

Example questions for the 2026 Museum & Gallery Sector Census

Thank you for being part of this important initiative for NSW museums and galleries.

Please note that this is a census preview and some questions may not be applicable to your organisation.

About your organisation

Firstly, please tell us about your organisation. Your answers here determine what questions you are shown in the census survey.

What is the name of your organisation?

Please share an email address, in case we need to contact you:

Which of the following detailed titles best describes your organisation?

- ☐ Public or regional gallery
- ☐ Public or regional museum
- ☐ Small or volunteer museum
- ☐ Aboriginal Cultural Centre/Keeping Place
- ☐ University gallery
- ☐ University museum
- ☐ Community gallery
- ☐ Artist run initiative (ARI)
- ☐ Heritage/historical society
- ☐ Historic/heritage building or building precinct
- ☐ Aboriginal keeping place
- ☐ Private gallery
- ☐ Commercial gallery
- ☐ Private museum
- ☐ Community workshop or education space
- ☐ Local history group (with no museum)
- ☐ Archive
- ☐ Library
- ☐ Other (please specify)

About your organisation: Location and type

Where are you located?

- ☐ Regional
- ☐ Metro Sydney
- ☐ Western Sydney incl Blue Mountains

What is your postcode?

What is your Local Government Area (council or LGA)?

Do you have an ABN? Select one.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What is your organisational structure? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Local Government Entity/Department
- ☐ 355 Special Committee formed by Local Government
- ☐ Registered charity
- ☐ Company limited by Guarantee
- ☐ Incorporated Association
- ☐ Other Not-For-Profit organisation
- ☐ Unincorporated organisation/group
- ☐ Trust
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other

About your organisation: People and collections

Does your organisation have paid staff? Select one.

Please only count employees of your organisation, not maintenance or contract staff such as cleaners or gardeners

- ☐ None, we have no paid staff
- ☐ Yes, we have less than 1 FTE paid staff
- ☐ Yes, we have 1 or more FTE paid staff

Does your organisation have volunteers? Select one.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Does your organisation manage a collection? Select one.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Example questions for the 2026 Museum & Gallery Sector Census

COLLECTIONS: General
SECTION 2 of 5

Next, we have some questions about your collection(s). Your answers help tell the story of the significance and status of museum and gallery collections in NSW.

Who owns your organisation's collection? Select one.

- ☐ The organisation
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Another organisation (we hold it in trust for another entity)
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Multiple organisations, individuals or others (please provide details)

Which one of the following categories best describes your collection/s? Please number up to three categories with 1 being the primary focus of the collection.

	1	2	3
Social history – related to a particular social movement or pastime, not place specific	☐	☐	☐
Local history – related to immediate local history and environment	☐	☐	☐
Visual arts, craft and design	☐	☐	☐
Natural science – related to the natural world e.g. botany, geology.	☐	☐	☐
Technology and science – related to application of technology and science	☐	☐	☐
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visual arts, craft and design	☐	☐	☐
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artefacts Military history	☐	☐	☐

Other (please specify)

How many items do you have in your collection/s. Please estimate if you are unsure of exact amount.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| ☐ 100 items or less | ☐ 1001 – 2000 | ☐ 5001 – 10,000 |
| ☐ 101 – 500 | ☐ 2001 – 3000 | ☐ 10,000 – 25,000 |
| ☐ 501 – 1000 | ☐ 3001 – 4000 | ☐ 25,000 – 50,000 |
| | ☐ 4001 – 5000 | ☐ More than 50,000 |

Is your collection insured?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Some individual items are insured
- ☐ I don't know if we have collection insurance

Does your organisation have a collection policy?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

COLLECTIONS: Management

Do you use a collections database/CMS?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, which collections database or CMS software do you use?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ eHive | ☐ Inmagic Db/Textworks |
| ☐ Mosaic | ☐ Ms Access |
| ☐ Filemaker Pro | ☐ Excel Spreadsheet |
| ☐ EMu | ☐ The Collecting Bug |
| ☐ Past Perfect | ☐ Other (please specify) |
| ☐ Vernon | ☐ <input type="text"/> |
| ☐ Adlib | ☐ We don't use a collection database or CMS software. |

What percentage of your collection has been catalogued in your collection database/CMS?

