

National Cultural Policy Submission

1471446

Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Semantic Warfare

Arts education is not a curse. Though artistic careers are scarce, people who say they are artists, in my experience are highly adaptable to various kinds of work, and this needs to be acknowledged as a strength when mapping career pathways. Instead of a deficit position, normalise arts backgrounds as a common good rather than a hindrance to job-readiness. \,Yeah, old mate has her forklift license and a PhD in 12th Century depictions of loneliness in equestrian folk art; a fair dinkum genius\,.

We're not here for a long time; we're here for a good time.

For the world to believe that Australian stories matter, the intrinsic value of arts and culture should be positioned as immeasurable. Two decades of arguing for the economic and social value of arts and culture hasn't convinced the public, and perhaps that framing is the very reason for perpetual low public trust. Change the narrative or stop trying altogether. Economic rationalism is the mechanism for which all en****tification emerges, and our ends hasten, so we could leverage these low stakes while the power is looking the other way, to usher in a New Renaissance*.

I'm not an accelerationist, but...

Maybe we should defund the arts entirely and see what happens? I mean why do it by half measures? Let's see how bad it can get. Would the power be re-distributed evenly, levelling the field so arts and culture can fend for itself in the marketplace, or would it leave a vacuum for dominant global voices to re-shape our communities and identity into something more useful? We could probably free up enough cash for a hospital at least.

Other cool ideas:

Paying Aboriginal knowledge holders for their ongoing cultural work.

Reimagining the music venue away from hospitality model into a co-operative model (owned by bands and fans).

Double job seeker payments back to COVID times for practicing artists.

Make business for bookstores as easy as possible.

*For everyone, not just gross incels.