

Sunshine Coast
Arts Advisory Board
Annual Report
2023-24



November 2024

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2023–24

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Cover image

Horizon Festival 2023, Day 8.
Photo Tim Birch.

Traditional Acknowledgement

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Sunshine Coast Country, home of the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples, the Traditional Custodians, whose lands and waters we all now share.

We recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. The Traditional Custodians' unique values, and ancient and enduring cultures, deepen and enrich the life of our community.

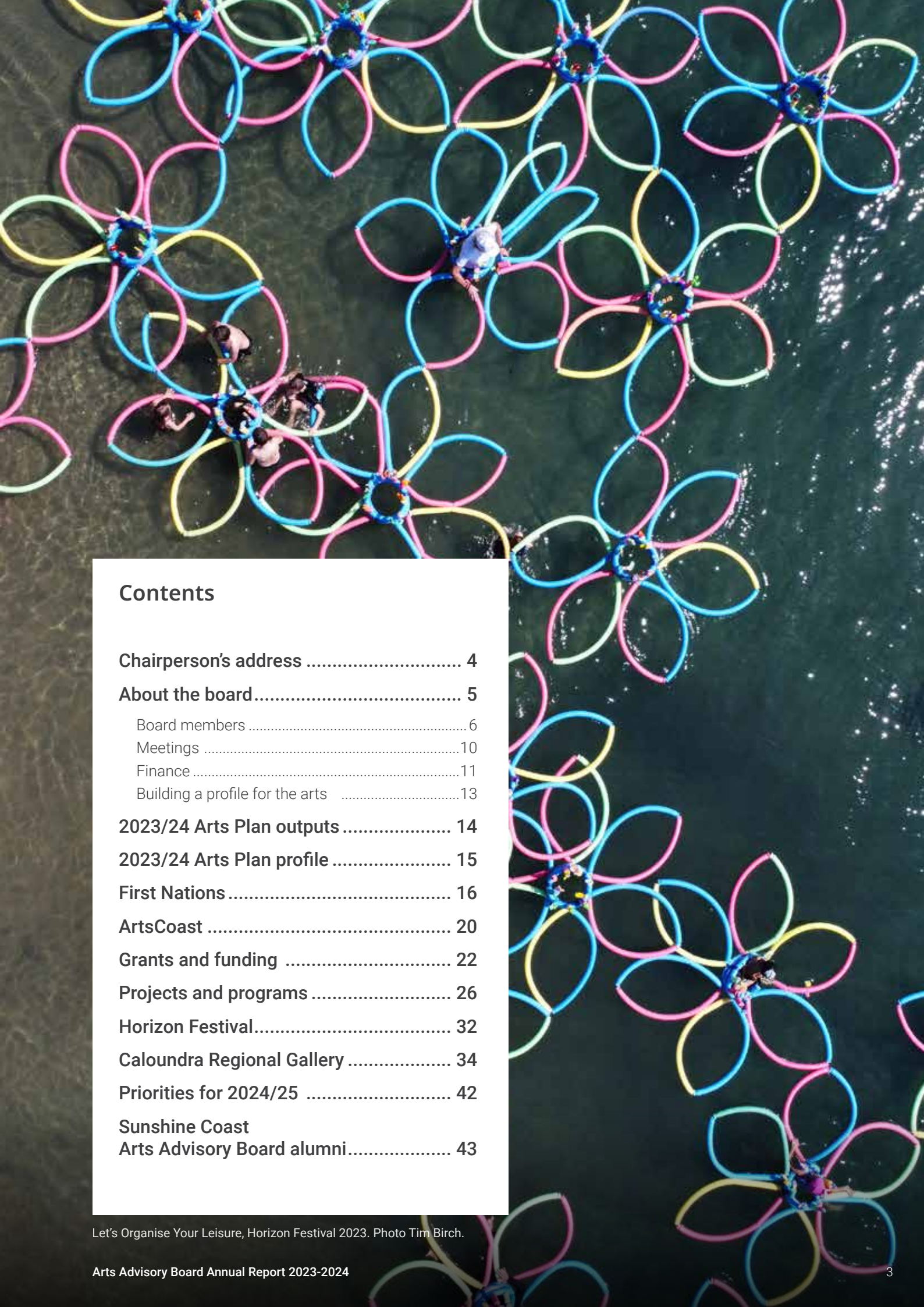
We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional Custodians and the broader First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) communities to support self-determination through economic and community development.

Truth telling is a significant part of our journey. We are committed to better understanding the collective histories of the Sunshine Coast and the experiences of First Nations peoples. Legacy issues resulting from colonisation are still experienced by Traditional Custodians and First Nations peoples.

We recognise our shared history and will continue to work in partnership to provide a foundation for building a shared future with the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples.

We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the important role First Nations peoples continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

Together, we are all stronger.



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Chairperson's address

The Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board is proud to support Sunshine Coast Council and the industry in delivering on the Arts Plan goals, and excited to see the increase in skill, talent and sophistication of creative experiences across the region. There has been tangible and meaningful growth and development of the creative arts industry as the results and programs included in this report attest to.

2024 has been another year of milestones.

- A new mayor and portfolio councillor have joined the board, and their passion and support for the arts bodes well for arts sector on the Sunshine Coast.
- The establishment of a First Nations Sub-Committee and its role in leading the development of a First Nations Arts Strategy is nationally significant.
- The development of a Fundraising Strategy and commitment of budget from Council for the new Sunshine Coast Gallery of Art, which ensures this transformational arts infrastructure project will continue to progress.
- The \$2 increase in the Arts and Heritage Levy for the Cultural Olympiad program and Horizon Festival was a landmark decision and show of support, which translates into tangible support for artists, arts organisations and audiences across the region.
- Development of a public art strategy and commissioning of new works, which has seen significant public artwork launched at City Hall and in development for the new Library+ building in Caloundra.

This positive trajectory continues and the board is excited to continue working with Council and industry to support and showcase the wins, leverage opportunities, and mitigate challenges.

As we look to the future, including the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, we will continue to work towards realising the region's creative potential, and build relationships that grow all areas of our sector and bring the Sunshine Coast alive with arts, culture and creativity.



Maz McGann

Chair
Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board



About the board

Established in 2016, the Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board has just completed its seventh full year of operation.

