



POLICY CATEGORY - NUMBER: Strategic-009

POLICY OWNER: Community

ECM ID: 2745005

ADOPTED:

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 provide a framework for 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 demonstrates Council's intent when engaging with arts/cultural/heritage groups and residents of our region.

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 and commits to working with our community to pursue arts and heritage development in the region, whilst preserving the unique features of our heritage, culture and artistic endeavours enhancing its character and its strengths.

Council's key role in supporting the arts, culture and heritage activity in the region is as a facilitator rather than as a deliverer of these activities. Council understands the importance of providing resources that link our community, bringing people together to plan for our collective future.

In this role of facilitator, Council works 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 activities;
- Assisting in the stimulation of the arts, culture and heritage-based enterprises;
- Encouraging collaboration across sectors; and
- Displaying Council's collection across its facilities.

3.2. Arts, Culture and Heritage as 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. While currently sitting in the Community Department, it is understood that these sectors have an impact on Departments within Council. It is understood that working across departments is essential in achieving efficiency and sustainability in the delivery of outcomes of this Policy.

4. DEFINITIONS

Arts refers to all art forms, and includes visual arts, crafts, music, theatre, entertainment, community festivals and events, cultural traditions, and designs for public spaces. Art includes man-made or natural objects that have aesthetic value or express symbolic meaning.

Culture refers 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.

Heritage refers to what we inherit. It includes customs, language and values.

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 "Creating Queensland's Future: 10-Year Roadmap for the arts, cultural and creative sector consultation"

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

As prescribed by legislation or every two (2) years – December 2022

8. VERSION CONTROL

Version	Revision Description	Approval/Adopted Date	ECM Reference
1	New Policy	16 December 2020	2745005

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: