

National Cultural Policy Submission



National Cultural Policy Submission Res Artis: Worldwide Network of Arts Residencies

Submitted: On behalf of an arts peak body

Contact Us

E: office@resartis.org

W: <https://resartis.org/>

What challenges and opportunities do you see in the pillar or pillars most relevant to you?

1. First Nations	Having just cemented our international headquarters in Australia with global reach - Res Artis has the unique ability to broach relationships and develop pathways between First Nations arts and cultural practitioners in Australia and abroad. To create opportunities that meet the skill & expertise of Australia's First Nations practitioners, we believe it is integral to introduce them to international audiences. Res Artis is perfectly placed to provide this bridge. We would like to focus on promoting First Nations-led residencies/programs. If Res Artis received only \$10,000 in funding support each year, we could offer membership and support to 10 First Nations residencies and connect them with like-minded First Nations focused residencies overseas. This will ensure that First Nations led projects are prioritized and recognised on a global scale.
2. A Place for Every Story	The stories behind arts residencies are entirely bound to place. Res Artis has made a start in telling the stories of artists in residence, but a significant opportunity exists to bolster this work with adequate funding. By telling these stories, through Res Artis, we situate Australia as a leading source of cross-cultural exchange on a global stage. Just \$20,000 would enable interviewing, artist fees, editing and publishing costs to deliver these stories.
3. The Centrality of the Artist	Artists are at the core of arts residencies and the important work of Res Artis. Arts residencies support artists in every step of their career by exposing them to new markets, encouraging experimentation and risk-taking, and enabling showcasing opportunities and professional experience on an international scale.

4. Strong Institutions	This new Policy needs to invest in peak bodies in order to create a trickle-down effect. There is a lot of money available to artists to undertake local and international residencies, which remains crucial. But who is going to run the residencies and what training, promotion, advocacy and sector growth will be available without providing funding to the global peak body? By supporting peak bodies within the arts, you can ensure that artists will be experiencing opportunities with adequate support. \$80,000 annual funding will ensure we can provide this support, leading to a more sustainable global arts ecology.
5. Reaching the Audience	As a result of the pandemic, Res Artis advocated and trained our members to evolve their residency programs to incorporate digital residency activity. We noticed a dramatic rise in Digital Arts Residencies which resulted in challenges and opportunities for the sector. These were discussed at our first ever fully virtual conference which streamed live from Bangkok. In particular, we noticed benefits in digital exchange for First Nations artists and those with Access needs. Challenges included "digital poverty" – the lack of fundamental stable internet access in some parts of the globe. It was also recognised that there is a need to create safe spaces online, especially for vulnerable audiences; and it remains difficult to adequately and meaningfully "host" international artists in residence in a digital realm. We recognise the necessity and opportunity to develop higher prospects for digital accessibility within the sector and see this as a core responsibility for Res Artis as the peak global network for arts residencies. Historically, the arts residency sector has not been accessible for artists with access needs and for many First Nations artists. Through educating our Members in digital accessibility, we are in a position to shift the sector and make it more accessible. We have created a roadmap to improve our digital accessibility resources and knowledge and have potential partnerships confirmed with Arts Access Victoria and Art Project Australia to bring this to fruition. We cannot move forward with this project until we receive funding to do so. \$40,000 of funding will enable us to see through our digital accessibility plans.

1. Please tell us how each of the 5 pillars are important to you and your practice and why.

1. First Nations	First Nations have and always will be a priority for Res Artis. We have a track record of delivering First Nations arts residency exchanges and First Nations focused conferences and programming. Now that we have cemented the transfer of our international headquarters from the Netherlands to Australia, we are in the process of formalising a dedicated First Nations position on our Board who will lead our organisation's development of a First Nations Strategy.
-------------------------	---

<p>2. A Place for Every Story</p>	<p>We have never seen an artist conduct an arts residency with no outcome. The outcomes are life changing, career enhancing and have a profound impact on that artist’s career. Arts residencies act as stepping-stones, paving the way for new opportunities, awards, exhibitions, etc. They are fundamental milestones in an artist’s CV that need to be recognised. More than often, residencies have a profound impact on an artist’s practice – they encourage artists to experiment, take risks and develop new markets. Residency outcomes can take place immediately, with medium-term and long-term impact. The artist becomes an unofficial “Ambassador” of the place they visited, and often this opens up awareness from the local community to their unique offerings. The cross-cultural exchange that occurs through residency programs is integral to situating Australian arts practice as relevant and experimental. Res Artis would like to focus more on the “stories” behind artist residency experiences, and we have made a start on this by profiling international artists in residence through our online platforms.</p>
<p>3. The Centrality of the Artist</p>	<p>Ultimately, everything Res Artis does is for the benefit of artists. Our website gets over 4 million hits per year from artists around the globe searching for arts residency opportunities. All our information is free and</p>
	<p>publicly accessible for artists. All of our member residency operators are vetted against our shared set of Values in order to ensure quality experiences for artists. Res Artis is increasingly advocating for residency programming that is co-designed between artists and the host organisation to ensure relevant and mutually beneficial experiences.</p>
<p>4. Strong Institutions</p>	<p>Res Artis is the peak body for arts residencies globally. We provide training and advocacy for arts residency operators to offer quality arts residency experiences for artists. In 2022 we cemented the transfer of our international headquarters from the Netherlands to Australia. We remain in operation purely through membership subscription fees, and without any public funding. This new National Cultural Policy needs to invest in peak bodies in order to create a trickle-down effect. There is a lot of money available to artists to undertake local and international residencies, which remains crucial. But who is going to run the residencies and what training, promotion advocacy and sector growth will be available without providing funding to the peak body? If we were provided funding the domino effect would be extraordinary. Our members range from mega institutions like the V&A Museum in the UK, to tiny grass roots ARI’s in Cambodia. Most of the Australian Res Artis members are located regionally. This is what a functioning arts ecology should look like. There is huge opportunity for us to grow and strengthen our member institutions and therefore artist opportunities for the benefit of artists. Given the pause on international exchange during the pandemic, there has never been a more important time to invest in global relations.</p>

5. Reaching the Audience

There is no better vehicle in the arts than arts residencies to reach and diversify audiences. By their very nature they are cross artform; intersect arts and non-arts sectors; offer peer-to-peer exchange between artists; offer mentorships between artists, curators and researchers; public showcasing opportunities in ARI's, institutions, etc; develop international markets; enhance intercultural understanding; and engage meaningfully with community audiences, both immediately and in the long-term. Arts residencies can literally provide life-saving opportunities for artists at risk. When Russia invaded Ukraine, Res Artis responded by partnering with our Ukrainian friends and global members to develop emergency humanitarian residencies for Ukrainian arts and cultural professionals. What other sector of the arts can achieve such important people-to-people work? This vital work needs to be better supported.

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

- Closer links between the diplomacy of international cultural mobility and artistic exchange
- Focus on infrastructure for local and international creative exchange

Please attribute our submission as follows:

Organisation: **Res Artis: Worldwide Network of Arts Residencies**

(Contact: office@resartis.org)