

Australian
Design
Centre

Visit
101 -115 William Street
Darlinghurst
NSW 2010 Australia

Post
PO BOX 595
Potts Point
NSW 1335 Australia

Contact
+61 2 9361 4555
australiandesigncentre.com
hello@australiandesigncentre.com

8 April 2020

The Hon Paul Fletcher MP
Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Australian Design Centre has received advice from the Australia Council for the Arts about the unsuccessful outcome of its application for multi-year funding.

Despite the Centre being ranked highly in the two stage selection process, the Council has advised that it does not have enough money to fund this excellent organisation. A letter to the CEO of the Australia Council outlining our concerns with this decision is attached for your information.

We recognise that this decision has come at a time when the world is in turmoil and we are all dealing with the uncertainty that this entails. We thank the Federal Government for the short term generic financial assistance available to eligible small organisations. This will go some way towards ameliorating the current situation but given the casual and unpredictable nature of artists' work we believe that a more sustainable solution is urgently required.

In recovery artists will look to organisations like the Australian Design Centre to provide confidence and stability to the sector to ensure its survival and the ongoing development and enhancement of Australia's creative culture.

Funding the level of 'unfunded excellence' in successful organisations like Australian Design Centre is a small investment for our culture and our country. The Federal Government needs to address this urgently before our sector collapses and more employment opportunities for artists and arts workers are lost.

Now more than ever we need your support and we believe that the Australia Council should be adequately funded by Government to invest in excellence.

We respectfully request that you make application to the Treasurer for an appropriate level of additional funding to be allocated to the Australia Council for the Arts to enable the Council to fund the organisations that have been assessed as suitable through its process.

Yours sincerely



Elizabeth Espinosa, GAICD
Chair



Lisa Cahill
CEO and Artistic Director

cc: The Hon Tony Burke, Shadow Minister for the Arts, Sam Walsh AO, Chair Australia Council for the Arts, Adrian Collette, CEO Australia Council for the Arts