

Supporting the Arts

Tasmanians work in creative and cultural fields at one of the highest rates in Australia.¹ The arts enrich society by providing meaning and joy, and make an enormous contribution to the Tasmanian brand and economy.² The Greens will work to reinvigorate the Tasmanian arts sector that has suffered a decade of funding cuts, systemic underfunding and neglect.

Fair Pay for Artists

Many artists struggle to get fair pay for their work. While everyone around them gets paid, artists are often told they will get exposure and that should be good enough.³

It isn't.

At a time when new artificial intelligence technologies are threatening the income of artists, while benefiting from their intellectual property, it is critical to take steps to support artists to get a fair wage.

The Greens will fight for options that ensure that artists to get fair pay for their work.

Supporting Arts Organisations

In 2023, Tasmania lost two of its long-running and iconic organisations – Blue Cow Theatre Company⁴ and Wide Angle film⁵ – due to a lack of financial support.

Arts organisations often struggle to make ends meet with shoe-string budgets. Maintenance costs and bills eat into limited revenue and reduce the amount that can be spent on programs and productions. Short-term grants reduce organisational security and limit the ability of arts bodies to plan strategically to respond to the changing environment.

The Greens will fight to ensure building maintenance costs are included in core funding for arts organisations, make grants for multi-year periods to provide certainty and proper planning, and create energy efficiency upgrades via grants to arts organisations.

Creative Spaces

The Tasmanian arts environment is a rich ecology of practise and practitioners: literature, dance, theatre, visual arts, film, cross-disciplinary production, music, composition, design, textiles, gaming, virtual reality, screen media, museums, galleries, festivals, events, venues and more.

'Creative spaces' help these diverse artists develop their skills, connect and network with fellow artists, foster a sense of community, and provide a space to work on their art.

Tasmania has a shortage of creative spaces, particularly in regional areas. It is well past time the Government invests in this essential community arts infrastructure.

The Greens will fight for an investment in creative spaces (new and retrofitted) across the state, including in regional Tasmania.

¹ Department of State Growth, [Creative and cultural industries survey](#), n.d.

² Ibid.

³ National Association for the Visual Arts, [Fair Pay for Artists](#), n.d.

⁴ Baldwin, G, [Blue Cow Theatre company to close after 13 years](#), the Mercury, 2023.

⁵ if.com.au, [Wide Angle Tasmania announces closure](#), 2023.

Autonomy to Public Arts

Arts organisations fundamentally need freedom to flourish.

Public art institutions are too often constrained or curtailed at the whim of the Minister. Institutions and government-funded art organisations should be free to make operational decisions, investment choices, and public statements free from the influence of the political motivations of government.

The Greens will fight for more funding, structural independence, and autonomy to public arts organisations to remove political interference.

Freedom of speech

Art is an important vehicle for social, environmental, and political expression and, with the exception of hate speech, must be allowed to engage in issues that challenge us as a community.

Past experience demonstrates that pressure can be brought to bear on art and events due to the message they showcase. Funding or institutional support should not be compromised based on the political or other expression.

The Greens will support efforts to ensure that freedom of expression is central in all forms of art.

Government Funding for Local Art

In addition to administrative and infrastructure challenges, funding the creative process has suffered over the years.

The pool available to the artistic sector needs to grow to provide more opportunities for both emerging and established artists to do their work.

Government funding to arts remains inadequate. There are currently 17 arts grants programs.⁶ In 2023, \$4.8 million was awarded under 13 programs,⁷ \$4.23 million went to organisations, \$239,244 went to individuals, and \$353,900 was spent across both organisations, and individuals.

The Greens will fight to double arts grants to individuals and increase grants to organisations by 50%.

2023 Arts Grants Funding	
Individuals	\$239,244
Aboriginal Arts Program	\$35,851
Annie Greig Dance Scholarship	\$25,500
Artsbridge	\$42,397
Artsbridge 2nd round	\$39,496
Education Residencies	\$60,000
Aboriginal Arts Mentorship	\$10,000
Tasmanian Residencies	\$26,000
Organisations	\$4,233,509
Arts Organisations	\$101,8776
Arts Organisations (multi-year)	\$2,106,581
Cultural Heritage Organisations	\$465,500
Organisations Project Funding	\$392,238
Organisations - Youth Arts	\$250,414
Mixed	\$353,900
Individuals and groups	\$353,900
Total	\$4,826,653

Budget (\$m)

(\$m)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
Fair Pay	0.13	0.13	-	-	0.26
Arts Organisations	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	5.00
Creative Spaces	6.00	6.00	-	-	12.00
Public Arts	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
Arts Grants	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	10.00
Total	12.88	12.88	6.75	6.75	39.26

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⁶ Arts Tasmania, [Grants and Funding](#), n.d.

⁷ Arts Tasmania, [Past decisions 2023](#), n.d.