

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Submitted: On behalf of a for-profit arts business

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:

The Centrality of the Artist

Youth Arts Practitioners for eons have been more than artists: in increasingly secular times, they have carefully held the cultural wellbeing of young people throughout childhood and adolescence. In the age of covid, remote learning, exponential cases of mental ill-health, we have been caretakers of young people in profound ways. The arts has been a lifeline for radical numbers of children and teenagers: offering connection, sanctuary, self-learning, escapism, risk-taking within safe contexts, vulnerability, kinship to kindred spirits, acceptance, encouragement, motivation, access to story and narrative, interpretation and understanding. With school refusal at record highs, disturbing levels of anxiety, self-harm, suicidal ideation, and social media addiction, theatre and creative services for young people has been their salvation. And more than just respite, it has offered powerful re-routing: steering young people towards learning, re-engagement, relationships, productivity, and making cultural contributions. The work done by youth arts practitioners is comprehensive. It is tireless, fearless, and based on a respect and celebration for the role of the young human in a progressive and equitable society.

Reaching the Audience

Stories are for everybody. Culture is for everybody. Arts are for everybody. This sector needs the funding, support, and recognition so it's normalised as an everyday/every week part of people's lives: not elite, not an exception, not a sometimes food.

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

House of Muchness supports the development of a National Cultural Policy.

House of Muchness seeks a Young People and Culture Framework.

In this framework, Young People's Engagement needs to be a priority.

We require an ongoing funding stream for Young People's Arts

Participation in arts experiences prepares young people to be adults with a strong cultural affinity. Whichever professions or industries a child moves into in the future; whatever life choices are made, they will have an exposure to and grounding in ideas and concepts that better enable their human connection.

Every single human has a story and needs access to story-telling.