

National Cultural Policy Submission

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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:

A Place for Every Story

- A chance for a rich and layered arts ecology, not just funding for the majors. Without perspective from all strata of society how can we hope to grow?

The Centrality of the Artist

- Covid laid bare some real inequality when it comes to artists as workers. There was very little support for many artists and what little support was available often didn't reach the people most in need.
- In many ways it still feels like the wild west in regard to working best practise, some regulation around work safety and best practise for artists would be extremely beneficial.
- Support for artists to make art for the bettering of society as opposed to just seeing it through financial gains. It's not just about the benefit for the economy, what are we fighting for if not to revel in our cultural successes.

Strong Institutions

- Without the independent and smaller organisations the large arts companies have nowhere to draw their talent. We've seen that here in WA after decades of funding erosion, that the larger companies over here need to hire in people from over east or international due to there not being as vibrant a small the medium sector with which to feed into the larger structures.

Reaching the Audience

- Starting with having a national cultural policy would be nice, feeding that into education and making art not a dirty word. We should be building towards a national cultural identity that we can all be proud of.
- Support of digital engagement, be that the video games sector or online video content is a way to reach massive audiences and should be supported at a governmental level.

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:

A Place for Every Story

I feel that we need to be supporting as many diverse voices and stories as possible. Representation of all aspects of Australian life. I know as a theatre maker I love seeing as varied voices as I can.

The Centrality of the Artist

After the pandemic broke I felt particularly abandoned by the government and the Australian people. While my fellow artists were losing their entire livelihoods the rest of the country was saying 'Doesn't affect me' while tuning into their favourite netflix series or listening to their favourite album. It made me sad and it made me mad and I almost threw in the towel on an almost 20 year career in the arts. Art has a massive impact on everyone, it permeates every aspect of life whether you realise it or not. I would be proud of a country that recognised that fact.

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

As a WA artist/artswoker I am concerned at the representation on the Ministers Panel, in particular:

- lack of WA representation

- lack of artists at differing stages of their career and artform

Disaster support- underwriting and planning for risk in uncertain times (environmental, public

health)

Considerations of the unique environment of WA: The geographical size with a relatively low-density population is a defining characteristic of the creative industries in the State. The differences between the metropolitan, regional and remote populations is significant and makes the equitable delivery of and access to cultural activity a challenge.