

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Submitted: As an artist, As an individual

Please tell us how each of the 5 pillars are important to you and your practice and why. Feel free to respond to any or all that are applicable to you:

First Nations

As an artist I would like First Nations people achieve goals in regards to being more representative within the whole of our Australian cultural experience and identity as a growing, ongoing evolvement of cultures coming together in work spaces, places. People, contexts including art workers and industries that utilise the arts. I would like more support within community that allow for middle tier, leadership roles including continued community training of 'Shared Stories' with access to art as story telling in different disciplines that tell visual stories or utilise the visual as part of communication.

A Place for Every Story

A place for every story includes those who have stories that they cant interpret or are interpreting as part of a larger healing story or perhaps interacting as part of the planetary story which may require the assistance of artists to explore. Perhaps a meeting point of shared stories of culture or for growing of young people in their exploration of self within the larger story in community in regards to topics as family, siblings, friends, neighbours, school and the like. This way Every Story is allowed to grow as part of the individuals journey in life perhaps attached to cultural or growth ceremonial or ritual aspects attached to say the menstrual cycle as part of human growth. Perhaps this becomes an ongoing or exploration where we are recognising cultural values and including them in our individual stories as well as our national and global families and identities. As an artist often these ideas evolve over time and take time to come to fruition within our own psyches and involve learning in other disciplines or change in location to fulfill. Sometimes it takes time to connect with community and explore what it means and how it comes to enhance the community or manifest within community. I see this as an ongoing evolving process that may take many forms, or resources that are not always known at the beginning. Often time is the main resource required for the resolution of projects such as this and may form a part of an artists exploration and sharing of gifts with an audience.

Once again allowing an artist to utilise their time is the most important aspect without a need to have their energies fractured into many directions means that they can pursue an area of interest, interact with community if needs be then apply for support grants if the materiality of the project is beyond their own personal means.

Having the support of the strong institutions, access to facilities that enable the making, connecting with those who are assisting in bringing those stories to the fore to be either utilised as part of a healing process or integration of the psyche gives the artist the freedom to support the bringing forth A Place for Every Story.

The Centrality of the Artist

As a mature age artist with constraints in regards to transporting art works, and with mental and physical mobility issues I find that I need as much time as possible to create, make and share the work. For myself and mature age artists it can be the first time we that we can truly find the time to create work that is authentic to the exploration of body, materials, movement and work. Coming from the times and culture we have been determined to be either mothers or workers leaving little time to explore what it means to be an expressive human often having to resolve, recall and encapsulate our hearts, body, minds as well as story within this later stage of life. We are still capable of working although more resistant to direction from external sources. Having found myself in a regional area where competition for conventional work within the normal time frames of with hours a day becomes too much then working with incomplete soul directed projects which offer healing to self and others becomes more imperative as time goes on. I would like to see that the government still supports us with the same amount that 'jobseekers' receive or students except that we are able to follow our own processes without having to answer to others in the process of justification of employment. I do understand that there are other factors involved including making sure that we are alright. I think we are quite capable of sending a quick text to acknowledge our present circumstance and ensure our well being.

Often torn in different directions in order to satisfy goals of others, kpi's in regards to employment often find wasted hours in rehashing old goals, methods of working which actually hinder the process of allowing the soul, the transpersonal to express itself in the free flow of ideas and expression that occurs with the pure creative expression which can sometimes have no perceived outcome although often has a much more immediate outcome of more value than one that is stifled. Having other responsibilities to the story of the planet I found myself bound by the past ways of working and missing more important meetings, learning and sharing with others. As a mature person I find that other needs become more important.

I agree that access to reasonably priced space for art making, or gathering places to share materials, methods equipment would be a bonus as space is often difficult to obtain within the confines of a home.

In regards to centrality it would seem that others perhaps have stories that they wish to share without perhaps the skills to do that which artists could assist with helping to share skills and direct processes with the availability of community based resources.

Strong Institutions

Such as museums, galleries, arts supports organisations are important to the sustainability and guidance of artists as individuals, arts workers and professionals, community based organisations that support the locus and focus between community artists: those coming to art as a way of connecting with themselves, others and community or in therapeutic settings. Those who have knowledge of markets, technical expertise to upload or upgrade skills such as universities, internet interaction, business skills can support the artists to ground: create a true foundation which could possibly lead to independence.

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healing process or integration of the psyche gives the artist the freedom to support the bringing forth A Place for Every Story.

However, the focus needs to be favoured to the artist proportionally rather than funding being sucked up by the support. Although this would depend on the stage that the artist, workers, community engagement find themselves in. This could be more fluid in that there seems to be a sequence of production that is more circular and could feed in at different times.

Reaching the Audience

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Having spaces that are not specifically directed as 'for profit' rather that they are community spaces for voices, stories, sharing of artists work which can include sales although is not resistant to pure exhibition of work for all groups of the community.

Having that broader access to those services that support grounding and building a foundation that supports independence without it being the sole focus of the process means that the artist will become more self sufficient over time. Perhaps small grants available if the artist is not able to create the means for this process to happen with only the ongoing artists payment. It could include mini workshops by other artists who have been able to achieve this goal.

It could offer opportunities to offer to gathering days some tuition in some areas of fundamental learning or perhaps as feature days of courses depending on the level of expertise required. This is probably already the case yet I am thinking of a wider audience with the arts allowance or payment as its base just as a jobseeker payment is. I think this has been already discussed and put in place although there is probably not a lot of publicity about it. Of course, the artist is always able to work in more mundane areas as well if they choose. As a more mature artist the process of creating, making is not hampered by the need to continually be pulled in other directions.