

5th World Summit on Arts and Culture, Melbourne, Australia, 3-6 October 2011: Programme theme overview

The 5th World Summit theme, ***Creative Intersections***, will investigate how the arts can give voice to different communities and concerns through collaborations with other sectors such as business and the economy, new technologies, health and well-being, the environment, education and identity through Indigenous, local and global cultures.

A number of global factors are increasingly influencing the development of our arts and cultures around the world. These include the:

- current global economic downturn and its long term effects;
- rapidly changing geopolitical influences, climate change and environmental sustainability;
- increasingly sophisticated information and communication technologies, in particular, creative applications of digital technologies; and
- our constantly evolving cultural diversity which defines who we are as individuals and as societies.

These factors are significant drivers in shaping government's strategic, policy and funding frameworks for the arts. The challenge for arts councils and ministries of culture is how to engage with these critical factors with a sense of urgency, a commitment to flexibility, risk and vision.

We need to ensure that arts policymakers are building strong and sustainable platforms for artists, arts companies and creative communities by encouraging 'creative intersections' - nurturing collaborations between the arts and the public and private sectors and communities.

The arts are a powerful agent for change and innovation, insight and reflection, individual and communal growth and cohesion and a sense of purpose.

The 5th World Summit will investigate the relationship between artists and other sectors. Some examples are:

- arts sector
 - including interdisciplinary arts practice
- cultural sector
 - including film, libraries, museums, archives, design, broadcasting, online and digital
- government (public) agendas
 - including education, foreign affairs (including aid), health, tourism, environment, urban planning, regional development, police and justice, communications, IT, innovation and science, immigration and citizenship, defence, housing and agriculture.
- community interests
 - including Indigenous communities, social interest groups, disability, cultural diversity, faith and religion, and unions.
- private sector interests
 - including cultural industries (music industry, publishing industry, architecture, advertising, fashion, gaming), sponsorship, partnerships and philanthropy.