

CANBERRA THEATRE CENTRE
LOCAL ARTS ENGAGEMENT POLICY

APPROVED BY CFC BOARD ON 19 OCTOBER 2018

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PURPOSE

This Local Arts Engagement Policy has been developed for the following purposes:

- to provide a clear statement of the overall objectives for the structured support and engagement of local independent artists at Canberra Theatre Centre (the CTC), which is part of the Cultural Facilities Corporation (the CFC);
- to provide a framework against which decisions to support and program the work of local independent artists generally will be made; and
- to provide a framework against which individual proposals for support and programming of local work will be assessed.

The Local Arts Engagement Policy is intended to provide guidance to CTC in making decisions on support for local independent artists. Separate guidelines will be developed under the Policy to provide information to artists who wish to apply for support.

BACKGROUND

Corporate context

The Local Arts Engagement Policy has been developed in connection with the CTC Programming Policy and the CFC's Strategic Plan, which identify *Support local performing artists* as a long-term strategy for theatre programming.

The CFC's Strategic Plan, in turn, commits the CFC to implementing the Principles of the 2015 ACT Arts Policy, including *Principle 3 : Vitality of the Canberra Region arts ecology*.

Industry context

As the primary presenting theatre in the ACT, CTC is in a strong position to develop, promote, and present local work alongside national and international content as part of a balanced program, and to provide a national context for local performing artists.

By providing opportunities for local independent artists to develop or showcase their work, CTC aims to strengthen its connection with the local Performing Arts Community and support creative, community, and financial capacity within the sector.

The CTC's Local Arts Engagement Policy is directed at the following.

- Supporting the development of the ACT Performing Arts Sector.
- Providing accessible presentation opportunities in a venue with high profile to local artists.
- Strengthening CTC's social connection to Canberra and the ACT.

- Presenting a broad range of high quality theatre product for the people of the ACT and visitors to Canberra that is inclusive of local work and representative of local cultural expression.
- Providing intrinsic benefit to the people of the ACT through investment in new ideas and the continued supply of quality performance works.

DEFINITION OF LOCAL INDEPENDENT ARTISTS

Local independent artists are defined as Canberra or Canberra-region based individuals or independent companies practicing at any stage of a professional arts career. This policy does not apply to amateur companies, or organisations currently receiving Key Arts Organisation funding.

Performing arts genres suitable for structured support from CTC are as follows:

- Children's productions
- Classical Music – including choral, vocal and instrumental
- Popular Music
- Experimental Music
- Circus, Physical Theatre and Burlesque
- Musical Theatre including Cabaret
- Opera
- Comedy and Spoken Word
- Dance – including ballet, contemporary, and cultural
- Theatre of all genres
- Cross Art collaboration
- Arts based Workshops or Presentations

DEFINITION OF SUPPORT

Depending on the different needs of local independent artists, CTC may offer support or investment in a variety of ways to be negotiated.

With consideration to financial viability, CTC may offer financial support or investment for the following purposes.

- **Artist Fees:** Individually negotiated artist fees for work developed and/or presented in partnership with CTC.
- **Commissions:** Individually negotiated commission fee to develop and/or produce a work for CTC.
- **Investment :** Investment in the production costs of a theatre product for presentation at the CTC, or investment in the cost of the creative development of a work which may not result in an immediate presentation.

EXTENSION OF SUPPORT AND INVESTMENT

Support and presentation of local productions is not attached to any ongoing allocation of funding in CTC's budget. The number of projects supported per year will be guided by CTC's financial position, and by the quality of the applications received.

Artists are encouraged to submit Expression of Interests to be reviewed against the following criteria, noting that not all criteria would need to be fully met by each proposal.

1. Artistic and Cultural Value

The proposed production or development promises to deliver or develop high quality, innovative work that engages and entertains, and that represents ACT artists and their work.

2. Conceptual and Financial Viability

The proposed production or development is deliverable and viable within limitations of the financial support that CTC is able to offer.

3. Compatibility with CTC's Program

The production or development does not clash with other work in the CTC venues that appeal to a similar demographic or that damage sales capacity, unless the net financial and intrinsic impact of such an occurrence on CTC is positive and actions to mitigate financial impact on presenters are undertaken.

4. Build Capacity

The proposed production or development provides opportunities for local artists to extend their practice and build their profile on a local or national scale with the aim of producing work of national significance.

5. Audience Development

The proposed production or development allows CTC to connect with new audiences, with a particular focus on young people.

6. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity

The production or development is culturally diverse, and inclusive, and contributes to the overall diversity and equity of the CTC Program.

CONCLUSION

This Local Arts Engagement Policy guides all decisions to support local independent artists and their work.

Decisions will be final and not form a partnership or ongoing relationship.

REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

This Policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if required, to ensure its ongoing relevance and appropriateness, and will be made available on request.

Signed by the Chief Executive Officer, CFC as representing a true version of this policy, as approved by the Board of the CFC

Signed : 

Date : 6 May 2019