

National Cultural Policy Submission

1468781

Public and anonymous

Individual

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

This submission is music related.

Good policy reflects exceptional education, knowledge and understanding.

“Today we know that music doesn’t only touch emotions—it impacts the brain, memory, and even physiological processes. It helps us regulate, remember, and reconnect. Through sound, we can heal and reflect, find joy, and feel grounded.

As both a musician and physician, I’ve seen how music isn’t just a form of entertainment—it’s a vital part of our emotional, cognitive, and social health. From the moment we are born, we respond to rhythm, voice, and sound. Music regulates our emotions, soothes our nervous system, and helps us feel connected.”

“Musical practice doesn’t just stimulate the brain—it helps us live better and longer. Studies show that musicians tend to stay healthier into old age, thanks to habits that support physical well-being (like breath control, posture, and healthy routines) and the deep sense of purpose that comes from engaging with music.

Dr Patricia Caicedo (a Spanish musician, musicologist and physician).

Governments and relevant institutions often seem unable to differentiate between the arts, entertainment and culture.

We fail to understand and properly nurture the arts because the media and governments apparently see greater value in entertainment (including sport) and thereby continues a massive failure to properly support education and appreciation (if not practice) of an arts discipline.

In this process, the arts and some entertainment formats have been bundled in the one basket as “creative industries” placing the same as similar to steel making, food canning or tourism – thus enabling the genres to be pigeon-holed according to their financial return/impact, and not related to their actual intrinsic function.

Please read - Culture is Not an Industry by Justin O’Connor. It asserts:

“Culture is at the heart to what it means to be human. But government rebranded art and culture as ‘creative industries’, valued for their economic contribution,

..... This book is about what happens when an essential part of our democratic citizenship, fundamental to our human rights, is reduced to an industry.

..... Bold and uncompromising, the book offers a powerful vision for change.”

Government view of and support for the arts appears to set criteria in financial or tourism terms or for certain “set” areas as determined from time to time (e.g. the current “pillars”). Regional centres remain the poor cousins of main beneficiaries in the capitals. There appears negligible credibility given to standards and quality and benefit to regional communities. There also seems a view that the regions have sufficient support for the performing arts in funding of touring capital city groups, and be damned for anything the regions want to do for themselves.

Of course, arts support has been on the decrease for years which will reflect on what future generations may perceive as their cultural heritage, or lack thereof. Many previously vibrant regional Conservatoria have been castrated because of this and many above attitudes.