

# Creating Out Loud: Sustainability (Easy Read)



## Overview - Sustainability

### Purpose – What are we doing today?



This meeting is about improving **sustainability**.

Sustainability means taking care of the environment and other people, so that we can have what we need now, without stopping people in future having what they need.<sup>[1]</sup>

- We will think about sustainability in the arts.
- We will learn from each other.

### Agenda – Our meeting program

Activity	Timing (60 minute meeting)
1. Being here	
1.1 Acknowledgement of Country	5 minutes
1.2 Say hello	10 minutes
2. Personal reflection – Sustainable practice	
2.1 Personal reflection	5 minutes
2.2 Sharing reflection	15 minutes
3. Group discussion – Embedding sustainability	20 minutes
4. What next?	5 minutes

# 1. Being here

## 1.1 Acknowledgment of Country



**The facilitator can say:**

“I acknowledge the Traditional owners of the lands where we work and live.”

“I pay my respects to Elders.”

“I acknowledge any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people meeting here today.”

## 1.2 Check in – Say hello to the group



Everyone sits in a circle.

Take turns to:

- Say your name.
- What do you do in the arts?
- If you have been before, tell your group about what you have done since the last session.



## 2. Personal reflection – Sustainable practice

### The facilitator says:

“Today we are talking about **sustainability.**”



- **Sustainability IN the arts** means taking care of people and the environment while we are making art.
- **Sustainability THROUGH the arts** means using art and culture to communicate about sustainability.
- **Sustainability OF the arts** means preserving specific types of arts and culture.

### 2.1 Think about what you do now



### Think about one of these questions.

1. How sustainable is your work in the arts?
2. Does your art communicate about sustainability?
3. Are you preserving a specific type of art or culture?



Use the space below to record your answers.

- You can write or draw your answers.
- Your support person can help.

## 2.2 Share your reflections with the group.



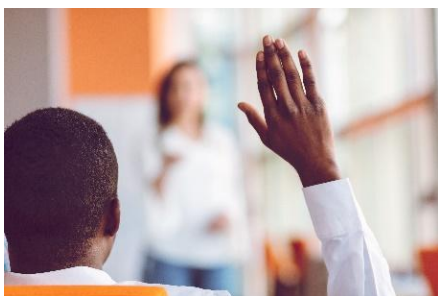
**Tell others what you have been thinking about**



You don't have to say anything you don't want to.



Listen carefully to the others in your group.



Ask questions to help you understand what they are saying.



Listen for things that are the same.

### 3. Group Discussion – Embedding Sustainability

**Pick one question to talk about.**



1. How can your work in the arts be more sustainable?
2. Can you use your art to raise awareness about sustainability?
3. How can access to arts and culture be improved?

**Listen deeply to others.**

This means:

- Concentrating
- Focus on the speaker
- Pay attention
- Don't interrupt
- Listen to learn about others in the group.
- Ask questions to find out more. People don't have to answer.
- Be kind to people who share tough or difficult things.





Listen for things that are the same.

- Common interests and ideas
- Concerns shared.

## 4. What next?

**Do something after the meeting.**

Things you might like to do:

- Think about making your work more sustainable.
- Talk to others about sustainability.
- Look up artists who focus on sustainability.



Next meeting you can tell the group about what you have done.



## What one step will you take before the next meeting?



### Tips:

How to achieve a goal:

- Choose one thing.
- Write it down. You can use the space below. Your support person can help.
- Tell the group.

Even small steps help you work towards your goal.

## Additional Resources

Recent research with the Australian arts and culture sector found seven different, but inter-related, types of sustainability are important to this ecology<sup>[2]</sup>:

- **artistic sustainability** – the ongoing vibrancy and relevance of specific (particularly heritage) art forms
- **career sustainability** – the ability of individuals to make a living from their art, and to maintain their career over the long term
- **environmental sustainability** – practices to protect the environment
- **financial sustainability** – the financial viability of arts and culture organisations
- **organisational sustainability** – the capacity of arts organisations to operate successfully over time (including governance practices)
- **sectoral sustainability** – the health of the arts and culture sector as a whole, and of the subsidised arts in particular
- **socio-cultural sustainability** – social and cultural wellbeing, including arts-based community outreach and educational activities.



## Barriers to sustainability in the arts and culture sector

<b>Artistic</b>	Art form perceived as elitist/inaccessible
	Threshold fear
	Shortage of rehearsal & performance space
	Negative impact of urban redevelopment
	Limited capacity for innovation
<b>Career</b>	Precarious public funding
	Limited career pathways (esp. for artists)
	Excessive workloads (artists & arts workers)
	Low and unreliable incomes (artists & arts workers)
	Extensive travel requirements (esp. for artists)
	Physical demands (artists & arts workers)
	Mental strain on performers (artists & arts workers)
	Lack of openness to diversity
	Socio-economic and geographic disadvantages (for artists)
<b>Environmental</b>	Touring requirements
	Pressure to accept unethical financing
	Large geographic region and remote populations
	Failure to resolve Indigenous land rights
	Reliance on print collateral marketing
<b>Financial</b>	Decreased public funding
	Declining corporate sponsorship
	Rising costs
	Limited appreciation of regional and Indigenous art
<b>Organizational</b>	Limited capacity
	Lack of sustainability planning
	Lack of succession management
	Rising ticket prices
	Ageing audiences
<b>Sectoral</b>	Reduced government funding of the arts
	Pejorative evaluation of the arts by government
	Negative media coverage
	Ideological differences within the sector
	Failed lobbying
<b>Socio-cultural</b>	Short-term funding
	Insufficient organizational resources

## Sustainability relates to arts and culture in 3 main ways:<sup>[2]</sup>

- **‘sustainability *through* the arts’** uses the arts and culture to achieve various ‘sustainable development’ goals, including economic development and positive social outcomes. It also uses the arts and culture to promote environmental awareness and behaviour.
- **‘sustainability *in* the arts’** measures the environmental footprint of arts and culture, including touring,<sup>[3]</sup> and seeks to embed environmental and social responsibility within arts and culture policy and practice.
- **‘sustainability *of* the arts’** means recognizing the value of arts and culture, and seeking both to protect and preserve them.<sup>4</sup>

### through

using arts and culture for sustainability goals

- environmental
- socio-cultural

### in

measuring environmental footprint of arts and culture

- environmental
- socio-cultural

### of

preserving arts and culture

- artistic
- career
- financial
- organisational
- sectoral

## More Discussion Guides

Discussion Guides on other topics related to arts and culture can be found at:

<https://creatingoutloud.business.uq.edu.au/>



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The opinions in this Discussion Guide do not necessarily represent the views of The University of Queensland, funding / industry partners, or the individual members involved in the reference groups.

### About Creating Out Loud

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Creating Out Loud was developed to support Queensland's artists and arts managers as they recover from and rebuild business, artistic, and cultural practices following the COVID-19 pandemic.

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## References

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- 1 Brundtland, G.H., *Our common future—Call for action*. Environmental Conservation, 1987. **14**(4): p. 291-294.
  - 2 Power, K., *'Sustainability' and the performing arts: Discourse analytic evidence from Australia*. Poetics, 2021: p. 101580.
  - 3 Julie's Bicycle, *Moving arts: Managing the carbon impacts of our touring*. 2010.
  - 4 Throsby, D., *Culturally sustainable development: Theoretical concept or practical policy instrument?* International Journal of Cultural Policy, 2017. **23**(2): p. 133-147.

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