

Arts and Culture Policy

1.0 Background

The arts encourage us to come together to share experiences, interpret the past and present and find our place within the broader social and ecological environment. Victoria has a diverse arts and cultural heritage which enriches our lives and community, and contributes to our economic well-being through employment, exports and tourism. The Australian Greens Victoria are committed to the development of a long-term vision in arts and cultural policy which will enhance the lives of all Victorians, better support all those who work in the arts industry and build on Victoria's cultural capital.

2.0 Principles

The Australian Greens Victoria believe that:

1. Expression and creativity are fundamental to vibrant and healthy communities.
2. Everyone has the right to participate in, and experience all forms of arts practice.
3. Artists play a significant role in society by encouraging exploration, expression and communication of ideas and cultural identity.
4. Arts enhance community cohesion as well as democratic community decision making.
5. Indigenous cultures make vital, continuing contributions to Victorian arts and culture.
6. Government must lead in enhancing employment opportunities and working conditions within the arts industry.
7. Education has a key role in fostering appreciation and understanding of the arts, as well as the skills necessary for artistic practice.

3.0 Community Development and the Arts

3.1 Goals

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Broad community participation in, and understanding and appreciation of the arts.
2. Diverse and marginalised communities being given a voice within creative industries.

3.2 Key priorities

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Fostering a range of arts and cultural activities in metropolitan, regional and rural areas, and encouraging the incorporation of arts perspectives into urban planning.
2. Encouraging arts practice in all forms, and from a range of cultural traditions, by adequately resourcing community based cross-cultural projects designed to enhance reconciliation, understanding and tolerance.
3. Establishing a committee drawn from Victorian Indigenous communities to facilitate recognition and resourcing of their specific arts practices and cultural activities.
4. Supporting and implementing further measures to increase access to participation and attendance of arts events/festivals, particularly for marginalised groups and those living with disability, by providing ongoing funding to peak bodies such as Arts Access Victoria.

4.0 Support for Artists

4.1 Goals

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Safe, non-exploitative working conditions and fair pay in the arts industries.
2. A stronger and more resilient arts industry in Victoria, including the provision of ongoing and well resourced public arts programs and a vibrant and economically viable local live music industry.
3. Government support of democratic and properly constituted arts organisations that facilitate networking, distribute information, and advocate for artists.
4. Properly regulated literary agents, actors' agents and the equivalent in all art forms.
5. The expansion of the Melbourne Film Office (or similar) to service low-to medium budget film makers and ensure film production receives government support.

4.2 Key priorities

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Government funding being provided to support regular research into issues affecting the Victorian arts sector.
2. Government commissioning and purchasing of public works from a wide range of art forms, particularly those adhering to principles of environmental sustainability, and encouraging private enterprise to do the same.
3. Facilitating consistent arts community and industry consultation processes.
4. Supporting festivals and events which showcase Australian and international art, and encourage interest in the arts.
5. Addressing or removing barriers which affect a venue's ability to host live music.
6. Enhancing employment opportunities and working conditions within the arts industry, and improving prospects for existing artists, by:
 - Expanding artists' programs in schools, health services, correctional institutions, community groups and workplaces;
 - Supporting the development of national and international art and artist exchanges;
 - Enabling artists, curators, performers, actors or other industry professionals to access artistic, professional and business training for better career development
 - Ensuring grant application processes are simple to access, independently evaluated and free from political manipulation;
 - Setting minimum standards to ensure the involvement of artists and their representative organisations in development and evaluation of arts policy and programs;
 - Ensuring conditions recommended by relevant professional arts organisations prevail in public art developments;
 - Ensuring the provision of government funding for artist-run initiatives, exhibitions, performance spaces, and publishing ventures.
 - Facilitating early engagement of artists in the planning stages of public and private developments and infrastructure projects.

5. Education and the Arts

5.1 Goals

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. All teachers at arts training institutions being qualified to teach and, where possible and appropriate, are practicing industry professionals.

5.2 Key Priorities

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Establishing a wide variety of arts programs in all state schools, to be taught by fully qualified teachers in the relevant arts practice.
2. Ensuring arts training institutions offer students the opportunity to work with established artists in apprenticeship or mentorship schemes.
3. Ensuring schools, arts training institutions and other educational bodies provide training in the making and presentation of art based on principles of environmental sustainability as well as new and emerging technologies and media.