

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Curiosity Brisbane* returns to celebrate 17 days of science, art & tech**

Let your imagination roam free when ***Curiosity Brisbane*** returns from 12 to 28 March 2021 for a 17-day celebration of science, art and technology, including ***World Science Festival Brisbane***, GOMA's ***The Motorcycle Up Late*** and ***Curiocities*** from around the world.

The flagship creative platform will also debut exciting new initiatives including a ***Queensland Schools Challenge*** and a series of ***Curious Conversations*** about our future and the role of science, art and technology, hosted by *Master of Curious Conversations* **Benjamin Law**.

The expansion of *Curiosity Brisbane*'s 2021 program reflects Queensland's place as a global hub for science, technology, innovation and the arts.

Presented by the Queensland Government, through Tourism and Events Queensland and the Department of Tourism Industry Development and Innovation, and Brisbane City Council, through Brisbane Economic Development Agency, *Curiosity Brisbane* will feature a range of *Curiocities* sourced through a global expression of interest.

These interactive installations will feature throughout the City Botanic Gardens, South Bank, South Brisbane's Cultural Precinct and the Brisbane CBD, inviting visitors to explore and engage with a range of digital and physical attractions drawn from science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM).

Minister for Tourism and Innovation Stirling Hinchliffe said the return of *Curiosity Brisbane* in 2021 was great news for Queensland after a challenging year of pandemic.

"Curiosity Brisbane and its associated events will pour more than \$14 million into our economy and demonstrates the importance of world-class events to Queensland's economic recovery," Mr Hinchliffe said.

"Curiosity Brisbane cements Queensland's position as Australia's major events hub and builds on our reputation as a leader in innovation and technology."

"The Palaszczuk Government is proud to support Curiosity Brisbane and its inclusion on the It's Live! in Queensland events calendar," he said.

The inaugural *Curiosity Brisbane*, held in 2019, attracted more than 325,000 attendees and contributed to the local economy through increased hotel visitation and spending.

KEY EVENT

 **World Science Festival Brisbane**
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Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said *Curiosity Brisbane* strengthened Brisbane's credentials as a leading centre of innovation and culture.

"Year-after-year, Curiosity Brisbane grows Brisbane's reputation as a science, art and tech hotspot and we are proud to be recognised as the only city in the world to host the World Science Festival outside of New York," Cr Schrinner said.

Highlighting each of the four precincts, *Curiosity Brisbane* today announced the following *Curiocities*, created by world-renowned placemakers, will appear as part of its 2020 program:

- **Maiwar AR** by **Bilbie Labs**; an immersive Augmented Reality work, allowing users to be transported back in time to Brisbane (Maiwar) the day prior to First Settlement through their smart phone or tablet.
- **Evanescent** by **Chimera Atelier** and **Pineapple Design Studios**; an artwork driven by the forces and natural occurrences within the changing world around us, using dichroic film creates the illusion of the bubble-like form.
- **Platonic Volumes & Cosmologies** by **Bits to Atoms**; a large scale-translucent lattice of recycled plastic beams, which illustrates a tipping point in scientific thinking, derived from Kepler's theories on cosmology.
- **Artificial Ecology** by **EyeJack** and **Helen Papageorgiou**; an Augmented Reality (AR) artwork where visitors use their smart devices to build a digital ecosystem together.

Curiosity Brisbane Executive Producer Theresa Famularo said boundary-pushing partnerships and concepts would guarantee the 2021 *Curiocities* were unlike anything visitors had experienced before.

"Curiosity Brisbane encouraged collaboration among creators to spark fresh ideas and bring new and distinctive Curiocities to life in 2021," Ms Famularo said.

"We have tapped into a wealth of highly skilled and imaginative creators and makers who will contribute to a world-class event."

The *Queensland Schools Challenge*, in partnership with *World Science Festival Brisbane*, provides an opportunity for six Queensland schools to be part of *Curiosity Brisbane*.

Students from three primary and three secondary schools will bring their creative ideas to life over the next few months, with the help of a professional maker.

