

JamFactory is a nation-leading craft and design centre with galleries, shops and specialised studio facilities in ceramics, glass, furniture, jewellery and metalwork. JamFactory receives operational funding from the South Australian and Commonwealth Governments, with public funding accounting for less than a third of the organisation's annual turnover of over \$6million. JamFactory delivers an internationally acclaimed training program, a national touring exhibitions program and a locally designed and manufactured product collection supporting income and employment for designers and makers.

First Nations First

We note significant demands on and sub-optimal outcomes for First Nations arts workers in small to medium organisations, where there are few full-time or ongoing roles, and where leadership is overwhelmingly non-First Nations. Through successful collaborations with First Nations led organisations, we have learned how our strengths can be harnessed in a supporting role to achieve better First Nations creative and employment outcomes.

Recommendation: Review grant programs to encourage greater levels of collaboration between First Nations and non-First Nations organisations that support First Nations employment

A Place for Every Story

Australia's regional galleries network is under increasing pressure. Reduced state and local government funding, gallery closures and increased costs have adversely impacted our touring exhibitions program. We are cutting back our touring program despite extraordinarily positive local engagement with our highly accessible craft and design focused exhibitions.

Recommendation: Increase support for touring exhibitions through the Visions of Australia Program

Centrality of the Artist

We are facing an acute shortage of designers and makers and the loss of specialist education and training in crafts and skilled manufacturing. This diminishment limits creative entrepreneurship at a time when consumers are seeking alternatives to globalised mass-manufacturing and AI. Australian designers and makers create value-added goods embedded with local narratives.

Recommendation: Develop a 10-year workforce plan which supports skills and training pathways for craftspeople and designers

Recommendation: Investigate models for protection of artists and designers intellectual property in the age of AI

Strong Cultural Infrastructure

Craft and design infrastructure in Australia is fragile and limited. Subsidised organisations such as JamFactory play a vital and essential role as the backbone of the nation's craft and design ecosystem. We invest in long-term market development, training and professional development.

Recommendation: Establish a dedicated body/structure within Creative Australia (similar to Music Australia) to grow and better align support for Australia's designers and makers

Recommendation: Commit to annual indexation on all multi-year funding programs

Engaging the Audience

Reaching wider audiences is both a market development opportunity, and an investment in wellbeing and social cohesion. JamFactory's dramatic growth in earned revenue (more than doubling over a decade) is strong evidence of the commercial potential for craft and design nationally and internationally.

Recommendation: Create a market development strategy to increase exports, grow audiences and promote cultural tourism, including representation at key international craft/design events