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ☐ 1-10% | ☐ 75-99% |
| ☐ 10-25% | ☐ Our whole collection is catalogued |
| ☐ 25-50% | ☐ None of our collection is catalogued |
| ☐ 50-75% | ☐ Don't know |

Has your organisation had a significance assessment of the collection?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Yes, of part of the collection
- ☐ No

How was the significance assessment funded? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Community Heritage Grants (CHG)
- ☐ M&G NSW
- ☐ Grant other than M&G NSW and CHG
- ☐ Other – please specify

- ☐ We have not had a significance assessment

Did the assessment identify any the following? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Objects of national significance
- ☐ Objects of state significance
- ☐ Objects of local significance
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ None of the above

COLLECTIONS: Storage and risk

Where is your collection stored? Select all that apply

- ☐ On display
- ☐ Onsite collection storage
- ☐ Offsite collection storage (owned by organisation)
- ☐ Offsite collection storage (privately owned)
- ☐ Offsite collection storage (rented/temporary/shared)
- ☐ Offsite display (local library, special exhibition etc)
- ☐ On loan to another museum or gallery
- ☐ Other – please specify

Please identify any current risks to your collection. Your answer helps us identify sector needs.

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Urgent building maintenance (e.g. roof leaks, rising damp, structural damage)
- ☐ Long-term building maintenance (e.g. ongoing maintenance of aging building)
- ☐ Untreated pests (which could affect the building or the collection directly i.e. termites, silver fish, rodents etc.)
- ☐ Heat and moisture levels and/or fluctuations
- ☐ High risk of future natural disaster events (e.g. flood, fire, storms)
- ☐ Lacking or non-existent disaster management plan
- ☐ Unsuitable or limited storage and/or archive materials
- ☐ Lack of trained staff and/or volunteers
- ☐ Lacking or non-existent collections policy
- ☐ Unaddressed conservation issues
- ☐ Financial hardship
- ☐ Lack of funding
- ☐ Rising power costs
- ☐ Governance issues
- ☐ Falling volunteer numbers
- ☐ Inadequate collection storage space
- ☐ Other – please specify

- ☐ There are no current risks to our collection

If there are other issues, suggestions, or you would like to provide more detail about your collection, please share them here.

PROGRAMS: Exhibitions

Now we'd like to ask about your exhibitions, services and audiences. We'll start with exhibitions.

How many permanent and temporary exhibitions did you display in the last 12 months.

Number of permanent exhibitions

Number of temporary exhibitions

Have you updated any of your permanent exhibition(s) in the last 4 years? Select all that apply

- ☐ No
- ☐ Once
- ☐ Twice
- ☐ Three or more times
- ☐ N/A

PROGRAMS: Events and services

In this section we ask you about the different activities and offerings at your organisation

What programs/events do you offer through your organisation? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Permanent exhibition/s
- ☐ Temporary exhibitions
- ☐ School tours
- ☐ Public tours
- ☐ Lectures or talks
- ☐ Community social events
- ☐ Hosting tourist bus tours
- ☐ School holiday programs
- ☐ Outreach: Aged care facilities
- ☐ Outreach: Education & early learning
- ☐ Other – please specify

- ☐ None of the above

What additional services do you offer through your organisation? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Local history research
- ☐ Family history research
- ☐ Historical information for local or state government
- ☐ Community venue hire
- ☐ Weddings/Funerals
- ☐ Special event hire
- ☐ Tourist information service
- ☐ Work /student placement
- ☐ Other – please specify

- ☐ None of the above

PROGRAMS: Partnerships and collaborations

Do you currently work with other organisations or groups on events or programs? Select all that apply

