

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

Lana Nguyen



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am a curator, producer and arts worker who has worked across the sector at Footscray Community Arts, Collingwood Yards, Liquid Architecture, West Space, Bus Projects, RISING Festival, ArtPlay, SIGNAL, City of Merri-bek, Next Wave, Arts House, The Substation, Seventh Gallery, Cementa, MUMA and beyond. I'm deeply worried about the state of our arts sector, and the flow on effects that it has to democratic thought and how our society is being shaped.

I would like to see more emphasis on away from outcome driven processes. We need to have room to dream, think, learn and experiment. We need to focus on relationships and processes in our world building. Artists, arts workers and cultural practitioners have the opportunity to build our world with engaged, critical and generative thinking that brings a suite of knowledges together. We need funds for research-only projects and funds that allow artists to build projects and relationships over multiple years, ideally 3 or more. We need more emphasis on quality of thought, processes of communication, and networks between practitioners and organisations rather than on the production and presentation of work. We need more funds for experimentation, for labs and for learning. We need more emphasis on collective learning and dialogue.

We need more funding for regional/rural work and institutions, they are driving incredibly important and vital conversations, particularly around climate. We need more funds for connection between regional/rural places and urban centres.

We need to see significant funding channels that can sit with independents and new organisations, rather than just going to established organisations that are increasingly being compromised by the pressures of bureaucracy.

We need art schools that are independent from universities.

We need to see climate as a backbone to all the pillars of the National Cultural Policy, and we need to know that this sits hand and hand with First Nations justice and cultural expression. We need dedicated and significant funding for the arts to engage with climate leadership and adaptation, as there is no art on a dead planet.