

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I think it's very important. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be part of the redevelopment of the National Cultural Policy. I'm an Australian artist and I want to enjoy a sustainable career in Australia. I'm 28, female, and graduated from one of the top 5 acting schools in Australia in 2023. I've been trying to make a living since then. I've been a part of 8 independent theatre productions since graduation, clocking up thousands of hours of unpaid labour. I've also started a production company, with a business partner, that ran a comedy club for 9 months (weekly), and ultimately broke even, despite taking up more than 38 hours of work per week. During the last 3 years I've had to work up to 3 \survival jobs\, at a time, just to be able to pursue my, often unpaid, artistic endeavours. I've not had an audition, let alone an acting job opportunity at any of the main stage theatre companies in Sydney in the 3 years since graduating, and yet have received critical acclaim for my theatre work as an actor in independent productions.

I'm an ambitious young artist with a creative drive and the discipline to put on work in Sydney, but the financial and time constraints of being an artist in Australia means that I just don't have the means to actualise those ambitions much of the time.

I suggest:

- Looking into a Universal Basic Income for Artists/a living wage for artists.
- More PERFORMANCE spaces for a lower costs to artists (maybe using an application process where people pitch?) / leveraging pre-existing space that is available
- Cheaper housing accommodation for registered artists, maybe that double as artistic studios / rehearsal spaces
- Govt. stipends at the END of independent theatre productions, based on cast size and audience attendance, rewarding theatre creation.
- More school-touring/retirement-home-touring theatre programs (or programs like this that can provide theatrical entertainment to groups that have funding to be used)
- Conduct national review on the health of the theatre sector
- Provide subsidised marketing - whether that's billboard space or online space across social media (for cheaper, or for free) - Give discounted airtime to theatre productions so we can get the word out about productions that are on. Or maybe provide dedicated marketing consultants to assist with increasing the quality of the marketing content, to attract a younger audience (the future of theatre-goers).
- KPIs for main-stage theatre companies to cast a certain number of drama school graduates each year (accredited institutions)