



Theatre Network Victoria Manifesto

February 2010

Theatre Network Victoria aims to strengthen the small-to-medium and independent performing arts sector in Victoria. We undertake research, identify professional development needs and work to build capacity and sustainability.

TNV aims to represent the sector through ongoing consultation, partnership development, research, active engagement and networking, and an open-door attitude.

Ethos & Principles

1. We believe a society that embraces and supports creativity is more robust, more egalitarian, more respectful of the past, and more prepared for the future.
2. We believe the arts are essential to our collective civic identity, and can simultaneously impact in social, economic and environmental arenas.
3. We believe artists – including writers, devisors, composers, designers, performers, dramaturges - play a pivotal role in the theatre industry.
4. We believe small-to-medium sized theatre companies are a career destination (not simply pathways to commercial or major sectors) and are integral to invention and innovation in theatre in Australia.
5. We believe life-long learning is essential and exists both inside and outside educational institutions. We believe that participation in the arts is a dynamic form of learning.
6. We believe a diverse theatre sector provides a richness of skills, perspectives and identities that is vital. We believe theatre will benefit from increased participation at all levels by women, people with disabilities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, indigenous Australians, children and young people, and older people.
7. We believe there are multiple ways for a society to support a thriving arts sector. We believe different artistic, business, funding, financial, and governance models can work, and that flexibility and exploration are paramount.
8. We believe theatre professionals have a right to fair pay, and conditions in line with other sectors, including annual and sick leave, superannuation, long service leave, and paid professional development.
9. We believe that theatre, like any creative enterprise, needs to be supported to take risks, and needs to be allowed to fail. Research and development are essential.
10. We believe in ongoing conversations and dialogue: open to all, overlapping, critical, challenging, morphing over time, iterative, exploratory, and always respectful.

The principles above are intended as an articulation of the theatre sector's collective beliefs, but cannot be perfectly representative. They are loosely based on issues raised during the Australian Theatre Forum convened in Melbourne in May 2009. This is a live document and will have further incarnations.