

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472394

Public

Organisation

NorthSite Contemporary Arts

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

COMMENTARY ON REVIVE 2023

NorthSite Contemporary Arts proposes the following measures to strengthen the efficacy of REVIVE in its next iteration:

1. First Nations First

- Mechanisms to better support leadership opportunities and stronger career development pathways for Indigenous employees, arts workers and exhibiting artists.
- Tackling cross sector wages inequity; First Nations workers taking up employment outside the arts sector where wage expectations are 50-80% higher. The impact of wage disparity has a direct effect on recruitment and retention of more highly skilled workers and is a disincentive to seeking career pathways in the arts.
- Greater investment in regionally produced exhibition development focussed on local Indigenous stories for international audiences, particularly neighbouring countries across the Indo-Pacific Region.
- Greater support delivered through the Indigenous Art Centre Alliance for remote art centre worker training programs, artist skills development, exhibition opportunities and retail product development initiatives (currently delivered by NorthSite) to improve economic opportunities for remote indigenous people.

2. A Place for Every Story

- Stronger connectivity and responsivity in DFAT initiatives that aim to build stronger cultural ties between Australia and neighbouring nations. Financial investment to support these programs is the most impactful.
- Support for brokering relationships between NorthSite and Southeast Asian and Oceanic consulates to deliver economically focussed creative cultural exchange programs.
- Greater investment in cultural and economic organisations like Asia Link and ASEAN-Australia to expand cultural and creative exchange programs between Australia and other nations.

3. Centrality of the Artist

- Increase funding to improve jobs and training pipelines to prepare and upskill arts workers. Funding to be directed to existing educational institutions or to host cultural institutions to better resource in-house designed training initiatives.
- In recognition of the fragmentation and decline of formal, traditional educational pathways, support the implementation of micro-credential systems that are suitable for the sector. The complexity of working with RTOs and GTOs to develop and deliver these is a powerful disincentive.
- Continue to invest in delivering stronger protections around IP, ICIP and copyright to provide greater protection for creative producers.

4. Strong Cultural Infrastructure

- Greater support and investment in research organisations such as A New Approach to promote effective data collection, policy development and sharing.

- More support for Peak bodies; the Indigenous Art Code and Artisan.
 - More support for allied support agencies; the National Association for the Visual Arts, Arts Law and the Copyright Agency.
 - Access to dedicated capital maintenance funds to ensure the security of assets related to public visitation, administration and storage needs.
5. Engaging the Audience
- Deliver support mechanisms for the development of regional partnerships and targeted programs that maximise connectivity between the arts and tourism sectors in TNQ. Consolidate the role of culture and the arts in TNQ so that the sector can remain strong beyond the Olympics in 2032.
 - Deliver supports to enable greater alignment of audience development programs and activities that bring together cultural organisations between the TNQ and Central Qld regions.