, relatable suburban observations that earned four-star praise.

## Ben Lee: Live in Concert

**MUSIC – CONTEMPORARY**  
28 September 2023

Ben Lee blended classic hits like 'Catch My Disease' with new music, delivering a fun, heartfelt, and slightly quirky solo show.

## Play! Kids Festival

**FAMILIES**  
4-7 October 2023

The Pavilion's beloved kids' festival returned, featuring concerts, theatre, comedy, and workshops, including Erth's *Dinosaur Zoo* and The Listies.

## David Campbell: Good Lovin' and More

**MUSIC – CONTEMPORARY**  
21 October 2023 (Sell Out)

David Campbell wowed with blue-eyed soul, swing classics, and Swing Sessions hits, backed by a stellar seven-piece band.

## Dancenorth Wayfinder

**DANCE**  
19-20 January 2024

Fusing contemporary dance, music, and art, *Wayfinder* explored connection and the universe, featuring Hiatus Kaiyote and Hiromi Tango.

## Edge of Reality

**MUSIC – CONTEMPORARY**  
27 January (Sell Out)

Paul Grabowsky's Elvis tribute reimagined his greatest hits, starring Joe Camilleri and Deborah Conway, celebrating Presley's musical genius.

## The Very Hungry Caterpillar

**FAMILIES**  
4 February 2024 (Sell Out)

Over 75 magical puppets brought Eric Carle's stories to life, captivating audiences with stunning visuals and heart-warming storytelling.

## The Wharf Revue: Pride In Prejudice

**THEATRE**  
6-7 February 2024 (Sell Out)

Australia's premier political satire returned, lampooning current events with sharp wit and over two decades of comedic expertise.

## Afrique en Cirque

**CIRCUS**  
9 March 2024

An electrifying celebration of African culture, featuring daring acrobatics, live Afro-jazz, percussion, and breathtaking Nyamakala-inspired circus artistry.

## Handel's Messiah

**OPERA**  
24 March 2024 (Sell Out)

Sutherland Shire Choral Society's 50th-anniversary performance of *Handel's Messiah* featured top soloists, an 18-piece orchestra, under the baton of Jodie Spooner-Ryan.

## A Midsummer Night's Dream by Bell Shakespeare

**THEATRE**  
2 April 2024

Bell Shakespeare's enchanting production blended humour, romance, and magic, featuring Ella Prince as Puck and Laurence Young as Lysander.

## The Great Divide by Ensemble Theatre

**THEATRE**  
3-4 May 2024

David Williamson's gripping drama explored wealth inequality and greed, starring Georgie Parker, Kate Raison, and John Wood.

## How to Catch a Star

**CLASSICAL MUSIC / FAMILIES**  
18 May 2024

An Australian Chamber Orchestra string quartet brought Oliver Jeffers' beloved book to life with Elena Kats-Chernin's enchanting original score.

## Lark Ascending

**CLASSICAL MUSIC**  
18 May 2024

ACO Collective's breathtaking debut featured 'The Lark Ascending' alongside works by Richter, Purcell, Wolf, and more.

## Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow

**COMEDY**  
28 June 2024 (Sell Out)

Australia's top comedians hit the road, delivering fresh laughs and fan-favourites from the 2024 Melbourne International Comedy Festival.



# Enhance Access



The Pavilion is dedicated to fostering an inclusive, welcoming environment that encourages community participation and engagement with the arts. Through outreach initiatives, educational programs, and community involvement, we create opportunities for everyone to connect with live performance. We continuously enhance the customer experience with exceptional service and a commitment to responsiveness. Accessibility is a priority, ensuring our facilities and services accommodate diverse audiences. By removing barriers and promoting inclusivity, The Pavilion strives to be a place where all visitors feel valued, inspired, and empowered to take part in the arts, strengthening community pride and connection.

A fully accessible venue with wheelchair / level access seating, Audio & Visual Assistance.

2 Award Nominations with the NSW Architecture Awards

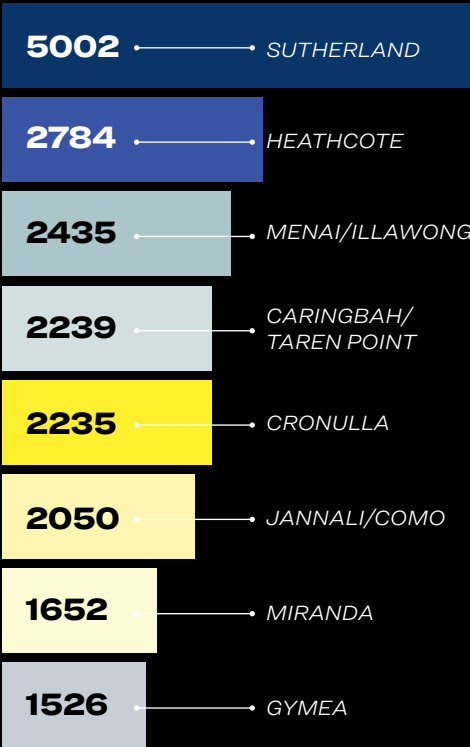
32 Staff Members Employed – 54% from the Sutherland Shire

