

National Cultural Policy Submission

The WA Youth Jazz Orchestra

Submitted: On behalf of a not-for-profit arts organisation

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

Being collaborative with first nations people can be challenging as there are a lot of protocols that should be followed and there is not great enough knowledge to do this properly. The opportunity is there to help the arts sector to meaningfully engage with our first nations people to work collaboratively and productively to tell our collective stories whilst learning more and more about the rich heritage of our first nations persons

A Place for Every Story

Stories can be told, written, acted, danced and listened too. There needs to be better platforms to do this. A place for every story needs:

- Support for national touring, circuits with venues, marketing and interested schools included in touring support
- Program development support for rehearsal program, intensive workshop camps, team building etc
- More funds available for all levels of creation of work. Early Career, Mid-Career and Established artists

The Centrality of the Artist -AND THE ARTS MANAGERS

- A living wage subsidy for artists and arts workers...like France. The government needs to underwrite difficult periods of time such as the Covid pandemic

- Arts and culture need greater funding across the board so organisations can be properly resourced starting with artists and arts managers being paid fair living wages

Strong Institutions

- Organisational funding needs to be a major priority – staff and tent need to be paid before programs happen. Funding bodies, foundations, sponsors, local government all want to fund “projects” without money going to core operational costs. This is completely unsustainable. Arts workers cannot keep doing more and more to justify their existence. We MUST fund operational costs!
- More subsidised professional development/learning opportunities for arts workers Reaching the Audience
- creating safe and accessible spaces for all audience members including queer/disabled/first nations/CALD people
- a hub for arts organisation centred on children and young people is needed in WA. A case was developed for this with Propel Youth WA and the Committee for Perth a few years ago and nothing came of it. The research and case studies are still readily available
- There are new Workplace Health and Safety laws in WA and arts organisations need help and time to implement these

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:

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

- Fair funding across Australia. Too much of the funding goes towards the Eastern States particularly NSW and Victoria.
- The costs of touring in WA are far greater than any other state