The board plays an important role in positioning the arts as a cultural and economic driver for the region. The board, since its inception has been instrumental in developing new, and nurturing established, partnerships and relationships between government, the arts industry, artists, corporates and philanthropists on the Sunshine Coast.

It has also been invaluable in its core role as an advisory committee to Council. This responsibility enables Council to seek information and advice via the specialist expertise and network of the board's membership. This is particularly useful in the strategic development of spaces, programs and places that contribute to a vibrant regional arts scene.

Through formal recommendations, the board also proactively provides strategic advice to Council in relation to collaborative opportunities that may support and grow the Sunshine Coast local government area's involvement and investment in the arts, including arts and cultural infrastructure.

Specifically, the board has a role in:

- guiding, promoting and helping build the identity of the Sunshine Coast as an arts destination for tourism and industry
- advocating the region's advantages to secure new investment in arts and cultural facilities and infrastructure
- providing strategic advice to Council in relation to arts and cultural facilities and infrastructure
- providing advice on strategic direction of wider cultural policy and strategy
- providing opportunities to develop philanthropic activity in relation to the regional arts offer.

This strategic approach continues to ensure community and stakeholder expectations are sought and considered in the delivery of the vision and goals articulated in the Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan 2023-2038.



Caloundra Regional Gallery, Reception This Way exhibition. Photo Pat Want.

Membership

The board, which is governed by its Sunshine Coast Advisory Board Charter, is comprised of locally and nationally recognised arts and creative industry leaders who represent a wide range of experience, skills and creative insight in strategic planning, policy and advice, artistic practice, community and audience engagement and development, First Nations arts, and arts and cultural festival and events.

Board Members



Maz McGann (Chair)

**Founder and Principal,
Play Your Part Consultancy**

Maz McGann is a consultant working across arts, culture, tourism, and community development.



Rosanna Natoli

**Mayor,
Sunshine Coast Council**

Madam Mayor Rosanna Natoli is an honorary member of Council endorsed Boards. In relation to the Arts Advisory Board, the Mayor receives briefings on all recommendations before they are considered by Council.



David Law

**Councillor,
Sunshine Coast Council**

Cr Law has an extensive background and passion for the arts and all it brings to the community. He holds the Strong Community Portfolio – including community development, support services and facilities, community sport and recreation, arts, heritage and Integrated transport planning and delivery.



Helena Gulash

Strategic Arts Consultant

Helena Gulash is a Kabi Kabi (Gubbi Gubbi) woman who brings strategic leadership experience from her work with First Nations within both government and community.



Jennifer Radbourne

Emeritus Professor

Emeritus Professor Jennifer Radbourne has extensive experience in performing arts, arts governance, philanthropy and academia.



Liz Burcham

**President,
Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance**

Liz is President of the Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance bringing to the role a wide-reaching career in the arts and creative industries.



Kris Stewart

CEO, QMusic

Kris is the Chief Executive Office of QMusic, the statewide peak body for Queensland music industry.



Andrew Maccoll

Founder of Saturate

A Creative Director and Cinematographer, Andy is an expert in brand strategy and culture changing creativity, with a skill set including photography and film direction.

Board Members



Karina Seljak

Local Practicing Artist

Karina is a practising drawing and sculptural artist based in Coolum Beach. She's also Co-founder and Director of her own brand of award-winning closed-loop recycled blankets.



Catherine Jones

Creative Industries Leader

Catherine's prior roles include Director of the APAM Office delivering the Australian Performing Arts Market, and General Manager of Arts House, Melbourne's centre for contemporary and experimental performance.



Live and Local, Horizon Festival 2023.
Photo Nic Morley.



Meetings

The board holds regular scheduled meetings throughout the year, structured to allow open and informed discussion and are supported by the Manager, Arts, Heritage and Libraries.

Meeting Dates	Board Members Attendance	Guests attended
8 August 2023	Maz McGann Cr Rick Baberowski Jennifer Radbourne Liz Burcham Helena Gulash Kris Stewart	Andrew Eves-Brown Hannah Clissold Christopher Secker Bronwyn Edinger Cr O'Pray Prue Egan Brenda LaPorte Ulton O'Dwyer Scott Hoskins John Williams Kylie Ezzy Stacy Buckley Kim McCosker
21 November 2023	Maz McGann Cr Rick Baberowski Jennifer Radbourne Liz Burcham Helena Gulash Amy Clarke Tricia Adjei Kris Stewart Andy Mccoll	Janine Collins Skye Parker Megan Rowland Bronwyn Edinger
29 February 2024	Maz McGann Cr Rick Baberowski Jennifer Radbourne Helena Gulash Kris Stewart Andy Mccoll Karina Seljak	Nina Shadforth Chris LeServe Hailey Phillips Ally Jonscher Janine Collins
8 May 2024	Maz McGann Jennifer Radbourne Liz Burcham Kris Stewart Karina Seljak	Megan Rowland Peta Huggett

Finance

The Queensland Government’s ‘Remuneration procedures for part-time Chairs and Members of Queensland Government Bodies’ (Category E-1) allows for the payment of local government appointed boards. Under this arrangement, the board has been remunerated as outlined below:

Chairperson	\$167 half day	\$334 full day
Ordinary Member	\$141 half day	\$281 full day

The Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board member fees and costs are outlined below:

2023-24 (Financial Year)



Board member fees
and contract services
\$25,694.94



Catering and
hospitality (including
premises hire)
\$8,104.32



Materials, printing
and postage
\$1,091.95



Travel costs
\$6,428.52

As an advisory board of Council, the board does not have authority to allocate funding or endorse arts programming. It provides long-term strategic advice and recommendations to achieve the vision, goals and outcomes as articulated in the Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan 2023-2038.



Building a profile for the Arts

Members of the board, both formally and informally, represent and promote the Sunshine Coast as an arts destination, engage and connect with the arts and creative sectors and industries, and maintain and develop new relationships and networks locally, nationally and internationally. They do this to build the region's arts profile and identify opportunities for partnerships and advocacy.

The representation during 2023-24 included formal and informal roles at:

- SCAAB Network Evening - Altitude Nine
- World International Property Organisation high-level dialogue on First Nations fashion and traditional cultural expressions
- Blak Artist Camp at Cambrook
- Project 24 presentations and event attendance
- Collab. in Conversation with Ruth Mackenzie
- Concepts and Practice with Dr Kellie O'Dempsey: SCCA two-day workshop
- Refinery launch
- Horizon Festival meetings and events
- Caloundra Regional Gallery events
- Sunshine Coast Screen Collective Summit
- Major Events Strategy Refresh.

