

Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy

NOTE: Council regularly reviews and updates its policies. The latest controlled version can be obtained from the Policy Register on Council's intranet or by contacting Council's Social & Corporate Performance Branch. A hard copy of this electronic document is considered uncontrolled.

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1. POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of this policy is to define the intent of South Burnett Regional Council ('Council') to support arts, culture and heritage engaging with and enriching the lives of our residents and visitors, whilst creating a community focus on arts, culture and heritage.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to Council representatives and the activities and programs of Council in relation to Council's cultural facilities, the Regional Arts Development Fund program and boarder community arts culture heritage sector programs and activities.

This policy will be used by Council to assist in making decisions and determining strategic directions based on the aspirations of local people and the goals set within the South Burnett Regional Council's Corporate Plan.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1. Council's role as a Facilitator

Council acknowledges that arts and heritage form an important part of sustainable regional economies, fostering a positive experience for community members as well as proving an opportunity for tourism development. Council commits to working with our community to invest in arts development, building on the character and strengths of the region.

Council's primary role in supporting the arts, culture and heritage activity in the region is as a facilitator. Council understands the importance of providing resources that link our community, bringing people together to plan for our collective future working towards:

- Providing leadership to the sectors through advocacy, promotion and development / maintenance of Council's arts, cultural and heritage assets;
- Identifying and responding to community needs through strategic planning;
- Assisting with local coordination of art culture and heritage activities;
- Assisting in the stimulation of the arts, culture and heritage-based enterprises;
- Encouraging collaboration across sectors; and

- Managing and displaying Council's art and heritage collections across its facilities.

3.2. Arts, Culture and Heritage as Sectors

Council recognises that a cohesive and coordinated arts, culture and heritage sector can make a significant contribution to the South Burnett's local and visitor economy by encouraging the development and expression of the arts, culture and heritage sectors.

The South Burnett region, with its strengths in tourism and its proximity to South East Queensland, has a significant opportunity to build its economy through the arts, culture and heritage sectors.

Council's role in supporting these sectors includes:

- Building competitive advantage for the region based on its unique cultural heritage and the engagement of artists to interpret and respond to this;
- Building opportunities for the arts and cultural expression into tourism activities and campaigns;
- Understanding the skills development needs of the sector and assisting to deliver on these needs;
- Encourage the development of place-based arts, cultural and heritage projects to support the promotion of the region; and
- Provide access to arts, cultural and heritage activities through Council owned infrastructure.

3.3. Participation

3.3.1. Equity and Access

Council understands that building the capacity of the community and of the arts, culture and heritage sectors means that activities and facilities need to be accessible to all. The region has significant Indigenous heritage and Council respects and acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the region through its arts, cultural and heritage practices. Council also acknowledges the cultural and linguistic diversity of the region and supports the provision of services that are readily accessible. Providing access to arts, culture and heritage resources means that Council will:

- Consult with the community in ways that are appropriate and equitable;
- Provide facilities that are broadly accessible to all segments of the community;
- Encourage the arts, cultural and heritage activities that provide social interaction and participation by a range of segments of the community to promote social cohesion; and
- Emphasise the importance of collaboration and partnerships, not only between different sectors of the arts, culture and heritage, but in linking these sectors with the broader community through the establishment of an advisory committee to Council.

3.3.2. Community Engagement

Engaging the community in the arts, cultural and heritage activities is vital to the success of the sectors and of all facets of Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy. A strongly engaged community is a community that comes together to celebrate successes and to plan for the future. Council seeks to support:

- Audience development through the encouragement of participation in arts, cultural and heritage activities in the region by the broader community;
- Collection of stories to record the arts, culture and heritage of the region;
- Connections with, and support of, the needs of the education sector; and
- Planning for, and delivering, public art that tells significant stories of the region.

3.4. Partnerships

The strength of the arts, culture and heritage sectors comes through its connections within and outside the region. Council's role in supporting these connections is to facilitate:

- Maintaining and developing funding partnerships with State and Federal governments (e.g. the Regional Arts Development Fund);
- Connections with arts, cultural and heritage organisations from within and outside the region; and
- Partnerships and collaborations between artists, cultural and heritage organisations from inside and outside the region.

Council considers the benefits to the community of supporting partnerships with arts, culture and heritage sectors as lifestyle / attractiveness / aesthetics, creating opportunities, broadening perspectives, offering alternative/external views to challenge/debate issues, promoting innovation, celebrating diversity, evolving community spirit, enhancing health and wellbeing.

Council recognises the cross-portfolio nature of the arts, culture and heritage sectors within Council operations. Aligning to Council's Corporate Plan, the Annual Operational Plan will further define the activities and actions Council will undertake to demonstrate its commitment to regional arts, culture and heritage. It is understood that working across Council departments is essential in achieving art culture and heritage outcomes as identified within Council's strategic and operational planning documents.

4. DEFINITIONS

Arts means the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination in all art forms, such as visual arts, crafts, music, theatre, entertainment, community festivals and events, cultural traditions, and designs for public spaces. Art includes hand-made or natural objects that have aesthetic value or express symbolic meaning. For inclusions refer to the Australia Bureau of Statistics categories of 'arts' ("Arts Nation – An overview of Australian Arts – Technical Appendix 2015 Edition").

Culture means to all the traditions, history, customs and activities that constitute lifestyle, identity, heritage, celebration, and spiritual nourishment, as well as all the creative and innovative aspects of the arts that define a community. For inclusions refer to the Australia Bureau of Statistics categories of 'culture' ("Arts Nation – An overview of Australian Arts – Technical Appendix 2015 Edition").

Facilitator means the role of helping persons or organisations do something more easily or find the answer to a problem by discussing things, suggesting ways of doing things and enabling the connection of persons/groups/organisations.

Heritage means what we inherit. It includes but not limited to customs, language, values and buildings.

Public Art means artwork in any medium, planned and executed outside a gallery context and intended specifically for exhibition within public space. Public spaces are generally open and accessible to all. They can be indoors – such as foyers, atriums, libraries or shopping centres – or outdoors – such as forecourts, parks, squares or streets.

5. LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

Whilst there is no legislative authority governing the implementation of this Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy, Council aligns its arts, culture and heritage approach to State and Federal strategic plans such as the Queensland Government's "Creative Together 2020-2030: A 10-Year Roadmap for the arts, culture and creativity in Queensland" and the "Queensland Heritage Strategy: protecting, investing in and connecting Queensland's story".

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Regional Arts Development Fund Guidelines and Procedures
 South Burnett Regional Council Annual Operational Plan
 South Burnett Regional Council Community Plan
 South Burnett Regional Council Corporate Plan

7. NEXT REVIEW

September 2021

8. VERSION CONTROL

Version	Revision Description	Approval/Adopted Date	ECM Reference
1	New Policy	20 January 2021	2745005


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