



**AICV Members' Meeting
Thursday 20th March, 3-5pm
Arts Access Victoria
222 Bank Street, South Melbourne
OUTCOMES**

1. AICV – Council update

Since last Members' Meeting:

Meetings with key staff at Arts Victoria and the Office of the Minister for the Arts: Andrew Abbott, Acting Director; Greg Andrews, Deputy Director; Linda Fleet, Director Communications; Judy Lachele, Chief of Staff, Minister for the Arts; Clementine Walker, Arts Adviser. Discussions included members' concerns about poor executive communications during 2012 and 2013 concerning the reviews of the Organisations Investment Program and the VicArts grants program. Discussions have been extremely positive and point to a stronger connection between the industry and Arts Victoria.

Meeting with the new Shadow Spokesperson for the Arts, Martin Foley, to hear about Labor's plans for the Arts in Victoria, and to relay the industry's aspirations.

To all stakeholders, the AICV continues to call for:

- discourse, tools and strategies for measuring the value of the arts, both instrumental and intrinsic that can help to build cross government and cross sector investment in the arts;
- a consultation process with the arts sector leading to the development of a progressive arts policy that is future focused and grapples with some of the entrenched issues and barriers;
- investment in strategies that address real needs in the sector including greater funding support to ensure the sustainability of the small to medium sector in particular.

2. National update – current arts policy issues

Update on ArtsPeak National:

ArtsPeak is the unincorporated group of 30 national arts peak bodies, joining forces to advocate for a stronger arts industry nationally. It met recently in Sydney to discuss current issues and to meet with the federal Ministry for the Arts [Executive Director Sally Basser] and the Australia Council [CEO Tony Grybowski]. ArtsPeak has called for the Australia

Council to develop clearer measures and KPIs for assessing funding of peak bodies and service organisations. Arts Peak also welcomed the Australia Council's new strategic plan, but asked for greater consultation with the industry.

Australia Council Strategic Plan:

In his briefing to ArtsPeak, Tony Grybowski outlined the status of the new strategic plan: It will be a 5-year, high level plan, which aims to 'support excellence in artistic practice'. It is on track to be finished by June 30th 2014. Regarding consultation on the plan – they have 'tested' the strategies with different groups and they have used the consultation from the original Australia Council review process towards this planning. There will be NO discussion paper. The new strategy panels are: the various artforms; plus a *Capacity Building* panel (training and development) and a *Research Advisory* panel. They will use occasional panels if they need for a certain issue or for a certain period of time.

The new grant programs will be announced after the plan, from July/August, with applications accepted from January 2015. Tony advised that there will be common areas for funding, a 'half a dozen categories' and common criteria, apart from where specific criteria are needed e.g. disability.

The new peer assessment process is underway, and will be in place by 1st April 2014. The new pool is 854 people, compared to around 70 usual people on the art form boards. They are designing a process to filter those to a smaller number. That pool will be 'refreshed' – not necessarily annually, but as needed as the cycle of funding programs rolls out.

National Local Government Cultural Forum:

New forum/network funded by the Australia Council, lead by Cultural Development Network in Melbourne. The National Local Government Cultural Forum is a twice yearly meeting for local government and other stakeholders to articulate and develop a national perspective on developing stronger cultural development practice in local government across Australia. Communiqués from the meetings are available on the website:
<http://www.culturaldevelopment.net.au/projects/nlgcf/>

National Digital Platform:

The National Digital Platform is another initiative funded by the Community Partnership division of the Australia Council. The project aims to "build an exceptional and unique national digital platform to showcase practice and support communications and collaboration in the CACD sector over the next decade. The new platform will be the centre piece of a national digital strategy - a blueprint designed to strengthen the online capacity of our sector - locally, nationally and internationally. Visit The Platform consultation site for information and updates www.theplatform.com.au".

3. Special guest speaker Joel Murray, The Australian Sex Party.

"The Australian Sex Party is a libertarian, political response to the needs of Australians in the 21st Century." <https://www.sexparty.org.au/about.html>

Joel presented his draft arts policy to the meeting, outlining the key libertarian tenets of the party underlying all of the party's policies. His policy supports the redistribution of a percentage of arts funding from the state agencies to support the small to medium sector.

4. 2014 Victorian State Election – arts priorities consultation continued.

As Victoria heads towards an election in November, the Arts Industry Council is keen to hear from members regarding needs and priorities for the sector. We will use feedback from our consultations with members to inform our policy direction and shape our advocacy to all parties over the coming months.

The March meeting held a mini-brainstorming session for questions that members would like to ask of the major parties as we head towards the election.

The themes arising included:

- Questions around value – economic, social and cultural;
- What are the parties' respective arts priorities;
- Issues and ideas for cross-government investment;
- Strategies for consultation and engagement with the industry;
- Ideas for addressing under-representation of different groups;
- Ideas about supporting creation of work/experimentation/development;
- Strategies for addressing space needs for artists for creation and presentation.

The questions will be fine-tuned by the Council and published later in April, and sent to the parties for their responses.