

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Submitted: 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

It is my understanding that culture and community (First Nation community) are inseparable. They are one. So this very different paradigm needs to be considered, understood and acknowledged in the context of this commitment. "Culture" can't be considered separately from all other parts of First Nations life.

A Place for Every Story

I strongly agree with this as a priority within the policy and hope that this cultural policy sees a levelling of the playing field, with community based initiatives obtaining appropriate funding in the way that "high art" initiatives do. And that when budget cuts happen, it isn't the "high art" that remains prioritised...(ie only money for the ballet and the opera). As part of this process, we need a plan for these times, as the arts are never safe in difficult financial times.

The Centrality of the Artist

I think this idea almost works for "white" artists, but I'm not sure how it cuts across cultural boundaries within Australia. More importantly, I think we need to see culture, in all its forms, from the individual artists making work through to large companies staging festivals, **as strong, viable and critical parts of Australia's economy**

Strong Institutions

This is important, but a strong ecology is even more critical. When we lose the small and medium organisations, there are no points of entry for new cultural practitioners, there are no experimental edges and there aren't a range of ways for practitioners to be employed.

Reaching the Audience

Complete support for this as long as the integrity of the content and the intellectual property of the artist is respected. The arts is over used to demonstrate dynamism (just look at any annual report), but yet this doesn't relate proportionately to the funds and protections received.

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

If we don't prioritise this, our country will continue to be broken.

A Place for Every Story

This is contemporary practice. Public Arts Practice must be accessible and reflective of a diverse population.

The Centrality of the Artist

All artists work must be valued.

Strong Institutions

Only of value if all scales of orgs are supported

Reaching the Audience

Public Art can only exist if it reaches its audience, and now there are incredible tools to do this traditionally and differently.