NSW ARTS & CULTURE POLICY DISCUSSION PAPER
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

1. **Why is Arts NSW developing a new Arts and Culture Policy?**
   The NSW Government committed to developing an Arts and Culture Policy for NSW as part of its ten-year planning program under the State Plan *NSW 2021: Making NSW Number One.*

   The development of the policy recognises the importance of the arts and culture sector to the NSW community and economy. The sector contributes around $4.5 billion to NSW economy and provides a world class variety of cultural programming, expression and education to communities across the State.

   The new policy will provide a clear and strong foundation for NSW Government support for the continued development and viability of arts and culture in NSW over the next ten years.

2. **How and when will the policy be developed?**
   The Policy will be developed through a three stage process, beginning with the creation of a discussion paper, moving to public and stakeholder consultation and finally the release of the Arts and Cultural Policy in early 2014.

   The Minister has appointed a Reference Group to provide guidance to the NSW Government in the development of the Policy. Its members are:
   - Chris Freeland, Chair Sydney Film Festival, National Managing Partner, Baker & McKenzie (Chair)
   - Professor Deborah Stevenson, University of Western Sydney
   - Scott Howie, Eastern Riverina Arts
   - Lisa Havilah, CEO, Carriageworks
   - Ben Quilty, artist, 2011 Archibald Prize winner, AGNSW Trustee

3. **Who will be consulted in the development of the Discussion Paper and the final policy?**
   The major cultural institutions and other selected arts organisations will be consulted in the development of the Policy, as will the general public. Regional consultations are also planned for hubs such as Armidale, Wagga Wagga, Lismore and the Central Coast.

4. **What are some of the priorities of the Policy?**
   As outlined in *NSW 2021*, the aim is to develop a policy that recognises the sector’s central economic role as part of the *Visitor Economy Action Plan*. The Policy will set out clear actions to ensure the sustainability of the arts and cultural sector, strengthen the public approach to arts and cultural investment and identify key performances indicators and benchmarks to assist in recognising and promoting the value of the sector.
5. Can you signal some of the likely directions of the Policy?
The discussion paper will seek input on key priorities such as supporting the sector sustainably in a tight budgetary environment through focussing the Arts Funding Program, promoting private sector support and cross-sector partnerships, enhancing cultural tourism, continued support for regional arts and an emphasis on increasing cultural participation and building on the State’s existing strengths in major festivals and events.

6. Will this result in program cuts for arts and funding cuts for cultural institutions?
The NSW Government has retained strong support for the arts and cultural sector whilst seeking to return to a sustainable State Budget. The discussion paper and the policy will include a review of the effectiveness of funding and governance models for the sector and identify any improvements that can be made. This will be part of a bigger picture of making sure that we have an arts and culture policy that is effective as well as supportive over the next decade.

7. Will funding for public libraries be announced as part of the policy?
The Government is committed to its ongoing support for NSW public libraries provided by local government. The NSW Government is currently considering the recommendations of the review undertaken by the Library Council of NSW.

8. How does the NSW Arts and Cultural Policy relate to the Federal Government’s National Cultural Policy and other cultural policies?
2013 is a critical year for arts, culture and creative industries in NSW and Australia with cultural policy work underway at the Commonwealth, State and local government levels.

The NSW Arts and Cultural Policy will complement current work being undertaken at all three levels of government to set priorities and support for arts and culture.

It will also be an important delivery platform for priorities outlined in the Government's Response to the Creative Industries Action Plan and the Visitor Economy Action Plan.