Dear Mr/Ms/Mrs MP LAST NAME,

I am a resident in SUBURB, in the electorate in ELECTORATE. I am writing to urge you and the XXX Party to commit to creating a bipartisan National Cultural Plan as outlined in the recommendations of the report from the Inquiry into Cultural and Creative Industries and Institutions, published in November 2021.

TWO SENTENCES ABOUT YOURSELF/WHO YOU ARE.

I would firstly like to acknowledge and thank you for SOMETHING YOUR MP HAS DONE THAT YOU LIKE (IF APPLICABLE).

As you may know, XX% of people in ELECTORATE are employed in cultural and creative occupations, and we have XXXX businesses here within those industries. [THESE STATS CAN BE FOUND IN THE AUSTRALIA COUNCIL ELECTORATE PROFILES]

ADD IN YOUR OWN INFO ABOUT ASSETS (PEOPLE, ORGANISATIONS, VENUES ETC) IN YOUR ELECTORATE, INCLUDING YOUR OWN.

These people and organisations play an essential role in our community, even more so in 2022 and beyond while we attempt to recover from COVID, and particularly for our young people.

In research by Headspace 74% of young people reported that their mental health was worse since the outbreak of COVID-19; 86% reported a negative impact on their mood, wellbeing, or sleep; and 50% reported an impact on their confidence to achieve future goals.

Arts and cultural engagement has been shown to enhance social inclusion, reduce loneliness, increase confidence, and improve feelings of self-worth. This is why our work is more important now than ever.

I believe the best way to support the arts and culture sector to do this work is the creation of a National Cultural Plan, which addresses the medium- and long-term needs of the sector. While Labor’s two previous arts policies were well received, they were short lived, and so I am calling for a plan with bipartisan support that can have longevity despite potential future changes in government.

It is essential that The Australia Council for the Arts have a key role in developing and delivering the plan, and that the process has broad stakeholder consultation. The plan must also include a specific focus on young people and culture and how our organisations can be supported to do the vital work in the community. [YOU CAN ADD OR CHANGE FOR WHAT YOU THINK NEEDS TO BE INCLUDED]

I urge you to advocate to your party that the creation of this plan is vital and should be a top priority for arts and culture, and that XXX Party should work with the Government/Opposition (whatever the case may be after the upcoming election) to do so.

I would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you to discuss how supporting and mobilising our arts sector can provide some excellent positive outcomes and solutions. I would be very interested to hear your thoughts and insights.

I look forward to hearing from you.