Meetings with:

- Ministers Healy, Enoch and Grace
- Arts Qld Executive Director
- First Nations Sub-Committee meetings and workshop
- Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation meetings and events
- Chamber of Commerce and Friends of Gallery
- Local artists and organisations regarding Sunshine Coast projects
- State of the Region meeting
- ANA Research meeting – partnerships for our cultural life.

Attendance at a range of arts festivals and events including:

Reconnect Festival at The Met, Rangebow Festival, Tap Pack at Events Centre, Melbourne Design Week, IN | ARI's Cellmates Residency and Exhibition, Sculpture On the Edge, Canberra Gallery, Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, HOTA Gold Coast, Tweed Gallery, SC Symphony Orchestra at the Events Centre, Open Studios Sunshine Coast, Beerwah Literature Festival, SC Community Awards, SC Open House, Aftereffect Performance, Caloundra Music Festival, Moon Festival, Festuri (Multicultural Festival), Sunny Kids Mayoral Ball, REMIX Summit, SC Chamber Music Festival, QT Vietgone QPAC Playhouse, Long Listen Music Festival, The Shelter's We Morph performance, Chorus Line by Coastal Theatre Collective at the Events Centre, Gaslight at QPAC QT, AACTA Awards, Occurrent Affair proppaNOW Exhibition at UniSC Gallery, Ravenheart Creative Space event, Deckle Edge Studio Exhibition, Marvene Ash Artist Studio Exhibition, Big Sound, SXSW Sydney, Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, National Indigenous Music Awards and National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Tarnanthi Festival and Art Fair in Adelaide, Geelong Design Week, Poetical Inhabitants Dance production at the Events Centre, Prime Minister's Literary Awards in Canberra, Tess Miller's ceramic workshop.

2023-24 Arts Plan outputs



810 events, programs and exhibitions
+ **251** digital programs presented to
audiences/ participants of **274,578**



194 training development
opportunities undertaken
by **1093** artists



1235 art collection pieces
Valued at **\$6,667,310**
156 new works added to the
Sunshine Coast Art Collection 23/24



2,468 volunteers engaged



487 local artists contracted or
funded by Council



167 of which were First Nations



\$545,511 in council funding
provided to **83** art projects
valued at **\$3,823,964**



141 total grant applications received



59% applicant success rate

2023-24 Arts Plan profile



Webpage views

267,165 - Horizon, Gallery, Council and Artscoast



E-news subscribers

24,946 - Horizon, Gallery and Artscoast



Instagram followers

14,187 - Horizon, Gallery and Artscoast



Facebook followers

15,870 - Horizon, Gallery

Media

Reach	6796,031
Value	\$2,437,990
Placements	591

2023-24 Arts Plan outcomes

Satisfaction*

94% good to excellent

*Satisfaction derived from 1,752 Regional Gallery, creative program and digital event surveys conducted across the 2023-24 financial year. Attendees were asked to rank their score on a scale of 1 to 5 from poor to excellent.

Cultural Vitality**

4.4 out of 5

Indicates the level at which 1,683 attendees at a range of branch events agreed to five statements relating to individual well-being, local economy, community pride, capacity building and appreciation of the arts. Based on the measures 1= strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. The scores can be indicative of the cultural value of the community, with a higher score indicating higher levels of vitality. Note these surveys are integrated into all branch surveys. The questions do not relate specifically to the service or program being surveyed, they are generally based around Council's broader cultural services and programs.

***Satisfaction** - derived from 1,752 Regional Gallery, creative program and digital event attendee surveys conducted across the 2023-24 financial year. Attendees were asked to rate their satisfaction on a scale 1 to 5 from poor to excellent

****Cultural Vitality** - indicates the level at which attendees at arts activities agreed to five statements relating to: individual wellbeing, local economy, community pride, capacity building and appreciation of the arts. Based on the measures 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. The scores can be indicative of the cultural vitality of a community, with higher score indicating higher levels of vitality. Note these questions are integrated into all arts-based surveys. The questions do not relate specifically to the service or program being surveyed, they are generally based around Councils broader cultural services and programs

FIRST NATIONS

The Arts Plan has a key focus on supporting First Nations peoples to protect their cultural knowledge and further develop their innovative contemporary expression.

Key highlights over 2023-24 include:



391 First Nations artist beneficiaries (funded, promoted, engaged)



13 First Nations events delivered during Horizon featured **120** First Nations artists and attracted **7,473** attendees.



2 First Nations visual art exhibitions at Caloundra Regional Gallery: Saltwater Dreaming and Ghostnet Sculptures from Pormpuraaw which attracted **3,290** visitors with **95%** of these satisfied to very satisfied.

First Nations Sub-Committee

The Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board's First Nations Sub-Committee (FNSC) was fully established in 2023 with six members, three of which are Traditional Owners.

The FNSC acts as an advisory group on First Nations interests, including cultural protocols that inform the strategic delivery of the Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan 2023 – 2038. They provide advice connected to First Nations programming; provide a forum for discussing First Nations community engagement, and existing issues faced by communities within an arts context; a mechanism to provide advice for First Nations arts development in the region and provide advocacy for First Nations artists and arts in the region.



Helena Gulash

Helena Gulash is a Kabi Kabi (Gubbi Gubbi) woman who brings strategic leadership experience from her work with First Nations within both government and community.



Lyndon Davis

Lyndon Davis is a Gubbi Gubbi (Kabi Kabi) man and internationally acclaimed artist, educator and cultural performer.



Jason Murphy

Jason Murphy is a Dungidau man of Jinibara descent and visual artist whose work critiques social, political and cultural issues affecting First Nations peoples.



Deline Brisco

Deline Brisco is a Yalanji woman of song whose practice explores Wulgkubadi (Yalanji traditional singing) with jazz, hip-hop and soul infusion.



Nicole Reilly

Nicole Reilly is a proud queer Wiradyuri woman, whose work spans the roles of creative producer, director, performer and teaching artist.

Blak Creatives

A First Nations networking space and series of First Nations-led professional development opportunities embedding cultural safety to support First Nations artistic endeavours on the Sunshine Coast and extending to South East Queensland artists.

