

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Metropolitan centres are too dominant. Too dominant as a focus - and too dominant as an influence.

Arts funding needs to be oriented towards more original curators, artistic directors, galleries, venues - and individual artists - in regional areas.

This should not be a top-down process - and should not involve limits of any kind for the creative communities away from centres of influence like Sydney and Melbourne.

Funding in this manner should be highly proactive not reactive; based on seeking out and responding to innovation and need in communities. Not sit- [REDACTED] and wait for applications. By this I mean proactive approaches like selecting the ten lowest socioeconomic postcodes in each state and researching what artistic activity might be happening there - a bar that is open to original bands; a cafe that hosts spoken word once a month; artists IN the postcode area or an approximate zone interviewed and asked what could help and stimulate creativity and culture there locally.

The questions should be 'how can we help?' and 'what can we do?'

Whether it's a local festival, venue, gallery or whatever, the National Cultural Policy should therefore incorporate a strong go-to attitude, seeking out how it can support what is happening at street level and independently. Operating, in effect, to the way A&R people once did for record companies, seeking out talent and locales of activity and 'signing them up'.

Funding should be agile and free of constraints, and could be relatively minimal (say \$10,000 or less) with larger funding for events, venues, collectives and individuals that prove their mettle as they evolve.

Arts funding that makes things happen. And does not wait to approve a grant submission that ticks institutional boxes. Going to the artists and the place; not always making them come to the institution and it's preformed structures.