

National Cultural Policy Submission

Tania Lou Smith 22 August 2022

First Nations

- First Nations artists should be centred in all parts of the arts sector.
- An organisation led and run by First Nations artists should be established, so that the First Nations artists and networks are not merely part of larger white organisations and spaces.
- Provide cultural safety and awareness training for galleries and arts organisations.
- Support truth telling in arts organisations and art spaces
- Only approve public funding for arts and cultural projects that have actually consulted or collaborated with Traditional Owners, and provide support for both Owners and artists for this to genuinely occur.

A Place for Every Story

- Anti Racism, and Disability Justice prioritised in the sector and embedded across all of the sector (not only in a pillar)
- Accessibility built in to all parts of the arts sector -digital access, venue access, and create a quota system so that 20% of arts funding and infrastructure supports the 20% of the Australian population that identifies as Deaf and Disabled.
- Create a revolution in arts funding- fund the creation of our stories, in the screen sector, literature and publishing, theatre, dance, gaming, design

The Centrality of the Artist

- Basic Income scheme for artists
- Superannuation- how are gig workers and arts workers protected from losing compulsory super to fees? Can there be protections for super for these workers?

- Tax- \$40k PAYG limit increased for Special Professional Income Averaging and deductions
- Superannuation funds purchasing art- roll back 2016 changes that disallowed super funds to purchase art as investments and store at home/in personal collection
- Tax- exempt grants, art prizes and scholarships from income tax
- DSP- income thresholds raised so arts income does not interfere with DSP at such a low rate
- No mutual obligation for artists (and remove artists from Jobseeker altogether and initiate Basic Income scheme)
- Beyond DGR- create incentives, such as tax deductions for arts org memberships or subscriptions to encourage paid memberships and participations, beyond charity DGR model

Strong Institutions

- Address the massive drop in funded organisations since 2013 – increase the funding pool for arts orgs to grow the sector again
- Actual artists as waged employees at funded arts orgs (ie actual dancers on waged incomes beyond just the major organisations)
- Create accessible and COVID-safe arts spaces
- Create insurance program to support all artists and arts orgs (including independent) to support artists when productions are halted or stopped due to climate change or COVID, etc
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Reaching the Audience

- Create a National Streaming Service for all arts presenters (including independent and small to medium) to utilise and build national and international audiences, and make it accessible
- Commit to the NBN and support and future-proof it to enable a digital future
- Investment in art and culture programming at ABC, SBS, community broadcasting

- Investment in arts writing – create and support critical responses and arts journalism
- How can artists be linked to early years- secondary curriculum initiatives in order to provide employment opportunities for artists and develop audiences for the future
- Create low cost ticket programs to make arts accessible for people on all incomes
- Pilot a Social Prescribing program – to prescribe arts and cultural experiences (inc participation) to increase economic activity in the sector