

National Cultural Policy Submission

Anonymous

Submitted: 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

- I believe it is very important to elevate the important responsibility we have as a nation in enabling Aboriginal Australian and Torres Strait Islander peoples to thrive socially, culturally and economically, through the celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture.
- Art to be used as a weapon in advocating the sophistication and deep knowledge of history held within our First Nation peoples, and to be invested and leveraged as a pathway to both reconciliation, civic pride and for cultural diplomacy.

A Place for Every Story

- Not all art is equal – We need to find a way to value artistic expression and involvement for all without pegging opera against the sole experimental artist – both great experiences on offer but with immeasurable impacts/benefits.

The Centrality of the Artist

- Artists at the front! Create pathways and funding opportunities that allow the artists' voices to be at the forefront of new commissions/new works.
- Formally broaden the sector to include a simple definition for arts and the creative sector including all of the supporting industries – but delineate from the supply chains – this will help diffuse confusion (and any ambiguity) and create a strong definition that can be used both within the sector and externally.

Strong Institutions

- Better guidelines for best practice – artists voices shine, transparency, impact driven, broad audience engagement
- Generously support the institutions who are service providers to both artists (Creators/makers) and the audience.
- Self-serving institutions judges on merits of own agendas – not the calibre of art created.
- Co-funding models to leverage philanthropy and government expenditure to achieve mutual goals and support institutions with philanthropists to expose artists and audiences to new experiences/stories/practices for the benefit of the country
- Engage with commercial media institutions to assist in placing art and creativity at the forefront of Australian life. With some of Australia's largest philanthropists at the helm of

our media mastheads, with many millions of readers on a daily and weekly basis, a collaboration to encourage/support our largest media conglomerates to engage with content – in a more formal, and on a grander and more non-arts readership scale would be of great benefit to the sector – Ideas: a dedicated TV news feature each evening or a dedicated weekend print/digital profiling an Australian artist working in Australia and an Australian artist working overseas.

Reaching the Audience

- Work with the Australia Council for the Arts to create an education campaign to a broad and diverse Australia that demonstrates the value of intentional and non-intentional participation in the arts
- Work within an economic valuation framework that speaks to the size of the sector, and the impacts of the sector for all Australians – social and public good of the sector.

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

- People working in the sector often speak with jealousy at the disparity of Australian's passion for sport vs art. With AFL taught in schools and consuming the lives of parents and young families on weekends, the competition for attention or equal standing of arts participation is a challenge. Including of art teaching in the national curriculum, and in ensuring that arts education is continued into high school with equal value to STEM curriculum is surely essential in shifting the value proposition.
- Is the sector unwelcoming and intimidating? Is there something we are doing wrong that says to those who aren't intentionally participating 'you're not welcome', 'you don't belong', 'attending a gallery is elitist'? Do we as a sector need to become more inclusive or breakdown the barriers of participation.