

# Council Policy



## 2.16 Arts and Cultural Policy

*A printed copy of this policy may not be current as Toowoomba Regional Council regularly reviews and updates its policies. The latest controlled version can be obtained from the Policy Register in the policy section of Council's intranet or by contacting Council's Coordinator Local Laws and Policy Development for a hard copy of the latest version. **A hard copy of this electronic document is uncontrolled.***

*Where there is a delegation identified in this policy, the reader will need to confirm if an alternative delegation exists in any Register of Delegation. If there is a perceived conflict between the delegation/s identified in this policy and of those contained in a Register of Delegation, then the delegation/s in the Register takes precedence. The Chief Executive Officer will, if necessary, be the sole arbiter in resolving any issues of conflict.*

## 1. Purpose

Toowoomba Regional Council recognises the importance of the arts and creative expression in contributing to the health and vibrancy of communities. Council seeks to contribute to arts and cultural development in the Toowoomba Region. Council will aim to nurture a community which values arts and cultural heritage and which is creative, committed to life-long learning, and which proudly embraces a strong sense of place as fundamental to our regional identity.

Toowoomba Regional Council's Arts and Cultural Policy will:

- Establish Council's position in relation to Arts and Cultural Development;
- Inform Council's decision making;
- Inform the arts and cultural development specific strategic actions of Council's Corporate Plan;
- Guide the development of Council's Arts and Culture Strategic Plan;
- Provide direction in the development of organisational policies and programs to implement the strategic actions identified in Corporate, Operational, Arts and Culture Strategic and Community Plans;
- Provide direction in the development, review and implementation of Council's Planning Scheme, Planning Scheme policies and major development projects; and
- Inform the priorities for funding for Council's Community Grants and Funding Programs including the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) and the Cultural and Arts Support Fund.

## 2. Scope and applications

This policy covers the areas of "Arts and Culture" and the Toowoomba Regional Council's role in the sector. A definition of Arts and Culture is contained in this document to outline the art forms, creative pursuits and community activities that are included within the scope of this field.

The policy aligns with the strategic actions of Council's Community Plan, Corporate Plan and Operational Plan and provides a framework for Council's Arts and Culture Strategic Plan.

While this policy applies to all of Council's activities, it has specific relevance to the activities undertaken by the following sections of Council:

- Library and Cultural Services Branch
- Tourism, Events and Economic Development Branch
- Community Development and Facilities Branch
- Parks and Recreation Branch
- The Department of Planning and Development Services

## 3. Content

The people of the Toowoomba Region have identified that they want to achieve the following goal.

"Our communities have a range of opportunities for creative expression and cultural exchange".

To assist the people of the Toowoomba region achieve their vision, Council will "identify, promote and grow opportunities for arts, cultural expression and the development of creative industries as stated in Council's Corporate Plan (ref 1.1.2), and is committed to the development and implementation of an Arts and Cultural Strategic Plan.

### **Toowoomba Regional Council's Arts and Cultural Strategic Plan:**

The Arts and Cultural Strategic Plan ("the Plan") for the region can be found at Attachment A.

The Plan details strategies that will be undertaken by Council over a five year period under the

identified goals in the areas of:

1. **PARTICIPATION**  
To promote and foster cultural vitality and community pride and ownership by encouraging the broader community to participate in arts and cultural programs.
2. **ARTS AND CULTURAL PRACTICE**  
To support the arts and cultural sector in the development and presentation of their creative products and services.
3. **STRONGER COMMUNITIES**  
To utilise arts and culture as a means of building regional communities that are strong, engaged and connected.
4. **CREATIVE SPACES AND PLACES**  
To continue supporting existing spaces and places for arts and cultural activities and plan for the long term sector needs of the communities of the region.
5. **COMMUNITY IDENTITY**  
To capture and celebrate the unique identities of communities within the Toowoomba Region.
6. **CULTURAL HERITAGE**  
To ensure the stories of our region's people, places and events are preserved and showcased.
7. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
To recognise and promote the importance of the arts and culture to an enhanced quality of life, the benefits of a vibrant creative sector and the related economic benefits to the community.
8. **GOVERNANCE**  
To provide the leadership and infrastructure necessary to facilitate a strong and vibrant arts and cultural sector.

The individual activities, achievement milestones and measures that will be undertaken to achieve the goals set out in the Plan will be detailed in Council's Operational Plan and subject to review as part of Council's regular quarterly progress reporting on the Operational Plan.

The Plan is maintained by the Library and Cultural Services Branch and approved by Council.

The Plan will span a period equivalent to Council's Corporate Plan, which is a five year interval.

The Plan will be reviewed at the following intervals:

- Annual internal review
- Post local government election review
- External review in line with the Corporate Plan review

### **Annual Performance Review Reporting**

Review of the activities undertaken to achieve the goals of the Plan will be undertaken by the Manager of Library and Cultural Services or delegate at the same time the annual review of Council's Operational Plan is undertaken. The outcome of this review will be reported to Council and will be included in Council's Annual Report.

