

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Street dance in Australia is deeply important to young people, especially those from diverse, working-class, and outer suburban communities. It gives people identity, connection, discipline, creativity, confidence, and a safe place to express themselves. For many of us, dance is not just a hobby — it is our community, our passion, and sometimes even our emotional support system.

However, despite how large and influential the street dance community is, it receives very little structural support compared to other art forms and sports. Many dancers struggle financially just to participate. Transport is a huge issue, especially for dancers living far from the city or in outer suburbs where public transport is unreliable and inconvenient. Many young dancers spend hours travelling to rehearsals, training sessions, battles, and performances because there are limited accessible spaces and opportunities in local areas.

Street dance also deserves greater recognition as a legitimate artistic and cultural practice. The community creates performances, events, mentorship, education, and social impact, yet many dancers and crews operate without funding, stable rehearsal spaces, or institutional support. This creates burnout and limits opportunities for talented young artists.