

**Theatre Network (Vic)
Creative Industries Strategy
Key Initiatives – Discussion Points**

Theatre Network (Vic) believes that the Creative Industries Strategy should in particular address the importance of the independent and small to medium arts sectors as the major contributors to contemporary culture, as the drivers of innovation, and as resourceful economic contributors to the Victorian economy, as demonstrated through the following key initiatives.

Initiative	Budget Allocation	Outcomes
INITIATIVE 1: Organisations Investment Program and VicArts Grants Review		
We welcome the Victorian government's current review of the Organisations Investment Program (OIP). We consider this review essential. We propose the following:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shift in structure to remove the unsustainable bottleneck built into the system as Developing Organisations (a) move to Established Organisations, currently requiring one third of all organisations to be defunded every three years. • Restoration of access to international travel funds for OIP funded organisations. • Extension of international funds for independent and OIP orgs to include support for international artists to undertake incoming exchanges and residencies • One-off increase of core funding to OIP funded organisations of 7.5% (to reverse the decline in funding in real terms since 2010), followed by a one-off growth increase of 7.5% every three years. • A commitment to re-instate the application of indexation of recurrent grants to OIP funded organisations. • Increase funding to VicArts grants for independent artists • Enable artists to hold multiple grants simultaneously to allow sustainable employment opportunities for independents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3 million per year for the next 3 years, to give a total additional budget allocation of \$9 million, to remove the bottle neck and enable new OIP funded organisations. • No cost to allow Developing Organisations to remain in that category for an additional 3 years. • No costs associated with changing existing rules to enable organisations to access international travel funds. • No costs associated with changing existing rules to enable reciprocal travel funding to benefit Victorian artists and audiences. • Additional budget allocation: \$1.3 million per year for one-off core funding increase plus \$1.5 million per growth increase payment once every three years. • \$624 000 annually for indexation for Developing and Established Organisations. • \$2 million VicArts funding increase annually • No costs associated with changing existing rules to enable individuals to hold multiple grants simultaneously. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases return on investment by supporting cultural infrastructure over time • Generates employment and enables living wages for artists. • Creates career pathways for artists • Addresses in-built sustainability problems inherent in the current funding system. • Cements Victoria's leading position in international engagement, enabling strategic goals to be met, such as Victoria's international reputation. • Builds the knowledge base for Victorian artists • Expands Victoria's creative economy. • Builds public and media understanding of the value of the sector 	
INITIATIVE 2: Big Ideas Investment Fund		
The investment of a major arts commissions fund available to both OIP organisations and independent artists to enable significant new works of scale to be developed for premiere in Victoria. These works should enable the most ambitious artistic ideas to be enabled at a scale that will have genuine local, national and international impact and have a long development phase to enable works of world significance to be made.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget allocation: \$4 million per annum, enabling eight major commissions of \$500,000 each. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generates cultural tourism, developing the local economy • Attracts global artistic talent to Victoria. • Positions Victoria as the state of innovation and creativity. • Enables broad local, national and international audience reach. • Significant returns on investment – employment can be leveraged for up to a decade afterwards through major touring.

Initiative	Budget Allocation	Outcomes
INITIATIVE 3: Investment in Creative Industry Collaboration		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate a Cross Sectoral Collaboration Fund, for collaborations across creative industries (e.g. a dance company with gaming company). This should be seen as a seed investment opportunity, leveraging public investment, private investment and two creative industry organisations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget allocation: \$5 million annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enables innovation across sectors Positioning the creative industries for changes in digital technology Strengthening the creative ecology through connection and collaboration Enhance Victoria's profile as the state of creativity. Increase investment in creativity will develop Victoria's creative economy.
INITIATIVE 4: Creative Enterprise Fund		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable new operating models which encourage shared resources across the creative industries and better reflect the opportunities of contemporary technology. This innovation fund will resource shared knowledge building across the sector. For example, initiatives for shared cultural infrastructure, and innovative uses of technology that are of benefit across the creative industries and change behaviour and structures to better reflect future focused ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget allocation: 2 year pilot at \$4 million, followed by an evaluation to assess its ongoing impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases return on investment on cultural infrastructure Enabling sustainability and collaboration across creative industries. Responding to changing models of art-making which sometimes preference flexible, pop-up and shared structures alongside traditional organisational models.
INITIATIVE 5: Diversity Initiatives		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch a Diversity Fund to assist small to medium organisations to increase artist and audience diversity via increased participation from CALD communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people who are Deaf or have a Disability, LGBTIQ people and young people. The fund should support innovative approaches to employment and audience development including but not restricted to consultants, training, diversity project implementation, access requirements, research, and targeted access and participation staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget allocation: \$3 million annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the artists and audiences better reflect the demographic diversity of Victoria's population Provide expertise and targeted investment in a complex area with significant cultural, economic and social benefit in both the short and long term. Enable increased innovation in audience development frameworks Investing in the future by changing the way Victoria's citizens engage with the arts Embed creativity across Victoria's population Realise the value embedded in diverse communities Expand reach of Victoria's creative industries across the economy.