Blak Creatives is a program born out of community voice providing culturally safe feedback loops through committed ongoing relationship building and networking. It remains responsive to First Nations artists and community needs.

'The welcome and hospitality! It really feels like a family, I met new people and learned new skills!'

Blak Creatives is designed to build the profile, recognition and capacity of First Nations artists, musicians, performers, writers and cultural practitioners - living and or connected to the Sunshine Coast. The project focuses on arts business development, informal mentorship and networking, contemporary urban Indigenous practice development, cultural protocol, industry development, curating, exhibiting and performing and pathways for emerging and mid-career artists.

Blak Creatives hosts culturally safe spaces for

- ongoing networking events
- members exclusive offers
- online forum
- master classes/professional development
- peer-peer critiques
- BL:AK camp - a 5 day Camp on Kabi Kai Country
- self-determined discussions- needs and priorities for our own arts and cultural sector and the way we want to collaborate with the broader sector.

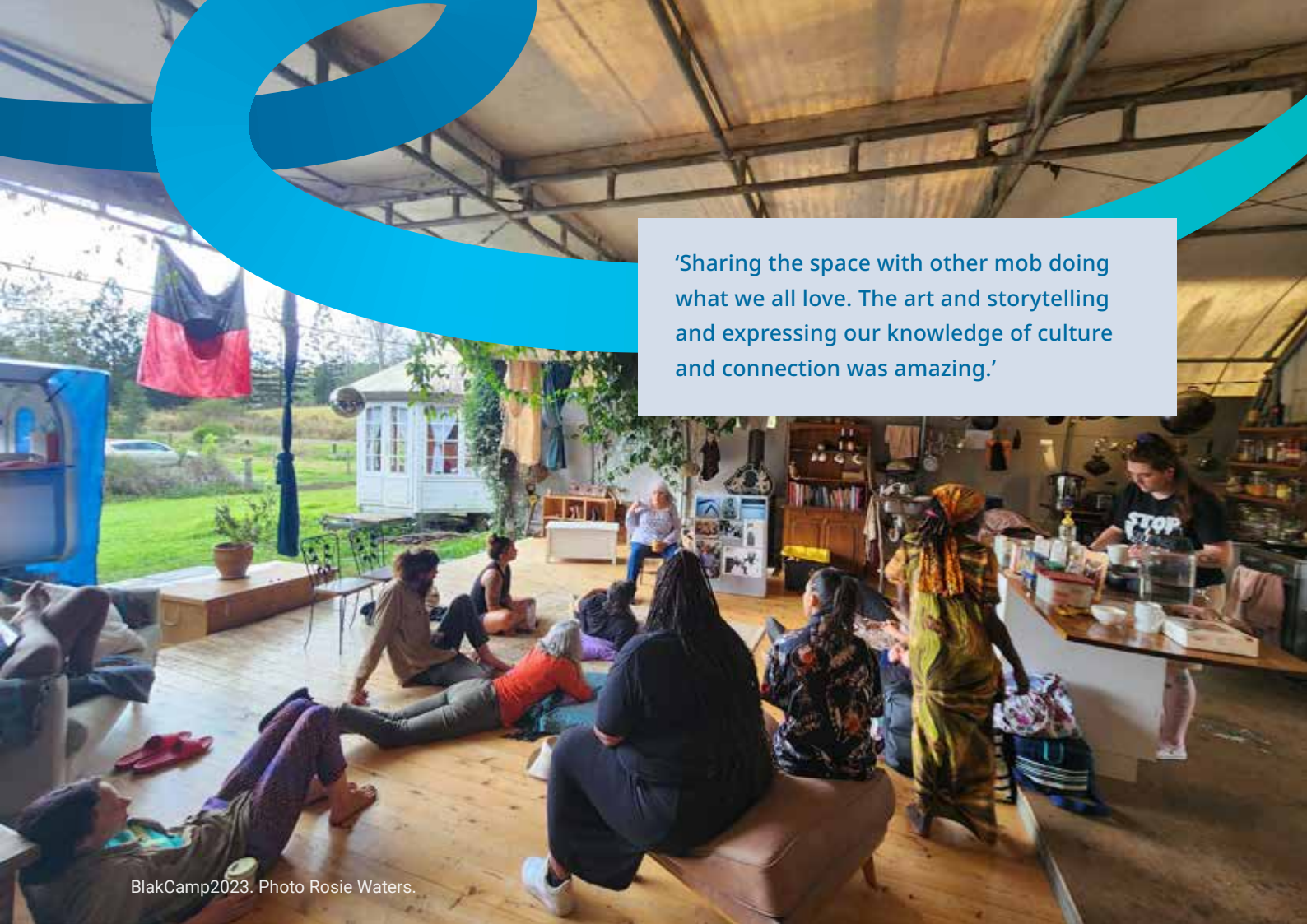
Blak Creatives is funded by the Creative Industries Investment Program through the Sunshine Coast Arts and Heritage Levy and the Sunshine Coast Regional Arts Development Fund.

'I loved exploring and yarning about the arts practice of each artist and supporting the amazing ideas they shared.'

'I loved everything! The people, the workshops, the yarns, the food, the location, the hosts, the experience and being unplugged (most of the time).'



BlakCamp2023. Photos Rosie Waters.



‘Sharing the space with other mob doing what we all love. The art and storytelling and expressing our knowledge of culture and connection was amazing.’

BlakCamp2023. Photo Rosie Waters.

Elder in Residence and Knowledge Keepers initiatives are designed to provide advice and support in culturally appropriate ways to build capacity and humility for program facilitators and participants. The program has engaged Aunty Helena Gulash, Jason Murphy, Lyndon Davis, Bridgette Chilli, Deline Briscoe, Nadine McDonald-Dowd, Melissa Stannard, Darren Blackman, Libby Harward, Adam Ford, Freja Carmichael and across the Refinery R16.0, Project24, ProjectLAB, the Creative Arts Team and Horizon Festival.

The **First Nations Artist in Residence** program provides First Nations artists with space and time to develop capacity, connections to create opportunities for artists to test ideas, experiment and share their work. Six residencies were hosted at 2nd Space for Project24 with Zartisha Davis, Nikita Fitzpatrick, Sam Harrison, Dylan Bolger, Katina Olsen and Blak Creatives Print Club with lead artist and ProjectPEER Melissa Stannard.

The First Nations Artist in Residence Program was funded by the Sunshine Coast Arts and Heritage Levy.

