

YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE ARTS POLICY

We recognise that an appreciation of, and a capacity to enjoy and participate in, the arts is essential to a full and complete life and a full understanding of our culture.

As well as giving young people self-confidence and a fuller life, competence and discrimination in the arts will in adult life play a role in giving greater enjoyment and fulfilment in every aspect of ordinary everyday life. It will also provide a much broader base of arts consumers.

Any long term strategy must start with Young People.

From the Coalition Arts Policy January 1993.

POLICY

1. GUIDELINES

Why a policy and young people in the arts?

Young people constitute 40% of the Western Australian population and make a significant contribution to our community.

A particular planning effort is needed in many areas of public policy to ensure their needs and goals are understood and met. Arts and cultural services is one of those areas.

Several elements are vital to the success of such a policy in enhancing young people's enjoyment and enrichment through the arts.

They include:

- understanding that the views of young people are essential in developing arts products and services
- actively involving young people to ensure arts services are relevant and resources effectively used
- acknowledging and supporting the important role of many organisations in enhancing the experience of young people in the arts
- integrating the policy within the overall planning and budgetary processes of ArtsWA and with the wider arts community

A specifically targeted policy will provide the essential continuity and coordination to achieve long-term benefits from arts programs for, by and with young people.

2. DEFINITION

For the purposes of this policy, "young people" are those under 25 years of age.

3. OBJECTIVES

That all young people in Western Australia have access to the arts regardless of their economic, social, cultural or geographic circumstances.

This will be achieved through two key strategies:

- to improve young people's access to major arts organisations and established activities

- to broaden the base of activities funded through ArtsWA and other sources and to provide greater support for arts activities in which young people have demonstrated their interest

4. PRIORITY AREAS

Four key areas must be tackled: opportunities and access, recognition and promotion, resources to achieve excellence, and representation.

Opportunities and Access

- All young people regardless of circumstances (whether gender, economic, social, cultural, or disability) should have access to, and be able to participate in, the arts
- Participation in the arts will be fostered for young people as consumers, by young people as active creators and with young people as collaborators
- The development of existing artforms will be supported and extended
- The development of new artforms and practice reflecting the diversity of young people will be recognized and encouraged

Recognition and Promotion

- Arts for, by and with young people will be promoted as a valued part of daily life
- Participation in the arts will be actively encouraged
- Opportunities for young people to be enterprising within the arts will be promoted

Resources to Achieve Excellence

- Resources relating to both process and product will be used to promote excellence in arts for, by and with young people
- Skills to enable all young people to achieve their best in the arts will be developed
- Resources, skills and expertise will be enhanced through the development of partnerships in arts for, by and with young people. Further development of the Arts and Education Partnership will be a priority
- Increased resources and suitable infrastructure will be available to arts for, by and with young people

Representation

- Young people will have greater representation in decision making roles in the arts
- Young people will have access to support and training relevant to their roles as representatives on decision making and advisory bodies

6. IMPLEMENTATION

The policy and new initiatives aim to make a positive difference over the next three to five years. To this end, priority has been given to those issues, needs and opportunities of common interest and benefit to young people and the arts sector.

7. REVIEW

Arts development priorities for, by and with young people will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.