



Sunshine Coast
Arts Advisory Board
Annual Report
2020/21

ARTS
COAST

 Sunshine Coast
COUNCIL

Edition November 2021

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Acknowledgements

Council wishes to thank all contributors and stakeholders involved in the development of this document.

Disclaimer

Information contained in this document is based on available information at the time of writing. All figures and diagrams are indicative only and should be referred to as such.

While the Sunshine Coast Regional Council has exercised reasonable care in preparing this document it does not warrant or represent that it is accurate or complete. Council or its officers accept no responsibility for any loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from acting in reliance upon any material contained in this document.

Acknowledgement of Country

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the traditional Country of the Kabi Kabi Peoples and the Jinibara Peoples of the coastal plains and hinterlands of the Sunshine Coast and recognise that these have always been and continue to be places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present, and emerging – and acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

Cover image: Ebony Busk at SubTropic | Photo: Madison Lee-Hadland.





Image: DANCE.HERE.NOW. Featuring - Mia and Zerah | Photo: Warwick Gow



Image: One Night in Nambour | Guru Dudu Silent disco 2021 | Photo by Cooper Brady



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Chairperson's address

I am excited to begin my term with the Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board and proud to deliver our fifth annual report and the third reporting on the outcomes of the Arts Plan.

Firstly, I would like to thank departing Chair, Collette Brennan, the Chair of the inaugural Board who successfully oversaw the establishment of two key deliverables for the Region – the development of the Sunshine Coast Arts Plan 2018 – 2038, and the establishment of the Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation.

I also thank outgoing inaugural member Tracey Viera for her invaluable input and departing Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance Chair, Susan Davis, and inaugural First Nations member, Paul Calcott.

In 2021, I welcome new members Helena Gulash, Kris Stewart, Liz Burcham and Patricia Adjei, and look forward to working with the whole Board in what is perhaps the toughest period for artists and arts sector workers, in recent history.

There is no doubt the past year has forced change upon us and our sector. We have seen a shift in thinking and delivery modes and as we emerge and reimagine our future, it is timely that the Board look to re-establishing its priorities.

This includes a focus on ensuring the roll-out of the 20-year Arts Plan is on track in this new environment and following three years of consistent, outcomes driven delivery.

As part of this review, advocacy for the arts, the region and reprioritising actions to achieve the plan's goals will be central to the Board's work over coming years.

Investment in the arts, and a shared understanding of the value they provide, is pivotal to this advocacy and will help to ensure the arts in this region receives a fairer share of opportunities, prioritisation and hopefully funding.

There is no doubt that a flourishing arts ecology plays an integral role in the liveability, wellbeing, and resilience of our community – and it is why we must continue to embrace this aspirational vision.

Maz McGann
Chair, Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board



Image: Celebrating 20 years of Caloundra Regional Gallery Exhibition | 2020 | Photo by Ryan Jones Photography.



Image: Barry Smith | Photo: Deckled Edge Press

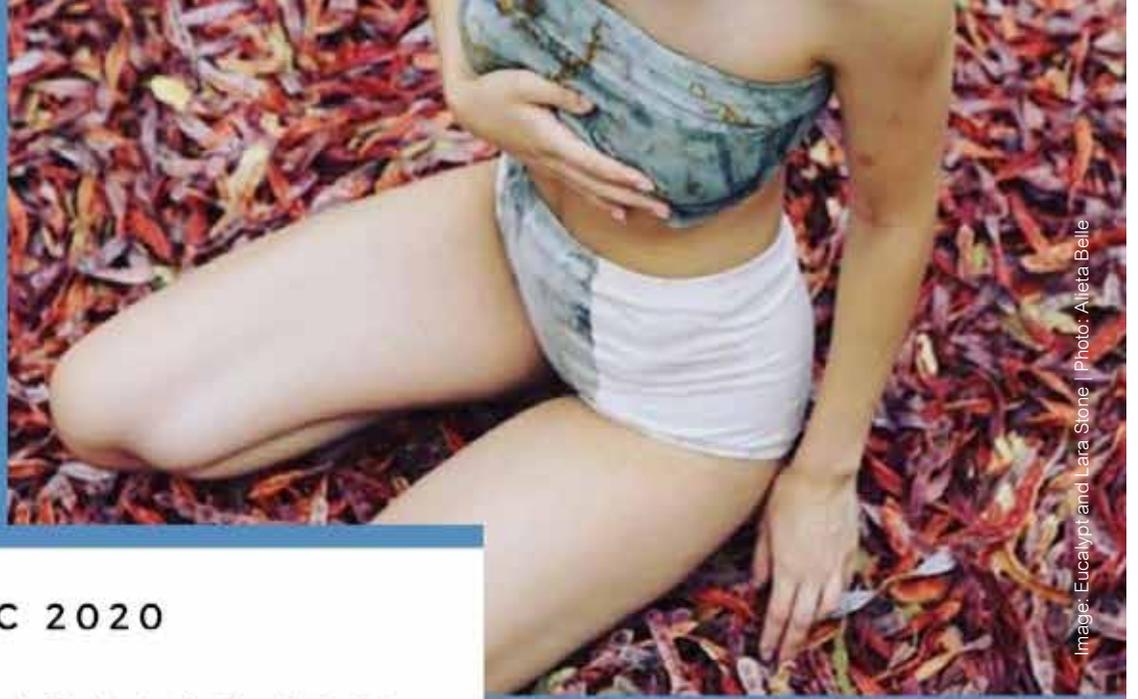


Image: Eucalypt and Lara Stone | Photo: Alieta Belle

FABRIC 2020
MEET THE MAKERS



Image: Barry Smith | Photo: Deckled Edge Press.



Image: indigo dying | Jenai Hooke | Photo: Gabrielle Leonard.

About the Board

In August 2021, the Board completed its fifth full year in operation, three years after launching the Sunshine Coast Arts Plan 2018-38 in August 2018, and we are again proud to report on the Arts Plan in our annual report.

The Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board plays an important role in positioning the arts as a cultural and economic driver for the region. The Board, since its inception in 2016, has been instrumental in developing new and nurturing established partnerships and relationships between local government, the creative industry, artists, the corporate sector and philanthropists.

It has also been invaluable in undertaking its core role as an advisory committee of Council. This responsibility enables Council to seek information and advice via the specialist expertise and network of the Board's membership. Something 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 to 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 Arts Plan 2018-2038.

This year the Board also welcomed the official launch of the Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Pty Ltd, and its board, to join it in delivering the aspirational vision of the Arts Plan:

The soul of our community is our flourishing arts ecology: nurturing connections, promoting experimentation and inspiring collaboration.

Membership

The Board is comprised of 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 festivals and events.

In 2020, inaugural members Collette Brennan (Chair) and Tracey Vieira stepped down from the Board after completing two terms on what was the region's first Arts Advisory Board. Four new members were recruited to fill these positions, and two new positions that had remained vacant from previous resignations. As a result, we welcomed new Chair, Maz McGann, Board members Kris Stewart and Patricia Adjei and Helena Gulash, who was appointed to the identified indigenous arts sector representative position vacated in mid-2020 by Paul Calcott, the inaugural holder of the identified First Nations seat. Liz Burcham, the newly appointed Chair of the Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance, replaced Sue Davis, in the seat identified for the region's peak creative industries body.

The appointments were made in line with the Sunshine Coast Advisory Board Charter 2019.



Image: Yalanji Woman of Song Deline Briscoe performs at Open Air: Glass House Mountains for Horizon Festival 2020 | Photo: Nic Morley.



Maz McGann (Chair)

Founder and Principal, Play Your Part Consultancy

Working across community and government, Maz McGann has extensive experience in leading the development of strategies, business plans and undertaking evaluations and consultations across a range of areas including arts, culture, and tourism. Maz has worked with local councils, arts and community organisations across Australia, and the Federal Government's Department of Communication and the Arts. She brings more than 15 years of strategic and creative thinking and practical experience to the table.



Cr Rick Baberowski

Councillor, Sunshine Coast Council

Councillor Rick Baberowski was elected to the Sunshine Coast Council in 2012, 2016 and 2020 after winning the seat of Division 1. In the 2020 term, Councillor Baberowski holds the Community Portfolio – Arts, Heritage, Transport as well as the role of Deputy Mayor. Councillor Baberowski has an extensive background in arts and cultural planning and leadership.



Cr Mark Jamieson

Mayor, Sunshine Coast Council

Mayor Mark Jamieson 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.



Jennifer Radbourne

Emeritus Professor

Emeritus Professor Jennifer Radbourne has extensive experience in performing arts and academia. She is a published author on arts philanthropy and is the Chair of the Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Pty Ltd. Jennifer was awarded the Sunshine Coast Australia Day Award – Creative category in 2020.



