

ARTLANDS 2023

Regional Australia is changing, which means our creative and artistic voice must equally evolve and respond. There are incredible challenges on the horizon, and equally we believe opportunity for greater vibrancy and impact in regional Australia. This is an invitation to be part of a conversation that connects the past, present, and future, to imagine the role of regional arts in Australia, 80 years from now.

RULES FOR Y(OUR) PARTICIPATION

Together through Artlands we will:

- 1 Design a business-not-as-usual conference** – *we purposefully are not focusing on today's immediate issues, but instead asking you to lift your gaze from the day-to-day to the broader horizon – to engage in meaningful discussions about our role, purpose, and future in regional arts in Australia.*
- 2 Use plain language, no jargon, no acronyms** – *we encourage conversations that are real, authentic, clear, and in everyday language. Let's communicate in a way that everyone can understand and engage with.*
- 3 Actively listen and allow time for complexity** – *seek first to understand other perspectives, then to be understood. We want to find common ground and move away from the bubbles of shouting and noise that often hinder productive discussions.*
- 4 Avoid deficit conversations and the usual generalisations** – *while acknowledging the challenges of regional Australia, let's shift our focus towards the strengths and possibilities within the regional arts landscape*
- 5 Take time to stop, reflect, and genuinely focus on the future** – *Artlands provides a rare opportunity to explore the future of regional arts in Australia, so let's make the most of it by engaging in thoughtful conversations.*
- 6 Honour and celebrate the knowledge we gather together** – *let's embrace a genuine co-design process where we value the collective wisdom and experiences of all participants.*
- 7 Respect the process** – *follow the format designed for genuine and surprising conversation, connection and collaboration. Embrace the journey, even if it takes time to reach shared outcomes.*
- 8 Approach discussions with openness and objectivity, minimizing personal bias** – *occasionally, we may intentionally ask you to step outside your comfort zone and challenge your usual ways of thinking and working. Aim to maintain an open mind.*
- 9 Rock up, turn up, commit (and catch up in your own time)** – *the success of Artlands will hinge on y(our) participation.*

P.S. Yes, the word 'rule' in the title sounds a little harsh, but we promise we use it with love... and with respect to John Cage and his rules of participation.

P.P.S Thank you for being fully committed to this invigorating journey – *This event is a celebration, an experiment, a provocation, a future lab, and a genuine go at trying to do something differently. We don't know the destination and are open to the possibilities of where this process might take us, but we feel passionate that this is going to be an invigorating journey.*