### **Formulation of a new Plan**

The Plan will be reviewed within six months of local government elections under the direction of the General Manager, Environment and Community Services Group. The review will utilise a volunteer reference group of representatives external to Council. The outcomes of the review will

determine the goals and strategies of the next Plan and will inform the goals and strategies of Council's Corporate Plan.

## 4. Relevant laws

Not Applicable

## 5. Related policies/documents

1.01 Strategic Policy

2.01 Policy Framework

2.15 Cultural and Arts Support Grant Program Guidelines.

2.46 Public Art Policy

7.01 Collection Development Standard - Libraries

Toowoomba Region Art Collections Guidelines Organisational Procedure (to be developed)

## 6. Related forms

Not Applicable

## 7. Definitions

Term	Definition
	<p>The definitions of Arts and Culture are extracted from the State Government's Important Definitions document currently available on its Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Program webpage <a href="http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/radf-applicants.html">http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/radf-applicants.html</a> as well as from the agreed upon terms from the proposed Cultural Strategy.</p>
Arts	<p>The Australian Culture and Leisure Classifications (ACLC) defines arts activities as "the creation, manufacturing and sale of goods and services relating to literature, radio, television, film, digital content, visual arts and crafts, design, music and performing arts". These also include "writing, drama, playing and recording music, music composition, dance, theatre, film, visual arts and crafts, design (including graphic and architectural design) and radio and television broadcasting".</p> <p>The arts are also an expression of culture, the activities that enable expression of cultural meaning, through performing, visual, media and literary art forms, or combinations of those (CDN 2017).</p>
Culture	<p>"Culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs". (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) 2002, Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity).</p> <p>Culture can also be considered broadly as what we care about- "... the social production and transmission of identities, knowledge, beliefs, values, attitudes and understanding" and the way we express those things,</p>

Term	Definition
	“our way of life, including customs, codes and manners, dress, cuisine, language, arts, technology, religion and rituals; norms and regulations of behaviour, traditions and institutions” (Hawkes, 2001).
Creative Industries	Activities which have their origin in individual creativity, skill and talent and which have the potential for wealth and job creation through the generation and exploitation of intellectual property.  (This definition of Creative Industries is extracted from Creative Industries Task Force Mapping Document 2001, Department of Culture, Media and Sport, London, 2001).
Cultural Development	The process of enabling cultural activities, including the arts, towards the realisation of a desired future, particularly of a culturally rich and vibrant community
Cultural Tourism	Cultural Tourism is the subset of tourism concerned with a traveller’s engagement with a country or region’s culture, specifically the lifestyle of the people in those geographical areas, the history of those people, their art, architecture, religion(s), and other elements that helped shape their way of life (OECD 2009).
Cultural Vitality	Cultural vitality refers to the wellbeing, creativity, diversity, and innovation that are the product of everyday forms of community interaction and involvement; evidence of creating, disseminating, validating, and supporting arts and culture as a dimension of everyday life in communities.
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Community	People who identify as being from a culturally and linguistically diverse background.
Cultural Heritage	Cultural heritage is the legacy of physical artefacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations (UNESCO).
Spaces	In the context of this document, spaces refers to any indoor or outdoor facilities, venues, parks or other open spaces that could be utilised for creative activities, presentations and performances.
Cultural and Arts Support Grant Program	One of Council’s Community Grant Programs that supports arts and cultural development. For more information please see Council’s Policy 2.15 Cultural and Arts Support Grant Program Guidelines.

## 8. Policy details

<b>Policy Category</b>	Council Policy
<b>Date Approved</b>	16 November 2020
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<b>Contact Officer</b>	Manager, Library and Cultural Services
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## 9. Revision history

<b>Policy Version</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>DM Reference</b>
1.00	21 June 2011	3993194v12
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3.00	24 June 2019	7406865v3
4.00	16 November 2020 (Immaterial changes only)	9212273v2

## ARTS AND CULTURAL STRATEGIC PLAN:

Toowoomba Regional Council recognises the importance of the arts and creative expression in contributing to the health and vibrancy of communities. Council seeks to support and contribute to arts and cultural development in the Toowoomba region. Council will aim to nurture a community that values the arts and cultural heritage and which is creative, committed to life-long learning, and which proudly embraces a strong sense of place as fundamental to our regional identity.