4 Work Experience Students Hosted



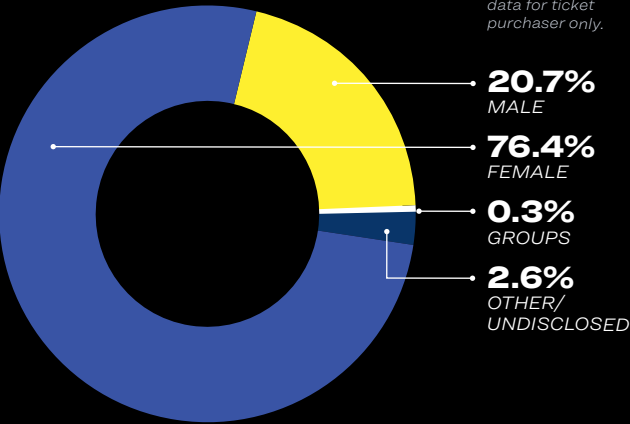
## Audience Insights

### TOP ATTENDING SUBURBS



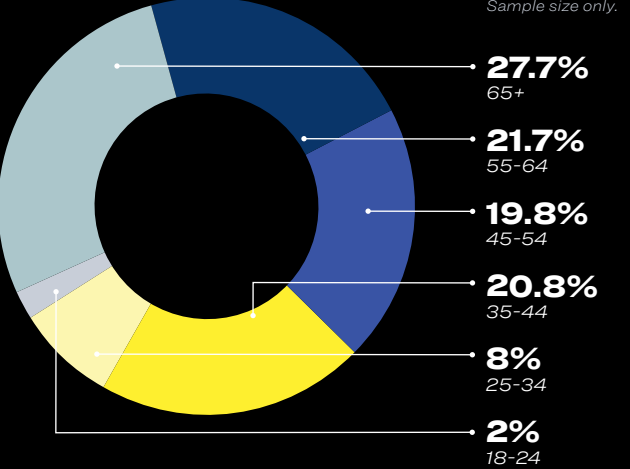
Disclaimer: Based on ad-reporting purchase data.

### GENDER



Disclaimer: The graphs show data for ticket purchaser only.

### AGE



Disclaimer: Based on ad-reporting purchase data. Sample size only.

In 2024, The Pavilion conducted its first patron survey. With over 800 responses from attendees of performances of the venue, we were able to gain a better understanding of our accessibility offerings and where we could improve.



4.5 Stars

for Quality of Performances, Customer Service and Experience, and overall Building Facilities.



9/10 people would recommend a Pavilion show to a friend or family member.



# Nurture Community Creativity

At The Pavilion, we champion local creativity by providing opportunities for artists, community groups, and audiences to thrive. Through financial support, education, employment, and cultural initiatives, we ensure the arts remain accessible and vibrant in the Sutherland Shire.

1



## SUPPORTING LOCAL ARTISTS & COMMUNITY GROUPS

We help remove financial barriers by offering subsidised venue access, marketing, and technical support. In 2023-24, we helped a range of local groups expand their reach and sustain their creative work.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS:



**\$72,600**  
in subsidies provided



**4** partnered productions



**22** artistic companies hosted (Pavilion Presents)

2

## PROVIDING EDUCATION & TRAINING

We provide invaluable education and training initiatives for students and young professionals, including a dedicated work experience program, as well as hosting school performances, workshops, and industry-led training. By fostering hands-on learning, The Pavilion plays a vital role in shaping the next generation of creatives.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

✓ formal work experience program established

4 work experience placements

4 school performances subsidised

13 Q&As/workshops hosted

6 student-based productions

3

## EMPLOYING & SHOWCASING LOCAL TALENT

The Pavilion proudly employs local professionals to work as part of its in-house and extended team, and actively pursues works presented by established local artists and companies. We also seek to collaborate with local suppliers for goods and services, reinvesting into the Sutherland Shire economy.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

**54%**  
staff employed from Sutherland Shire

**65**  
local performance groups and companies hosted

Over **\$270k**  
invested into local businesses

4

## CELEBRATING LOCAL CULTURE & COMMUNITY

From major productions to grassroots initiatives, we host affordable and accessible community events that bring people together.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

**17**  
free or low-cost performances



**4**  
co-presented events including Sutherland Shire Choral Society and Sydney Festival



### SURVEY RESULTS

Based on recent patron feedback data, we are proud to have a venue that is regarded so highly for its civic contribution.



