

Arts and Culture Policy

Policy | Strategy & Engagement

To guide the provision of arts and cultural development services, programs and infrastructure in the Singleton region

Policy No:	POL/40011	Version:	1
Service Unit:	Strategy & Engagement		
Responsible Officer:	Manager Strategy and Engagement		
Responsible Director:	Director Organisation and Community Capacity		
Authorisation Date:	17 August 2020	Review Date:	17 August 2022
Minute No:	111/20		

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1 Background

1.1 Title of the Policy and Commencement Date

The Singleton Arts and Culture Policy takes effect from the date of adoption by Council.

1.2 Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to outline the vision and principles which guide the provision of arts and cultural development services, programs and infrastructure in the Singleton local government area. It is also intended to inform the wider community of Council's commitment to arts, cultural development, heritage and cultural tourism.

2 Objective

2.1 Objectives and Coverage of the Policy

The Arts and Culture Policy objectives align with the vision of our Community Strategic Plan - *Vibrant, Progressive, Connected, Sustainable and Resilient*.

Vibrant

To explore, celebrate, promote and preserve our rich and diverse cultural way of life and heritage.

Progressive

To adapt and move with changing times by adopting new technology and approaches for creative cultural engagement and participation.

Connected

To bring the community together by fostering productive arts and cultural partnerships, alliances and networks within and external to the region.

Sustainable

To provide and maintain engaging vibrant cultural facilities and appealing public spaces.

Resilient

To advocate for and facilitate sound leadership and coordination of the arts and cultural sector to enable a dynamic local economy.

3 Application

3.1 Application of this Policy

This policy applies to Council employees, volunteers and contractors. It will guide decision making for arts funding opportunities and any advisory committees that may be established for specific arts and culture projects. It will provide a framework and direction for the Arts and Culture Strategy.



4 Definitions

Term	Meaning
Culture	<p>What matters to people and communities. It is about relationships, shared memories and experiences. It is about identity, history and a sense of place. It is about the different cultural and religious backgrounds found in most communities. It is about the things we consider to be valuable for passing on to future generations. It is our way of connecting the present with the past and the future. It is a word that describes what makes individuals, communities and places distinctive.</p> <p>The three dimensions of culture are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our sense of place, our values and our identity • The material products of creative processes • Our engagement with and participation in creative processes.
Art	<p>The creative expression of our culture. It refers both to the product as well as the process. Making art is a meaningful way to liberate the voices, imagination and creativity of a community to generate values, communicate these values and bring about change or agreement. This could include any form of visual, performing, media, literary or interdisciplinary arts, made by or for any members of any community at any level of skill and intention.</p>
Cultural Development	<p>The process of enabling cultural activities, including the arts, to move towards the realisation of a desired future, particularly of a culturally rich, inclusive and vibrant community.</p>
Heritage	<p>The legacy of the traditions, achievements and beliefs that are part of the history of a group of people that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations.</p>
Public Art	<p>All artistic works of a permanent, temporary or ephemeral nature located in open public spaces or facilities and accessible to the public.</p>
Cultural Tourism	<p>Visitors to the region who in engage with our cultural offerings – festivals, concerts, public art, galleries, museums, performing arts, cultural events, creative workshops, heritage sites, and First Nations art, craft and cultural sites.</p>
Creative Industries	<p>Those industries that use signifying practices to intentionally produce symbolic artefacts for the purposes of commercial gain. These industries include all those sectors amalgamated within the four broad subdivisions of design, media, IT and the arts.</p>



5 Principles/Body

5.1 Procedural Statement

Singleton is traditional Wonnarua, Wanaruah land where the culture of all people is recognised, acknowledged and respected.

Council recognises that facilitating opportunities for community engagement and participation in quality arts and cultural programs brings the community together. It enriches the personal lives of residents, supports the social and cultural wellbeing of the community and adds to the social infrastructure. This in turn enhances the region's identity and reputation and provides opportunities for cultural tourism that feeds creative industry development and contributes to economic diversity.

The Arts and Culture Policy confirms the central role of arts and culture in the liveability and life of the Singleton Local Government Area (LGA) including the community's economic success and social health and wellbeing.

The Arts and Culture Policy provides a guide for Singleton Council investment that:

- Supports a vibrant, engaging and inclusive cultural life in the Singleton LGA;
- Provides common direction for Council and its partners in facilitating the best possible arts and cultural life of the area; and
- Integrates cultural planning across Council's range of services, assets and activities.

5.2 Core Principles

Aligning with our Five Pillars – People, Places, Environment, Economy and Leadership, the core principles for the implementation of this policy will be guided by:

PEOPLE

- Personal and Social Values:
 - Personal enrichment
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Inclusivity
 - Equal opportunity
 - Respect.

