

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472121

Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I believe that bookshops should be included under the national cultural policy. They are places of cultural significance within communities that support artists and those who engage in the medium.

Literature opens up worlds for people. It is a way of sharing g our inner and outer world. Transporting people into the readers world.

This is impirtant in so many ways and book shops are often portals to people and places beyond our imagination.

When authors engage within communities the experience can be transformative. Someone who was an abstract figure can bridge ethnicities, social classes and gender through their writing and shift perspectives, opening world beyond our own for consideration and compassion. Reading is how we learn. How we try on identities and understand conflicting characters. It teachers us to hold the entirety of a character not just their behaviour. We glimpse into what makes a person behave the way they do.

This compassion, awareness and understanding teaches us to hold the complexities of this life and broadens our world view.

Culture and meaning is was transforms lives and it's how we connect to one another's stories. For this alone bookstore are a place of huge importance within community.

However, it's not just what book stores offer our interior lives that counts. They bring communities together. They allow for robust discussions and perspectives at book clubs and they encourage people to listen and engage with perspectives that differ from their own.

When we can create robust communities willing to sit in circle and listen, debate, hold space for and laugh together, we are creating medicine for this world.

Bookshops are medicine for our fractured world and it's never been more important than now to protect and embolden these independent spaces