

## CULTURAL COMPACT

# IN SUMMARY



## INTRODUCTION

The *Cultural Compact* report was released in 2008 with the objective of exploring the future of arts, culture and creativity in Greater Perth, as well as identifying how this creative future could improve Perth's overall liveability even more as an already highly ranked city. The report recognised that the arts and culture industry is central to a strong and engaged community and hoped to achieve the following over 10 years:

- A vibrant state where arts and culture appreciation and activity is part of everyday life for all Western Australians;
- Acknowledgement of the importance of Aboriginal culture and the arts to the future fabric of Western Australia;
- The engagement of young artists who choose to stay, return to or visit – because they are encouraged and supported within an incubator environment;

- A dynamic capital city that all Western Australians are proud of; and
- Bold and courageous art that places Western Australia firmly on the international stage.

You can read the full report at <https://www.committeeforperth.com.au/research/research-projects/cultural-compact>



*a cultural compact for western australia  
the 10 year challenge*

*phase 1: perth  
november 2008*

## PROPOSALS

The report includes a summary of 15 proposals that were drafted with a 10-year vision in mind and sought to refine and enhance the way that arts, culture and creativity were dealt with in Western Australia. The proposals were aimed at sculpting a new direction for policies focussed within the arts and culture covering a wide range of facets including government funding for the arts, celebration and education of Indigenous culture, cohesion of state and local government, state marketing and branding for Perth, education, and inclusivity to name a few.

These proposals stemmed from 5 overarching 'themes and big ideas' that were determined from a one-day workshop and a series of focus groups that took place in mid-2008. These are:

1. Provide Strong Leadership
2. Foregrounding Indigenous Arts and Culture
3. WA – The Creative Edge
4. Vibrant Perth
5. Winning Community Confidence


## INVITATIONS TO JOIN THE CULTURAL COMPACT

The Committee for Perth invited various stakeholders such as the arts and culture sector, the Western Australian Government, the Opposition and other political parties, local government and the business and philanthropic sector to commit to and work through the proposals of the Cultural Compact over the next 10 years.



## RESEARCH FINDINGS

A summary of key findings from desktop research aimed to answer the following research questions: *'what kind of capital city do we want Perth to be?'* and *'how can the arts and culture sector play an even more dynamic role in shaping the city's identity and future well-being?'* These were as follows:

- Perth is one of the world's most liveable cities but it lacks the dynamism of those cities where arts and culture are intrinsic to their identity
  - Perth arguably lacks a defining 'brand' that distinguishes it within the global community
  - Visually exciting cities with a vibrant arts and cultural scene are prominent among those cities that people most want to visit
  - Spain's cities are leading the world in recognising the value of 'arts and culture' in revitalising and redefining their identity / cities that place high value on their arts and cultural life are reaping rewards
  - Iconic 'arts and cultural' buildings are a driver of visitation but they're not an end in themselves - it's what's happening inside that ultimately counts (although having a beautiful 'shell' certainly helps get people inside)
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- A graphic illustration of three white hands reaching upwards, set against a background of a dense, circular cloud of red dots of varying sizes. The hands are positioned as if they are holding or supporting the cloud of dots.
- Cities where the arts and culture sector receives strong business and philanthropic support are among the world's most vibrant
  - The macro issues confronting the arts and culture sector globally re reflected at the micro level of individual cities - but every place has its unique issues
  - Arguing the socio-economic value of the arts is becoming passé
  - The 'vision thing' is a useful tool for moving forward - providing that it's shared.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Appoint an Independent Commissioner for the arts and culture



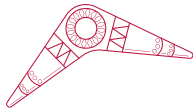
2. Establish a 'WA Creative Investment Fund'



3. Acknowledge and make visible Indigenous arts and culture



4. Establish the World Centre for Indigenous Culture



5. Showcase Indigenous arts and artists



6. Establish WA as an arts and culture incubator



7. Support a bold arts and culture sector



8. Create clusters for vibrancy



9. Link clusters to open spaces for connectivity



10. Focus on children



11. Link with the regions



12. Support diverse community practice



13. Link arts and culture with history and heritage



14. Include marginalised young people