PLACES

- Cultural Values:
 - Community identity
 - Creativity, learning and discovery
 - Cultural heritage.

ENVIRONMENT

- Environmental Values:
 - Natural heritage
 - Balanced development
 - Sense of place.



ECONOMY

- Economic Values:
 - Creative enterprise
 - Economic opportunity.

LEADERSHIP

- Civic Values:
 - Cultural leadership
 - Collaboration
 - Regional image and reputation.

5.3 Implementation and Resourcing

The implementation of the Arts and Culture Policy will be delivered through the strategies, activities and priorities identified in the Arts and Culture Strategy 2020 - 2030.

Council as part of its annual budgeting process will provide an allocation of funds each financial year. The Director Organisation and Community Capacity will be responsible for coordinating a process to determine specific initiatives and projects to be undertaken during the course of the financial year. Approved projects will be recorded in the annual Operation Plan. The determination of projects will be based on:

- funding availability
- identified priorities in the Arts and Culture Strategy 2020 – 2030.

Additional support may be sought to extend capacity to deliver quality infrastructure and services, including partnerships at a local level through local grants programs, State and Federal grant opportunities, philanthropic support and private sector partnerships.

5.4 Evaluating Performance and Outcomes

Evaluation of this Policy is based on the Cultural Vitality Framework which identifies four domains of measurement:

- Opportunity
 - How many projects/events/activities Council managed and/or supported
- Participation
 - The extent, reach and diversity of community participation
- Support
 - The number of active partners, sponsors or collaborators directly involved
- Community Value
 - Contribution to social, cultural, civic, environmental and economic value to the community.

Community value is measured using Cultural Development Network's (CDN) outcomes schema.

Annual measurement will provide an indication of the value of arts and cultural initiatives which, when aggregated over the life of the Policy, will provide a measure of Policy impact.



6 Relevant Legislation

Local Government Act, 1993

7 Document Information

Related documents and reference information in this section provides a single reference point to develop and maintain site compliance information.

7.1 Related Documents

Number	Title
17/31072	Singleton Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027
17/31073	Singleton Delivery Program 2017-2021
18/21763	Hunter Regional Plan 2036
19/72283	Create in NSW: Arts and Cultural Policy Framework – 2012 - 2022
20/24163	Australia Council for the Arts 2019 Domestic Arts Tourism: Connecting the country
10/5602	The Singleton Strategic Cultural Plan Towards 2020
14/58339	Singleton Council Villages Place Making Strategy 2015 - 2019
TBD	Arts and Cultural Strategy 2020 - 2030
	Australia Council for the Arts 2015. Arts Nation: an overview of Australian Arts
	NSW Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Strategy 2015 -2018
	National Arts and Disability Strategy 2009

Table 7-1 – Related documents

8 Responsible Officer / Policy Owner

Ownership of this policy rests with the Manager Strategy and Engagement.



9 Responsibilities

Parties or Persons	Responsibilities
Strategy and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating and/or supporting key community commemorations, celebrations, events, festivals. • Developing and maintaining cultural and arts spaces and places. • Producing and promoting information about arts and cultural activities in the LGA. • Managing arts and heritage collections. • Applying for funding for arts and cultural initiatives. • Providing community grants and funds for arts and cultural initiatives. • Providing in kind support. • Working with local community groups and individuals to improve the recognition of the history and heritage in the Region. • Working across the region with other local governments and the state government. • Partnering with the arts and cultural sector and business and tourism sectors to increase and promote the place of arts and culture in the Region. • Facilitating information sharing to assist in capacity building of artists and arts and cultural organisations. • Advocating for arts and cultural funding to the LGA. • Advocating for a greater emphasis on arts and culture in the LGA.
Director Organisation and Community Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorship of and accountability for the management of the Policy. • Coordinating a process to determine specific initiatives and projects to be undertaken during the course of each financial year to be recorded in an Annual Operation Plan. • Ensuring an annual values-based measurement report is prepared that records the outcomes of each Annual Operation Plan, which, when aggregated over the life of the Policy will provide a measure of Policy impact.
Arts and Culture Advisory Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidance and advice.

In helping to create the circumstances where arts and cultural development can flourish, Council also requires the support and leadership of the local community. The successful implementation of the Arts and Culture Policy will rely on a partnership between Council and community interests.



10 Approval

As per cover sheet.

11 Monitoring

This policy will be monitored by the Director Organisation and Community Capacity to ensure compliance.

12 Review Date

This policy, once adopted, is to remain in force until it is reviewed by Council. This policy is to be reviewed approximately every two (2) years to ensure that it meets legislative requirements.

13 Record Keeping, Confidentiality and Privacy

This policy is to be made available for public viewing as required under the *Government Information (Public Access) 2009, NSW*.

14 Breaches and Sanctions

Any breaches of this Policy will be referred to the General Manager for appropriate action.