Helena Gulash

Arts Leader

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

Helena established, and is principal of, Helena Gulash Consulting, which provides Indigenous arts and cultural management expertise. An active advocate for Indigenous community cultural development on the Sunshine Coast, Helena is passionate about the potential for the dynamic Indigenous arts and cultural industry to stimulate positive change for First Nations peoples.



Nicole Voevodin-Cash

Multidisciplinary Artist

Nicole Voevodin-Cash has more than 25 years' experience as a practicing artist, sculptor, designer, educator and curator. Nicole has exhibited nationally and in National Sculptural Awards such as the Helen Lempriere and the McClelland Sculpture Award. She has represented Australia in four International residencies in the UK, Italy, France and Hong Kong, received numerous national grants, residencies and public art commissions.

Nicole's underpinning thesis is 'interaction' as a sculptural strategy with an emphasis on socially engaged and enlivened public spaces/places.



Amy Clarke

Artist

Amy is a professional, local visual artist (painter) and has been practising for over 20 years. She has exhibited around the country in solo and group shows including Michael Reid Studio Direct and Depot Gallery in Sydney, Noosa Regional Gallery, University of Sunshine Coast Art Gallery, Toowoomba Regional Gallery and Walcha Gallery of Art.



Patricia Adjei

Arts Practice Director, Australia Council

Patricia brings experience in governance, legal skills and cultural protocol as it applies to the Indigenous sector, to the Board. Patricia is the Arts Practice Director (First Nations Arts and Culture) at the Australia Council, and prior to that, was the First Nations Strategic Development Manager.



Liz Burcham

President, Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance

Liz Burcham is the current President of the Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance. With a wide-reaching career in the arts and creative industries Liz's experiences ranges from leading creative businesses and projects to board membership, advisor, peer assessor and mentor to other organisations and practitioners.



Kris Stewart

CEO, QMusic

Kris Stewart is a creative industries executive and artistic leader whose work has been seen through the US, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Kris is currently the Chief Executive Officer for QMusic, Queensland's peak body for the live music industry. Previously Kris was Artistic Director of The Brisbane Powerhouse, Queensland's home for contemporary cultural practice where he presented over 1500 performances and stakeholder events a year and produces such festivals as the Brisbane Comedy Festival and the Australian Performing Arts Market.

Meetings

The Board holds regular scheduled meetings throughout the year, structured to allow open and informed discussion.

The Board and its Chair are supported by the Manager, Arts, Heritage and Libraries who also provides administrative support for the Board and its meeting processes.

Board meetings for 2020- 2021:

- 21 August 2020
- 20 November 2020
- 18-19 February 2021 (annual two-day workshop)
- 14 May 2021

Agendas are developed in consultation with the Chair and are circulated with briefing papers in a digital format to all board members at least one week before each meeting. When members are unable to attend scheduled meetings, they are invited to contact the chair to provide informal advice and discuss any issues prior to the meeting.

Table 1: Attendance at Board Meetings

| Board member | # Meetings attended |
|------------------------|--|
| Cr Rick Baberowski | 3 |
| Maz McGann | 3 (appointed as Chair Feb 2021) |
| Patricia Adjei | 3 (appointed Feb 2021) |
| Kris Stewart | 3 (appointed Feb 2021) |
| Liz Burcham | 4 (appointed Nov 2020) |
| Helena Gulash | 3 (appointed Feb 2021) |
| Jennifer Radbourne | 5 |
| Amy Clarke | 5 |
| Nicole Voevodin – Cash | 5 |
| Collette Brennan | 1 (stepped down as Chair Jan 2021) |
| Tracey Vieira | 2 (stepped down in Jan 2021) |
| Sue Davis | 1 (stepped down as SCCA president November 2020) |

Table 2: Guest speakers and presentations

The Board invites a range of guests to its meetings and annual workshop for advice, information and connection. In 2020/21, the guests included:

| Guest | Topic |
|--|---|
| Shelley Meador (Coordinator Governance Process and Policy/ Kim Driver (Manager Corporate Governance) | The Board and Governance including Code of Conduct, SCAAB charter |
| Colin Potter (Business Analytics Officer) | Cultural Vitality measurements |
| Ingrid Myhr, Social Policy Officer | Hinterland cultural facility discussion |
| Zoe Graham (Festival Director)/Lynne Bradley (Artistic Director) Lydia Fairhall (First Nations Curator) | Horizon Festival 2021 direction and overview |
| Emma Thomas (CEO Sunshine Coast Council) | Connection and introduction to the Board |

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:

| Item | 2020-2021 (financial year) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Board members fees | \$5665 |
| Catering and hospitality | \$1273 |
| Travel costs | \$2784 |

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 Arts Plan 2018-38.



Image: Mona Ryder. Exhibiting artist within the Fabric program | Photo: Mark Sherwood



Image: Featuring Courtney Scheu at LJ projects 2021 | Photo by Cooper Brady

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.

In 2020/21 the representation included:

| Board Member | Highlights |
|--------------------|---|
| Jennifer Radbourne | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Peter Gontier of Neo Gallery, Coolum. • Attended various events at Caloundra Regional Gallery in role as guest speaker and as audience member • Attended new USC gallery preview, Old Ambo Mona Ryder Exhibition, Ecology Centre Culture is Inclusion exhibition and SC Chamber Music Festival pre festival events. • Attended Open Studios event. • Launched Printmaking exhibition. • Attended meeting with CEO Neal Harvey and Claudia Di Blasi (Manager Arts, Heritage and Libraries) in relation to Tim Fairfax Foundation |
| Maz McGann | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with CEO Sunshine Coast Council • MC for Horizon Festival 2021 Program Launch |
| Patricia Adjei | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil due to COVID-19 pandemic impacts. |
| Liz Burcham | <p>Attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caloundra Regional Gallery program launch • The Path Presentation at Caloundra Regional Gallery • Ongoing advocate for the arts in role as SCCA president |
| Kris Stewart | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Caloundra Regional Gallery program launch |

| Board Member | Highlights |
|--------------------|--|
| Cr Rick Baberowski | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet and Greet with Dr Christian Rowan MP, Shadow Minister for the Arts. <p>Attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horizon Festival 2021 program launch • Sunshine Coast Chamber Music Festival • SCAF and Argon Law Legacies event to encourage philanthropy • The Refinery talks • Creative Branding, Building Creative Places (HOTA Seminar) • The Path presentation and pitch night at Caloundra Regional Gallery • Exhibition launch: Local Artists - Local Content 2021 • Soundtrails V2 app launch • Maleny Arts Council: Wonderland Recital • Opening of USC's new creative facilities • CRG exhibition launch: Latest and Greatest: Sunshine Coast Art Collection recent acquisitions and Contemporary Wood-Carved Netsuke • The Lind Lane Theatre, Nambour, 75th Birthday celebration • SCAP 2020 winner's announcement • Opening event and Q&A session: Sunshine Coast Creative Industries Festival – unpacking creative futures in regional Australia • Sunshine Coast Art Prize 2020 - Vernissage • Caloundra Regional Gallery 20th Anniversary – Sponsors and Supporters event • Re-opening of The Old Ambulance Station, Nambour • Tour of USC Art Gallery and Creative Industries Building |

Amy Clarke

- Attended:
- Refinery incubator program
 - Tour of new gallery space and performing art space at USC
 - Design Series 'local thinkers: an antidote to pandemic Paralysis'
 - The Path presentation and pitch night at Caloundra Regional Gallery

| Board Member | Highlights |
|----------------------------|---|
| Nicole Voevodin-Cash | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentor: Refinery 3.0 • Created: podcast for Imagineers at USC <p>Participant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curating with Hamish Sawyer • Create Caloundra • Meet the Artist – Mona Ryder • Reimagine Nambour Public Art • The Refinery 2.0 <p>Attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture Remembered • Refinery showcase • Horizon Launch • Mona Ryder Exhibition • Artist talk: Mieke Van Dam • Caloundra Arts Race Day • Liminal States – Opening • USC viewing gallery open day |
| Collette Brennan (Retired) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewed Caloundra Regional Gallery online From The Artist series • Participated in: Little Lunch online arts series by Arts Front • Member of assessment panel for SCAAB vacancy recruitment |
| Tracey Vieira | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest speaker at Caloundra Regional Gallery Vernissage |
| Sue Davis | <p>Attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Refinery showcase • relaunch of USC new gallery space and performing arts complex |

Sunshine Coast Arts Plan 2018-38

The Board played a pivotal role in providing strategic advice to Council in its delivery of the third year of the Sunshine Coast Arts Plan 2018-2038.

Council continues to gather a range of qualitative and quantitative information to measure its progress against the Key Performance Indicators articulated in the Arts Plan.

