

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

As Treasurer of Second Echo Ensemble (SEE), based in nipaluna/Hobart, Lutruwita/Tasmania, I welcome the opportunity to contribute to Australia's next National Cultural Policy. Since 2005, SEE has created radical equity through exceptional interdisciplinary performance, creative development, and collaboration. We champion diverse voices—particularly those of artists with disability and from underrepresented communities—challenging stereotypes and reshaping perspectives on who gets to tell stories and where art happens.

Our work demonstrates culture's power to build belonging, resilience, and innovation. In a post-Revive landscape, we urge the policy to prioritise sustainable funding models that support small-to-medium organisations like ours, which deliver outsized impact in regional areas. Financial pressures, including rising costs and precarious employment for artists, threaten the sector's vitality. Targeted investment in artist development, hybrid/digital innovation, and equitable access will ensure cultural participation strengthens communities and drives economic contribution—already over \$67 billion annually.

I recommend strengthening regional infrastructure, fair remuneration frameworks, and pathways for emerging and diverse creatives. A bold, inclusive policy must centre every story, fostering an ecosystem where art not only reflects Australia but actively builds its future.

Christopher Long

Treasurer, Second Echo Ensemble