

# National Cultural Policy Submission

City of Unley

Submission to the Office for the Arts.

Consultation on a renewed National Cultural Policy.

August 2022

This submission by the City of Unley is based on the [City of Unley's Cultural Plan 2021-2026](#). The City of Unley is pleased to see that the new Federal Government has been quick to revive the work started in 2013 by the Gillard Government. Leadership at a Federal level on all issues arts and culture is an integral part of acknowledging their role in reflecting, challenging, developing, improving and sharing all sectors of our community. The 5 pillars are a good foundation and starting point to address these issues.

Representatives from the City of Unley were pleased to hear Minister Tony Bourke speak at the Adelaide Town Hall event about the importance of having a cultural policy, not just an arts policy. The City of Unley also understands the significance of recognising how the arts is a tool for cultural expression, but it is done against the background of people's culture drawn from personal, interactive and universal experiences, both inherited and learned.

The opportunities for our local community are expressed through five themes in our Cultural Plan. Examples from our Cultural Plan show the importance of the 5 pillars currently in place for the national cultural policy.

National Cultural Policy	City of Unley Cultural Plan Key objectives
First Nations	The Culture of Us: Build understanding and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.
A Place for Every Story	The Culture of Us: Encourage and support programs which reflect and bring people together from different cultural backgrounds. The Culture of Us: Provide voices for all communities with an inclusivity lens on specific programs.
Centrality of the Artist	The Culture of Creativity: Provide ongoing opportunities for individuals and groups for artistic development and creative expression. The Culture of Creativity: Host and support events and festivals. The Culture of Creativity: Support local businesses with a creative focus.

<p>Strong Institutions</p>	<p>The Culture of Knowledge: Promote Council facilities as venues for arts performances, exhibitions and participatory activities.</p> <p>The Culture of Knowledge: Showcase Council-supported arts programs in other community and commercial spaces.</p>
<p>Reaching the Audience</p>	<p>The Culture of Knowledge: Activate Council facilities as spaces of skill-sharing, learning and shared experience.</p> <p>The Culture of the Future: Accommodate access to, and use of, changing technology across Council services for the community.</p> <p>The Culture of the Future: Cultivate ongoing community conversations to explore global trends.</p>

These synergies are examples of how all levels of government should be coming together. We are great believers that we can learn from what is going on at a national level and bring this experience to our local community. Equally we think there are many things that a Federal Government could learn and adopt from the examples provided at a local level.

Any national cultural policy needs to be relevant and relatable to the individual artist, participant, audience member or even curious bystander. It needs to be realistic, practical, and achievable for anyone regardless of their background and current and future status. There needs to be a correlation between what individuals see in their immediate locale, in their state and in their country. A common vision and practice of working across all levels of government will always assist our local communities.

We hope that there is something from our local stage which may inspire some further exploration and support on the more global stage.

Matthew Ives Cultural Development Coordinator, City of Unley