One of these measures is Cultural Vitality. This score is evidence based and provides a mechanism to track the importance of the arts, culture and creativity as a significant contributor to the vibrancy and well-being of our communities.

2020/21 statistics

Please note many of these results were impacted by Queensland Health restrictions imposed due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic outbreaks.

Arts Outputs

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Consultancies to artists /arts organisations (specialised advice and information provided by phone, email or in person which was initiated either by the artist or Council) | 1259 |
| Training development opportunities provided (artist in residence, participants in creative workshops, creative spaces participation) | 156 |
| Number of artists attending training development – those artists trained or instructed in programs or workshops | 1886 |
| Local artists engaged in delivering Arts Plan initiatives – either directly via Council or indirectly via grants programs | 539 |
| All First Nations artists engaged (Local First Nations artists are also included within local artists engaged above) | 152 |
| External grants and the Regional Arts Development Fund, which is a grants program offered in partnership with Arts QLD) | \$229,500 |
| Sponsorships accrued in support of arts projects and initiatives (both in-kind and cash) from businesses and other organisations | \$140,775 |
| Amount of funding support provided to externally delivered arts projects (via RADF, SCC Cultural Grants (Majors and Minors), CPFP and discretionary funding) | \$480,945 |
| Number of funding applications received (RADF, SCC Cultural Grants (Majors and Minors), CPFP, and discretionary funding) | 169 |
| Number of externally delivered arts projects funded (via RADF, SCC Cultural Grants (Majors and Minors), CPFP, and discretionary funding) | 105 |
| Value of externally delivered arts projects funded (via RADF, SCC Cultural Grants (Majors and Minors), CPFP, and discretionary funding) | \$2,513,965 |

| Arts Outputs | |
|--|-------------|
| Return on Investment: for every \$1 council provides in funding (via RADF, SCC Cultural grants [majors and minors], CFPF and discretionary funding) a value of \$5.23 is delivered to the community via projects on the ground | \$5.23 |
| Success rate of applicants % (RADF, SCC Cultural Grants (Majors and Minors), CFPF, and discretionary funding) | 62% |
| New works (Public Art Commissions, new local works as part of Horizon and RADF and other grant funded works) | 61 |
| Sunshine Coast Art Collection (size) | 986 |
| Sunshine Coast Art Collection (value) | \$4,503,095 |
| Number of new acquisitions this Financial Year – Sunshine Coast Art Collection | 179 |
| Value of new acquisitions this Financial Year – Sunshine Coast Art Collection | \$190,196 |
| Audience and artist beneficiaries of Arts Plan initiatives; exhibitions, workshops, public events, festivals and programs (not including digital Horizon festival – 100,557) | 148,258 |
| Number of events / activities / exhibitions delivered (includes sector development training) | 296 |
| Digital programs delivered | 145 |
| Digital program attendees (includes Horizon Digital – 100,557) | 177,652 |
| Internal partnerships - departments, units and teams within Council | 40 |
| External partnerships – private businesses, other government agencies and community-based organisations. | 68 |
| Number of volunteers (includes volunteers delivering grant funded arts projects for community groups and organisations) | 2214 |

| Arts Profile | |
|--|-----------|
| Website views (All Council website arts pages, Caloundra Regional Gallery and Horizon Festival websites) | 208,335 |
| Facebook Followers (Horizon, Gallery) | 11,230 |
| Instagram Followers (Horizon, Gallery) | 7616 |
| Facebook new Followers (Horizon, Gallery) | 1772 |
| Instagram new Followers (Horizon, Gallery) | 1628 |
| ArtsCoast E-news subscribers | 1666 |
| Horizon Festival E-news subscribers | 10616 |
| Caloundra Regional Gallery E-news subscribers | 5284 |
| Media Placements (editorial – stories) | 264 |
| Media Value of editorial | \$556,102 |
| Media Reach | 6,981,415 |

| Arts Outcomes | |
|---|-----|
| User satisfaction rate with Arts Plan initiatives (good to excellent) * | 90% |
| Average Cultural Vitality** Score out of five | 4.1 |

*Satisfaction – derived from 205 Regional Gallery, Creative Program and digital event attendee surveys conducted across the 2020/21 financial year. Attendees were asked to rate their satisfaction on a scale 1 to 5 from poor to excellent

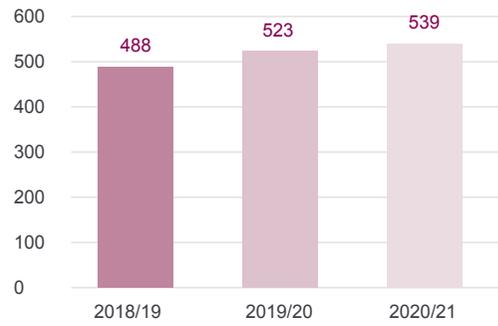
**Cultural Vitality – indicates the level at which attendees at arts activities agreed to five statements relating to: individual wellbeing, local economy, community pride, capacity building and appreciation of the arts. Based on the measures 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. The scores can 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



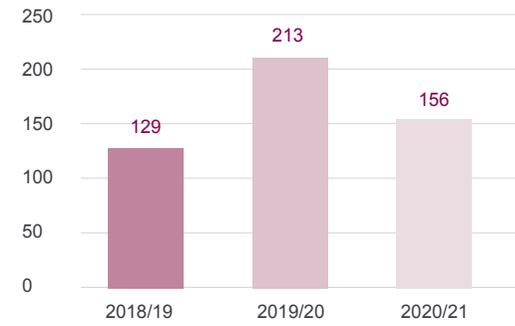


Tracking the first three years of the Plan's implementation (1/7/18 - 30/6/21)

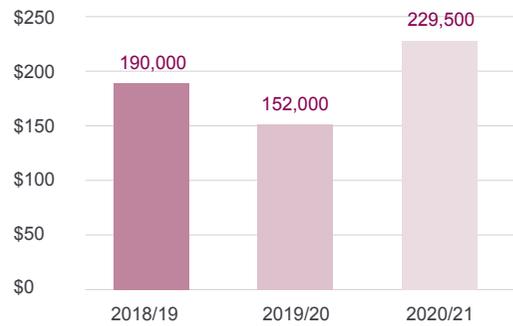
Number of local artists engaged and paid



Number of training/development opportunities for arts/creative sector

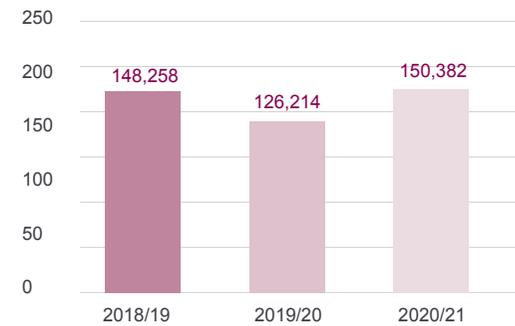


Total external funding achieved

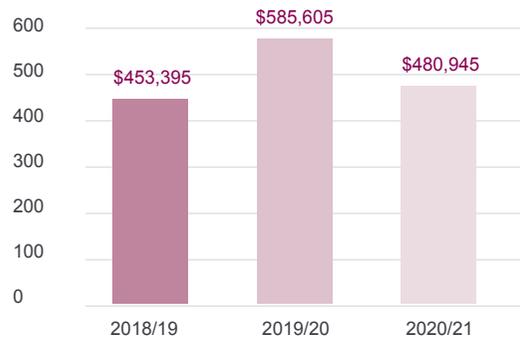


Attendees at beneficiaries of all Arts Plan Activities*

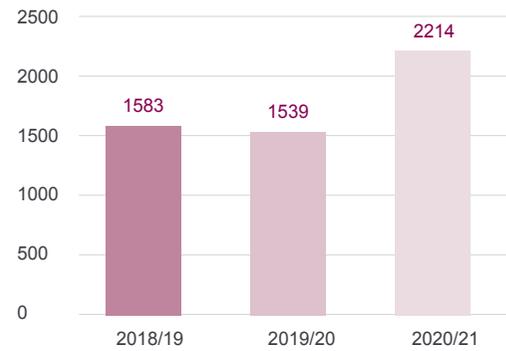
*Excludes Horizon digital 2020



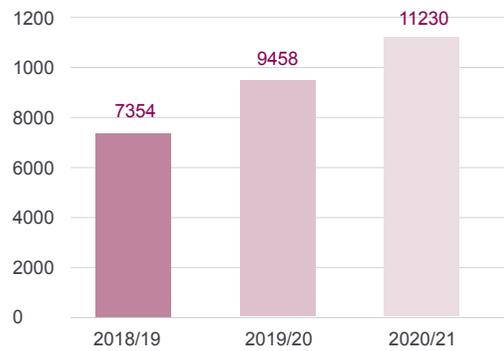
Total amount arts funding provided by Council



Number of volunteers engaged



Number of Facebook followers



Number of Instagram followers

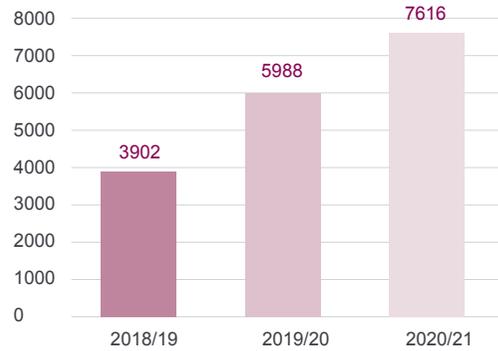




Image: *Netsuke* Exhibition | Photo by Your Life Photography courtesy of Caloundra Regional Gallery





Goal 01: Local artists and artistic content is developed and celebrated.

