

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

The challenges and opportunities you see in the pillar or pillars most relevant to you

Challenges

The artform I consume most is music. The artists I know are visual artists. The artforms I practice are drawing and writing.

Across music and visual art there are people making world class art, most of whom are lucky to make average weekly earnings. Not all artists are world class, but then neither are most of anything; we don't expect others to be world class to be able to make a living from what they do.

An artist usually relies on a side gig to some extent. Their life is often episodic – money comes in but then nothing.

After institutional education support for developing talent disappears.

Possible Responses

The arts as a component of every government project.

Support for a range of venue sizes (the opera house does not help develop artists from high school through to becoming highly skilled).

TAFE courses – with appropriate curricula (a lot of it is tosh). Support for arts activities and courses in school. (When will government fund the Australia Institute of Arts? The arts probably do more for soft power diplomacy than sport.) Support for Arts courses at uni – so much of uni is time wasting credentialism.

Opportunities

International prizes and competitions. World class work is being produced, people need to be supported to enter.

Local venues, huge numbers of the population are art makers. Networking, mentoring and affordable venues could have huge benefits.

Why the five pillars matter to you and your practice, and/or

Pillar 1 — First Nations First

1 Social justice. 2 there is so much great stuff being produced that people don't get to see.

Pillar 2 — A Place for Every Story

There is a huge variety of work being made that most people don't even know about, let alone get to experience.

Pillar 3 — Centrality of the Artist

Artists should be able to make a good living from their work! They also need connection to peers and support to develop their practice.

Pillar 4 — Strong Cultural Infrastructure

The big gap is post formal education. We need a range of scale for education and showing of art works.

Pillar 5 — Engaging the Audience

The only way to really do this is to educate people in the arts. In this way an appreciative audience is grown. It is not about markets and marketing.

What you would like to see reflected in the next National Cultural Policy.

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A commitment to artists. Artists make the art: If they are supported the production of art will look after itself.

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