

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470059

Public

Organisation

Great Southern Dance



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

ABOUT GREAT SOUTHERN DANCE

Great Southern Dance is a professional dance company home-based in nipaluna/Hobart, lutruwita/Tasmania, the southern capital of the southern state of a southern continent. Since 2019 Great Southern Dance has employed established artists from diverse art forms and developed talent pathways for emerging creatives, buoyed by diverse and intergenerational community connections at home and beyond. We are We create interdisciplinary professional dance that blends CHOREOGRAPHY and TOPOGRAPHY via live in-theatre performance and site-responsive films. We also offer DANCE WILL SAVE THE WORLD classes weekly building sustained, regular connections with community members across forty weeks each year. Annually, we also present intergenerational residencies, workshops and public performances via our DANCE COMMONS project and integrate CITIZEN DANCER, an artist-with-audience engagement program in all our projects.

<https://greatsoutherndance.com.au>

Great Southern Dance acknowledges that we dance and create on Aboriginal land and constantly learn from the wisdom of First Peoples. Acknowledging Elders past and present, we pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional, original and continuing custodians of this land.

ABOUT WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE:

- **STRONGER AND ACTIVE PROTECTION** of all cultural and artistic resources of our country:
 - prioritise people, their stories, ideas and IP
 - also bricks and mortar, technology,
 - opportunities/residencies/access to resources.

Our communities need culture and this culture needs 'homes' - locations, settings, facilities and opportunities that bring the output of artists to communities;

- **Immediate and ongoing GREATER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of the contribution of the **MOST VULNERABLE** artists and arts-makers:
 - independents
 - the nimble small-medium sector organisations

As well as being the essential avant garde - both of these groups are the feeder-contexts and hothouses for uncovering and nurturing talent;

- **GREATER RECOGNITION & RESOURCING** for DANCE as an art form because it foregrounds the embodied intelligence of humans **ACROSS THE WHOLE OF THEIR LIFESPAN**. In an age of machine learning and at a time when humans are becoming increasingly sedentary, it is timely that DANCE is elevated and celebrated for the myriad ways it **CONNECTS** us with ourselves, with each other and **REMINDS** us of how to live somatically rich and physically/sensorily responsive lives. Our bodies (nature!!) connect us to nature and climate and each other in irreplaceable ways. Notably, **PROFESSIONAL DANCERS** are the custodians of this and **MUST** be fostered to develop boldly in secondary, tertiary and community settings. Notably also, these arts professionals engage potently with creatives from other sectors: **ARCHITECTURE, FILM, DESIGN, MUSIC, STORYTELLING** and foster art

works with vibrancy, meaning, powerful expressiveness and potential great reach. LET'S LOCATE, RECOGNISE AND FOSTER POTENTIAL!!!

- GREATER RECOGNITION OF INTERGENERATIONAL arts practice - of the fundamental value of cultural settings and projects that synergise the agency and voices of diverse ages being together - for socio-cultural cohesion, knowledge continuity and the bolstering, innervating innovation of the new. Again, DANCE is an art form that does this exceptionally well because it brings people into shared space and time.