Strategy 1.1
Build the profile and recognition of local artists

Local Artist, Local Content

Caloundra Regional Gallery presented the *Local Artists – Local Content Art Prize 2021*, in partnership with Friends, Regional Gallery, Caloundra Inc. Now in its seventh year, the exhibition is a much-anticipated opportunity to showcase our emerging and established local sector while also providing a sample of contemporary visual arts practice on the Sunshine Coast. From more than 150 entries, 40 finalists were selected and represented a diverse range of media, approaches and subject matter. With generous support of sponsors Mary Henzell Investments Pty Ltd., Mark and Judy McArdle, Geoff Lyons Solicitors Pty Ltd, the exhibition attracted more than 1,800 visitors. A program of artist walks and talks were also presented providing local artists with an opportunity to profile themselves and their work. The series was presented both at the Gallery and online as part of the **From the Artist series.**



Image: Alison Mooney Artwork 2021 | Photo: Alison Mooney

Horizon Festival's Local Artist Series

The Local Artist Series is an initiative that provides insight into the lives and workings of local artists on the Sunshine Coast. From behind the scenes studio tours and interviews to what music they are listening to, the series aims to tap into new audiences by showcasing a mixture of artists, ranging from younger creatives to more established and internationally known artists. Local Artist Series content is shared across the Festival's social media channels and through the highlighted artists' channels. The focus of the Local Artist Series is to feature local creatives to existing Horizon Festival audiences and to engage the networks/audiences of the local artists with Horizon Festival.

This year's series featured 20 local artists with 2,644-page views (average time on page: 2.41 minutes).

Maroochy Artspace

This much-loved space, in the Maroochydore Library, showcases the creative talent in our region by offering emerging artists a professional gallery space, exposure to new audiences, sometimes for the very first time, and curatorial support to exhibit their work. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the library was unable to open the space for exhibition until April 2021. Since then, three local artists have exhibited, with one artist selling several works. The exhibitions continue to be well-received by both the community and local artists. The space has been fully programmed for the remainder of the calendar year with four more local artists identified to exhibit.

Arts and Ecology Centre

As part of expanding the Gallery's 'footprint' across the region and developing arts experiences in non-traditional arts space, Council has curated several exhibitions at the Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden – Arts and Ecology Centre, attracting close to 850 visitors over a three month period (March to May) for exhibitions including *Jacky Lowry – 50 Acres Revealed – Local Plants Explored in Print and Culture is Inclusion*.

Gallery 77

Gallery Seventy-Seven is a unique gallery space located at 77 Bulcock Street Caloundra. The photographic artwork, only visible at night, is illuminated through the windows and viewed by the public in Bulcock Street and Felicity Park. Called Art after Dark, the project features six Sunshine Coast based artists who were selected through an Expression of Interest (EOI) process. Feedback such as "Worth the visit to see", "An engaging collection, particularly beautiful on a rainy night" and 'A delightful gallery to view in a wonderful way", have been shared with the artists. The gallery provides an unexpected arts experience to people using or walking through the park and drivers in Bulcock St, Caloundra, contributing to the developing rich cultural landscape in Caloundra.

Homegrown

Homegrown is a Horizon Festival initiative supported through the Regional Arts Development Fund. The series is designed to support the development and presentation of local work as part of the festival celebrating art and culture. Homegrown engaged 12 local artists to create works for online presentation in the 2020 festival. The artists also received support through a dedicated producer, mentoring and marketing support from the festival. The final performances and presentations attracted audience numbers of more than 48,500. The six projects presented in 2020 were:

- Plastic Belly – a site-specific contemporary dance performance by Courtney Scheu with visual artist Itamar Freed.
- Parametric – an interactive and participatory artwork by Man X Machine Wayne McFetridge that investigated our individual and collective emotional states in a post-isolated world to inform the creation of unique pieces of art that engaged 446 community members.
- Trace – a short film by James Muller featuring large scale projections onto the ocean at Mooloolaba Beach.
- Transience – a short film of Glenn Manning and Kathy Daly's signature etchings on sand exploring the synergy of art and movement in connection with coastal landscapes.
- Love Note to the Landscape – a celebration of plein air artwork across three iconic Sunshine Coast locations by collaborating artists Helena Jackson-Lloyd, Rosie Lloyd Giblett and Yanni Van Zijl; and
- What Now? – a documentary style video 'time capsule' by Tim Birch to help capture an extraordinary moment in time, the COVID-19 pandemic.



Image: The Dreggs perform at Open Air, Point Cartwright for Horizon Festival 2020. Photo: Nic Morley

Strategy 1.2 Build the capacity of local artists

The Refinery

In its third year **The Refinery** Creative Incubator continued to contribute to the creative ecology of the Sunshine Coast attracting over 50 applications, with 25 creatives invited to participate in boot camp (due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions) and 15 founders offered and accepting the opportunity to participate in the program. The Refinery was hosted at the MET, Maroochydore over eight weeks culminating in a showcase event for over 100 guests.

The Refinery is the region's first creative incubator and a unique national offering focused on education, experimentation and creative development. The program is designed to support independent artists, early stage entrepreneurs and creative industry practitioners with an idea ready to go and a drive to use business as a force for good. The Refinery offers a testing ground and training platform that joins the dots between creativity and business by offering access to mentors and a network of inspiring industry leaders to provide participants with the business skills, tools and connections to turn an idea into a sustainable business.

The 2021 cohort had access to mentors and entrepreneurs from across the creative, business and impact sectors. The Refinery also hosted two sold out industry events, one featuring local artists, Claire Bowditch and Andrea Kirwin and the other a panel of creative brand builders from the Sunshine Coast and beyond. The Refinery is an initiative of Sunshine Coast Council in collaboration with SunCentral Maroochydore and the Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance and is supported by Arts Queensland through The Regional Arts Development Fund, Central Queensland University and industry partner Positive Planning Solutions.

PD Series

The ArtsCoast PD Series is a professional development series designed by artists for artists. The program varies each year responding to emerging needs, building the capacity and networks of local artists across a range of industry skills including marketing, funding, pitching ideas and artistic practice. In 2020 Council kicked off with 'DISRUPT', facilitated by Sunshine Coast artist Alison Mooney. The six week short and uncomfortable series of workshops and collaborations for artists of any discipline, aimed to amplify the essence of why they make, while dabbling awkwardly in the unknown. The program had six participants, engaged four external mentors across four creative spaces and has seeded new works in development for artists involved. Next was The Path led by Kellie O'Dempsey, a nationally recognised inter-disciplinary artist living on the Sunshine Coast. The Path was a three month intensive program for emerging contemporary artists assisting them to prepare, strategise and design a professional path towards future projects and proposal delivery for exhibition or presentation of their work for the arts industry. The program had 11 participants and engaged six external mentors. The outcomes of The Path were shared with 60 industry professionals at a presentation night at The Caloundra Regional Gallery. Council hosted 15 local artists on a tour, artist panel and Q & A session with Urban Arts Projects in Brisbane to build skills and connections in public art practice. In the final program for the year, Hamish Sawyer, director and curator of Outer Space Brisbane conducted an eight week curator program with four local emerging curators culminating in a highly successful experimental exhibition at The Old Lock Up Maroochydore, attended by over 100 guests. In addition to these programs,

one-on-one mentoring was offered to 16 artists by Hamish Sawyer, Martyn Coutts, Field Theory, Melbourne, Jude Anderson PUNCTUM, Castlemaine and Jo Tito, Cooroora Institute, Sunshine Coast through the Creative Spaces – Space Travel program. These one-on-one sessions facilitate local and national dialogue, critique and connection between diverse artists and practices informing new work connections and opportunities.

