

TAMMY FRANKS

Member of the Legislative Council

March 12 2022

SA Greens Response to the Arts Industry Council of South Australia (AICSA)

Dear AICSA,

This weekend, people in South Australia are getting behind the Arts – heading out and about to enjoy what our local, interstate, and overseas artists have to offer, and, even in these difficult Covid-19 times, our festivals are cautiously going ahead, with performers, producers and venues taking every safety precaution to ensure a successful event, lest they have to cancel their season and lose what is likely a major percentage of their annual income. These have been difficult times for us all. But particularly so for the Arts.

The Greens support dedicated funding that puts the arts, music, entertainment, and creative industries centre stage as we rebuild South Australia's economy over the coming months and years. Just as we have advocated for those in Arts to be recognised in rescue and support packages through the pandemic.

We want to see greater investment to support the sector to test ideas and models for a more resilient, equitable and thriving future – one that can continue to flourish and evolve, well beyond the pandemic.

We must provide bespoke insurance arrangements, relief and concessions to artists, arts organisations, arts businesses and venues directly impacted by the pandemic. This will also include providing more support for artists to perform outside traditional venues, by making community halls, facilities and public unleased lands, like local parks simple to hire and fee-free.

The state's new planning laws have been slated for reformed in the new Parliament. This will offer opportunities to better support the arts. The Greens are committed to supporting arts-friendly infrastructure and venues. We will explore entertainment precincts with different noise restrictions and regulations, to create vibrant hubs of music, art and food and implement an Entertainment Action Plan. It is a conversation which will require community consultation but one which should be addressed. The impending loss of the much loved and needed Bakehouse recently is just one example why this conversation is so important and urgent.

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We want to see the arts considered in a broader way and welcome a targeted tourism campaign right around our festival calendar.

We welcome too the Arts and Culture Plan. We are committed to ensuring the sector is given that voice and the direction and accountability provided by a Plan well for the duration of the current Plan and beyond. This is important work that must be non-partisan.

The Arts Industry Council of SA (AICSA), have listed five priorities for the upcoming election and, as an avid fan and supporter of the arts, who has seen first-hand the devastation of the industry, not just through Covid-19 but throughout my many years in politics, I am getting behind them and The Greens will be working to make change.

The Arts Industry Council of SA 5 key priorities for the election are:

Valuing First Nations arts and culture, first: An ecology of initiatives, institutions, communities and contexts, of varying well-resourced scales, that are First Nations-controlled and led.

Funding the foundation to thrive: Ongoing and well-resourced grants and operational programs, fellowships, and public employment initiatives for artists and small-to-medium organisations.

A healthy eco system

A new future for artist education: High quality, artist and practice-led, equitable centres of education that value, nurture and lead the future of the arts sector.

A fair deal for artists: Fair jobs, pay, entitlements and security, and initiatives that combat artists' poverty and precarity, and keep artists and artworkers working and making work.

Living well in South Australian cities: Affordable housing, thoughtful arts infrastructure and liveable cities that support artists to work where they live across our State.

We believe South Australia should be a 'State of The Arts'.

South Australians know we need art. Our strengths as a state renowned for its diverse arts and cultural sector has garnered both domestic and international respect and recognition. A vibrant, diverse, and innovative arts sector is at the heart of any thriving society. Strong creative industries not only enrich our community but they are a significant and growing contributor to our economy and employment.

Yet, while the creative industries are lauded as the engine room of our economy - they have been and continue to be one of the main industries directly hit by the impacts of the pandemic.

Over the last two years, we have seen our cultural and creative sectors suffer enormous damage due to restrictions on public gatherings and performances and exhibitions that were cancelled in the interests of public health.

Despite all these challenges, the arts have continued to help us celebrate the good things and process the bad ones. It gives meaning to our experiences. It helps us get through. The

The Greens will properly value the arts. We want to see increased levels of public funding and supporting targeted programs and incentives to enable the arts to grow.

A fair deal for artists, should part of a fair deal for all. Artists entertain, challenge, and inspire us and are at the core of our cultural life, yet they often struggle to make a living. We need to ensure that artists can secure a living wage. It is clear that the system is broken for artists and we need government to commit to a new kind of thinking.

