

**National Cultural Policy Submission**

1466474

Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I work as a public art curator, consultant and project manager, and also as a cultural researcher and writer.

I have worked in public art delivery for local government since 2020, for two different Councils in two very different areas of Sydney. Before that, I worked as a project manager for artists, a consultant to various clients on public art projects, and as a freelance curator and researcher. I have experience in collection management and in writing cultural strategies.

I have witnessed over the last decade the growth of the public art sector in Sydney, and I see the potential for a significant expansion of this area of practice. The artists with whom I work are rarely trained in public art, they are not taught how to read contracts and commissioning agreements, and they are unable manage their own public art projects due to a lack of confidence and training. Therefore a small number of curatorial/project management companies are engaged. This has impacts particularly on emerging, culturally diverse and First Nations artists, who could be learning to manage their own projects or employing their own assistants, rather than depending on curators and project managers to deliver their projects.

The challenge is to work with existing tertiary education models and offerings to introduce better training for both public art and public art curating. This could be supported in a very targeted way by government.

In Victoria, universities such as Deakin and Monash offer public art courses and in Sydney, UNSWAAD has a public art subject also. I think these subjects could be better connected to the field of practical public art delivery in local and State government, as well as in private developments.