

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

In the next National Cultural Policy, I'm joining Cypher Culture in calling for the Australian Government to invest in street dance.

As a member of the street dance community over the last 20+ years, the amount of growth that the scene has had has been exponential, and it seems like it will not stop. It has created countless jobs for many Australians across the board, and will continue to do so as the industry grows. What was once seen as just a hobby in Australia is now a full blown career, and this can also be seen across many other continents - America, Asia, Europe.

I ask the Australian Government to explicitly recognise street dance, battles, cyphers and jams as legitimate contemporary cultural practice in the National Cultural Policy. Street dance should be recognised on its own terms, not forced into traditional arts models that do not reflect how the culture works.

I also ask the Government and Creative Australia to create dedicated Street Dance funding allocations. Street dance is popular and has strong participation, especially among young people, culturally diverse communities and LGBTQIA+ communities. However, it does not receive enough recognition, funding or infrastructure that reflect its participation.

I support the establishment of a dedicated Community Arts and Cultural Development body within Creative Australia. Grassroots communities like street dance build culture from the ground up. They create artists, mentors, event organisers, audiences and community leaders. These communities need dedicated support that reflect their impact on Australian culture.

Street dance communities also need access to safe, affordable and welcoming public and semi-public spaces to train, jam and battle. Many dancers do not have enough places to practise, gather or build community. We need spaces with safe surfaces, shelter, lighting, transport access and permissions without being moved on.

If Australia is serious about "A Place for Every Story", then street dance stories, spaces and communities must be recognised and supported.