

Andrea Michaels MP
Minister for Arts

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Adelaide Festival Centre to receive \$35 million upgrade

South Australia's iconic Adelaide Festival Centre is set to receive a \$35 million makeover as it continues to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

The Malinauskas Government is proud to follow in the footsteps of Labor legends Gough Whitlam and Don Dunstan – who opened Adelaide Festival Centre in July 1973 – with this significant investment funded through the mid-year budget review.

Adelaide Festival Centre is Australia's first major arts centre and this extensive upgrade is designed to improve both access to the centre as well as its fire and safety systems.

Beginning in 2025, there will be significant upgrades to the Western Plaza, focused around the area between the Festival Theatre and Dunstan Playhouse.

As the main gateway in and out of the site to the north, the new design - which has been reviewed by the State Heritage Architect and received planning approval - allows for access to the Dunstan Playhouse and Space theatre from the Northern Promenade and Walk of Fame.

Lift access will soon be provided from the Northern Promenade directly up to the Plaza level, enabling patrons and visitors an easy way to enter Dunstan Playhouse and Space Theatre.

This will make it easier for families with strollers and mobility aid users with the new lift near the Dunstan Playhouse bridging the five-metre vertical drop between the Plaza and north-face level - a big improvement on the old switch-back ramps.

In addition, an extensive series of works will be carried out on the fire and safety systems, including smoke detection and occupant warning system upgrades, emergency lighting replacement and improvement and sprinkler-system upgrades.

Quotes attributable to Andrea Michaels

South Australia is renowned for its incredible arts, culture and creativity and that reputation began with the vision of Labor Premier Don Dunstan when he opened Adelaide Festival Centre, the first arts centre in Australia, alongside Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam.

Just like our Government, Don Dunstan understood that art is a powerful way of connecting with each other and the world.

And 50 years later, I am delighted that the Malinauskas Government is continuing that legacy with a \$35 million investment to upgrade this treasured asset to our state.

Quote attributed to Adelaide Festival Centre CEO & Artistic Director Douglas Gautier AM

We are pleased with this announcement, which follows Adelaide Festival Centre's 50th Anniversary celebrations last year.

We look forward to seeing the benefits this investment will have for Adelaide Festival Centre, as the pre-eminent arts venue in Adelaide, and for our audiences and artists.



