

National Cultural Policy Submission Template

Anonymous

Submitted: As an artist, 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

The creative arts provide some of the most powerful platforms for truth-telling with regard to this country's fraught colonial past.

A Place for Every Story

Projects like The Countess Report reveal the dire under-representation of female artists in the visual art sector.

The Centrality of the Artist

There exists an opportunity to pay artists and arts workers a universal basic income, which would facilitate dedicated time and resources to make work, take risks, and contribute meaningfully to culture.

Strong Institutions

Institutions need the funds to pay staff and artists properly. This in turn sends the message that the arts are valued as both an industry and an expression of our humanity.

Reaching the Audience

As we come to grips with the COVID pandemic, the necessity for live, in-person engagement with the arts should be championed wherever possible, and when it is safe to do so.

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 a non-First Nations person, the creative expressions of First Nations people are a powerful reminder of this continent's ancient history.

A Place for Every Story

While excellence, rigour, experimentation and risk-taking are important to me as an artist and an audience member, engagement with art can take many forms and occur at many tiers.

The Centrality of the Artist

It is very important that peer assessment processes continue to be utilised in the allocation of funding at a local, state, and federal level.

Strong Institutions

Institutions and arts infrastructure needs to be supportive of artists at all stages of their careers. Mid-career artists in particular are given short shrift, in that many opportunities exist for emerging artists and highly established artists, but that intermediate space is often much sparser.

Reaching the Audience

During the recent pandemic years (and particularly during lockdown periods), arts and entertainment have played a massive role in keeping everyone sane.

The keywords 'ambitious, provocative, and positive' (from the previous 'Creative Australia – National Cultural Policy') still resonate strongly today and should remain something of a mission statement.

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

Explicit recognition that the arts have been central to this country for tens of thousands of years and that we need them now more than ever.

Measures to preserve the teaching of arts in primary and secondary schools, lest they be edged out by more (apparently) lucrative and utilitarian STEM subjects.