

National Cultural Policy Submission

Anonymous

Submitted: On behalf of a not-for-profit arts organisation; As an individual

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:

First Nations

An understanding that First Nations is part of every location – that funding should not be limited to big arts centres in NT/SA. First Nations practice happens often without a specific building, and is multi arts. Federal funding currently focuses on Visual Arts/big centres (IVAIS) or more on language (ILA). It misses the whole community practice which is the common feature in NSW.

A Place for Every Story

There is a distinct bias against Community-led/community arts practice. Community arts centres or regional development are often the poor cousins to the larger state/federal funded galleries. But they are support for the entire arts eco-system and need to be valued as such.

The Centrality of the Artist

We need better data – it would be good to have something in the Census that captures the full ecosystem of the arts sector – because so many artists have a portfolio career, this really isn't reflected in the current questions

Strong Institutions

Remove the efficiency dividends on national cultural institutions and public broadcasters

Please keep OzCo at arms length from government. There needs to be a clear distinction between OzCo and OFTA.

The whole model of NFP boards is less than ideal. A volunteer Board often means that the professional management are the ones that drive the strategic thinking not

the other way around. At the same time, there is not enough money to pay boards either.

Reaching the Audience

COVID19 is still having a considerable impact on audiences – and institutions still need support – GAL or subsidising events would be of particular benefit.

Tax benefits – tax incentives for investment in artwork – and through self managed super.

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

First Nations first. But understanding that First Nations is not just Central Desert/Arnhem Land. We need more sophistication around this since there is not a monoculture. Regional NSW is often overlooked. So is urban.

A Place for Every Story

Our land is vast, our geography very different. I don't want to see this national policy being metro focussed on Sydney and Melbourne. Stories of regional Australia - and not the quirky character/back road stories – but the stories of professionalism, of key practice that is embedded in Country should be celebrated. Canberra also sits strangely in the landscape – not considered regional, but also not on the same level as the state capitals.

The Centrality of the Artist

Community arts practice is artist-led. It is a collaborative journey. There is always so much focus on outcomes, on audience numbers, on facts and figures. We should be celebrating the journey, the twists and turns, not the destination. If funding was not so much tied to a required outcome, think how much more innovative, how high the risk-taking could be. The arts is also slow burn – it is something that should be built up over time.

Strong Institutions

Institutions are often the breeding ground for innovation, for artist support. They work better when given less bureaucracy.

Reaching the Audience

We need audiences – or we are talking to a void. Audiences are definitely not back to pre COVID levels – and this makes it difficult to program innovatively.

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

We need substantial funding increase both to the Australia Council but also the Regional Arts Fund. Funding requests seems like a cop-out but the arts sector is so good at making 1 dollar go so much further than any other industry.