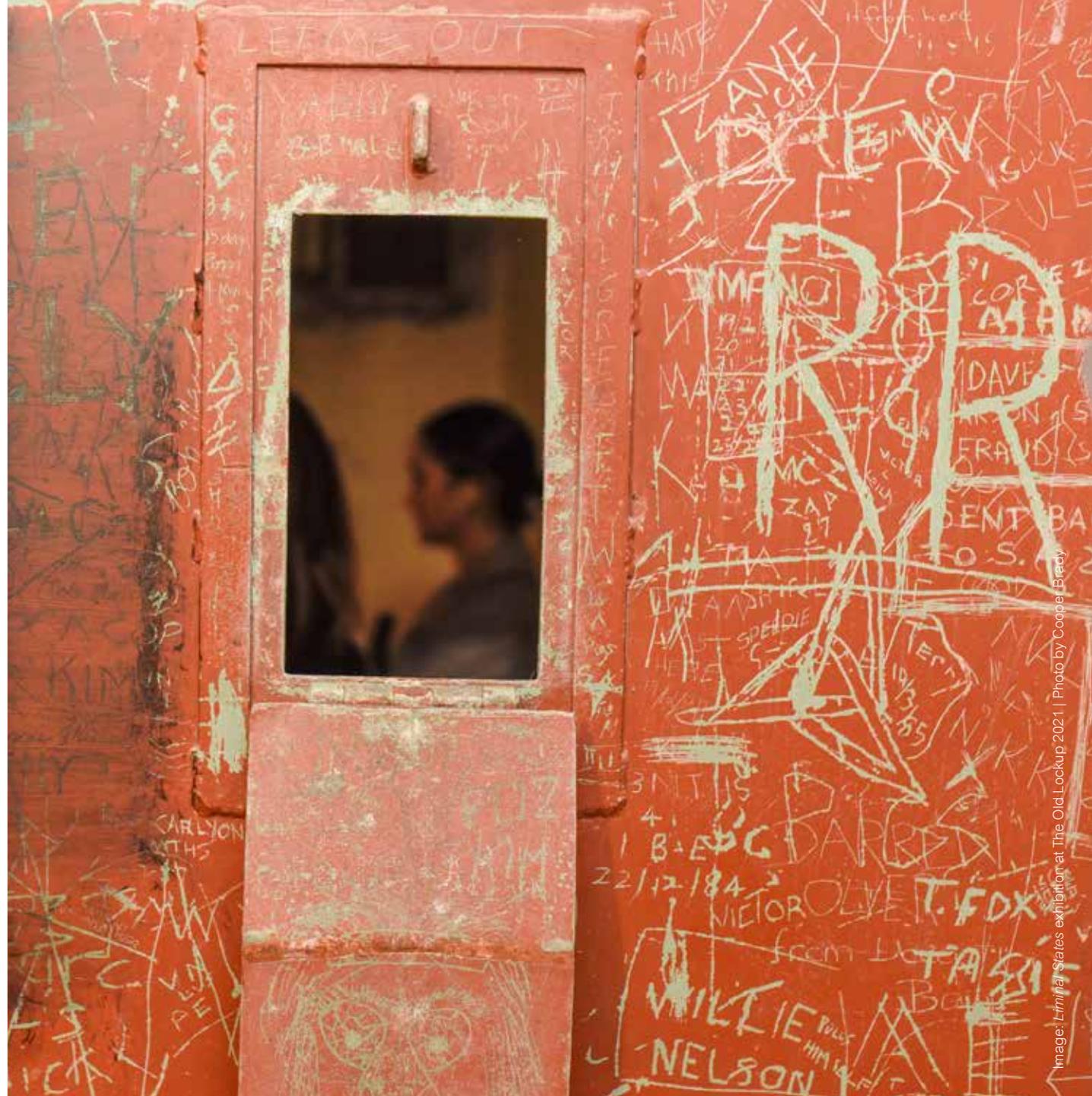


Image: Liminal States exhibition at The Old Lockup 2021 | Photo by Cooper Brady

Strategy 1.4 Support artists to test, develop and realise ideas

RADF

The **Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)** is an annual partnership between the State Government, through Arts Queensland, and Sunshine Coast Council. RADF promotes the role and value of arts, culture and heritage as key drivers of diverse and inclusive communities and strong regions.

The funding delivers several programs – including competitive arts grants and strategic projects and opportunities.

The grants program delivered more than \$170,000 in arts grants to the region by supporting 33 projects, with a total value of \$635,118.

RADF grants annually create paid opportunities for over 500 local artists and reach audiences of over 30,000.

20/21 highlights include:

- Ruby Donohoe's interdisciplinary JERK project, a new creative development towards a contemporary performance based on the artists experience living with epilepsy.
- Jessie Hughes Head Above Water, TV Bible and Pilot Script project.
- Renowned international playwright Stephen Vaggs, 'All My Friends Are Returning to Brisbane' stage play.
- Creative development and investment in Katy Fordes podcast adaption of her award-winning theatre production, 'A Girls Guide to World War'.

The Regional Arts Development Fund supports a range of strategic Council-initiated projects. In 2020 Council launched the first stage of a three-year dance sector development program **DANCE.HERE.NOW**. Dance has been identified as the region's next sector development priority, following the success of Fabric. DANCE.HERE.NOW. is a three-year dance development initiative led by Council in partnership with local dance leaders via an established local steering group of ten industry professionals who are leading and informing priorities. Focusing on increasing participation, professional practice, programming, networks and spaces for dance through partnerships, collaboration and new approaches, DANCE.HERE.NOW. will create more opportunities to experience dance and get more people dancing across the Sunshine Coast. In response to identified priorities to date, Council has leased and refurbished a purpose-built dance studio, 2nd Space, in Nambour for a 12-month pilot project. DANCE.HERE.NOW. and 2nd Space partnered with peak body Ausdance to support a First Nations dance residency, hosting Sunshine Coast based artist Katina Olsen at the studio. Here, Katina continued her work with her Kombumerri Elder Uncle Graham Dillon and cousin Maxwell Dillon on a Treaty / Constitution / Protocol document. This will be translated into their own Ngarahngwal language with the help of linguist Margaret Sharpe and inform a completely new process for developing contemporary dance movement for Katina.

DANCE.HERE.NOW. also successfully facilitated its first national, funded residency opportunity in partnership with LJProjects, an established Sunshine Coast based dance theatre organisation. Lisa Wilson, an international touring, Brisbane based artist, was the first resident and worked with several local dancers and visual artists to deliver the first stage development of a new work 'Sensitive Chaos'.



Image: DANCE HERE NOW. Featuring – Mia and Zerah. | Photo: Warwick Gow



Image: Fragile Gardens exhibition | Photo: Sarah Jane Smith



Image: Pendragon Shoemakers | Photo: Jackie Orme Ward

Fabric

Thanks so much for inviting me to be part of *Fabric – Slow Fashion-Artful Living*, I simply loved being part of it.

CLARE PRESS, SUSTAINABILITY
EDITOR AT LARGE, VOGUE

'Having tapped into this regional audience, we have been able to hold weekly self-paced shoe and boot making classes. Six of our most regular students were from the sandal workshop we held through the Fabric program.

We believe the quality of the Fabric program went a long way to securing these students for us.

The marketing, promotion and support by the team involved was outstanding. It made us feel part of a local community of artists and craftspeople.'

JACKIE ORME-WARD AND
ADRIAN LOCKWOOD PENDRAGON SHOES

'I just love the Fabric program;
I want to go to everything – and the lamp
I made has pride of place in my home'

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

In 2020 – 2021 RADF supported the final year of the ***Fabric – slow fashion, artful living*** program, highlighting the region's values in sustainability and celebrating the unique local textile industry and artisans on the Sunshine Coast. This curated three-year textile sector program was paired with an experiential, sustainable living program to grow skills, share knowledge and empower new thoughts.

Over the three-years, *Fabric* offered 126 immersive events and activities including exhibitions, forums, bespoke masterclasses and professional development, and attracted more than 3044 people, 30 partnerships and reached audiences of over 18,900 people. *Fabric* provided employment opportunities to 106 artists (50% of them local to this region) and creative facilitators.



