

Arts Industry Council of SA launches Creative South Australia: A Vision for the Arts

Arts Industry Council of South Australia (AICSA) will this week launch **Creative South Australia: A Vision for the Arts**.

In the lead up to the 2018 State Election, this independently prepared document is a wide-ranging vision for arts and culture in South Australia.

Since November 2015 AICSA has been working with the SA arts community to develop and put a vision in place which ensures that there is a holistic approach to the arts. It is a vision looking forward to 2055 aiming to ensure the legacy we leave for the coming generations is as robust as the one inherited by current generations from the work of ground-breakers in the 1960s and 1970s. It manifestly celebrates the contribution artists makes to the richness of our society, the strength of our identity and the viability of our economy.

Gail Kovatseff Chair of Arts Industry Council said: “Any strategy and planning for the arts must look at the whole ecology, from arts training, to supporting artists and organisations, to audience development and ongoing support of SA’s expanding festival calendar. With the current focus on renewing infrastructure, the vision is viewed as a complement to the SA Government’s current plans.”

Julianne Pierce, Executive Officer, AICSA said: “**Creative South Australia** is launched at a time when there is no overarching arts and culture policy or vision in place in South Australia. Other states across Australia have arts and culture strategies and policy which provide long term planning and vision for the arts. Such as *Create in NSW: NSW Arts and Cultural Policy Framework* and *Creative State Victoria*. South Australia has been without such a strategy for many years, with the last comprehensive strategy *South Australia. Arts and Cultural Development Task Force* being released by then Minister for the Arts Diana Laidlaw in 1994.”

AICSA also launches the vision at a time when it is actively advocating through an election and formal Treasury bid strategy for the interests of independent artists and the small to medium sector in South Australia. Recent Australia Council research indicates the financial position of independent artists is in serious decline. Like the small to medium sector, independent artists continue to experience the impact of significant reduction in federal funding from the Australia Council cuts in 2015.

Emma Webb, AICSA committee member said: “Our election strategy is designed to intervene where current policy is weakest in ensuring the health of the ecology - that is in the on-going chronic under funding of support for independent artists and the small to medium sector.”

AICSA acknowledges the continued work of the State Government through Arts South Australia to provide funding to compensate for the Australia Council cuts. AICSA also welcomes the work currently being undertaken by Arts South Australia on an Aboriginal Arts Strategy Development.

Creative South Australia: A Vision for the Arts will be launched by **Chris Drummond**, Artistic Director of Brink Productions on **Wednesday 13 December at 5.30pm at the West Oak hotel** as part of AICSA’s end of year celebrations.

The Arts Industry Council of SA is the state’s independent, sector wide representative arts body.
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