

Friday 1 March, 2024

Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural Tourism and Creative Arts Hub opens

Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DJAARA) and its creative enterprise DUMA WUL celebrated the official opening of the new Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural Tourism and Creative Arts Hub in the Hargreaves Mall yesterday evening.

Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation Chair Bec Phillips officially opened the new Hub with State Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards in a ceremony that began with a welcome and smoking and didgeridoo and dance performances.

The Hub provides an exhibition space for Dja Dja Wurrung artists, a centre for DUMA WUL's cultural education programs and a base for cultural tourism.

Dja Dja Wurrung Group Acting CEO Cassandra Lewis said it was exciting for DUMA WUL's Cultural Tourism and Creative Arts Hub to be prominently located in the heart of Bendigo.

"The Hub will improve the visibility of Dja Dja Wurrung art and Culture within the local community, for visitors to Bendigo, and beyond," Ms Lewis said.

"It will help DUMA WUL to better support Dja Dja Wurrung emerging and established artists and creatives and build the Dja Dja Wurrung art market nationally and internationally.

"The Hub will be a focal point for major events such as DUMA WUL's Malaymia Mang Creative Arts Festival.

"It also directly links to DJAARA aspirations, being a space to promote history and truth, through DUMA WUL's Djaara Cultural Competency Programs, and to showcase Black excellence," Ms Lewis said.

The Hub and two creative arts producers have been funded through the Victorian Government's Yuma Yirramboi (Invest in Tomorrow) Strategy.

Through the Hub, DUMA WUL will continue to build its capacity to support Dja Dja Wurrung creatives and provide cultural education and tourism.

There are plans to add to its existing immersive walking tours by developing a Djaara Cultural Tourism and Cultural Creative Arts Trail that will follow ancient trade routes through Central Victoria.

Learn more about DUMA WUL at <https://dumawul.com.au>

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