

MEDIA RELEASE

World Science Festival Brisbane and Curiosity Brisbane ready to roll for 2024

After five days of thought-provoking talks, more than 130 engaging events, turtle hatchlings and cutting-edge science discoveries and demonstrations, **World Science Festival Brisbane** has wrapped up for 2023.

Engaging the minds and hearts of visitors across Brisbane's Cultural Precinct and South Bank, the festival drew crowds from around the world including science enthusiasts, students, and families.

Attendees together with some of the most prominent scientists, thinkers, and industry leaders, explored the latest developments in STEM – from the new space travel expeditions planned in the next 10 years, to stories rewriting the origin of humankind.

The festival kicked off with The Future of Space Exploration, a signature conversation direct from New York featuring festival co-founder Professor Brian Greene, NASA's chief scientist and representatives from space agencies around the globe.

Throughout World Science Festival Brisbane, visitors were able to get their science fix taking in a range of topics including climate change, space exploration, quantum computing, genetics, and more.

Panel discussions featured international and local luminaries including paleoanthropologist Lee Berger, neuroscientist Veronica O'Keane, Palaeontologist Ignacio Escapa from Argentina, and NASA's Exoplanet Archive Task Scientist, Australian-born Jessie L. Christiansen.

Minister for the Arts Leanne Enoch said once again World Science Festival Brisbane has been incredibly successful, delivering amazing attendance numbers and on-line visitors who engaged with art-infused scientific wonders and dinosaur sized events and exhibitions.

"This year's festival showcased the sold-out Turtle Hatchery, Queensland's first scientists and the traditional cultural knowledge of our First Nations Peoples," Minister Enoch said.

"It also featured the return of international speakers including Professor Brian Green along with co-founder Tracey Day of the World Science Festival.

"I am pleased to announce The World Science Festival Brisbane will return next year from 20-24 March 2024, with Curiosity Brisbane from 20-31 March 2024.

"The Queensland Government supports the Queensland Museum to present signature events like the World Science Festival Brisbane, to profile Queensland as an international destination for artistic innovation and scientific breakthroughs on our path towards 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games."

The Hatchery once again proved to be the highlight of the festival, selling out within 24 hours, while family-friendly events including City of Science, pop-up science shows, film screenings and musical performances attracted thousands of visitors across the weekend.

Queensland Museum Network CEO Dr Jim Thompson said seeing another successful festival is a proud achievement and that festival programming continues to develop and offer new perspectives on our world.

"World Science Festival Brisbane continues to grow in popularity and has become a hub for scientific discovery and exploration," Dr Thompson said.

"We hope that our participants and visitors have a renewed sense of curiosity and excitement for the possibilities of science.

"We now look forward to taking the festival on the road for World Science Festival Queensland, which lands in Toowoomba on Sunday 21 May."

World Science Festival Co-Founders Professor Brian Greene and Tracy Day said it was an absolute joy to return to Brisbane for the first time since 2019.

"It has been an amazing experience returning to Brisbane and heart-warming to see festival fans attending incredible science and arts events over across this amazing city," Ms Day said.

"Coming to Brisbane is always a highlight of my year and we've missed the enthusiasm and excitement since our last trip in 2019. Brisbane has embraced this festival, which we established to inspire audiences."

Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said the festival was a great opportunity for Brisbane to inspire the community and showcase its strengths in innovation, art and science.

"Over five brilliant days, World Science Festival filled the hearts and minds of thousands of curious locals and visitors, as they discovered something new in the cultural heart of Brisbane," Cr Schrinner said.

"The event is a popular fixture on Brisbane's jam-packed major events calendar, which inject millions into our economy and supports local jobs."

Creators and makers, artists, engineers, and architects from around the world are now invited to submit an idea for a large scale physical or digital installation via an **online Expression of Interest** on the website to be considered as part of ***Curiosity Brisbane 2024***.

World Science Festival Queensland events will be held at Toowoomba, Chinchilla, Townsville, Gladstone, and Ipswich later this year.

The festival will return in 2024, with new ideas, discoveries, and insights to share.

The World Science Festival Brisbane and *Curiosity Brisbane* is supported by the Queensland Government, through Tourism and Events Queensland, and Brisbane Economic Development Agency, and is a feature on the *It's Live! in Queensland* events calendar.

For more information and to stay updated, visit www.worldsciencefestival.com.au.

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World Science Festival Brisbane 2023 is presented by Queensland Museum Network with support from Queensland Government and Strategic Partners Tourism Events Queensland and Brisbane Economic Development Agency.

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ABOUT WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL BRISBANE | worldsciencefestival.com.au

Queensland Museum Network holds exclusive licence to host World Science Festival in the Asia Pacific – the only global extension of this initiative. WSFB has attracted more than 800,000 attendances, and added \$36 million to the Queensland economy, since 2016. World Science Festival Brisbane reinforces Queensland's position as a knowledge economy and ignites new and challenging discussions about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) so that more and more people experience the value, impacts and wonder of science.

ABOUT CURIOCITY BRISBANE | 22 March – 2 April 2023 | worldsciencefestival.com.au

Since 2019, *Curiosity Brisbane* has sparked inspiration and innovation, transforming our city into an interactive place to “explore, create and play”. During March, *Curiosity Brisbane* invites visitors to let their imaginations roam free, with installations, workshops and talks from high-profile artists that celebrate the connection between art, science and technology. In 2023, *Curiosity Brisbane* will be delivered as part of World Science Festival Brisbane, presented by Queensland Museum Network.

ABOUT WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL QUEENSLAND | various dates, 2023 | worldsciencefestival.com.au

World Science Festival Queensland explores and celebrates the connection of science and art at five regional locations around Queensland, including Toowoomba, Townsville, Ipswich, Chinchilla and Gladstone.

WSFQ 2023 dates

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| Curiosity Brisbane | Wednesday 22 March – 2 April |
| World Science Festival Queensland Toowoomba | Sunday 21 May Monday 22 May (Schools Program) 24 June – 9 July (School Holiday Program) |
| World Science Festival Queensland Chinchilla | Friday 2 June (Schools Program) |

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| | Saturday 3 June |
| World Science Festival Queensland Townsville | Friday 23 June (Schools Programs) Saturday 24 June 24 June – 9 July (School Holiday Program) |
| World Science Festival Queensland Gladstone | Friday 28 July (Schools Program) Saturday 29 July |
| World Science Festival Queensland Ipswich | 1 – 16 April (School Holiday Program) Friday 11 August (Schools Program) Saturday 12 August |

WSF Brisbane 2024 dates

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|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| World Science Festival Brisbane | 20 – 24 March 2024 |
| Curiosity Brisbane | 20 – 31 March 2024 |