

National Cultural Policy Submission

First Nations Performing Arts Priorities

5 August 2022

High-level principles

- Strengthen the First Nations pillar of the policy: we must move beyond “recognise and celebrate” to “invest, implement and sustain”
- Self-determination must be an embedded principle in all First Nations programs and initiatives. [“We must consider every hand that touches a creative work. Until it’s a Blak hand it’s not really self-determined.” Daniel Riley, ADT]
- First Nations performing arts organisations incubate early-career talent and emerging companies, and produce independents. To achieve the goal of producing and presenting more First Nations performance work we must strengthen the First Nations performing arts organisation to deliver this critical role.

Key Priorities

- Develop a First Nations Performing Arts Skills & Workforce Capacity Building Plan for the next decade and beyond.
- A dedicated First Nations Performing Arts Commissioning Fund for First Nations performing artists and orgs.
- Acknowledge that cultural processes cost money. Fund these costs.

Specific programs and initiatives

- Make adherence to cultural protocols, ICIP management and community consultation an explicit and eligible expense in project grant budgets
- Pilot program to identify and develop regionally based, and on Country, First Nations producers and presenters
- Create pathways and resources (including bridging funding) to prepare emerging companies for multi-year funding

