



Sue Pennicuik MLC

Member for Southern Metropolitan Region

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Nicole Beyer and Veronica Pardo
Co-convenors
Arts Industry Council (Vic)
c/o 222 Bank Street
South Melbourne Vic 3205

Dear Nicole and Veronica,

Thank you for your letter of 27 June, 2014 seeking the Victorian Greens' policy position on a number of arts and cultural issues. I am pleased to provide you with the following answers on behalf of the Victorian Greens.

1. How does your party define the cultural value of the arts?

The Victorian Greens place a high value on the arts and our cultural heritage. Artists play a significant role in the community through exploration and expression of ideas and cultural identity.

Our cultural heritage reflects the diverse nature of the history of Victoria from pre-European settlement to the present-day. Our libraries, museums and other collecting institutions are essential repositories of cultural heritage and must be maintained and developed.

2, How does your party define the social value of the arts?

Support for the arts is a matter of great importance to the Greens, to me personally, to artists themselves and to the people of Victoria who love our artists and their work.

Artistic expression and creativity are fundamental to vibrant and healthy communities. Everyone should have the opportunity to participate in, and experience all forms of the arts.

3. How does your party define the economic value of the arts

The arts and artists make a significant contribution to the Victorian economy and provide employment opportunities in live events, performances etc. We know that most Victorians (90%) attend some sort of arts event in a given year.

Support of developments and projects involving our shared heritage by government and in partnership with the private sector and private individuals is crucial.

4. For the next four years, what are your arts priorities?

The Greens would like to see support and promotion of local content in Victoria and the development of local projects and operating models for state owned arts venues which focus on serving the Victorian public by providing a diverse and accessible range of performances and exhibitions, and which support artistic organisations to hire venues at reasonable cost.

We support the provision of ongoing and well-resourced public arts programs and a vibrant and economically viable local live music industry through the protection of live music venues and performance spaces. The Greens will continue to advocate for the strengthening and implementation of the agent-of-change principle.

5. Do you see a role for the government in working holistically with the arts across difference portfolios? If so, what strategies will you implement to achieve a holistic approach?

The Greens advocate for policies and programs that encourage an integrated approach and so cross-portfolio awareness of broad social and economic benefits is important.

It's important that governments generously support the arts. Like schools, hospitals, water and public transport – substantial government support is required to maintain a thriving arts community. Fostering a range of arts and cultural activities in metropolitan, regional and rural areas, and encouraging the incorporation of arts perspectives into urban planning.

Education has a key role in fostering appreciation and understanding of the arts, as well as the skills necessary for artistic practice. The encouragement of arts practice, and from a range of cultural and linguistic traditions, by adequately resourcing community based cross-cultural projects designed to enhance reconciliation, understanding and tolerance is important as we are expanding programs in schools, health services, correctional institutions, community groups and workplaces.

6. Will you commit to increasing consultation and engagement with the industry? If so, how will you resource that?

Consultation with key organisations and groups is essential for any sphere of government, and so is consistent, ongoing consultation with the arts community and industry as is greater engagement with local government in the development of arts and cultural policies.

7. Where do you see the gaps in participation in the arts, as audiences, artists and the arts workforce? What will you do to reduce the gaps?

The Greens would like to see further measures to increase participation and attendance of grassroots arts events/festivals, particularly for marginalised groups and those living with disability, by providing ongoing funding to peak bodies such as Arts Access Victoria, and support for community radio and television.

8. To retain and enhance Victoria's cultural leadership, what will you do to support the creation of work, experimentation, and research and development?

It is important to support emerging artists through specialist artistic education and training to arts training institutions which offer students the opportunity to work with established artists in apprenticeship or mentorship schemes and better access to small business start-up grants and schemes.

Government commissioning and purchase of public works from a wide range of arts forms and ensuring that conditions recommended by relevant professional arts organisations prevail in public art developments is important. Government should also support regular research into issues affecting the Victorian arts sector.

9. In a tight fiscal climate, how can you provide improved access to space for artists' creation and presentation? What strategies will you implement to activate existing spaces, outdoor spaces, etc?

State and local government support for the establishment, growth and renewal of suburban and regional cultural infrastructure, performing arts centres, galleries, museums and community arts facilities and assistance in the provision of low rent working spaces for practising artists in under-utilised buildings and facilitating artist-run initiatives, exhibitions, performance spaces, and publishing ventures.

Yours faithfully,



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