Image: Eco dyed silk | Lyn Moes | Photo: Lyn Moes



Image: Indigo dying | Jenai Hooke | Photo: Gabrielle Leonard



Image: Belinda Marie Kuhlwein of Husk and Vine | Photo: courtesy Belinda Marie Kuhlwein

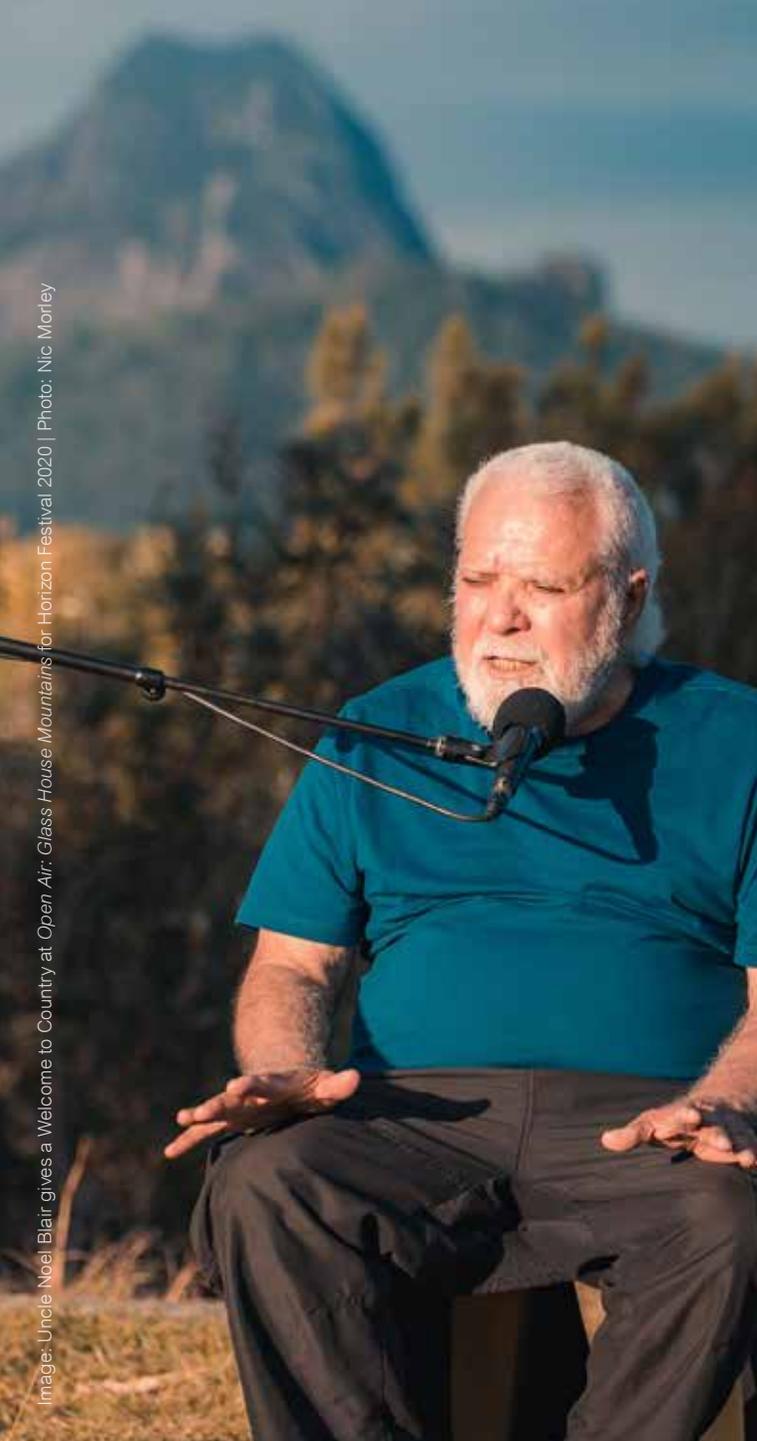


Image: Uncle Noel Blair gives a Welcome to Country at Open Air: Glass House Mountains for Horizon Festival 2020 | Photo: Nic Morley

Strategy 1.5 Foster opportunities for the creation and promotion of First Nations artistic endeavours.

Horizon Festival

The Horizon Festival First Nations Advisory Group (HFFNAG) helps shape and deliver the festival's First Nations programming and also provides the festival team with guidance on all matters relating to cultural protocol. The Advisory Group identifies and develops projects by local Kabi Kabi (Gubbi Gubbi) and Jinibara artists as well as advising on inclusion of other First Nations artists from outside of the region.

In its second year, the Advisory Group's role is critical to ensuring First Nations artists are an integral part of the festival program and are interwoven throughout all projects.

First Nations artists featured in the 2020 digital version of Horizon Festival, with First Nations programming curated by Kabi Kabi + Wiradjuri artist and producer Alethea Beetson, in collaboration with the Advisory Group.

Artists and projects included:

- Open Air Concert – Deline Briscoe, Uncle Noel Blair + Aunty Helena Gulash
- Listening in the Wild – Lyndon Davis and Brent Miller
- Art x Activism – Dr Ryan Presley, Emily Coleman
- A Climate of Change – Kane Brunjes
- What Now? – Jandamarra Cadd featured in the short film
- Coast To Coast – Kane Brunjes, Andrew Coleman, Emily Coleman, Cormac Finn, Jain Rhys, Eleea, Bec Ray, Loki Liddle, Nadia Morrison
- Blak Social – Alethea Beetson, Diimpa, The Merindas, Elisapie, Katina Olsen, Paula Delaney-Nazarski
- Rewind – Dawn Awakening – Lyndon Davis

Caloundra Regional Gallery

The work of First Nations artists is embedded in the Gallery's annual exhibition program either as stand-alone exhibitions such as the NAIDOC exhibitions or as part of other curated exhibitions. In 2020/21 the Gallery profiled 82 First Nations artists and performers with 118 artworks being exhibited during the year.

One of the highlights from 2020/21 was the exhibition *Culture is Inclusion*, hosted by the Gallery at the Arts and Ecology Centre, Maroochy Botanical Gardens. This exhibition was part of the Connecting Stories program – an initiative involving regional galleries in South East Queensland North (SEQN) and aimed at concurrently showcasing First Nations exhibitions and stories across Country during the month of May. Connecting Stories was developed by Creative Arts Alliance, the Arts Queensland funded Regional Arts Services Network provider for South East Queensland (North region), in partnership with Blaklash Creative and the Regional Arts Services Network South-East Queensland Network.

The works in *Culture is Inclusion* were created by the NuunaRon art group, made up of First Nations artists with a lived experience of disability, and is an initiative of the First Peoples Disability Network Australia (FPDN). FPDN recognise the need for our First Nations community living with disability to have a culturally safe place to come together to connect, build resilience and address issues such as social isolation through art and yarning.

NuunaRon is a diverse group of men and women with ages spanning from 19 to late 70s and includes Community Elders from multiple language groups across Australia. The artworks were drawn from an exhibition which was held at the United Nations Palais des Nations Geneva in 2019 to coincide with the Committee meetings of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD). The exhibition and public programming received over 740 visitors.



Image: NAIDOC 2021 Culture Remembered | Revitalised | Reactive exhibition | Photo by Cooper Brady Photography



Image: Kaitie Noonan and Louise King perform at Open Air, Chambers Island | Horizon Festival 2020 | Photo: Nic Morley.

Goal 02: Arts audiences and creative opportunities flourish through investment and development.

Strategy 2.1 Support and deliver a diverse and accessible program of arts experiences.

Horizon Festival

In April 2020 **Horizon Festival** was one of the first major festivals in Australia to move to a digital event in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision to move online and reconfigure the festival (usually held over 10 days in August/September) to a three-month rolling program from June to August, was motivated by a desire to support the local arts sector in a time of need. This also offered audiences inspiring and quality artistic content when rich cultural experiences were fading or disappearing from the landscape.

Four key streams of programming: **Open Air, Homegrown, Rewind and Words + Ideas** enabled the presentation of works across all art forms whilst fostering creative collaborations between artists including First Nations artists as well as emerging and established practitioners.

The outcomes of the 2020 Festival's online program are outstanding.

Creative

- 116 artists commissioned to present works
- 60 local artists were engaged
- 10 premieres or new works
- 19 First Nations artists engaged.

Audience development

- 24 free events / activities
- Online attendance of 100,557
- Attendee satisfaction levels of 82%, rating the experience 'very good to excellent'
- Net Promoter score of 65
- 90% inspired to attend the Festival physically in the future
- 26% never attended the festival before
- Facebook grew 11%, Instagram grew 24% and Twitter grew 20%
- 42% attendees from outside Queensland.

Key Achievements over the last five years

- 259,982 digital and physical attendees
- 26.2% average visitors to the region
- 2,937 artists engaged
- 509 First Nations artists
- 390 artists
- 1160 volunteers
- Attendee satisfaction levels of 86% - rating the experience 'very good to excellent'
- 88% of attendees said Horizon 'increased appreciation of the value of arts, culture and heritage as part of community life in the region'
- 88% of attendees said Horizon 'promoted a sense of community pride'.

Caloundra Regional Gallery

The Caloundra Regional Gallery again fulfilled its core functions of exhibiting, promoting and educating the community through visual culture, including the celebration of art and artists of the region.

In a challenging year which saw the doors close for two months in response to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the Gallery hosted over 16,000 visitors to 14 exhibitions across the Sunshine Coast. Venues included Caloundra Regional Gallery; the Interpretive Centre at Mary Cairncross, Maleny; the Arts & Ecology Centre at the Maroochy Bushland Botanical Garden, Tanawha, and the Maroochy Library Artspace, Cotton Tree. Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, newly developed online programming had attendances of nearly 45,000; website visitors of more than 140,000. The Gallery Store also continued to feature local makers with 32 of the 40 artisans drawn from the region.

