

National Cultural Policy Submission

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

As an artist

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

An issue in Victoria is that we have a very small indigenous population. We love our indigenous artists and want to support them, but there needs to be more development for artists.

A Place for Every Story

Our organisation represents artists from culturally diverse backgrounds, there are still various limitations to be able to present these artists to the broader community. There needs to be more practice based research to figure out ways of presenting these artists in a culturally safe and mutually beneficial ways.

The Centrality of the Artist

The artists need to be listened to more. There needs to be an increased effort in finding out what artists would like to do. Instead they have to bend their work to the government criteria to be able to have their work funded. Artists need to be trusted more and allowed to bring forth brave and extravagant and risky ideas, that may not follow to the policies. The creativity of artists could be harnessed to deal with a variety of societal problems.

Strong Institutions

There needs to be more collaboration between institutions. At present, there is too much competition. This has a lot to do with limited funding. However also reluctance to cooperate due to high workloads, bureaucracy and competing aims. Perhaps it's possible to at least encourage this cooperation via networking and running mutual programs.

Reaching the Audience

Education is key. Positive arts narrative is important. There needs to be a concerted effort in creating a positive story for the arts in the public space. The audience needs to see that the arts are essential and absolutely necessary for harmonious society. Practicing arts has benefits for mental health and for community connection. People need to be encouraged to see and accept each others differences and respect them. Be proud of Australia as a nation, the audience needs to see that social cohesion is real, it is positive and makes a difference to people's lives.

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:

First Nations

The pain needs to be healed and positive arts stories and practices can help this.

A Place for Every Story

As an artist from a culturally diverse (but not visibly) background, it is hard to practice my art these days. There is a lack of understanding what it's like.

The Centrality of the Artist

I wish there was a better understanding of the role of the arts in this country. As far as I know there isn't even data on the number of people who practice the arts professionally. Part or full time. Often the artist is having to do other jobs, so they are not considered a valuable contributor to society, it's not even counted (as was evident when it was decided who get the Job Keeper). Among the musicians I know (more than 100), there is only a handful who practice music full time. The others are all part time and have to supplement income. The artists need to be consulted, they need to be asked what they want. They need to be asked what concerns them and what needs to be done so their practice is more effective.

Strong Institutions

Institutions need to care more about the artists. All artists in their field, not just those they employ. The artists need to be represented properly.