

# ARTS INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*an independent  
voice for the arts*

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Hon Steven Marshall  
Premier of South Australia  
GPO Box 2343  
Adelaide SA 5001

Wednesday 30 May 2018

Dear Premier,

I am pleased to write to you following the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Arts Industry Council of South Australia (AICSA) held on Wednesday 23 May 2018. AICSA is the state's independent voice for the arts with the membership comprised of over 100 individual artists, arts workers, small to medium arts organisations and major arts companies.

AICSA congratulates you on your March 2018 election victory and we very much look forward to working with you and your government to realise the cultural and artistic potential of South Australia.

AICSA has requested a meeting with you. As the peak body representing the arts, one of the signature industries of our state, our membership has reaffirmed their desire that you meet with a delegation at your earliest convenience.

The sector welcomes 'Investing in the Arts' outlining the government's vision and steps towards a formal arts policy. AICSA enjoyed a very good relationship with Hon. John Gardner in his former role as Opposition Arts Spokesman, and the AICSA members are pleased that points raised at our meetings with him are included in the policy.

We would appreciate an update from you on the next steps for 'Investing in the Arts' and election commitments, including:

- Increasing grants for artists – leading to sustainable careers
- Developing and implementing South Australia's first arts plan in almost 20 years
- Establishing a Commissioner for Cultural Development to lead a whole-of-government approach to improving connections and collaborations between the community and the arts sector

We are delighted that the government has made an election commitment to provide an additional \$1million per annum increase to funding to early career artists. To ensure that appropriate peer assessment processes are followed we would urge that this funding is managed through the established Arts South Australia Independent Makers and Presenters Program.

As raised at the AICSA and Adelaide Festival pre-election forum at The Palais on 7 March, the sector is greatly concerned by the cumulative impact of efficiency dividends on the overall arts budget. We are concerned that any increases in funding will be undermined by proposed cuts to the arts appropriation.

AICSA actively lobbied the former government regarding cuts to the arts budget and will continue to advocate to ensure that artists and arts organisations can flourish and realise their potential impact for all South Australians.

We congratulate you on your support for the arts and for taking on the Arts Portfolio.

We are however concerned that the arts do not have a specific ministry. This has been raised to us by sector leaders regarding lines of communication between the sector and the Premier. Can you also please update us regarding when the Commissioner of Cultural Development will be appointed.

We look forward to hearing back from your office and to meeting with you at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Julianne Pierce  
Executive Officer  
AICSA