Darwin Festival has received a record $1 million funding commitment from the Territory Government in the 2011 Budget.

“Darwin Festival is one of the most celebrated events in the Top End bringing together hundreds of local artists and tens of thousands of Territorians in an eighteen daylong celebration of the arts and culture,” Minister for the Arts and Museums, Gerry McCarthy said.

“This investment doubles the base funding with an additional quarter of a million on top of our funding commitment last year, and importantly it helps ensure the sustainability of the Darwin Festival.

“This year’s program will include great local, national and international performances - one of the most spectacular examples of the quality of work that Darwin Festival is able to bring this year is the exciting Sydney Dance Company production of Rafael Bonachela's We Unfold.

“Last year Darwin Festival attracted audiences of 94 000, and we want to ensure Territorians can continue to enjoy this fantastic, first class arts festival.

“The Darwin Festival provides great economic spin off benefits for the local arts community and we want to continue to help it grow – last year more than $455 500 worth of employment was generated in the local arts community as a result of the Darwin Festival.

“The Darwin Festival created jobs for 71 Indigenous employees and performers and provided a total 300 hours of Indigenous producer and production crew training.

“On top of this the Darwin Festival engaged 70 volunteers and brought together more than 20 Territory-wide creative industry organisations, providing an important link to help grow our arts community.

“Last year the Darwin Festival expended more than $1.5 million on Territory business and delivered a $6.39 million economic boost to the Territory economy and we want to invest in the Darwin Festival to provide an even bigger economic benefit for our economy.”

Jo Duffy, Artistic Director of the Darwin Festival welcomed the increase in funding.

“These much needed funds are greatly appreciated and will secure the high quality events that are now expected of Darwin Festival,” Jo Duffy said.

“The calibre of performances, exhibitions and free events as well as the ongoing development of Northern Territory projects are the elements that allow Darwin Festival to continue producing the best outcomes both culturally and economically for our community.”

Key Darwin Festival dates:
- **Wednesday 25 May:** Advance tickets on sale and a selection of this year’s program revealed.
- **Wednesday 29 June:** 2011 Darwin Festival Program officially launched by the Chief Minister.
- **Thursday 11 August:** 2011 Darwin Festival commences (runs through to Sunday 28 August)
For more information visit www.darwinfestival.org.au

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