

22 August 2022

National Cultural Policy Submission

Submission Type

Not-for-profit arts organisation

About Gertrude Contemporary

Gertrude has been building the careers of Australia's artists for almost 4 decades.

Since our establishment in 1985, Gertrude has played an essential role in the visual arts sector, shaping the careers for many of Australia's most celebrated artists. We are an incubator and launching pad for early-practice and mid-career artists.

Our artistic program – including our studio and exhibition programs – is unique in its equal emphasis on the production and presentation of contemporary art. This enables us to support artists to explore new ideas and present risk-taking work at pivotal points in their careers. Gertrude gives audiences unique insight into the creative development of artists.

What challenges and opportunities do you see in the 5 pillars?

First Nations First

Embedding First Nations practices and leadership in the small to medium sector requires increased investment in the following areas:

- Increased support of self-determined First Nations artistic expression including financial support for artists and arts workers to promote career pathways and leadership in the small to medium sector.
- Create National Cultural Safety Standards to support and embed culturally safe spaces and working practices in the small to medium sector.

A Place for Every Story

Art and cultural activities should be available to anyone who wants to participate regardless of their location or socio-economic background:

- Ensure support for small to medium spaces to keep them free and accessible .
- Value art education – both formal and informal - with increased support for community-based activity in partnership with small to medium venues.

The Centrality of the Artist

Artists and arts workers deserve safe, stable and transparent working conditions:

- Recognise the role of the small to medium sector in building the careers of artists, arts workers and arts leaders with increased funding support to ensure remuneration is competitive with other industries.
- Support the small to medium sector with access to industry relevant Human Resources support and legal advice.
- Ensure that peer review processes for arts funding are protected and cannot be undermined or disrupted by ministerial preference.

Strong Institutions

Stability for the small to medium sector is essential to development and delivery of the arts and culture:

- Increase incentives for developers, private landlords and local government to provide long-term, affordable, and fit for purpose accommodation for the small to medium arts sector.
- Ensure multi-year grants are indexed in line with inflation.
- Restore and increase funding to the Australia Council for the Arts.

Reaching the Audience

The small to medium sector is integral to the arts community locally, nationally and internationally:

- Ensure funding and support is available to the small to medium sector to increase accessibility and inclusion in our venues.
- Increase funding to inbound and outbound international engagement to promote Australian artists and increase the profile of Australian intuitions nationally and internationally.

Gertrude is a member of Contemporary Art Organisations Australia (CAOA) and echoes the collective call to for additional Strategic Investment through the National Cultural Policy as follows:

- **\$100 million investment to pay First Nations** people in professional, board and advisory council roles, as well as for professional pathway programs that will embed First Nations arts workers in arts organisations
- **\$100 million additional funding for independent artists** distributed through arm's length funding and more diverse grant rounds
- **\$100 million additional funding for small-to-medium arts organisations** for the points outlined in Objective 3 and to support the sustainable delivery of operations, new work, learning and participation objectives, and related community engagement. As was demonstrated with the implementation of the Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy in 2002, this additional investment will have a significant impact in strengthening the capacity of the cultural sector to contribute to national life, cultural identity and participation, community wellbeing and the economy.
- **\$50 million additional funding for strategic international initiatives** that are driven by small-to- medium arts organisations and/or independent artists
- **Restoration of funding to the Australia Council and increased investment** to support the above objectives and, in particular, First Nations Advancement, Organisational Strength and the Centrality of the Artist.
- **Renewal of and increased investment in the Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy (VACS)**, building on the demonstrated outcomes of VACS over the past two decades to ensure cooperation and reciprocation across federal and state agencies, and to enhance artform innovation and program delivery, engagement and impact in metropolitan, regional and international contexts