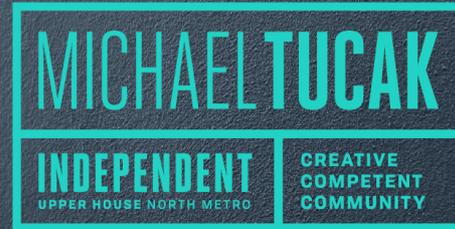


An independent voice
for a more
creative,
constructive,
community
approach to growing
and planning WA.



MICHAEL TUCAK, INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE – ARTS & CULTURE POLICY

My arts and culture policy is based on the belief that WA must properly recognise the true value of our arts, cultural and creative sector and what it can do for our city and state's future and growth.

Arts & Culture Is Essential to Our Creative Abilities

I believe that arts and culture are not just “art for art's sake” or entertainment, but are essential to our ability to generate, build and create opportunities, solutions and approaches into the future. It is as important as our health sector, for example – just as we benefit greatly from healthy bodies, we benefit greatly not just from healthy minds, but minds that are creatively engaged and inspired. It is know that, for example, many Nobel Prize winning scientists were musicians or enjoyed music – Albert Einstein included, and Einstein himself said “Imagination is more important than knowledge”.

Creativity is therefore not just creativity in an artistic sense – whilst it centres on imagination, it also requires persistence, resilience, collaboration, to build on technical expertise or knowledge. If we are ‘creative’ in this broader sense, we can as a society “create” and generate the solutions and opportunities we will need the make WA to a healthier, more vibrant, resilient and strong state. We need to be able to, as a society, as a government, as groups within our community or as individuals, use a more “creative and constructive” approach to solving problems and issues in a changing world.

The better connected we are to the process of “creating” or generating, such as the arts, then the better we can ‘create’ what we need to grow. For this reason, I believe we need to properly fund our arts, culture and creativity sectors to ensure that WA can have the best possible “well spring” of creativity, and the most fertile conditions possible for our state-wide “creative ability” to flourish.

- 1. Therefore, I strongly support the restoration of Arts and Culture funding in real terms in accordance with the Chamber of Arts and Culture of WA's policy platform position, which is a reflection of calls from the sector itself, and I will work to obtain this if I am elected.**

Further, I believe we need to ensure that our arts, cultural and creative sectors are sustainable and accessible, in order to reach as many people in WA as possible, to allow that flow-on effects of arts and creative activity described above to benefit the wider Perth and WA population. We have had a great start with the State Theatre Centre and building of the new WA Museum. However, we must continue to invest in long-term arts and cultural infrastructure that will give our arts, cultural and creative sectors the best conditions to benefit us all – we have a new football stadium for sport and we equally need to ensure we invest in long term bases from which to operate our arts, culture and creative activity can occur, and be as strong as possible, to then benefit WA as much as possible.

- 2. Therefore, I strongly support sustained long-term funding of art infrastructure in WA, in accordance with the Chamber of Arts and Culture of WA's policy platform position, which again is a reflection of calls from the sector, and I will work to obtain this if I am elected.**

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If we work toward building our “creative abilities” in this way, WA’s rich indigenous arts, culture and innovation, including proven and successful cultural practices in land and climate management, must be properly recognised, embraced and promoted - both within our arts and culture sector, and in our wider society. This is not simply again as “culture for culture’s sake”, but is an essential part of building a strong, shared and creative Western Australia that builds properly upon all of its creative, cultural and innovative knowledge. I firmly believe that Indigenous culture and innovation offers us all a wealth of knowledge, particularly as climate and land use may change in the years to come, and we should promote, incorporate and respect this knowledge to achieve the best outcomes for WA.

I was particularly pleased to see this occur in PIAF’s opening public event, “The Trees Speak” in Kings Park – we can do more to include, share, understand and develop our rich Indigenous culture.

- 3. Therefore, I strongly support calls for a ‘biennale’ Indigenous cultural festival, promoted as a key aspect of WA tourism globally, and equal levels of investment in Indigenous arts and cultural work, including infrastructure, and continued inclusion of Indigenous intellectual and cultural knowledge across the arts and other sectors. I strongly support consultation and involvement with WA’s Indigenous communities on the best way that we can do this.**

Lastly, I believe Western Australia will only see the full benefit of a strong WA arts, cultural and creative sector if those sectors are effectively connected to other sectors and industries in our state, to allow collaboration and cross-pollination of ideas and “creative abilities” in a wide range of areas, from Health and Local Government to Transport and Agriculture. We have seen this work well in the ‘percent for art’ scheme that ensures arts and cultural practice are included in other industries in the form of public art in our built environment. Further, government-wide collaboration and interaction that encourages departments to interact with the Department for Culture and Arts, can ensure that wherever possible our state’s creative work can form part of and inform the tackling of challenges or issues across our state – allowing other sectors the best chance to identify, and implement, new and innovative or creative solutions, through processes of collaboration and community involvement.

- 4. Therefore, I strongly support an initiative to consult across WA’s sectors and industries to identify ways and means by which our arts, cultural and creative activity can be easily and effectively connected across our economy. This includes a community-focussed review of the existing ‘percent for art’ scheme to ensure it remains effective in delivering rich and positive public art experiences, and creative injections, through our built infrastructure.**

If elected to the Legislative Council, I will work “creatively, constructively and with a community focus” with whichever party forms government to achieve each of the above four policy positions. I strongly believe that proper investment in our arts, cultural and creative sector offers Perth and WA a real opportunity and strength to develop and grow a state where we all benefit and enjoy our lives.

It is this belief in a “creative, constructive and community” approach that informs all my policies.

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