

Creative Communities Network

Submission to the Office for the Arts.

Consultation on a renewed National Cultural Policy.

August 2022

Introduction

CCN is an informal South Australian network of Local Government cultural development workers and representatives of key state-wide arts and cultural organisations keen to support creative communities. The network has been in existence for over 30 years and initiated and shaped arts and cultural policy and practice in South Australia. CCN has been at the heart of the development, promotion and advocacy for all culturally based activities, programs, projects, events, festivals, public art, grants, employment, facilities, policies etc in this period.

Representatives of CCN attended the last consultation on a national cultural policy on 2013.

Creative Communities Network and a renewed Cultural Policy

CCN is pleased to see that the new Federal Government has been quick to revive the work started in 2013 by the Gillard Government. Leadership at a Federal level on all issues arts and culture is an integral part of acknowledging their role in reflecting, challenging, developing, improving and sharing all sectors of our community. The 5 pillars are a good foundation and starting point to address these issues.

It is the responsibility of all levels of government to take responsibility for ensuring our communities have the best opportunities to thrive. When people believe that all levels of government are working with a shared vision and common purpose to deliver and support arts and cultural activities, programs, and facilities, there is much greater investment from other non-profit and private sectors of the community. This was articulated in 2013 in the Creative Australia National Cultural Policy document on pp32-33:

Over the next decade, the partnerships between different levels of government, of public and private organisations, and the social sector, are likely to become richer and deeper as the cultural sector becomes more entwined in all aspects of life and the economy.

We would like to stress the importance of some key principles, which could be articulated more clearly in the development of the national cultural policy. Local Government plays many roles in the community and while the list is not an exhaustive one, these are among the ones we hold dear in our grass roots work with local individuals and communities and have been reflected in the state-wide projects we have initiated, implemented and supported over the past 30 years.

We trust that these principles are ones which Federal Government would like to acknowledge and consider exploring further in both their work and in conjunction with State and Local Government. They can be incorporated across all the 5 pillars.

Participation

Councils fully support the pathways made available for artists and institutions. But the development of skills and ongoing involvement in arts and culture by members of the non-professional artistic community is equally important. It should be recognised the role

community cultural development plays in supporting our diverse communities to participate in meaningful ongoing experiences.

Inclusion

Arts and cultural expression in all its many forms need to be open to all in our community. They are key elements necessary for a progressive society. Access to opportunities as artists, participants and audiences from all backgrounds are vital to building a vibrant arts and culture ecology appreciated by all.

Collaboration

Councils see themselves as integral cultural brokers looking for new networks and connections in arts and culture. Cross-governmental policy and practice is crucial to achieve sustainable outcomes. A deliverable national cultural policy needs to be implemented hand in hand with all levels of government. A strengthening of the Cultural Ministers meetings with a greater representation by remote, regional and metropolitan councils would ensure that the voices of individual communities were heard.

Funding

Minister Tony Bourke expressed at the Adelaide Town Hall event a possible expansion of the roles of Australia Council. It would be good at a federal level to explore targeted funded programs which included cross-government initiatives which result in outcomes of 1+1+1= 4 given the possible in-kind investment which could be brought to the table.

Engagement and evaluation

Any policy requires constant review by measuring its impact and success. Investment in quantitative and qualitative measures and data is key to assessing the ongoing relevance of a policy and its practice. 5 local councils, Arts SA and LGA SA have developed a Cultural Impact Framework in recent years which outlines the process, implementation and tools necessary to do just this and would be happy to discuss further as part of the development of the National Cultural Policy.

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