



AN ARTS, MUSIC, & CULTURE POLICY FOR ALL TASMANIANS

2024 TASMANIAN STATE ELECTION

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BUILT ON INTEGRITY, POWERED BY CREATIVITY | Authorised by Erin Madely MEAA, Sydney, NSW 2016

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MEAA is the largest and most established union and industry advocate for workers in the media, creative and cultural industries. MEAA's history is one of organising and advocacy to improve the lives of workers, the industries they make and the society and economy they enable.

A state-wide comprehensive framework for arts, music and culture

Government has a critical role in setting the tone and scope of our cultural ambitions. Government must foster growing arts, culture and music sectors and spruik their indisputable role in shaping our culture and economic future. Any future policy must strive to provide financial certainty.

MEAA believes that arts, culture and music should be embedded across all facets of policy. Adopting a comprehensive policy framework can provide government with the capacity to break down barriers to the arts, culture and music, and promote the central role they play in our society.

MEAA knows that:

- By embedding arts, music and culture in the policies which govern our industrial and social support systems, we will ensure that families and communities are not bound by the constraints of income.
- By reforming transport policies and investing in regional arts and culture, we will ensure that suburban, regional and rural communities are no longer constrained by location.
- By ensuring that investment, funding and facilitative policy is delivered through the creation and support of good jobs and safer workplaces, our agenda will build the country's social, cultural and economic capacity.
- First Nations people have a unique understanding of the importance of arts and cultural practices in everyday life, from both traditional and contemporary viewpoints. Education and consultation with First Nations communities needs to be a priority while building a comprehensive agenda.

Government has a responsibility in ensuring cultural safety for artists, participants, and audiences. Government should establish measures that promote inclusiveness and cultural responsibility, fosters respectful relationships, and recognises cultural and historical diversity.

A comprehensive policy framework that puts communities at the fore will create the audiences, the workforce and the demand that will sustain arts, music, and culture into the future.

The next government can ensure that accessing and participating in arts, culture and music is a right for all Tasmanians by committing to develop a comprehensive policy framework.

The Cost-of-Living Crisis is hammering participation in Arts, Music and Culture

Cost acts as a deterrent for everyday Tasmanians to be able to participate in arts, culture and music. We know that this is greatly exacerbated by the current cost of living crisis.

Fewer children are learning music, singing, acting, painting, and doing other forms of cultural and creative activity at school.

In Tasmania, this is especially pronounced in the seats of Braddon and Lyons where participation is inhibited not only by cost, but by poor access to education, transport and cultural infrastructure.¹

Participation in arts, culture and music should be guaranteed for everyone, not an elite few.

The next government can tackle the cost-barrier to access and participation in arts, music and culture through subsidies and improved funding for education and community programs.

A fair go for musicians and freelancers

For arts, music and culture to thrive, we need a strong, confident and respected workforce. The prevalence of 'gig economy' jobs and long-term rolling contracts are clear evidence that new strategies are needed to reverse the trend of workforce exploitation.

Only one-quarter of arts and entertainment workers are permanent employees. For the other three-quarters, there are no minimum rates of pay, superannuation is almost non-existent, and payment for work is often late.

While the workforce experiences these challenges, the consequences threaten all forms of cultural participation, undermining the principle of arts, culture and civic action as a public good.

The next government can begin to address these challenges by ensuring that musicians playing at publicly funded events are paid a minimum \$250 fee, and that an enforceable set of minimum standards including pay, conditions and security are part of any government contract to fund arts and cultural performances.

MEAA is calling for:

1. Arts and culture for all Tasmanians

A comprehensive arts, music and culture policy for Tasmania

- Guaranteeing long-term, sustainable funding for arts, music and culture in Tasmania
- Enabling participation and improving access to arts, music and culture across the whole of Tasmania
- Respecting the creative labour of artists, performers and crews by providing opportunities for secure employment and are fairly rewarded for their work
- Acknowledging and respecting the contribution of First Nations Tasmanians to the state's arts, culture and music
- Investing in arts and performance infrastructure across the state

¹ <https://creative.gov.au/advocacy-and-research/electorate-profiles/>

2. Make arts, music and culture more affordable

The next government can immediately help to overcome the cost-barriers to access and participation by funding:

- Community arts grants
- Subsidies for families in low access and participation areas
- Improved funding for arts and music education in schools
- Subsidised public transport for performers and audiences travelling to and from classes, events, performances and exhibitions

3. A fair go for freelancers, musicians, artists, performers and crews

- The next government must sign up to paying a minimum \$250 fee for musicians playing at publicly funded events,
- Legislate to ensure that an enforceable set of minimum standards including pay, conditions and security are part of any and government contract to fund arts, and cultural performances, and engagement with freelancers.

4. Greater transparency for the public good

- Review the Right to Information Act,
- Improve resourcing for the Ombudsman,
- Adequately resource the public service to reduce processing times for Right to Information requests.