

Jess Scully

Writer, Speaker, Curator, MC

Jess Scully is a national radio broadcaster, author, city-maker and advocate for the creative economy and the role of cities in a fair future. As Deputy Lord Mayor of Sydney from 2019 to 2022 and as a Councillor at the City of Sydney from 2016 to 2023, Jess introduced new models to address the housing crisis and support a more inclusive economy, worked to embed culture in the life of the city and revive Sydney's nightlife, and advocated to expand who plays a role in shaping the life of the city.



Jess has consulted for some of Australia's most innovative companies and organisations, and is

currently a World Bank consultant, advising the largest multilateral financier of climate action in developing countries. Previously, Jess founded and directed Vivid Ideas, Australia's largest creative industries event; hosted Saturday Afternoons broadcasting nationally on ABC Radio; supported emerging talent through the Qantas Spirit of Youth Awards; transformed public space as an urbanism consultant and public art curator, and served as a policy advisor to the NSW Minister for the Arts. She is a Senior Associate at the Sydney Policy Lab and the founder of the Civic Imagination Network, developing new ways to help communities imagine and design positive futures.

Her first book, Glimpses of Utopia: Real Ideas for a Fairer World, was published by Pantera Press and shortlisted in the Australian Book Industry Awards in 2021.

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