
National Cultural Policy Submission

Flying Arts submission on the proposed National Arts and Culture Policy

About Flying Arts:

Flying Arts has a vision of 'Art for Life' – lives transformed and sustained through the arts. We are here to support and grow the life-long practice and appreciation of the visual arts and regional arts of and for Queenslanders. We value the contributions of First Nations artists, creatives, artisans, practitioners and communities to the work we do.

Flying Arts is an arts and cultural development organisation which has been delivering visual arts projects and services to regional and remote Queensland since 1971. We play an important role in inspiring artists and communities, as well as helping to overcome the impacts of regional isolation and remote living.

In 2021, Flying Arts paid more than 60 artists and arts workers to deliver more than 215 activities to rural, regional and remote communities throughout Queensland. We also received over 30,000 attendees to our travelling exhibitions.

1. This submission is provided on behalf of a not-for-profit arts organisation, and to be publicly available on the arts.gov.au website.
2. 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:

2.1. First Nations

- Challenge: Supporting, facilitating, and maintaining face to face engagement between Flying Arts Team and First Nations communities across the whole state.
- Challenge: Conducting cultural respectful consultations with First Nations communities and individuals to inform and identify strategies to meet organisational goals.
- Challenge: Funding required to foster and grow cultural awareness for the whole organisation where everyone is responsible for, and knowledgeable in respectful and appropriate engagement with First Nations people, protocols, and Lore within the communities in which the organisation operates.
- Opportunity: Increased identified full-time employment for First Nations communities within their own communities can help build the economic power of local communities while also providing rich cultural tourism opportunities unique to QLD/Australia.
- Opportunity: Projects and services are well researched to best provide capacity building skills for First Nations communities which increase engagement between the organisation and First Nations communities.

2.2 A Place for Every Story

- Challenge reaching regional stories and connecting with them meaningfully through Flying Arts programs and services
- Opportunity to after COVID-19 connect with regional places and stories in person again.

2.3 The Centrality of the Artist

-
- Challenging is finding the artists and growing relationships in regional areas. Connecting them with their communities.
 - Opportunity to continue to support regional artists and arts worker to grow professionally.

2.4 Strong Institutions

- Institutions are strong when they are diverse, accessible and collaborative.

2.5 Reaching the audience

- Challenge to manage staff, budgets and technology to engage with new and established audiences. Following COVID-19, in addition to the increase in domestic travel costs and cuts to arts funding has meant that connecting with regional audiences is limited.
- Opportunity to connect again, build resilience, wellbeing and pride of place in regional locations.

3. 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:

3.1 First Nations

- Flying Arts values and honours our history by drawing on the past and being grounded in the present to build for future generations. This value is an essential component to First Nations cultural revitalisation and maintenance.
- Each First Nations culture is unique to each other which creates unlimited possibilities for growth and collaborations between knowledge holders, practitioners, artists, community members and other First Nations or Non-Indigenous cultural groups.

3.2 A Place for Every Story

- Flying Arts values diversity of people and places. We aim to support grassroots regional artists, arts workers and community groups and their stories. Through our vision of 'Art For Life' and over our 50 year history, into the future our organisation will platform creative voices of all ages and from all corners of the state.

3.3 The Centrality of the Artist

- Artists in regional locations assist with building community capacity, to engage and inspire critical thinking, sense of wellbeing, resiliency and Hope.

3.5 Reaching the Audience

- Accessibility for all audience members is important. The future national cultural policy should address the limitations of access (e.g., cost) to establish new connections.
- Reaching the audience is only possible if you know your audience. Fostering genuine conversations and consulting with constituents is important in this process of engagement.
- It is easy to alienate regional people through arts and culture. Where possible the NCP should be representative of local issues, but also showcase local talents and provide economic and social stimulus.

4. Are there any other things that you would like to see in a National Cultural Policy?

- Institutions are strong when they are diverse, accessible and collaborative.
- Increased accessible funding.

-
- Clearer relationship between federal, state and LGA administration of arts and culture.
 - More funding for independent arts and cultural organisations.