

ARTS INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*an independent
voice for the arts*

GENERAL MEETING: Response to Federal Budget arts funding changes

Tuesday 26 May 2015, 5pm

Mercury Cinema

13 Morphett St, Adelaide

Attendees:

Committee

Andy Packer

Chris Drummond

Christie Anthony

Gail Kovatseff (Chair)

Louise Dunn

Michelle Wigg (Executive Officer)

Sandy Verschoor

Members & Arts Industry

Bec Pannell

Carol Wellman Kelly

Cathy Adamek

Corey McMahon

Emma Webb

Erica Green

Fiona Gardner

Geordie Brookman

Jo Pike

John Baxter

Keith Preston

Mark Knight

Matthew Ives

Mimi Crowe

Nescha Jelk

Peter Louca

PJ Rose

Phil Callaghan

Rae O'Connell

Ruth Smiles

Simone McDonnell

Tricia Walton

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DISCUSSION NOTES

- AICSA will sign a statement prepared by ArtsPeak (confederation of national arts peak bodies), requesting senate inquiry into funding changes
- 2 key issues - removal of assessment processes & how will \$30m of Australia Council cuts be absorbed?
- Labor will 'revisit' funding changes at next election
- Concentrate campaigning on federal senators
- Aim to influence Greens & Labor parties
- Aim to influence distribution of funds in the new National Program of Excellence in the Arts
 - Opera Australia rumoured to have been promised \$10million already
- Lack of transparency in new National Program of Excellence in the Arts; small-to-medium can't aspire to apply, with funds likely to be for initiatives, not operational/infrastructure
- Arts SA should 'uncouple' their funding requirements for organisations/artists, from requirement to have Australia Council or other funding
- Australia Council is waiting for decisions from Senator Brandis' office on funding priorities before moving forward
- National Program may prioritise 'regional' arts – Adelaide is considered regional, so may benefit
- Arts industry should document projects/collaborations that will no longer happen with funding changes – also affects content within festivals, venues and venue networks (eg. Theatre Works & Vitalstatistix, which work together to present shows)
- Also, highlight the breadth of Australian work that has been funded in the past by Australia Council
 - Can also show diversity of arts that is funded through other sources, as all is impacted
- Could run campaign to show what could be lost (in SA and Australia) as a result of changes
 - Visual (video) campaign, as well as written campaign
 - Eg. have a Fringe Guide with blacked out event listings to demonstrate shows that may not go ahead without that funding
- Australia Council's 6 year funding was due to support national ecology
 - Artists and organisations had imagined 6 years ahead and worked on those applications, only to be told funding rounds removed
- Key major organisations need to be supportive of rest of sector, and communicate that changes affect arts ecology at all levels
- From Peter Louca, Ministerial Advisor:
 - Minister Snelling has written to Senator Brandis, expressing concerns about limited info about guidelines; confusion and anxiety amongst SA organisations; SA
 - Will also write to Australia Council
 - \$3.4million could be at risk for SA's national funding
 - Meeting of cultural ministers to be held later in the year in Mildura
 - State Government is in info-gathering mode for now
- AICSA to write to Arts SA to request sharing of info gathered from desk research
- Risk of losing Australian voices – connect with ABC 'Save Our Stories' campaign
- Highlight that changes may result in loss of employment positions in small businesses (ie. arts businesses)
- Need to communicate to the general public what 'the arts' actually are – it's everywhere in daily life; film, TV, theatre, visual art, etc and all could be affected by these changes
- Use stats to show return-on-investment from government subsidy
- Look at stats on arts participation rates from Australia Council
- Figurehead suggested for campaign, needing national profile – eg. Geoffrey Rush
- AICSA and arts industry need a 'long game' and a 'short game' in response
 - Overturning funding decision for now may be very low – look into future
 - Focus on what may be changed, eg. influence funding guidelines
 - Continue to put pressure on in lead up to next federal election
- AICSA to make a letter template that can be used to send to MPs – arts organisations to encourage subscribers and members to also send campaign letter

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KEY ACTIONS

Action	Who/What
Influence NPEA guidelines and assessment process	AICSA to write follow up letter Raise concerns with parliamentary members
Seek an Senate Inquiry	AICSA to sign Arts Peak letter
Influence parliament	AICSA to prepare templates Members to send to senators AICSA and members to meet with Senators
Build a picture of what's at stake and then promote the potential widely	AICSA to write to Arts SA for access to their desktop research AICSA to develop a campaign strategy and activate. AICSA (Andy Packer) to produce assets for campaign such as a video
Arts SA funding tied to another sources needs to be addressed, given changes at Oz Co	AICSA to meet with Arts SA
Get on the front foot in SA – develop an industry vision which sets the govt. agenda in regard to the ecology of local industry	AICSA with membership input– complete the 40 Year vision with a focus on drilling down to the next three years