

**National Cultural Policy Submission**

1469742

Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My perspective is hopeful that the focus will not only be on artists who are traditionally established, or that funding or residencies will go to them alone, but rather to consider the fabric of what culture is here in Australia, as well as a nuanced understanding of the cultural fabric, starting from the grassroots, in each city.

As an Artist, Producer and Creative Worker based in Sydney, my experience of the arts and evolution as an artist comes foremost from the community that I am involved in and that has taken many years to cultivate.

As a city, and country, we are not recognised as a beacon for the arts or culture: Institutions relating to the arts are often ridiculed for their out of touch approach to the creative scene, and consequently a lack of respect for the industry.

Particularly in Sydney, the creative culture thrives in the independent scene, yet exhibitions, shows, performances, creative collaborations almost always happen outside of public funding or support, and rarely even happen in established spaces.

In my experience of exhibiting my own works, I have utilised shopfronts and empty spaces, taken initiative to lease these spaces and turn them into exhibitions, as have many of my peers, as the criteria for funding of visual artists is less receptive to concept and community, and more receptive to resume, connection to industry, or involvement in art institutions.

This means the capacity for art that truly develops through a deep connection to the city, and country, and the nuances that the creative scene has here, are not being funded, represented or championed. It also makes it very hard to access small, niche circles, of people who have invested deeply in community for many years to create our own creative ecosystem (self-funded and out of pocket).

It would be a game changer if the National Cultural Policy were to incorporate ambassadors or individuals who are deeply entrenched in this independent scene as mentioned: Those who know what is going on, and who are able to cut out the many layers of bureaucracy between genuine creativity and access to funding.

As an artist and creative producer I have developed a creative network that invites artists and art workers register their works and the type of projects they'd like to be involved in. It has given me vision particularly on what our scene thrives in and how broad the network extends. We have such brilliant creativity that sits outside of institutional walls, I would love to see that flourish, as well as experience support for my own work and endeavours, without having to move overseas to thrive.

Feel free to contact me with questions re the above, if you would like to discuss anything!

All the best,

Tahmyna Rad