

National Cultural Policy Submission

Anonymous

Submitted: As an artist

What challenges and opportunities do you see in the pillar or pillars most relevant to you? Feel free to respond to any or all pillars:

A Place for Every Story

As a children's author, my responsibility to inform and educate the next generation is high, yet prizes, awards and opportunities are meagre. Awards should not be taxed and should be offered in every state. They should be equal and fair across states. The opportunity for paid work in schools should be common and fairly allocated. Children have much to gain from children's authors and illustrators. There are many opportunities to enrich them, and give them tools to approach their own challenges from covid isolation as well as the usual challenges faced in growing up. Respect for children's artists should be fostered and demonstrated by govt encouraging or even policing fair contracts from publishers, that allow creatives to earn a living and not live below the poverty line for their passion.

Reaching the Audience

Programs to allow creatives to access their audience in a paid capacity are needed. Children's authors being paid to visit schools or speak at conferences occurs, but I'd say it's a band of 20 or so who are "names" who get the offers. I was offered to speak to schools at a major conference at half ASA recommended rates, yet saw that a TV celebrity attended and spoke there – I am sure she was not offered half expected rates; probably much more than ASA rates in fact.

Public schools should have allocated funds to participate in book week and literary events. Every school should have a library and a teacher librarian to bring creatives in to access children. They deserve it and will flourish under such care.

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:

Reaching the Audience

I have been a children's writer for over 20 years. I have 20 published books [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yet I am having trouble breaking into speaking at schools. Big speakers agencies and "established" authors make a living of some kind with such events. Where are the programs to help "new" authors meet school personnel who can organise events? A database or agency to pair schools' interests with authors and illustrators would be ideal. Ensuring paid opportunities at fair wages of course.

Are there any other things that you would like to see in a National Cultural Policy?

Electronic lending rights are essential. Many books are now electronic, and most authors are not earning below the poverty line. Way below. Most need second or third jobs to stay alive. ELR is a

right – not charity. Our work is being used, and we deserve to be paid for our work as all other workers are.

Books kept people going through lockdowns. Authors should be protected, respected and encouraged/nourished so they can do their work to nourish others.