

National Cultural Policy Submission

Dawn Pascoe

Submitted: As an artist

Below is a statement about the pillars which most affect my art and where I can see improvements:

The Centrality of the Artist and Strong Institutions

This is a response specifically for midcareer and established artists in a multitude of disciplines, as it's important that we occupy space together. Perth needs spaces which encourage new work,; both with rehearsal and performance spaces available. This doesn't have to be a theatre - infact it would be better if it's not, to make the work accessible to a wider audience, and has a comfortable feel about it. An old church, town hall with a series of smaller studio and rehearsal spaces and communal area for meetings, work and networking. Plus outdoor areas for painting murals, street art, amphitheatre performances etc.

And height for aerial rigging. The lack of rehearsal spaces and non-theatre venues with aerial rigging is dismal

But essentially what we need is spaces (North, South and East of Perth) which encourage the artists to come together, create, explore and connect. And ofcourse present their works in friendly atmospheres.

Having such a strong ecology of independent artists in WA, we all drive our own projects which can be isolating and lonely. To have more access to rehearsal / training spaces that are specifically for mid career + artists would really be something.

Reaching the Audience

This is my favourite. I am hugely passionate about presenting work in suburbs and small towns, and bringing art to the people. This is easier in regional towns, so having support and infact funding opportunities to present work in outdoor spaces and house concerts etc would be a great way to encourage more people to see the arts while connecting more deeply with their community.

Another thought is to have more funding available for smaller projects, up to 30K to encourage a more sustainable arts practice, which engages communities and reaches the audiences in non-traditional ways.