

Social and Economic Trends in Australian Cultural Policy

Presentation of doctoral research investigating impact of Australian cultural policy on the community arts

Cultural Policy Trends

Creative Nation Australian National Cultural Policy (1994)

- Creativity linked as common to both economic and cultural development
- Subsequent amalgamation of information technologies, communication and the arts

Funding the Arts

- National Identity
 - ✚ Australia Council for the Arts Act 1975: funding creative expression of cultural plurality
 - ✚ Does Australia need a national cultural policy? A simmering and unresolved debate
- Community Arts is a bureaucratic construction
 - ✚ Shifting and conflicting rhetoric leading to uncertainty over what is meant by ‘community.’
 - ✚ Highly contested sector comprised of radical elements
 - ✚ ‘Art’ and ‘Culture’ Duality: Interchangeable terms and ambiguity over what is meant by ‘culture.’
 - ✚ Broadening Culture to conglomeration of Social, Economic and Environmental indicators
- Cultural planning devolved to local government voluntary responsibility, linked to mandatory social plan
 - ✚ Expect understanding ‘culture’ as integration of social, economic & environmental directives

Megatrend: Cultural Planning a subset of local government social and economic planning and management

- State and federal authorities nevertheless shape local and regional cultural programming
 - ✚ Cultural and Creative Industries & Community Cultural Development models
 - ✚ Convergence and partnerships aimed at regional economic growth: Arts Northern Rivers Case Study
- Local government reliance on key individuals to activate grassroots art and cultural aspirations

Storytelling Trend

Storytelling practice applies narrative arts method

- Kaleidoscope of vernacular cultures evident across regional Australia
 - ✚ Wiradjuri Case Study: creation story ripples across geo language boundaries
- Culture defined as the collective creative expression of identity in relation to the specificity of place