Council, due to COVID-19 pandemic, waived the entry fee for the Sunshine Coast Art Prize 2020. This move, together with artists having more time to enter the Prize, resulted in a record 711 entries from around Australia. From this extensive pool, 40 finalists were selected; 17 from Queensland (including two from the Sunshine Coast), 13 from New South Wales, 10 from Victoria and 1 each from Northern Territory and Tasmania. Despite COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and border closures, the exhibition attracted over 1880 people into the Gallery and more than 10,000 people to the online program. The People's Choice Prize attracted more than 600 online voters which saw Christine Druitt-Preston, a Sydney-based mixed media artist, receiving the popular prize and her work being purchased during the exhibition.

For the first time, the winner's announcement was held off-site due to COVID-19 pandemic plans restricting capacity in the Gallery. The gala event was hosted by sponsors Coastline BMW at their showrooms and attended by 126 people in-person. The online live stream reached 3,500 people. The \$25,000 acquisitive major prize, sponsored by Argon Law Sunshine Coast and Sunshine Coast Council, was awarded to Natalya Hughes. The winning artwork is now part of the Region's growing art collection.

Bundit Puangthong received the \$5,000 Highly Commended award, sponsored by long-term and much valued supporters of the Gallery and the regional arts sector – the philanthropic De Deyne Family. The Montville Country Cabins residency prize, another long-term supporter of the Art Prize, was awarded to Kent Morris.

Three artists were also selected for the funded opportunity to showcase their works on the three prestige vehicles loaned to the Gallery for the period of the exhibition by sponsors Coastline BMW. The changed format and location did nothing to change people's love of the popular Art Prize with 93% of visitors to the exhibition noting they were satisfied to highly satisfied with their experience.

COVID-19 pandemic restrictions also required reimagined delivery models for public programming. The children's *Art Attack* Program was suspended and replaced by free take home and in gallery activities – *Art in A Bag*, *Bumper Art Packs*, *Art Room* activities and competition campaigns.

A new online program – *From the Artist* – was developed for patrons to 'attend' conversations with prominent Australian artists. The program was live streamed on

the gallery Facebook page and archived on the gallery website with the intention to temporarily replace in-gallery floor talks.

The *Pop-Up Feature Artist* program featured 14 artists, nine local to the Sunshine Coast, who were invited to sell their work in the Gallery Store and were promoted via website and social media.

Gallery programming and Education Snapshot

- 1,870 volunteer hours
- 13 volunteer focused professional development and education sessions with 224 attendees
- 14 school and private organisation tours facilitated with 249 attendees
- 1,380 free art-in-a-bag activity packs produced and taken home by children and parents
- 728 art trail – in gallery- children's activities completed
- 90 bumper art packs distributed
- 21 'From the Artist' online conversations produced, currently with over 7,500 views
- 14 pop-up featured artists (9 local) generating \$6,324 in direct revenue for artists
- 10 artist-run workshops, floor talks and panel discussions with 246 attendees
- 8 launch functions and prize winner's announcement events with 562 attendees.

The Keeper

The Keeper is a live public art project where artists work in a temporary role as observer, collector, maker and storyteller within a community. The Keeper project was developed in collaboration with Field Theory, an Australian artists collective that develop and support collaborative arts projects, and piloted in Coolum in November 2019. The Keepers were four Sunshine Coast based artists and several community groups, who became archaeologists of stories.

In 2021, a second program was initiated with a public call out for Keepers and included the delivery of 'The Gathering', a sharing and information session about the project for 40 people and 'The Assignment', an intensive four-day location specific professional and project development stage with 10 artists.

Launched in July 2021 (due to COVID-19 pandemic delays), The Keeper will run until February 2022. The project involves 10 Coolum based artists and creative practitioners from a range of practices including visual arts, music, spoken word and inter-disciplinary practice. Each artist will take on the role of The Keeper, throughout the seven-month period, as an observer, explorer and maker, before passing on the role to the next artist.

During The Keeper's three weeks, they repeat a ritual or practice that will occur in a certain location, at a certain time, encouraging community engagement and conversation, which then becomes part of the work they produce.



Image: Constructing Landscape: Urban Visions exhibition | Photo: courtesy of Caloundra Regional Gallery

Strategy 2.2

Identify and implement initiatives to grow arts audiences and participation.

Place2 Play

Place2Play is a creative place making project drawing on the unique cultural and natural assets on the Caloundra township as a direct outcome of the Caloundra Public Art Plan and the Sunshine Coast Arts Plan.

This year Place2 involved a multi-layered approach including artist led participatory, ephemeral and permanent arts outcomes. The program involved three key initiatives: Place2Play, Place2Paint and Place2Connect. Due to the pandemic the project was delivered over two years. Place2Connect involved the launch of Sub Tropic Studio that continues to evolve, grow in reputation and play a key role in providing opportunities for the arts sector in the region. Place2Paint built on Caloundra's reputation for mural art, delivering three major works; augmented reality work 'Looking Glass Fish in the Deep Blue Hue Sea' by George Rose and 'Sutu' in Bulcock St, 'Yellow Brick Road' in Lamkin Lane and 'Euphoric Garden' by Sam Wilkinson.

Place2Play, initially delayed due to the first COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns, was adapted into 'Keep on Playing' a series of participatory digital programs delivered as part of Councils STAY PLAY CREATE program – a response to the first COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

Place2Play commissioned 11 artists to participate in a six-month residency in Caloundra with mentorship by three internationally recognised artists, Jason Maling, Jude Anderson and Ryan Reynolds. They each designed and delivered playful and participatory activations that brought cultural vibrancy and connection to the community. Projects ranged from soundscapes created from the heartbeats of residents to projection works in empty shop fronts, laneway snakes and ladders, to love letters and new stories created, sentence at a time, from street side benches.

Place2Play also enabled the delivery of a new permanent artwork for Caloundra, 'Emergence' by artists Russell Anderson and Simone Eisler. Taking inspiration from local sea life, the works were created in virtual reality then 3D printed in 316 stainless steel and include pixel lights with environmental sensors that determine their patterns and colours.

Place2Play created paid opportunities for 18 artists, engaged 500 participants, over 7000 people experienced more than 100 activations in Caloundra. The project reached a further 23,000 digitally and Emergence became part of the Sunshine Coast Public Art Collection.

Research

In 2020, Council partnered with the Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation to engage Patternmakers to carry out market and audience development research.

This research aimed to understand:

- key audience segments in the Sunshine Coast region
- identify ways to deepen engagement
- highlight opportunities for new arts and cultural experiences in 2020 and beyond.

This report explores the research findings collected from more than 600 participants.

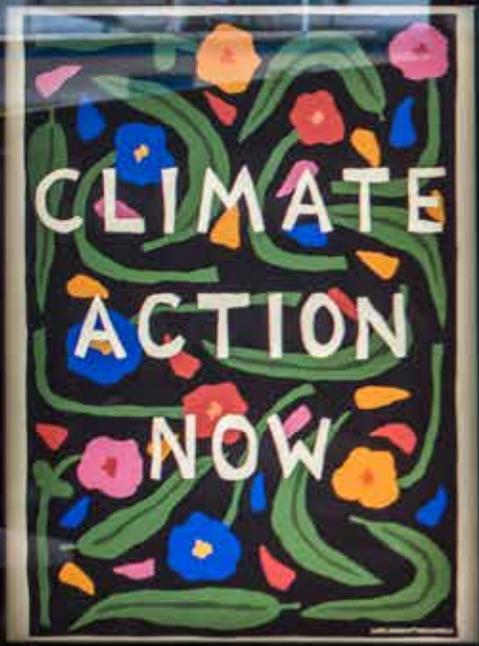
The research included:

- in-depth interviews
- focus groups
- an online survey of audience databases of venues and events based in the Sunshine Coast region.

The final research report was delivered in August and made available to venues, festivals and artists across the region to support programming and marketing decisions.



Image: Liminal States exhibition | Photo by Cooper Brady





Goal 03: A dedicated network of places and spaces for artists to connect, create and collaborate.

Strategy 3.1 Develop and implement a Regional Arts Infrastructure Framework consistent with Council's strategic directions.

The Regional Arts Infrastructure Framework 2019 - 2041 (RAIF) provides an agreed strategic direction for the delivery of a viable, integrated and functional network of arts infrastructure to respond to the arts and cultural needs of the Sunshine Coast (local government area) community as it grows into a major region of over 500,000 people.

