

Next Wave, Plain English glossary

About this glossary

The *Next Wave Strategic Plan 2025–2028* outlines what we want to do in the next four years.

Some words in the Strategic Plan are used by arts workers. We want this information to be easily understood by everyone. We have created Plain English definitions of these words. If you need more help understanding the information, please contact Next Wave.

Access

The ability and opportunity to use services, goods and facilities.

Activating

To create interest, engagement or connection in a space. This might be through art or activities.

Art forms

Different ways of creating art. It might be visual, dance, writing or music.

Community / Communities

A group of people with something in common. They might live in the same place, or share similar life experiences, beliefs, interests and goals.

Creative development

Supporting the growth of art and artists. It might be through creating new work, sharing ideas, testing works-in-progress or developing skills.

Cross-industry

Working or talking with different industries. This can result in solving problems or creating new opportunities.

Creative industries

A way of describing the many different kinds of jobs and activities related to creating art and culture.

Cultural load

A load placed on people to share their cultural knowledge and connections, even if it is not part of their job.

Cultural safety

An environment that recognises, respects and nurtures the cultural identities of people. A person is culturally safe when they can fully embody their cultural identity and be received with understanding and dignity by others.

Diversity

Variety and differences among people or things.

Divesting

No longer giving money or resources to an organisation.

Early-career practitioner

Someone at the beginning of their career. They are still learning skills. This can include anyone working in the arts, such as artists, arts workers, curators, community organisers, producers and performers. Next Wave does not define early-career by age, and recognises that you can come to your career later in life.

EOI

Stands for Expression Of Interest. It is a call-out for people to apply for an upcoming opportunity.

Equity

Not everyone is treated the same by society. Equity means giving more resources to anyone who experiences barriers or stigma. This ensures fair and equal outcomes for everyone.

First Nations

In so-called Australia, First Nations is a collective term that describes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, who have their own distinct set of cultural knowledges, languages and stories.

Inclusion

The practice of actively including people with different identities and lived experiences, to help them feel welcome and valued.

Industry

This means the arts industry. This includes creative and cultural organisations, education providers, peak bodies, funding bodies and advocacy groups.

Intergenerational

The interaction between people of different generations. This can include people who are early-career, mid-career or established practitioners.

Investment

To give resources for the professional development of a creative practitioner. Resources can include space, time, education or money.

Justice

The quality of being morally righteous and fair.

Non-extractive [ways of working]

Working in ways that respect and value creative practitioners, not just the work they produce. This means we prioritise fairness and sustainability over things like making money and making ourselves look good.

Non-appropriative [ways of working]

Working in ways that do not take the work or ideas of others without permission.

Not-for-profit

An organisation that operates with the purpose of making a positive impact. Not-for-profit organisations focus on how much good they can do, rather than how much money they can make.

Peer-to-peer mentorship

Two people at the same stage of their career learning from each other.

Priorities

Anything that is considered important.

Reciprocity

Giving and receiving in equal measure.

Remuneration

Payment for work.

Self-determination

The right of people to shape their own lives. In the context of so-called Australia, self-determination refers to the rights of First Nations people to shape their artistic and cultural affairs, as well as in the expression of their cultural knowledges.

Sustainable practice

The ability to maintain making art over time in a manageable and balanced way. Next Wave recognises that sustainability can be impacted by money, society and the environment.

Systemic/Structural

Refers to the way our society is set up and organised. Systems and structures are often created by people in power to maintain order, but they can end up helping some people while being unfair to others.

Values-aligned

When two organisations share the same beliefs and principles.

For more information

nextwave.org.au

nextwave@nextwave.org.au