

# National Cultural Policy Submission

## **Cook Shire Council and Regional Arts Service Network Tropical North (RASNTN Central)**

### **Collaboration**

Submitted:

On behalf of an arts peak body

On behalf of government or government body

**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**

Opportunities

- High level of creativity and artistic expression within First Nations people
- Need to generate more mentoring and training opportunities for First Nations people in regional and remote communities.
- Need to generate business and career development opportunities, assisting artists with becoming their own brand, to express individuality as an individual professional artist i.e. rather than Art Centre branded.
- Need for ongoing support and promotional opportunities assistance.
- Event organisers and galleries are interested in new works, need to make connections and build relationships between artists and promoters.
- Increase involvement of First Nations people in the arts, both artistically and as key leaders and decision makers regarding policy and investment.

Challenges

- Ethical production and distribution
- Access to and understanding of Arts Law.
- Lack of opportunities for mentoring, training and promotion for artists, particularly performing artists.
- Lack of professional development and networking opportunities outside community.
- Cost of bring mentors/trainers to community
- Costs of bringing artists to major centres
- Lack of art education delivered in State schools

### **A Place for Every Story**

Opportunities

- This Cultural policy needs to be integrated with other Government policies.
- Foster intra-government and interagency collaboration and open communication.
- We have a vast, diverse pool of untold stories, telling these stories will contribute to social cohesion, community resilience and wellbeing. There is a need to develop and promote multiple mediums to tell these stories.
- Strengthen organizational resilience, leadership and regional networks, including with other sectors
- Contribute to social cohesion, community resilience & wellbeing
- There are many diverse cultures across Australia, this policy needs to recognise and invest in all Australian cultures
- Policy levers at the national environmental, regulatory, and planning level are needed to ensure all activities and levels of government permit affordable and accessible places to create and participate in our arts and culture in the places we live.
- Strengthen organizational resilience, leadership and regional networks, including with other sectors.
- Increased support is needed for arts-led networks that contribute to regional arts nationally and state-wide

#### Challenges

- Lack of investment into the Arts, Tourism and events.
- Lack of financial support for non-indigenous arts organisations. Not for Profits run by a diminishing cohort of volunteers.
- Aging populations of volunteers
- Lack of new volunteers
- Government and non-government Organisations working in silos

#### **The Centrality of the Artist**

##### Opportunities

- Investment needed in youth programs, community arts houses and youth clubs to address the growing challenges of youth justice. See NZ Children's Art House Foundation for an example of a very successful program. <https://www.arthouse.org.nz/>
- Promote and recognise 'Arts' as a mainstream business and career opportunity
  - o Develop career opportunities
  - o Enforcement of artists rights/pay and conditions, comparable to other occupations in terms of training and experience

- o Promote the 'value' of artists to social/cultural/emotional well-being and community vibrancy etc.
- Art is Therapy. Health/mental health support systems; develop programs to engage artists in hospitals, community health and NDIS services.
- Arts mandated across all school and education curriculum

#### Challenges

- Artists are undervalued, expected to work for below normal rates of pay or volunteer their time for projects.
- Most artists cannot support themselves through their practice and have other jobs to support themselves.
- Fit-for-purpose legislative, regulatory, tax incentive and investment environment, updated to address IP generation and copyright protections in the current environment.

### **Strong Institutions**

#### Opportunities

- Incorporate arts across all curricula in education, investment in the 'Arts', in education is paramount!
- Business support for artists, business incubation and development.
- Grow partnerships between the sector and other industries to diversify revenue streams
- A need for stable organisational funding; target Business funding for arts organisation including mentoring, digital development, improve accessibility offerings, engagement of staff and develop volunteer base.
- Build stronger and more strategic leadership and collaborations between the federal, state and territory and local governments
- Arts embedded in all policy with a percentage input to the arts from agencies and departments.

#### Challenges

- There is a tendency to default to the "one-size fits all" approach to policy making and funding. Australia is incredibly diverse and policies and funding truly need to reflect this diversity.
- The early Financial Assistance Grants legislation spoke of regional equalisation – we still have a considerable way to go to realise this ambition
- There are very little visual arts and almost no music being delivered in the schools in this region (Cape York Peninsula)
- There is a tendency to under value artists, by employers and by themselves.

- Professional Development and skills development are not easily available.

## **Reaching the Audience**

### Opportunities

- Professional development to help identify who our audience is.
- Opportunity to develop audiences in remote communities, encourage professional artists to travel/tour to remote regions.
- Artists from remote communities to be supported to travel/perform/show to major centres.
- Investment for arts and culture sector prior to Olympics 2032

### Challenges

- Regional and remote Australian's access to participate as audiences and creators
- Promoting and developing the wide range of careers available in the arts to school leavers and tertiary students.
- Lack of support for young people's engagement in arts experiences
- Funding seems to be prioritised to the larger population centres and the remote regions miss out. Reaching the audience is more than bums on seats

**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**

- As First Nations people are 65% of our region's population, it is incredibly important to develop further opportunities for Indigenous cultural expression.

### **A Place for Every Story**

- Our region has some very remote and isolated places, it is important to capture the depth and uniqueness of this regions individual, cultural, historical and community stories. These stories can be captured in multiple mediums, through performance in place, installation, word and visual arts.

### **The Centrality of the Artist**

- Valuing artists and their contribution to the local economy. Artists contribute greatly to the fabric and identity of the community.

### **Strong Institutions**

- Arts and cultural sector needs to be supported to thrive and be vibrant.
- Bringing all departments together to enable them to work collaboratively

- Being smarter about developing innovation and sustainability within organisations
- Working with private sector to develop business opportunity, corporate social responsibility and access commercial funding

### **Reaching the Audience**

- Creative pursuits and opportunities in community, engage people in community life, as this assists in sustaining populations and also engages and encourages visitors