First Nations participation has seen an increase in creatives applying for RADF individually and as part of RADF applications. Participation in Professional Development programs delivered by Sunshine Coast Council and in partnership with other organisations has also increased. Project24 had six residencies; ProjectLAB had three participants; BL:AK Camp was all First Nations participants (10), facilitators (12) and elders (5); R16.0 had one participant, two mentors, one Elder In Residence and four facilitators.

ARTSCOAST



ArtsCoast

The concept of an arts destination brand for the region was garnered from arts sector consultation. ArtsCoast was endorsed in the region’s first Arts Plan in 2018 and an initial brand strategy was developed. With no funding allocated to its implementation, ArtsCoast was launched in 2021 as the vehicle through which Council delivered its arts sector development programs and funding streams. This successfully embedded ArtsCoast in the sector – building strong communities of artists and connecting artists with opportunities for development.

With funding now allocated to ArtsCoast through the Arts and Heritage Levy, this year we successfully refocused the ArtsCoast brand, repositioning it as a destination brand to cultivate the Sunshine Coast’s identity and reputation as a place alive with arts, culture and creativity.

ArtsCoast is now a platform for all things art on the Sunshine Coast, taking the thriving Sunshine Coast arts scene to a broader audience of residents, visitors and the national arts sector. ArtsCoast continues to work closely with Sunshine Coast artists and arts workers, sharing their events, telling their stories, profiling their practice, aiming to develop audiences and drive more and more people to experience all things art on the Sunshine Coast.

Key actions / activities:

- ArtsCoast Brand Strategy – updated to reflect sector maturation and ArtsCoast’s initial positioning
- ArtsCoast Destination Marketing Plan 2024-25 – implementation underway
- ArtsCoast visual identity – developed strong and engaging visual identity to position the brand as a trusted authority and creative guide to the region
- bringing the **REMIX Summit** – a global creative arts initiative - to the region in early 2025 to showcase our artists and our place.



GRANTS AND FUNDING



Grants and funding

The Creative Arts team works in partnership with Sunshine Coast Council's Community Planning and Development Branch to support not-for-profit arts organisations, independent creative businesses, and individual artists across the region through several grants and funding programs, including:

The **Regional Arts Development Fund** (RADF) Grants Program supports independent projects and artist development. The fund received 71 applications for funding and awarded a total of \$184,000 to 31 successful projects. The RADF grants supported the delivery of projects with a total value of more than \$546,000, and enabled the engagement of more than 171 artists, creative practitioners, and producers, with arts outputs reaching audiences of over 100,000.

RADF is an annual partnership between the State Government, through Arts Queensland, and Sunshine Coast Council, promoting the role and value of arts, culture and heritage as key drivers of diverse and inclusive communities and strong regions.

SC Arts Foundation.



Grants and funding

The **Creative Industries Investment Program** (CIIP) provides up to three years of funding for established arts and cultural initiatives that support the strategic development of the local arts ecology and deliver significant cultural benefit to the Sunshine Coast Region.

A total of \$165,000 was awarded to nine initiatives through CIIP, supporting a total value of more than \$815,000, engaging 200 artists, creative practitioners, and producers, and reaching audiences of over 11,000. Successful applicants are required to participate in a skills exchange and capacity development program involving group and one on one mentor sessions. Other local creative leaders are also invited to participate in these development opportunities.

2023-24 CIIP initiatives include:

- **Sunshine Coast Chamber Music Festival** – innovative program of bespoke events staged in stunning natural locations and intimate venues across the Coast, each event re-imagines chamber music in a contemporary context, integrating site-specific, cross-form, and cross-cultural elements.
- **IN | artist run initiative - IN | SITE Program**, a program of exhibitions, events, performances and residencies with a focus on site and place. Based at the Old Lock Up, Maroochydown.
- **Munimba-ja Blak Creatives** - a series of First Nations led professional development opportunities embedding cultural safety to support First Nations artistic endeavours on the Sunshine Coast.
- **Anywhere festival** - an established platform for performance anywhere, regardless of access to traditional venues. Supporting 10 emerging and established local independent performance making groups, to develop ambitious quality live performances of new theatre, music, cabaret, comedy, dance, poetry, immersive works.
- **Sunshine Coast Film Festival** - Presented a diverse program of cinema including European, World, Art House and First Nations content. The festival provides industry development experiences including a professional round table event and opportunities for screening local original work
- **Eumundi School of Rock** - Inspiring Musical Journeys for Young Artists. A 10-week scholarship program offering free mentoring, stagecraft lessons, and live gig experiences to young musicians already playing music.
- **Red Chair** - The COMPASS Project: a micro touring circuit program of nine performing arts tours (36 concerts) presenting local and visiting contemporary music-based productions of various genres including classical, folk, world, popular, comedy and cabaret in diverse venues across the Sunshine Coast
- **Sunshine Coast Arts Industry Precinct** – Old Ambo TAKEOVER Project: to activate the Black Box Theatre, RAMP and Galleries with diverse contemporary artist-led programming
- **Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance** - Annual Creative Development Program: a program of activities to promote and develop professional contemporary practices and stimulate connection and collaboration. The program includes Good Chats and Big Chats events, Professional Masterclasses, Critical Light industry development and co-presentation of The Refinery Creative Incubator

The program is jointly funded through The Sunshine Coast Arts and Heritage Levy and the Sunshine Coast Regional Arts Development Fund

Council continued its support of the **SUNSHINE COAST ARTS FOUNDATION** in 2023-24. The foundation conducted various fundraising activities to attract gifts:

- annual Giving Campaign, GIFTED
- the Glasshouse Giving Circle was established
- online donation gateway on the website
- fundraising lunches and events in partnership with corporate in-kind supporters.

The foundation offered partnership services to arts organisations to manage donations and offer tax deductibility to partners' donors, and auspice grants to receive 5% administration fee. Partnerships during the year were Sunshine Coast Chamber Music Festival and Australian Wearable Arts Festival.

A total of **\$125,813** was donated by **26** donors, which was subsequently transferred to partners, gifted projects, and recipient artists.

Grants and funding

The **Community Partnership Funding Program** (CPFP) provides a contribution to the operational expenses of well-established not-for-profit local arts peak bodies and creative spaces for up to three years. A total of \$107,500 was awarded to eight creative not-for-profit organisations, engaging almost 400 volunteers and benefiting almost 45,000.