- ☐ Tourism bodies
- ☐ Aboriginal land councils or community groups
- ☐ Disability service providers
- ☐ Schools or pre-schools
- ☐ Youth groups or organisations
- ☐ Higher education organisations (Universities, TAFE, Community Colleges)
- ☐ Environmental groups or organisations
- ☐ Housing or homelessness services/organisations
- ☐ Domestic violence service/organisations
- ☐ Local area health/government health organisation
- ☐ Mental health service providers/charities
- ☐ Aged care providers
- ☐ Regional Arts Development Organisation (RADO)
- ☐ Other not for profit community groups, peak bodies or agencies etc (please specify)

- ☐ None of the above

During the last four years, have you worked with your local First Nations people/communities? Select all that apply

- ☐ Arranging Welcome to Country at important events
- ☐ Obtained services of a First Nations consultant(s)
- ☐ Consulted on collection item(s)
- ☐ Consulted on exhibition(s)
- ☐ Collaborated on event(s)
- ☐ Commissioned new works
- ☐ Commissioned workshops or events
- ☐ Explored/progressed repatriation of return of collection items
- ☐ Our organisation has participated in First Nation run event/s
- ☐ Hosted/made contact with local First Nations community
- ☐ Other (please specify)

- ☐ None of the above

PROGRAMS: Visitors

Next, we'd like to know about attendances to your organisation. Please check the FAQ or contact our team if unsure how you should respond.

Do you count visitor attendances?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No – but I can provide a realistic estimate
- ☐ No – we don't know this information.

How many attendances/visitors did the organisation receive in the last 12-month reporting period? Please include all visitor types.

- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Enter a number

Do you count participants in events and programs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No – but I can provide a realistic estimate
- ☐ No – we don't know this information.

How many people participated in the organisation's events and programs during the last annual reporting period?

- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Enter a number

Do you know what proportion of attendances originated out of your area/ were tourist visitors? This could include daytrippers from elsewhere in your region

- ☐ Yes – we collect this from all visitors
- ☐ Yes – we collect this for some programs
- ☐ No – but I can provide a realistic estimate
- ☐ No – we don't know this information.

What proportion of the organisation's visitors are estimated to come from out of your area?

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ☐ Can't provide estimate | ☐ 50-60% |
| ☐ 0-10% | ☐ 60-70% |
| ☐ 10-20% | ☐ 70-80% |
| ☐ 20-30% | ☐ 80-90% |
| ☐ 30-40% | ☐ 90-100% |
| ☐ 40-50% | |

In the last 12 months, did you offer any paid/ticketed attendances? Select all that apply

- ☐ Donation box
- ☐ Electronic/tap donation point (for debit/credit cards)
- ☐ Suggested donation entry fee
- ☐ Entry fee
- ☐ Temporary exhibition paid ticket
- ☐ Event/workshop paid ticket
- ☐ Paid school group
- ☐ Paid group tour
- ☐ None of the above (free entry only)

RESOURCES: Organisational status

Now we have a few questions about how your organisation operates.

What is your federal electorate?

Is your facility co-located with other services? For example a Visitor Information Centre, Theatre, Library or Council Offices?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do Gallery/Museum staff work across co-located or other facilities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

RESOURCES: Networks and plans

Does your organisation currently belong to any networks?

- ☐ AMAGA local Chapter
- ☐ Local Government museum network
- ☐ Regional and Public Galleries NSW
- ☐ Local museum/heritage/arts network
- ☐ Other network – please specify

- ☐ No we do not currently belong to any networks

Does your organisation have a current strategic plan or framework?

- ☐ Yes – we have a strategic document for our organisation
- ☐ Yes – we are included in a broader strategic document
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Does your organisation have a current workplace health and safety plan?

- ☐ We have a current workplace health and safety plan
- ☐ We are included in our local council's plan
- ☐ We have an out of date or partial workplace health and safety plan
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ None

Does your organisation have a current collection disaster plan?

- ☐ We have a current collection disaster plan
- ☐ We have an out of date or partial collection disaster plan
- ☐ We have no collection disaster plan
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ None

RESOURCES: Succession planning

Does your organisation currently have access to a Museum Advisor provided by Museums & Galleries of NSW in partnership with your local government? Select one.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

How does the organisation approach succession planning? Select all that apply.

