

# There is not one ideal model: different governments and how they relate to the arts

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## ABSTRACT

There are many approaches to the arts by governments. Some governments take a 'hands-off' approach to the extent of providing no funding or institutional support. Others are deeply involved from conception to production with arts practice, providing funding but also expecting the right to intervene and control what occurs. Some governments see the provision of funding in transactional terms, expecting specific economic or social outcomes. Others say that they operate with an 'arms-length' model, but nevertheless demonstrate forms of intervention. Whatever the nature of the relationship, there are usually expectations by governments around their engagement with the arts. Using three case studies as exemplars of government approaches, this paper explores the nature of the relationship between art makers and government funders and reviews the potential impact of the different approaches on both organisations and their art practise.

## KEY WORDS

Governments, arts practice, funding, relationships

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