CPFP partners include:

Arts Connect Inc, Buderim Craft Cottage Assoc Inc, Caloundra Arts, Centre Association Inc., Kenilworth Arts Council Inc, Maleny, Community Centre Inc., Sunshine Coasts Arts Industry, Precinct Inc., The Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance Inc., and Sunshine Coast Screen Collective Inc.

The **Creative Development category (major and minor grants)** supports not-for-profit organisations to deliver projects, events and activities that strengthen the creative ecology of the Sunshine Coast by nurturing connections, promoting experimentation, and inspiring collaboration.

A total of \$120,667 was awarded to 19 projects, supporting a total value of more than \$1M, engaging almost 600 volunteers and benefiting more than 30,000.

IN ARI - Politics of Snails.



PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS





ProjectLAB at 2ND Space. Photo: Ketakii Jewson-Brown



ProjectLAB at 2ND Space. Photo: Ketakii Jewson-Brown

ProjectLAB

ProjectLAB was a professional development program for contemporary artists from a range of practices including and not limited to, painting, drawing, dance, sculpture, photography, textiles, installation, video, audio and digital, interdisciplinary and performance makers. This unique program focused on developing individual artistic practice and contextualising work from concept through to presentation. It was delivered over three months, through a series of intensives, individual consultations, a month-long residency and concluded with an informal public showing. The program was facilitated by established artists and collectives.

ProjectLAB was facilitated by professional practitioners including established artists, curators, writers, producers, and directors that supported artists through idea development, production and pitching including The Farm - Gold Coast, Public Palace – Northern Rivers, Kellie O Dempsey – Sunshine Coast.

The program partnered with Blak Creatives to deliver an on-Country camp to support the program's First Nations participants. ProjectLAB supported 52 participants to engage with the project, mentored by twelve industry professionals over the program duration.



2nd Space. Alison Mooney. Photo Warwick Gow.

The Refinery

The Refinery launched in 2019 by Sunshine Coast Council in partnership with SunCentral and the Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance, the program supported over 60 creative entrepreneurs in its first four years delivered by Council.

In 2023, The Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance took the reins of The Refinery with a renewed focus on personal growth and leadership – expanding the program into an extensive all year round professional development platform, with the creative incubator at the centre.

Now called R6.0, the program is designed for participants' capacity to grow their practice, gain visibility, understand their value and the context in which they operate, identify new markets, and be positioned to become the Sunshine Coast's next creative leaders. In 2024, 11 successful entrepreneurs completed the 10-week intensive program, delivered two days per week, across 15 locations within the region and Brisbane. The Refinery once again engaged over 39 industry leaders and creatives to mentor and share their expertise with the Refinery 6.0 cohort who showcased their businesses in a final event at the Event Centre, Caloundra to more than 200 people.

Spaces for Creatives

The Spaces for Creatives program continues to develop capacity, connections and create opportunities for artists to test ideas, experiment and share their work in real life spaces.

2ND Space

2ND Space is a curated space in Currie Street Nambour for artists and creatives to connect, collaborate and cause commotion through providing development opportunities and access to three large multi-use open studios, a makerspace and various breakout and meeting rooms.

2nd Space also provides creative co-working spaces supporting six independent creative enterprises as part of a fully subsidised program for a twelve-month period.



Project24, Amber McCartney.
Photo Cooper Brady Photography.



Project24, Zartisha Davis. Photo Cooper Brady Photography.



Project24, Mary Eggleston. Photo Cooper Brady Photography.

Project24

The Project24 residency program delivered 24 artist residencies in 2023-2024 financial year, hosted by 2ND Space. The program provided a stipend alongside time and space for artists to develop, collaborate, experiment and showcase their work as well as receiving peer support throughout their residency. Project24 directly supported 64 artists over the 12 months, engaged 12 reputable industry peers providing 72 hours of support and provocation. Each residency culminated in an artist showing on the last Wednesday of the month with 466 attendees across the twelve showings.

Council continues to work with IN | ARI, as curators of The Old Lock Up, Maroochydore. This initiative facilitated four artist residencies, six curated contemporary exhibitions featuring emerging artists and a series of professional development workshops. Council also continues to support Sub Tropic Studio, established by Council in 2020 and now lead and managed by the Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance (SCCA). The old bus terminal in Caloundra hosts resident creative businesses, a light box gallery and a diverse range of events and masterclasses.



Nimrod Freed and Ruby Donohoe at Big Chats x OUTBOUND. Contemporary Dance x Live Art Festival presented by Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance and ArtsCoast at 2ND Space. Photo by Tim Birch.

FutureNOW

FutureNOW is a new creative and professional development program lead by creative arts in collaboration with the creative sector. It is a public investigation into the intersections of art and new technologies that explores new modes of arts practice, engagement, and presentation in a regional context. The project focus is on capacity building in the Sunshine Coast creative sector and creating new networks across QLD and Australia, situating the region as connected and 'competitive' in this emergent creative space.

In 2024, we delivered the first critical step in the process **FutureNOW LAB**, bringing four experienced creative technologists together with eight Sunshine Coast-based contemporary artists to consider the opportunities, ethics, and future of art x new technologies. The recommendations and findings will shape the FutureNOW program. The FutureNOW cohort will continue to meet up, develop their work and share their learnings as the program rolls out in coming years.

FutureNOW has been funded through The Regional Arts Development Fund.

ProjectWLD

ProjectWLD was a year-long rapid response incentives scheme for independent artists created to support the presentation of work in independent spaces across the region. Delivered through July 2023 and June 2024 the program funded six projects, supporting 24 artists and attracting audiences of 248 through an investment of \$13,000. ProjectWLD has been folded into the newly redeveloped RADF grant program in 2024 and 2025 with the introduction of small grants available all year round.



Caloundra Regional Gallery, Reception This Way exhibition. Photo Pat Want.

The Keeper Project

The Keeper Project is a live public art project where artists work in a temporary role as observer, collector, maker, and storyteller within a community. The Keepers are archaeologists of stories. Unlike permanent public artwork, The Keeper Project has no pre-determined outcome, the work unfolds through interaction with community and place, revealing and creating narratives, connections and capturing stories along the way. The Keeper project was established in 2019 by Council in collaboration with Field Theory (VIC) and delivered in partnership with Red Chair Productions from 2021 through 2023 in Coolool.

