

National Cultural Policy Submission

Application on behalf of a not-for-profit arts organisation:

The Mill Adelaide

First Nations

The Mill actively supports First Nations artists and the development and presentation of their work, supported by meaningful partnerships with other First Nations organisations. We believe in building intimate relationships that foster real connection with artists and audiences, in-turn educating society about the deep spiritual, cultural values of Aboriginal arts and culture.

We encourage the new Australian Cultural Policy to champion First Nations arts and culture, and in the process to nurture and respect First Nations artists and people. We do not support tokenism or exploitation of First Nations artists and would like to advocate strongly against this.

A Place for Every Story

The Mill is a transformative breeding ground for artistic culture. We believe the arts provide a platform for human story, the sharing and exchanging of cultural stories and generation of new ones.

We believe the new Australian Cultural Policy needs to recognise the importance of storytelling through art, its power and necessity within society to cut through complex political issues and the dominance of unethical capitalist values.

The Centrality of the Artist

The Mill is a vibrant place of connection, creation, and support for ambitious and exceptional artists. We support and nurture artists to be highly skilled in their craft and sustainable in their practices.

We encourage the new Australian Cultural Policy to value the artist as an integral part of society and take away the stigma that a career in the arts is not a viable profession, or that the arts are not necessary for a functioning society.

Strong Institutions

The Mill links curious, engaged audiences with arts and artists through expansive yet accessible programming. We provide place and space for arts without boundaries, engaging audiences to build and strengthen a culture of the arts.

The Mill advocates for governments to provide more funding to arts organisations for cultural infrastructure to directly benefit artists and cultural engagement with the arts. We believe well-appointed, affordable venues allow artists to get straight on with the work of making and presenting art.

Additionally, we advocate for more funding for venues to update their technical infrastructure, removing the need for artists to apply for funding to hire external equipment, as in most cases, government funding ends up paying for this, one way or the other. These moves will make the distribution of arts funding more economical and efficient across the arts and cultural sector, and venues more affordable for artists.

Reaching the Audience

The Mill aims to amplify the value of the arts for individuals, audiences and communities.

We believe the new Australian Cultural Policy needs to increase the value of arts in society as a whole, to drive home the fact that the arts are integral and necessary to a functioning, wholistic society. Arts and culture is not for privilege or people looking for handouts. Arts and culture is valuable to society in multiple ways - fostering creativity and innovation, critical thinking, social comment, economic growth, health and wellbeing, tourism and education.

The Mill believes integrating the following points into the new Australian Cultural Policy will increase the value of arts in society;

- Make it a requisite that mainstream media bring attention to arts and culture, equal of that to news and sports. This is to encourage all people to understand the value of arts and culture, by embedding this importance in the family home and therefore engaging children in arts and culture from an early age. Ie; Arts and culture segments at the end of the news next to sport segments.*

- *Promote that being an artist / arts worker is an aspirational career, not a hobby. This will increase artists' ability to earn and charge appropriately for their work (especially in the face of developing AI technologies).*
- *Provide incentives for people to join the arts in a range of fields - including as arts workers. Better recognition of what arts work actually looks like - eg time spent applying for funding to be recognised by Centrelink (for artists receiving benefits).*

We believe that a new federal government policy that acknowledges the value of arts will prevent future cuts to the arts as the first port of call when budget cuts are implemented.

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Under this name:

Katrina Lazaroff CEO/Artistic Director of The Mill, Adelaide