- ☐ We have a succession plan
- ☐ We actively recruit volunteers to fill positions
- ☐ We mentor volunteers to fill board/committee positions
- ☐ We offer training to volunteers to fill positions
- ☐ We have an accessible record of the organisation's important documents
- ☐ None of the above.

Do you have a plan for your organisation if it had to close temporarily or permanently?

- ☐ We have discussed but don't have a plan yet
- ☐ Wind up / wrap up clause (this might be in your constitution)
- ☐ Wrap up plan approved by organisation and third parties
- ☐ No, we do not have a plan

RESOURCES: Volunteers

Now we have a few questions about your volunteers. Your answers help us understand how volunteering in the museum sector is changing, and what the sector needs are.

How many active volunteers do you currently have? Enter a number or select don't know

- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Enter a number

What roles or tasks are your volunteers responsible for? Tick all that apply.

- ☐ Director/CEO/president
- ☐ Secretary
- ☐ Treasurer/financial
- ☐ Other committee member
- ☐ Unpaid board member
- ☐ Curator
- ☐ Collection management/care
- ☐ Tour guides
- ☐ Front of house, front desk, ticketing
- ☐ Public programs and events
- ☐ Funding applications and fundraising
- ☐ Outreach, community engagement and special programs
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Digitisation
- ☐ Building/site maintenance
- ☐ Cleaning
- ☐ Special advisors eg heritage advice
- ☐ Catering

On average, how many volunteer hours are given each week? Estimate total average weekly hours on all activities including committee duties.

- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Please enter hours or estimate

RESOURCES: Looking ahead for staffing and volunteers

How do you anticipate that your staff and volunteer resources will change in the next 12 months, if at all? For each line, select either Increase, Stay the same, Decrease or N/A

	Increase	Stay the same	Decrease	Unsure	N/A
Number of FTE positions dedicated to your organisation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Staff capacity dedicated to the organisation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ability to recruit new staff/volunteers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Number of active volunteers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Number of volunteer hours	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please identify any current risks to your staff and volunteer resources. Select all that apply.

- ☐ Lack of trained staff and/or volunteers
- ☐ Falling volunteer numbers
- ☐ Falling volunteer capacity (e.g. aging or over-committed volunteers)
- ☐ Challenges recruiting qualified candidates
- ☐ Staff turnover/retention
- ☐ Increased or unsustainable workload
- ☐ Building safety concerns
- ☐ Lack of accessibility (eg stairs without ramps, no accessible bathrooms, noisy environment)
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other (please specify)

RESOURCES: Finances and funding

Now we have a few questions about your funding. Your answers help us understand the budgetary pressures on the sector, and how these are changing.

What was your annual operating budget in the last reporting period? Enter number in AUD.

[Click for how to calculate/find this.](#)

- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Enter number in AUD

Please confirm your operating budget in written number eg seven hundred and fifty thousand.

In the last 12 months, have you received income from any of the following sources?

- ☐ Creative Australia
- ☐ Federal Government Departments other than Creative Australia
- ☐ Create NSW
- ☐ State Government Departments other than Create NSW
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ Museums & Galleries of NSW grant
- ☐ Non-government grants program (eg a Foundation)
- ☐ Entry fees
- ☐ Member fees
- ☐ Friends Of (The Organisation)
- ☐ Philanthropic Trusts
- ☐ Private Benefactors / Donors
- ☐ Sponsorship
- ☐ Commercial activities (e.g. Research, Venue Hire)
- ☐ Gift shop
- ☐ Cafe (operated by museum/gallery)
- ☐ Cafe (leased)
- ☐ Donation
- ☐ General fundraising
- ☐ Other (please specify)

- ☐ None of the above

Please estimate the percentage of your budget provided by Local Government. This can include cash funding, offset or peppercorn rent, borrowed staff such as IT support and one-off grants etc.

- ☐ We do not receive any Local Government funding
- ☐ 25% or less
- ☐ 26-50%
- ☐ 51-75%
- ☐ 76% or more

RESOURCES: Looking ahead for funding

You're getting close to the end of the census! We just have a few more questions about your funding outlook, which is vital to understand.