The objectives of the RAIF are to provide a network of arts and cultural infrastructure by identifying the:

- role and function
- space requirements
- preferred locations and co-location opportunities
- priorities and required timeframes to raise the arts and cultural profile of the Sunshine Coast
- opportunities to raise the arts and cultural profile of the Sunshine Coast.

It also describes a network that is reflective of the Sunshine Coast landscape, character and cultural heritage, including First Nations requirements.

The RAIF, now an endorsed policy document, informs a range of investigations and staged planning projects currently underway. This year, they included:

- opportunities for arts outcomes at the new City Hall, Maroochydore
- feasibility of and business planning for a new regional gallery
- feasibility of and business planning for the hinterland cultural facility
- opportunities for arts and cultural outcomes as part of the work to repurpose Caloundra Administration Building into a contemporary district Library and community space
- feasibility of a community and cultural centre at Maroochydore.



Image: Sub Tropic Studios | Feat Kellie O'Dempsey during The Path PD program | Photo: Cooper Brady

Strategy 3.3. Advocate and facilitate access to affordable spaces for making, exhibiting and performing

Creative Spaces

The **Creative Spaces** program continued to help connect artists to affordable spaces in the region for them to create and collaborate across all art-forms. Creative Spaces is an online platform used to identify and promote community and privately owned spaces including artist studios, and exhibition, rehearsal and performance spaces in the region. In the last year, Council's investment in Creative Spaces allowed for residencies at five locations and supported two artist run spaces.

Creative Spaces also continued its support of Sub Tropic Studio. This previously under-utilised bus transit space at Caloundra, is now a thriving artist studio, gallery and workshop, which is home to artists of various genres and host to several key industry events.

Maroochydore Sailing Club's Crows Nest is home to seasonal residencies of three-months duration and this year hosted international inter-disciplinary artist Ruby Donohoe, visiting visual artist Aaron Perkins and a string of writers including Carly Garner working in creative nature play and Tania Walker working in contemporary young adult genres. Tania Walker credits her time spent in the space as allowing her to create and develop her new book uninterrupted.



Image: One Night in Nambour, Guru Dudu, Silent disco 2021 | Photo: Cooper Brady



Goal 04: Art and creativity is embedded in the identity and experience of the Sunshine Coast.

Strategy 4.3 Build the strength and capacity of local arts and cultural organisations.

In the 2020/21 financial year, Council provided partnership funding of more than \$120,000 plus in-kind support to the region's leading arts organisations. These not-for-profit organisations, largely managed by volunteer boards and committees, are an essential part of a thriving creative ecology.

Council has ongoing partnerships with the following organisations:

- **Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance** – an arts advocacy organisation connecting the dots between creative thinkers, businesses, places, supporters, target markets, audiences and key stakeholders through advocacy, learning, networking and partnerships
- **Sunshine Coast Screen Collective** – fostering the advancement of the screen-based industry on the Sunshine Coast
- **Arts Connect** – supporting artists and connecting communities
- **Kenilworth Arts Council** – promotes arts activities and participation via exhibitions, competitions, workshops and festivals
- **Maleny Community Centre** – provides a range of venues and facilities to support arts and cultural activities of the Sunshine Coast
- **Buderim Craft Cottage** – fostered by members reaching out, sharing skills, working together and caring for each other with the combined experience and enjoyment of artistic creativity
- **Anywhere Theatre Festival** – a festival of performances anywhere but where you expect to find them
- **Sunshine Coast Arts Industry Precinct** – manages the Old Ambulance Station in Nambour. The Old Ambo is already recognised as a launch pad for creatives. Located centrally in a re-invigorated Nambour, the multi-arts centre is partnering with local business and organisations to build on Nambour's unique and authentic character
- **Caloundra Arts Centre Association Inc.** currently has 20 different Arts and Crafts groups using their

facility in North Street Caloundra with a membership of over 560 who share a passion, express their art, learn and share.

Council's community grants program and Regional Arts Development Fund (in partnership with Arts Queensland) further contributed over \$60,000 in grants and in-kind support to deliver a broad range of programs and activities. These projects include, Sculpture on the Edge, Kenilworth Arts Festival, Old Ambo open community long table dinners (bring a plate), artist talks, a variety of workshops, Turnup Music Conference, programming for Sub Tropic Studio, Open Studios Sunshine Coast, Old Ambo Black Box improvements, Sunshine Coast Film Festival and ongoing maintenance and improvement to community leased cultural facilities.

Council continued its support of the Sunshine Coast Art Foundation in 2020/21 which conducted fundraising activities to attract gifts via a range of programs:

- Annual Giving Campaign, GIFTED
- The Glasshouse Giving Circle
- 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 were developed with 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. Council is the founding member of the foundation.

Strategy 4.6. Build the reputation of the Sunshine Coast as a place where the arts flourish and inspire

Sunshine Coast Art Collection

The collection grew by more than 25% in 2020/21 with 179 new works – valued at almost \$135K – received into the Collection. The Collection includes 750 individual works valued at just over \$1M as at 30 June 2021.

The Collection received gifts from:

- Local philanthropists, the De Deyne Family, donated 'The Old Men' by Michael Nelson Jagamara (1946-2020), via the Australian Government Cultural Gifts Program.
- Brisbane philanthropist John Brown – donated ceramics, paintings and watercolour sketches by prominent Australian artist Joe Furlonger; a collection of paintings, pastels and sketches by celebrated local artist, Joy Roggenkamp (1928-1999, QLD); and a collection of ceramic works from c.1960s and predominantly by Queensland ceramicists that tell the story of the foundations of the Australian studio pottery movement.

The Collection is profiled across the region in Council owned buildings including its administration centres, libraries and high pedestrian traffic flow areas in public spaces. During 2020-2021, the collection continued to be curated to participate in themed calendar events such as NAIDOC and Reconciliation Weeks with exhibition in public libraries, customer service centres and gallery spaces.

The Collection is also gaining a reputation as one of significance. In 2020-21 there were 89 requests to loan works for externally curated exhibitions at Ipswich City Gallery, Pine Rivers Gallery, Gympie Regional Gallery and Maleny Pioneer Village.

Public Art

Public Art is also part of the collection and contributes to the regions' identity.

To ensure our region's Public Art Collection is properly maintained, understood and developed in response to the changing expectations of our community, a condition audit of all Public Art assets was completed in 2020 by independent consultants, Blue Sky View, a local Sunshine Coast company.

Blue Sky View conducted the audit in accordance with industry standards for collection management and assessment. The Audit included a detailed report of the condition and merit of the region's public art works, including recommendations for decommissioning several works, and providing a three-year maintenance plan for the relocation.

There are currently 236 public art assets with a financial valuation of approximately \$3.4 million. New works added this financial year include:

- Emergence by Simone Eisler & Russell Anderson, Caloundra, value \$30,000
- Fly Wheel by Michael Foley, Nambour, value \$175,000
- Howard St Wall, (12 local artists), Nambour, value \$25,500



Image: Lyndon Davis and Brent Miller (Kabi / Gubbi / Gubbi) | untitled | synthetic polymer on river stones | 2019. Sunshine Coast Art Collection. Acquired through the support of Sunshine Coast Council, 2019 | Photo: Carl Warner

Arts Plan Priorities for 2021/22

- Seek innovative avenues including partnerships to develop arts investment and outcomes for the region
- Continue to support the Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation via a three-year partnership agreement
- Deliver a successful Horizon Festival in 2022 (noting the 2021 festival was cancelled due to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions) and seek Council support for ongoing funding
- Continue to work with the Horizon Festival First Nations Advisory Group to ensure programming initiatives are self-determined and led by First Nations Peoples
- Continue to develop opportunities for First Nations artists via the appointment of a Creative Development Officer (First Nations) Identified role
- Develop an advocacy and engagement strategy for Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board
- Maintain and build on the achievements of the Caloundra Regional Gallery and support the development of a business case for a new Regional Gallery at Caloundra

- Continue to collaborate with the sector and other government and non-government organisations to create opportunities for local artists
- Deliver the next stage of the three-year dance sector development project DANCE. HERE. NOW.
- Build on the Creative Spaces residency program with artist fees, mentoring and networking opportunities across four locations including national residency BEYOND
- Deliver a strategic plan for the future of the Refinery – the launching pad for sustainable creative business ideas
- Deliver The Keeper, a durational live public art project
- Build on the success of the ArtsCoast PD Series for artists
- Continue the delivery of grant funding programs that support, grow and develop arts and cultural vitality in the region
- Begin to design the review process for the Sunshine Coast Arts Plan 2018 – 2041
- Continue to support the Council endorsed Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board.

Sunshine Coast Arts Advisory Board Alumni

| Board member | Length of service |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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 |



Image: Online experience 'A Forest in My Pocket' by artist Helena Papageorgiou | Horizon Festival 2020



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