Even for the hard heads it makes simply sense. For every additional \$1b in turnover in the mining industry, an additional 472 jobs are created. For every additional \$1b in turnover in the building industry, 1,242 new jobs are created. In the arts and entertainment sector, however, 4,297 new jobs are created with each \$1bn in additional turnover. Aside from the clear cultural benefits investing in the creatives industries brings to society – the economic benefits are enormous. So why are so many of our artists struggling to keep their head above water, often juggling multiple jobs in order to makes ends meet.

The case for an Artist Living Wage is well made and it acknowledges the worth of all citizens and enshrines basic rights of justice, freedom and security. The arts cannot flourish without a full reimagining of labour and care, and introducing a level of financial security through a living wage would allow artists the freedom to create, without fear of how they are going pay their next bill.

This is not a new concept, internationally, Ireland have just announced a three year pilot program heralded as a “once-in-a-generation policy intervention,” to assist those working in the fields of arts, culture, audio-visual, and live performance and events who suffered economically as the global Covid-19 crisis surged in there. South Australia is also renowned for our creative industries, and it’s time we supported those that contribute to its great success.

Under the Greens plan, we will commit to introducing an Artist Living Wage program for all practicing artists in South Australia. This would be an initial stage in the move to a Jobs Guarantee for all. We can pilot this fair deal for artists in South Australia as part of our federal plan for a fair deal for all. By moving to full employment and a national jobs and income guarantee as well as a universal liveable income.

A state build of 40,000 quality public homes in four years and the restoration of the SA Housing Trust is a hallmark of [our bold vision](#) for the South Australia and will pay big dividends in affording is all better lives. The Greens plan for people seeking affordable, secure, quality homes which of course will support the AICSA goal of **Living well in South Australian cities**.

The Greens support **funding the (arts) foundation to thrive**. We need to encourage and fund, not just the elite and comfortable arts, but also the confronting, quirky, thought-provoking, and wonderfully weird works from a range of organisations. Programs free from political interference or favouritism. We welcome independent oversight and review to ensure this.

But unless we get serious about a **new future for artist education**, we risk putting the entire arts ecology in peril. There can be no **healthy ecosystem** without accessible and accessed education. With the corporatisation of TAFE, we have gone the wrong way. The negotiations for university amalgamations offer challenges and opportunity here.

A new Parliament and 'a build back better' post-pandemic attitude whatever the colour of Government provides an opportunity to reset this.

Not forgetting of course, the need for not just STEM but STEAM education in this state and support right through our education systems to cultivate artists and audiences.

So, as I wrote for ArtsHub, another idea I'd like both Liberal and Labor leaders to strongly consider isn't my own, but it's one I'd like to give an encore. It's now over a decade since [Robyn Archer issued the challenge](#) that AC Arts should be freed to stand alone, be that within or outside TAFE.

This of course was all well before I saw Flinders University Drama Centre dramas and the ongoing cuts there and at Adelaide University to those offerings not deemed profitable. It was also a challenge made by Archer in those very early days of the experiment to corporatise TAFE. That experiment in itself a failure on so many fronts, but particularly so for the lost potential and opportunities for AC Arts.

I am personally committed to prioritising the future of arts education and working with both sides of politics to create urgency and action in this space. It is an area in significant need of reform and the political will for investment and action.

The Greens will sincerely and deeply value **First Nations arts and culture**. We will ensure that a proportion of all arts funding is reserved for the generation of First Nations arts and culture by setting clear targets for overall allocation of government grants.

[Truth. Treaty. Voice.](#) Is a hallmark of [our federal plan](#) and that Truth-telling we need to heal and affirm will be assisted by the role of the Arts. The Voice must come from the people to the Parliament. In the mix, as always, a health ecosystem is need and the full ecology must be nurtured not pitted against one another. When it comes to the institutions then Tandanya is just as vital to that arts ecology as Tarrkarri or Tarnanthi.

Finally, the Greens are committed to listening to, working with and respect for AICSA itself. We congratulate you on your efforts to provide a voice for the arts and appreciate that can be hard with such a diversity of membership and need. Groups such as AICSA bring much needed strength and depth to our democracy.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Frank". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greens SA Parliamentary Leader & Arts Spokesperson