

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My perspective is less about culture as something people consume, and more about culture as something that helps people meaningfully connect with one another.

A challenge facing modern Australia, particularly for young people, is increasing social isolation in the digital age. Many people now work remotely, socialise online, rely on dating apps, and have fewer opportunities for recurring, low-pressure community interaction. At the same time, many traditional “third spaces” where people naturally gathered and formed friendships have declined.

I believe arts and cultural policy should place greater value on participatory culture, not only spectator culture.

Much arts funding understandably supports professional performances and storytelling. However, there is also enormous social value in cultural activities that encourage active participation, conversation and interaction between strangers and communities.

Around the world, collaborative dance traditions such as ceilidh dancing, salsa and other forms of social dance help people meet others naturally across ages and backgrounds. These environments encourage repeated interaction, community building and belonging in ways that feel increasingly rare in modern life.

Australia has relatively few mainstream participatory cultural traditions outside of a one off Nutbush. As a multicultural nation, there is an opportunity to support more community-focused cultural experiences that encourage people not just to watch culture, but to participate in it together and encourage young people to give it a go, not be embarrassed if they don't get it right the first time and make friends who lost genuinely learning. Especially for kinesthetic learners.

I would like to see the new National Cultural Policy recognise arts and culture not only as entertainment or storytelling, but also as important social infrastructure that can strengthen community connection, reduce loneliness and help rebuild real-world interaction in an increasingly electronic society.