Red Chair has since successfully secured three-year funding from Arts Queensland to continue delivery of the Keeper Project across three new locations. In 2024, 11 Keepers centred on the Nambour area, with Keepers hosted at 2nd Space and Caloundra, will be the next stage of the project in late 2024. For more information, see keeperproject.com.au.

The Keeper Project has been funded through The Regional Arts Development Fund, Community Grants, Arts Queensland Strategic Partnerships Fund and Creative Australia.



HORIZON FESTIVAL

'It was very enjoyable and so much fun – there was so much to look at besides our event – value for money too.'

'Great music, great culture, incredible setting. I liked the art, the video on the water.'

'Amazing talented artists that were thoughtful, funny, diverse thinkers, with performances that were provocative, insane and wild.'

Dawn Awakening, Horizon Festival 2023. Photo Nic Morley.

Horizon Festival

At its heart, Horizon Festival is deeply connected to place. Celebrating the spectacular natural landscape of the Sunshine Coast region, honouring the stories and artworks of our First Nations people and providing a platform for local artists to create work and dialogue.

The festival recorded an audience of **25,567** who attended **57** events across **10** locations. 94% rated their event experience as good to excellent.

In 2023, the Horizon team created a program that connected people, arts, culture and place through a carefully curated suite of events and activities. These events were scheduled across a range of locations across the region and featured **490** artists, of which **287** were Sunshine Coast-based.

Horizon attracted just under 20% of attendees from outside the region to contribute **\$1,854,501** in economic benefit to the region. This is an increase on the \$1,701,536 from 2022.

Just over 63% of 2023 attendees were first-time attendees with most hearing about the festival through Facebook and the Horizon website.

An integrated marketing and PR campaign rolled out nationally across print and digital media, while the campaign shoot featured leading artists from the festival in prominent landscapes across the region.

Figures show an increase in audience engagement with strong website traffic, ticket sales and engagement across social media platforms which reinforced the festivals' reputation as the region's premier arts festival, boosted its reputation with arts visitors to Queensland and elevated the Sunshine Coast's position as a recognized cultural destination.



18% growth in Instagram audience



9% growth in Facebook audience



3.3% growth in database



329 media stories with a potential reach of **4.48M** and value of **\$535,090**



Photos: Nic Morley.

CALOUNDRA REGIONAL GALLERY

'Subject matter of great interest to me. Well curated body of works. Venue fabulous. Staff so welcoming and happily spent time discussing exhibition.' Reception This Way

'Very impressed with all the exhibits & all of a very high standard. Always amazed at how much fantastic talent is out there.' - Local Contemporary Art Prize 2024

'The artists personal works expressed deep emotions, beauty and reflections without the reading which then encouraged the reading. Then a look at the mediums. a true sensory walk in nature but also a snip into the artist's personal journey.' about-place /about-face

Caloundra Regional Gallery, about place/about face exhibition. Photo Pat Want.

Caloundra Regional Gallery

The Regional Gallery continued to play a critical development role in the creative industries and cultural identity of the Sunshine Coast. In addition to fostering and hosting national and international exhibitions as well as cultivating one of the most renowned national art prizes, the gallery continued to incubate and support artists through public and education programs, artist in residencies, art collection acquisitions and public art commissions.

- 36,028 total audience
- 24,032 exhibition visitors
- 8,554 Program attendances
- 3,442 Digital attendances
- in person visitation to exhibitions and programs has increased by 25% in the past year
- 95% of visitors rated exhibitions and programs as good to excellent
- \$37,500 sponsorship secured for the Sunshine Coast National Art Prize
- 364 local artists featured in programming
- 161 of which were First Nations artists

Social media channels have continued to grow and engage audiences to help steer the brand towards a stronger and more visited location online and in person at exhibitions and events.

A newly added YouTube account was implemented during the year to host and engage audiences with long form video content – artist interview and events available for streaming – and has had 44,700 impressions and 31 new subscribers.



11% Facebook growth with reach up **247%**



14% Instagram growth with engagement rate up **272%**



16.3% growth in e-newsletter subscribers



Caloundra Regional Gallery, Reception This Way exhibition. Photo Pat Want.



Local Contemporary 2024 overall winner Susan Schmidt with her work Breathe (coming up for air). Photo: Pat Want.

Exhibitions

The gallery put on 17 exhibitions throughout the 2023-24 financial year at two locations. Accompanying the exhibitions were complimentary Pop Up displays located in the Gallery Store highlighting one of our local artists in a mini-profile space. Each exhibition at the gallery was also complemented with programs and events aligned with the exhibition's content.



Caloundra Regional Gallery, Land Holds Memory exhibition. Photo Barry Alsop.

Caloundra Regional Gallery

30 June – 13 August

Ghost Net Sculptures from Pormpuraaw
Saltwater Dreaming: Recent Works by Dr Hope O'Chin

18 August – 15 October

Sunshine Coast Art Prize 2023

20 October – 3 December

Land Holds Memory

8 December – 21 January

Variation and Autonomy

27 January – 17 March

Reception This Way

22 March to 5 May

Local Contemporary Art Prize 2024

22 March to 5 May

Local Student Art Prize 2024

11 May to 16 June

about-place/about-face

21 June to 18 August

Contemporary Songlines

Maroochydore Library Artspace

13 June – 22 July

Together We Stand

26 July – 2 September

Weaving Country Whole – Reclaim The Void

6 September – 28 October

Wondering is Fun

31 October – 16 December

See The Able Not the Label

19 December – 4 February

Vietnam to Life Transitions

6 February – 24 March

The Enchanted Drive: Landscape in Motion

26 March – 25 May

Art Snack

28 May – 14 July

Pastel Era

Art Prizes

The acquisitive **Sunshine Coast National Art Prize** is a dynamic visual art award reflecting outstanding contemporary arts practice in Australia. This significant art award is the flagship visual art event for Sunshine Coast regional gallery.

In 2023 the art prize attracted 492 entries from established and emerging artists across the nation. This is the highest number of paid* entries (\$40 entry fee includes freight) since 2016 when the prize money increased to \$25,000 (*entry was free in 2020 to assist during COVID hardship).