# Ensure Sustainable Growth

Ensuring sustainable growth requires a robust economic model that balances financial responsibility with artistic ambition. By maximising partnerships, supporting local businesses, and securing the future of our arts programming, we can develop a lasting funding framework that reduces reliance on council support.

Key strategies include diversifying revenue streams through partnerships, co-productions, and grants, as well as implementing best practices in governance, risk-sharing, and financial management. Strengthening our funding base through philanthropic support will further enhance our ability to deliver high-quality programs and initiatives. Through these measures, we will ensure the long-term viability of our organisation while continuing to enrich our community through the arts.



## INCOME

Support from  
Sutherland  
Shire Council: **\$1.7M**

Box Office,  
Performance  
Fees and  
Venue Hire: **\$1.45M**

Other income  
and donations: **\$50K**

**TOTAL  
INCOME \$3.20M**

## EXPENDITURE

Employment,  
Fees and  
Services: **\$2M**

Program and  
Production: **\$552K**

Marketing and  
Communications: **\$215K**

Operations, Building  
and Administration: **\$413K**

**TOTAL  
EXPENDITURE \$3.16M**

**SURPLUS \$40K**

Annual surpluses are re-invested into  
next year's performance program



# Governance & Leadership

*The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre Sutherland is a not-for-profit company. We are governed by a volunteer board of directors who bring a wealth of professional experience.*

## Board Members

### Councillor Carmelo Pesce – Chair



Cr Pesce served as Mayor during the 2023-2024 period. An elected Councillor for three terms and a successful local business owner, he was a driving force behind the refurbishment of The Pavilion.

### Councillor Louise Sullivan – Council Nominated Board Member



Louise served as a Councillor during this 2023-2024 period. Louise has over 22 years of experience as a business adviser, leader, Board Chair and Director and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

### Manjeet Grewal – Council Nominated Board Member



Manjeet served as CEO of Sutherland Shire Council during the 2023-2024 period, having been appointed in 2019 after 23 years in various leadership roles.

### Rayna Toman – Accountancy and Business Risk



Rayna is a Chartered Accountant (CA ANZ) and is currently the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer at Australian Business Growth Fund.

### Olivia Ansell – Live Performance



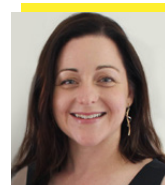
Olivia is a highly accomplished arts professional, currently completing a four festival tenure (2022-2025) directing the Sydney Festival.

### Rachel Healy – Cultural Venue Management



Rachel is the Chief Executive of the Queensland Performing Arts Centre who worked as the Interim Executive Director of the Pavilion throughout the construction and opening of the Pavilion in 2022-2023.

### Amanda Oscuro – Community Cultural Engagement and Participation



Amanda Oscuro serves as the Vice President of Engadine Musical Society, a respected community theatre organisation. She is a dedicated advocate for the arts, championing accessible and community-focussed arts programs.

# Governance & Leadership



## The Pavilion Team

### OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION

<b>Mike Harris</b>	Executive Director
<b>Emily Silburn</b>	Operations & Services Manager
<b>Michael Astill</b>	Operations & Programming Officer (Mar 2023-Feb 2024)
<b>Alana Bishop</b>	Operations & Programming Officer (from April 2024)
<b>Sean Moloney</b>	Programming Coordinator
<b>Caroline Leyden</b>	Events & Operations Coordinator

### TICKETING & MARKETING

<b>Emilie Lawson</b>	Marketing & Communications Manager
<b>Alec McLeod</b>	Ticketing & Marketing Coordinator (Mar 2023-Apr 2024)
<b>Luke Evans</b>	Ticketing & Marketing Coordinator (from Apr 2024)

### PRODUCTION SERVICES

<b>Harry Tanswell</b>	Technical Operations Manager (July 2023-July 2024)
<b>David Grigg</b>	Technical Operations Manager (from July 2024)
<b>Harry Provins</b>	Technical Supervisor
<b>Liam Dijkstra</b>	Audio Supervisor
<b>Mehran Mortezaei</b>	Lighting Supervisor

### FINANCE

<b>Dale Hollingsworth</b>	Financial Consultant
<b>Lanna Tan</b>	Finance Officer

## Support Us

The Pavilion is dedicated to bringing exceptional arts and culture to Sutherland. By supporting us, you help foster local talent, ensure accessible performances, and strengthen our community's creative spirit. Donations are tax-deductible, and every contribution makes a difference in keeping the arts thriving in the Sutherland Shire.

The Pavilion is a not-for-profit registered charity. All donations can be provided via our website: [thepavilionarts.au/support-us](https://thepavilionarts.au/support-us)





Performing Arts Centre Sutherland

**02 9063 2007 | [info@thepavilionarts.au](mailto:info@thepavilionarts.au)**

30 Eton Street, Sutherland NSW 2232