

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I have been a full time professional artsworker since the mid 1990s, with a background in community arts, festivals, screen, and literature. I work now as a freelance arts and cultural consultant, and own a feminist bookshop.

I have submitted a large number of submissions and participated in many consultations and surveys about the arts over the years. There are so many excellent ideas that funding bodies have received, no shortage of opinions and policy suggestions, and also no shortage of people for funding bodies to look to for policy development contribution. I have come to the decision not to submit any more ideas for policies, strategies and priorities. Instead I support a single priority: we are currently facing a critical moment in the arts and cultural sector, and every bit of energy, time, and resources needs to be put into securing increased funding for Australian artists, art making, and infrastructure.

First Nations First

Speaking from a South Australian perspective, it is impossible for First Nations artists to be adequately supported due to the urgently dire state of First Nations cultural infrastructure, including Tandanya, Tarrkarri (ie lack of any decision on the future of it), lack of First Nations-run arts organisations, lack of financial support for First Nations artsworkers, lack of cultural competency and knowledge of First Nations issues throughout the sector, lack of direct funding to First Nations artists. The must be addressed with increased funding and devolved funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in South Australia.

A Place for Every Story

True accessibility, universal participation, diversity and inclusion require three things: willingness of those with power to give it away, competency of those in power to know what support is needed from them, and proper resources. We need to hear every artists' voice now more than ever. We need more funding, and stricter funding requirements around access for artists and audiences.

Centrality of the Artist

Fund artists to make art. Increase direct payments to artists. Provide financial support for artists from marginalised communities to make funding applications. Make a visionary investment in our future by funding artists to make art without predetermined outcomes. Increase funding for experimentation and creative development. Fund artists even when they don't have an upcoming presentation, book, performance or exhibition. Fund them just to make.

Strong Cultural Infrastructure

The cultural infrastructure in South Australia is critically and criminally under threat. It has essentially been broken through years of neglect. The built infrastructure - from the famous North Terrace strip all the way to our remote communities - is in a shamefully neglected state. Fund South Australia's cultural infrastructure. Support regional South Australia to build a robust network of cultural institutions, centres, hubs and artmaking places.

South Australia's institutional infrastructure is also in a critical state, mostly financially. There needs to be an urgent increase in funding for our arts organisations.

FUND HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.



GOVERNANCE: I strongly urge you to institute a roots and branch review of governance. It is a mess, and a mess that is threatening the financial, reputational, organisational and creative future of our organisations. Let the sector reallocated the resources currently wasted on our outdated governance models.