Winners:

- Judith Nangala Crispin won \$25,000, generously funded by Argon Law and Sunshine Coast Council. The winning artwork was acquired into the Sunshine Coast Art Collection
- highly Commended sponsored by the De Deyne family to the value of \$5,000 was awarded to Anna Carey
- Fiona Lowry was awarded the two-week Artist Residency with accommodation and studio space provided by Montville Country Cabins and travel costs covered by Caloundra Regional Gallery
- a non-acquisitive People's Choice prize of \$2,500, sponsored by Caloundra Chamber of Commerce, was awarded to Sebastion Toast who received the most votes for her work Paddle Pool 2023
- the art prize also extended into the community, with a curated selection of finalist artworks hitting the streets of the Sunshine Coast, adorning one prestige vehicle, courtesy of sponsor Coastline BM.

Highlights

- 492 entries out of the 40 finalists: 21 from Queensland, nine from New South Wales, nine from Victoria and one from Western Australia
- 23 female artists, 17 male artists, three First Nations artists (Joanne Currie Nalingu, Judith Nangala Crispin and Shauna Hill)
- judge was Deputy Director, Collection and Exhibitions at the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (Simon Elliot, Deputy Director)
- a new category of Digital Media was introduced.
- Coastline BMW Art Car was wrapped in Stephen Baxter's work Cinderella Land
- visitation up more than 16%.

Caloundra Regional Gallery, Sunshine Coast Art Prize 2023 exhibition. Photo Barry Alsop.



Local Contemporary Art Prize 2024: reflections on here and now celebrates the diversity of visual arts practice across the Sunshine Coast. Caloundra Regional Gallery, in partnership with the gallery's friends, invited local artists working across all mediums, to submit 2D and 3D works for the prize.

Originally known as Local Artist Local Content, the annual art prize was created by the Friends Regional Gallery Caloundra Inc. (Friends) in 2014. Now in its tenth year, the prize has been given fresh energy via its new name Local Contemporary Art Prize, reflecting the here and now of artists living and working on the Sunshine Coast.

Forty finalists were selected from a record number of entries for the exhibition and winners shared in \$17,000 prize money, thanks to this year's sponsors: Sunshine Coast Council, the Caloundra Regional Gallery, Mary Henzell Investments, Localvolts, Friends of the Gallery, Caloundra and Geoff Lyons Solicitors.

Winners:

- Susan Schmidt (Best in Show) \$10,000 acquisitive award sponsored by Sunshine Coast Council and Caloundra Regional Gallery
- Michael Ciavarella (2D Excellence Award) \$2,500 sponsored by Mary Henzell Investments
- Itamar Freed (3D Excellence Award) \$2,500 Localvolts
- Farley Cameron (People's Choice) \$2,000 sponsored by Friends of the Gallery, Caloundra and Geoff Lyons Solicitors.

Highlights:

- visitation was up more than 20%
- a record 280 entries
- moved to an online voting form for the Local Contemporary People's Choice voting, which received 777 votes
- the winning work, *Breathe (coming up for air)*, 2023, by Susan Schmidt was acquired into the Sunshine Coast Art Collection.

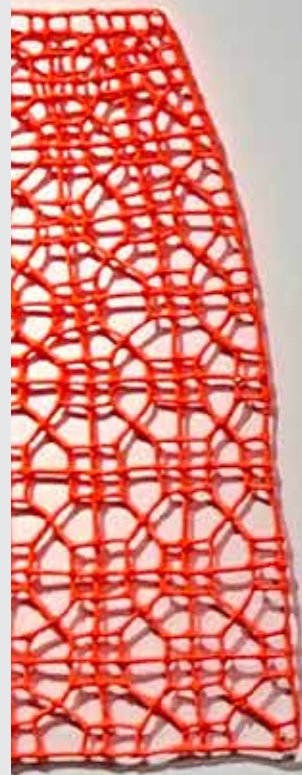
Caloundra Regional Gallery, Sunshine Coast Art Prize 2023 exhibition. Photo Ben Vos.



Sunshine Coast Art Collection

Collections are an anchor point for cultural tourism and civic pride and enrich the community's cultural landscape.

In 2023-24, the Sunshine Coast Art Collection and Public Art Collection grew by approximately 11% and increased their holdings to 1,235 individual items: 156 artworks valued at approximately \$1.39M were added to the Art Collection, increasing the collection's total value at \$2.8M. Four new works were added to the Public Art Collection increasing that collection's value to approximately \$3.8M.



Justin Fergate Crispin
Jenny in April Suite, watched the first UFOs appear above the West Macleayd Mangrove, 2023

Justin Fergate Crispin is a contemporary artist and a member of the Sunshine Coast Art Collection. He is known for his large-scale, vibrant orange-red woven mesh artworks. His work 'Jenny in April Suite, watched the first UFOs appear above the West Macleayd Mangrove, 2023' is a wall-mounted sculpture that features a complex, geometric pattern of interlocking strands. The piece is made of thick, orange-red material and is mounted on a light-colored wall. The artwork is a wall-mounted sculpture that features a complex, geometric pattern of interlocking strands. The piece is made of thick, orange-red material and is mounted on a light-colored wall.



Caloundra Regional Gallery,
Sunshine Coast Art Prize 2023 exhibition.
Photo Ben Vos.



Priorities for 2024-25

- implement the arts program of the Arts and Heritage Levy
- support the Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board's First Nations Sub-Committee to develop a First Nations Arts Strategy
- continue to support the Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation via partnership agreement
- deliver a successful Horizon Festival and seek council support for ongoing funding
- start planning for the Cultural Olympiad
- deliver a digital literacy and development program
- build on the achievements of the Regional Gallery and support the next steps in the funding campaign for a new Sunshine Coast Gallery of Art
- continue to collaborate with the sector and other government and non-government organisations to create opportunities for local artists
- continue the delivery of grant funding programs that support, grow, and develop arts and cultural vitality in the region.



Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board Alumni

Collette Brennan, Inaugural Chair	August 2016 – November 2020
Tracey Vieira (inaugural member)	August 2016 – November 2020
Sue Davis	November 2019 – November 2020
Phil Smith (inaugural member)	August 2016 - November 2019
Paul Calcott	March 2019 – July 2020
James Birrell (inaugural member)	August 2016 - October 2018
Kathi Holt (inaugural member)	August 2016 – November 2018
Nicole Voevodin-Cash	April 2018 - August 2022
Amy Clarke	April 2019 - May 2023
Patricia Adjei	February 2021 - December 2023





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