Today, the six winners of the Queensland Schools Challenge were announced as:

- Ferny Grove State High School, Ferny Grove (secondary school)
- Isis District High School, Childers (secondary school)
- Trinity Bay State High School, Manunda (secondary school)
- Leichhardt State School, Leichhardt (primary school)
- Payne Road State School, The Gap (primary school)
- Dalby South State School, Dalby (primary school).

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A delegation from each school will bring their *Curiosity* to Brisbane, explore *Curiosity Brisbane* and receive exclusive behind-the-scenes tours.

The *Queensland Schools Challenge* builds on school-based activities, including *City of Science*, that are a popular part of the successful *World Science Festival Brisbane*, held from 24 to 28 March 2021.

Queensland Museum Network CEO Dr Jim Thompson said over the years World Science Festival Brisbane has built a reputation for developing and delivering world-class events and it's great to see so many schools involved in the Queensland Schools Challenge.

"I'd like to congratulate the students and artists who were involved in bringing these digital and physical installations to life that inspire meaningful STEAM experiences for visitors of all ages, and we look forward to seeing them on display during the festival in March," Dr Thompson said.

In celebration of the Gallery of Modern Art's highly anticipated new exhibition, a special two-night only event will join the *Curiosity Brisbane* 2021 lineup; *The Motorcycle Up Late*.

The *Motorcycle*, a world-exclusive exhibition, only in Brisbane, will showcase the art, design and history of one of the most iconic objects of the last 150 years, the motorcycle. Featuring more than 100 innovative and influential motorcycles from the 1860s to present day, it will consider the iconic vehicle from the perspective of social history, popular culture, design and technology.

Jam-packed with live music, DJs, bars, dining and more, *The Motorcycle Up Late* lineup and tickets will be released late January 2021.

A new addition to *Curiosity Brisbane* in 2021 is the engagement of writer and broadcaster **Benjamin Law** as its inaugural *Master of Curious Conversations*.

Mr Law will host *Curious Conversations*, a free, ticketed series of thought-provoking conversations with creators, makers, scientists and engineers.

"Curiosity Brisbane will activate Brisbane in dynamic, heart-stopping ways people will remember for years," Mr Law said.

"I can't wait to probe the brightest minds across science and the arts for Curious Conversations."

Learn more about *Curiosity Brisbane* at curiositybrisbane.com

For World Science Festival Brisbane program announcements and ticket sales, visit worldsciencefestival.com.au

To learn more about *The Motorcycle Up Late*, visit <https://www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/whats-on/events/up-late/the-motorcycle-up-late>

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The Queensland Government, through Tourism and Events Queensland and the Department of Tourism Industry Development and Innovation, and Brisbane City Council through the Brisbane Economic Development Agency, is proud to support Curiosity Brisbane, which features on the It's Live! in Queensland events calendar. Your perfect next event is in Queensland where live events combine with the most incredible destinations, and life is beautiful one day, perfect the next.

A selection of HI Res imagery is available for download [here](#).

– ENDS –

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ABOUT CURIOCITY BRISBANE | 12 - 28 March 2021 | curiocitybrisbane.com

Let your imagination roam free! Curiosity Brisbane is a 17-day celebration of science, art and tech, where new possibilities play and big ideas collide. From 12 to 28 March 2021, explore a packed program of interactive installations and events, including the World Science Festival Brisbane and The Motorcycle Up Late at GOMA, and watch as the city around you is transformed into a world of discovery.

ABOUT WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL BRISBANE | 24 – 28 March 2021 | worldsciencefestival.com.au

World Science Festival Brisbane explores and celebrates the entanglement of science and art through a curated program of thought-provoking conversations, inspiring theatrical and cinematic experiences, interactive workshops and engaging demonstrations. Originating in New York, Queensland Museum Network secured an exclusive licence to host World Science Festival in the Asia Pacific from 2016–21. The only global extension of this hugely popular initiative, World Science Festival Brisbane reinforces Queensland Museum's position as a leader in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and engagement.

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