

National Cultural Policy Submission Template

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Submitted: 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

First Nations heritage to be acknowledged and respected. Of equal importance is that contemporary First Nations expression is nurtured and developed. My own experience in working with a range of First Nations cultural leaders is that they don't see contemporary First Nations Australian culture as being discrete and siloed. Contemporary practice is multi-disciplinary and intercultural and there is a real opportunity to support much more First Nations collaborations with other cultural groups as genuine projects of reciprocity.

A Place for Every Story

As an Asian-Australian arts leader I am acutely aware that our society is not adequately represented on the main stage. I believe that the pipeline needs to grow, and quickly, so that there are more of us with lived experience holding key positions in our community and in our institutions to shape a broader conversation. I'm not a huge fan of gender and diversity quotas but I understand why it's necessary until we get to the point where it isn't anymore.

Online and virtual means everything is shared easily and widely but place remains central to storytelling. It is important for funding support to be spread widely across Australia to enable stories of place, and stories from place can be created and shared.

The Centrality of the Artist

We need to stop the mass departure from the arts sector, and it starts with valuing arts education and providing appropriate training (artists and technical) with funding support.

A big problem is how the not-for-profit arts sector is viewed in that artists need subsidy to survive. I would like to see the language move to investment rather than grants. It's impact investment, not charity. Not every idea will fly but some will make it big. Also, ROI needs to be measured not just in \$ but also in health and well-being and other indexes.

Strong Institutions

Please don't forget about the small to medium companies. Those companies create some of the most innovative and adventurous work on a shoestring budget. Major organisations should have inbuilt KPIs around collaborations with emerging artists and small to medium companies.

Reaching the Audience

Look at investing more in new work and look at public-private partnership models to seed co-investment in bringing new work to new audiences.

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

I am a proud Asian-Australian. That means I am proud of my Asian heritage as much as I am proud to live, work and play on the land of a living culture of over 60,000 years . It's never one or the other – we are intertwined, and that richness is something to be celebrated.

A Place for Every Story

A sense of place is incredibly important for belonging. Humans that sense that they belong, that their voice is heard and arts and culture side by side with health, education and other services is part of the ecology. Where else does imagine live if not in arts and culture?

The Centrality of the Artist

Artists need audiences – audiences are attracted to great art. One is nothing without the other.

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

Clear linkage of culture to education, health and well-being, strong economies and diplomacy. It's integral and connected to our way of life.