How do you anticipate that your funding will change in the next 12 months, if at all?

	Increase	Stay the same	Decrease	Unsure	N/A
State government funding	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Local government funding	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Non-government funding	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Earned income from visitor/commercial activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sponsorship and philanthropy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

What risks have you identified in relation to funding?

- ☐ Expectations of increasing visitor numbers or audience targets
- ☐ Capacity to prepare grant applications
- ☐ Competitiveness of grants
- ☐ Capacity to fulfill grant obligations
- ☐ Costs increasing faster than income
- ☐ Limited reserves
- ☐ None of the above

Please identify any other risks to your organisation. Please tick all that apply.

- ☐ Financial hardship
- ☐ Rising power and/or fuel costs
- ☐ Governance issues
- ☐ Complex local bureaucracy
- ☐ Regional or remote location (less services/higher costs)
- ☐ Lack of local support networks
- ☐ Unsecured premises for future rental or occupation
- ☐ Urgent building maintenance (e.g. roof leaks, rising damp, structural damage)
- ☐ Long term building maintenance (e.g. ongoing maintenance of aging building)
- ☐ Burden of collection maintenance
- ☐ Lacking or non-existent disaster management plan
- ☐ High risk of future natural disaster events (e.g. flood, fire, storms)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

- ☐ None of the above

Looking back at the past 4 years, what have been the areas of achievement for your organisation?

- ☐ Maintaining collection
- ☐ Visitor experience
- ☐ Community engagement
- ☐ Expanding audience reach
- ☐ Opportunities and career pathways for artists and cultural workers
- ☐ Staff resilience and wellbeing
- ☐ Staff and volunteer training and development
- ☐ Cultural awareness/protocols
- ☐ New partnerships or initiatives
- ☐ Diversification of income
- ☐ Disaster recovery or resilience
- ☐ Significant capital works
- ☐ Other (please specify)

On balance, how would you rate your ability to deliver your organisation's core purpose and goals in the next 12 months?

Very poor

Poor

Unsure

Good

Very good

☐☐☐☐☐

FEEDBACK

Finally, we appreciate your feedback on our work, so we can continue improving.

Which of the following channels have you used to stay in touch with Museums & Galleries NSW (M&G NSW) programs and services in the past 12 months? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ M&G NSW E-newsletter Alert
- ☐ M&G NSW Social media (Facebook, Instagram and/or LinkedIn)
- ☐ M&G NSW website
- ☐ Direct contact with M&G NSW staff member
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Post mail outs
- ☐ Other (please specify)

- ☐ None of the above

Has your organisation engaged with any of the following M&G NSW services in the past 4 years? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Applied for and/or received a grant
- ☐ Hosted/partnered on a touring exhibition
- ☐ Participated in Storyplace content or training
- ☐ Accessed resources: fact- sheets, downloads, audio and video-streaming, research, and/or reports
- ☐ Used the consultants register
- ☐ Participated in a skills development workshop and/or networking event
- ☐ Participated in the Standards Program
- ☐ Engaged with a Museum Advisor
- ☐ Participated in Aboriginal Culture Heritage & Arts Association (AACHA) programs
- ☐ Nominated for and/or attended the IMAGinE awards
- ☐ Hosted M&G NSW staff or board visit
- ☐ Listed on the National Exhibition Register/NETS website
- ☐ Accessed advice or information by telephone or email
- ☐ Other (please specify)

- ☐ None of the above

Have any barriers prevented you from accessing our services?

Example questions for the 2026 Museum & Gallery Sector Census

How would you rate M&G NSW overall?

Very poor

Poor

Unsure

Good

Very good

☐☐☐☐☐

What is one thing M&G NSW does particularly well?

What is one thing that could be improved or done differently?

Is there anything else you wish to add to your submission or any feedback you would like to share?

Thank you

Your responses have now been submitted. We appreciate your time completing the 2026 Census!

To hear about the results when they become available, please consider subscribing to our e-newsletter Alert (<https://mgnsw.org.au/alert>)