

CULTURAL FACILITIES CORPORATION

Local Independent Arts Engagement Policy



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DOCUMENT PROPERTIES

Schedule of Amendments

New features (insertions)	
	Date
Enhancements (changes)	
New Format	Date
Deletions	
	Date

Amendment History

Version No.	Issue Date	Author
Version 1.0		
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Details

Area responsible for Policy/Plan/Program	CTC
Stakeholders	CTC Staff
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Record number and name	
Strategic Plan aligned	

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 the 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.

BACKGROUND

Corporate context

The Local Arts Engagement Policy has been developed in connection with the *CTC Programming Strategy 2022-2025* and the CFC's Strategic Plan, which identifies a goal to *Contribute to, and nurture, the deepening of creativity in the ACT, and builds the Centre's position as the creative heart of Canberra*, as a long-term strategy for theatre programming. This policy is also developed in alignment with the ACT Government's *Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital a statement of ambition for the Arts 2021-2026*, activating CTC's role in *developing arts, cultural and creative industry, practice and facilities — supporting creation and culture at all levels*.

Industry context

As the national capital's Theatre Centre, CTC is in a unique 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 to develop and produce their work.

By providing opportunities for local independent artists to develop or showcase their work, CTC aims to strengthen its connection with the local Performing Arts ecology and build 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 a range of opportunities in a venue with high profile to local artists.
- Strengthening CTC's social and cultural connection to Canberra and the ACT.
- Presenting a broad range of high-quality live performances 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 innovation 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

Dependent on the different needs of local independent artists, CTC negotiate support or investment in a variety of ways including but not limited to:

- **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 a live performance product for presentation at the CTC, or investment in the creative development of a work which may not result in an immediate presentation.

EXTENSION OF SUPPORT AND INVESTMENT

Support for the development and presentation of local productions is supported by the *New Works* program. The number of projects and activities supported per year will be guided by the *New Works* budget, the quality of the applications received, and the needs of local sector.

Artists are encouraged to submit Expression of Interests for specific *New Works* opportunities. Artists are also able to make contact with the Manager of New Works and Sector Engagement or the Programming team at any time to discuss their projects. These

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

3. Compatibility with CTC's Program

The production or development is complementary with other work at the CTC.

4. Build Capacity

The 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 production or development assists 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.