Council has committed to "identify, promote and grow opportunities for arts, cultural expression and the development of creative industries ". Council's Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024 (ref 1.1.2)

To achieve this, Council has developed and adopted 2.16 Arts and Cultural Policy, the goals of which will be achieved by the implementation of the strategies outlined in this Arts and Cultural Strategic Plan. **GOAL 1 – Participation**

*To promote and foster cultural vitality and community pride and ownership by encouraging the broader community to participate in arts and cultural programs.*

- Provide opportunities to respect and celebrate the Indigenous community in the creative expression of their culture
- Respect and celebrate the cultural diversity of the region and encourage CALD communities to maintain and share their traditional arts practices
- Support creative initiatives that target a variety of demographic audiences (e.g. youth, seniors, people with a disability, disadvantaged) encouraging their participation in the arts as a vehicle to social and cultural inclusion
- Work towards Council's provision of accessible arts and cultural programs, facilities and activities by addressing the needs of regionalisation and the aged, disabled and disadvantaged groups of the community

## GOAL 2 – Arts and Cultural Practice

*To support the arts and cultural sector in the development and presentation of their creative products and services.*

- Foster the professional development of arts and crafts practitioners
- Advocate for the development of support mechanisms and opportunities for mentorship for emerging artists
- Support new and innovative ideas by encouraging projects that experiment through creative processes
- Encourage projects that involve touring of arts and cultural activities around the region including workshops, exhibitions and performances.
- Acknowledge the arts, crafts and cultures of our ethnic communities and support the development of programs that share these skills and knowledge
- Encourage projects that boost the level of arts education in the region's schools

## GOAL 3 – Stronger Communities

*To utilise arts and culture as a means of building regional communities that are strong, engaged and connected.*

- Promote the development of a cohesive arts and cultural sector that maximises cooperation and resource sharing
- Support events that bring communities together to celebrate local culture
- Involve the community in public facilities and programs through broad community representation on Council committees

- Assist not-for-profit organisations in enhancing their role in their community  
Advance the volunteer capacity of the region through the encouraging partnerships that provide resources to the sector e.g. corporate volunteering programs

#### **GOAL 4 – Creative Spaces and Places**

*To continue supporting existing spaces and places for arts and cultural activities and plan for the long term sector needs of the communities of the region.*

- Continue to provide and enhance programs and facilities which develop creative communities including libraries, galleries, museums, theatres, halls and open spaces
- Develop a policy to better utilise existing facilities, venues and open spaces
- Investigate current and future community needs for spaces for arts and cultural practices across the region - including workshops, exhibitions and performances -through appropriate community engagement
- Encourage high quality public art projects that connect with spaces and places within the region for consideration under Council's future Public Art Policy
- Preserve the region's natural beauty and community pride by working with all sectors of our regional community to care for the environment

#### **GOAL 5 – Community Identity**

*To capture and celebrate the unique identities of communities within the Toowoomba Region.*

- Embrace opportunities that will instil pride in communities by supporting projects and programs that build a sense of place
- Encourage projects that allow sectors of the community to discuss, document and present creative expressions of their strengths and characteristics (e.g. youth, CALD communities)

#### **GOAL 6 – Cultural Heritage**

*To ensure the stories of our region's people, places and events are preserved and showcased.*

- Encourage the Indigenous communities of the region in their endeavours to acknowledge and present stories of their cultural heritage
- Support the preservation and conservation of the region's cultural heritage by promoting avenues of assistance available to cultural and heritage organisations Promote good museum practices consistent with Museums Australia guidelines (industry standard) and provide and encourage a range of training
- Encourage cooperative practices and projects between museums and historical organisations
- Encourage the investigation of infrastructure needs of historical organisations and museum and assist to identify opportunities for the acquisition of resources
- Advocate the preservation of historically significant architecture and heritage listed structures, objects and places
- Promote existing avenues of assistance available to research and document the region's living culture
- Promote cultural heritage as a major asset for the region

#### **GOAL 7 – Economic Development**

*To recognise and promote the importance of the arts and culture to an enhanced quality of life, the benefits of vibrant creative sector and the related economic benefits to the community.*

- Encourage the establishment and development of sustainable cultural industries and facilities, related employment opportunities and private and public sector investment
- Continue to invest in and expand funding programs that offer support to one-off projects and ongoing programs or events to build the capacity of the sector
- Map the stories, people and places of significance in the region in order to plan and develop cultural tourism such as heritage and art trails, public art, cultural tours, events and services
- Promote and facilitate sound business practices for artisans developing creative industry practices through provision of education and training opportunities, and opportunities to showcase their talents and products

## **GOAL 8 – Governance**

*To provide the leadership and infrastructure necessary to facilitate a strong and vibrant arts and cultural sector.*

- Acknowledge the traditional ownership of the region in public forums
- Facilitate the development of a marketing strategy for the sector
- Facilitate communication through local media resources and Council's electronic and printed communication mechanisms
- Plan for the future resourcing needs to ensure Council can effectively support the arts and cultural development of the community
- Implement the Public Art Policy to provide a governance framework for the development of the public art projects in the region
- Advocate for the recognition of arts and culture in other relevant Council policy, planning and projects
- Ensure appropriate consultation with and involvement of our community in the review related policies and plans
- Maintain the partnership with Arts Queensland in the administration of the Regional Arts Development Fund
- Build on the existing Council Community Information Directory and the Toowoomba Regional Events Register by encouraging local artists and arts organisations to submit their information and events
- Facilitate good management and administrative practises of not-for-profit cultural organisations to ensure their ongoing viability