

# MOAD

Museum of Australian Democracy  
at Old Parliament House

MEDIA RELEASE

14 February 2025



## **SWIPE RIGHT AND FALL IN LOVE WITH DEMOCRACY: MoAD LIGHTS UP DURING ENLIGHTEN**

Old Parliament House has been the backdrop for some of Australia's most defining moments – political showdowns, history-making decisions, and even, on occasion, romance.

In fact, relationships and democracy have more in common than you might think. Both thrive on fresh perspectives, trust and open dialogue, and the occasional spark to keep things alive.

Barrie Cassidy, Chair of the Board at Old Parliament House, is no stranger to navigating the challenges involved when fostering a relationship with democracy.

“During Enlighten 2025 we want visitors to MoAD to ask themselves - how is their relationship with democracy going? Is it still everything you had hoped for? Or are there aspects of it that you’re now concerned about? And even if that’s the case do you still appreciate this a relationship worth fighting for, no matter the challenges?”

This Enlighten Festival, it could be your turn to find love with – or at least, a revived passion for – democracy at Old Parliament House.

The Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) is thrilled to invite you on a *Date with Democracy* during the Enlighten Festival 2025.

Inspired by the highs and lows of love and dating, artwork by Sydney-based artist Claudia Chinyere Akole will transform Old Parliament House into a kaleidoscope of hearts and flowers (along with the odd ballot box).

Ms Chinyere Akole’s vibrant artwork will illuminate the building’s iconic façade every night of Enlighten from 8pm, encouraging visitors to see democracy in a new light.

For four magical nights, MoAD will open its doors after dark, welcoming visitors of all ages to step inside Old Parliament House and explore democracy through an evening of fun, nostalgia, and unexpected connections.

Amy Wolgamot, MoAD’s Head of Exhibitions and Engagement, highlighted MoAD’s unique role in bringing history to life during Enlighten:

“Democracy makes us feel lots of things. Some parts are deeply satisfying while others may need a little work to spark the love again. This year at Enlighten we’re asking you to check your relationship status with democracy. Join us for a family-friendly, fun night out. If you’ve never been to MoAD before, now is the perfect time to come inside, explore Old Parliament House and get to know democracy a little better,” Ms Wolgamot said.

“Enlighten is one of our favourite events and MoAD is the place to be. It’s a chance for visitors to engage in activities that connect with democracy in unexpected ways.”

Whether you’re flying solo, on a first date, or enjoying a night out with friends, there’s something for everyone:

- **Dancing in King’s Hall** – twirl and two-step through history in one of Australia’s most historic venues with line dancing group, Saddle Club.
- **Karaoke love anthems** – belt out classic ballads in the very halls where political careers were made (and broken!).
- **DIY friendship bracelet station** – create a keepsake to celebrate democracy, friendship, and maybe even a new spark.

- **Get to know democracy** – We'll set you up on a 'date with democracy', choose one of five unique adventures around the building.
- **Food and drinks at the exclusive Members' Bar and Dining Rooms** – open to museum visitors only during Enlighten, offering a perfect setting to debrief after a night of fun.

No matter if you're a history buff, a political junkie, hopeless romantic or simply looking for a unique night out, a *Date with Democracy* at Old Parliament House is an unmissable experience.

Join us at MoAD during Enlighten Festival 2025 and let democracy steal your heart!

The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House acknowledges *The Canberra Times* as their Media Partner for the 2025 Enlighten Festival.

## KEY DATES

**Enlighten Illuminations:** 28 February to 10 March 2025 (inclusive), Free from 8pm

**'Date with Democracy' free events:** Friday 28 Feb, Saturday 1 March, Friday 7 March, Saturday 8 March, 7pm-10.30pm

**Members' Bar drinks:** Friday 28 Feb, Saturday 1 March, Friday 7 March, Saturday 8 March, 7pm-10pm

Media enquiries: [media@moadoph.gov.au](mailto:media@moadoph.gov.au) or call (02) 6270 8120

## IMAGES

Available [here](#).

---

## ABOUT CLAUDIA CHINYERE AKOLE

Claudia Chinyere Akole is an artist, illustrator, cartoonist, designer, animator, and educator based in Sydney, Australia. Illuminations created with support from Studio Starr.

## ABOUT ENLIGHTEN

Now in its 15th year, the ACT Government's 2025 Enlighten Festival will see stunning architectural projections highlighting culture and storytelling on Canberra's iconic buildings as part of Enlighten Illuminations. A range of national institutions and businesses will also open their doors after dark offering a range of experiences and

events for the fun makers, knowledge seekers and culturally curious as part of the Enlighten Night Shift program. Both programs run from 28 February -10 March inclusive.

**Image caption:** For four magical nights, MoAD will open its doors after dark, welcoming visitors of all ages to step inside Old Parliament House and explore democracy through an evening of fun, nostalgia, and unexpected connections.