

Strategic policy

Art and Heritage Collections Policy

Corporate Plan reference:	2. A strong community 2.3 Culture, heritage and diversity are valued and embraced
Endorsed by Council on:	<Insert Ordinary Meeting Date>
Manager responsible for policy:	Manager, Community Relations

Policy purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the framework and principles that guide the development, management, accessibility and appreciation of council's art and heritage collections - including Art, Public Art and Cultural Heritage Collections – while ensuring the long-term safety, relevance and sustainability of art and cultural collections in council's care.

Council recognises the significance of the region's unique art and cultural heritage and the importance of its role in documenting and celebrating the unique character and identity of the Sunshine Coast.

Council also recognises the important economic benefits and increased social capital that art and cultural heritage can bring to the region by its:

- enrichment of people's lives through the enhancement of their sense of cultural identity and connectedness;
- ability to strengthen the commercial and entrepreneurial opportunities for both public and private cultural and community celebrations, facilities, events, programs and exhibitions;
- ability to support the vision and goals of creative communities and sectors;
- contribution to a vibrant cultural tourism offering and visitor experience that is attractive, engaging and culturally informative; and
- ability to grow a culturally informed public via the regions exposure to, and ongoing appreciation of, the value of art and culture.

This Policy demonstrates council's commitment to the collections and to developing, preserving and promoting the art and cultural heritage of the region – for the benefit of the region. The Policy is to be read in conjunction with the supporting guidelines for each specific collection.

Policy outcome

Through this Policy, council is committed to ensuring that:

- art and heritage collections are identified, documented, cared for and grown – continuing to build our region's cultural identity and contribute to a sense of community belonging, connection and wellbeing;

- art and heritage collections are valued and actively promoted, made accessible, and interpreted – contributing to the development of the community's and visitors' understanding and appreciation of the region's arts and cultural heritage; providing tangible recognition of the value of the arts and cultural heritage to the region; and generally encouraging the growth of a more culturally informed public;
- the acquisition, commissioning, deaccessioning and lending of works from the collections are conducted in an ethical, consistent and transparent manner, that conforms to and supports council's corporate vision, policies and strategies; and
- additions to the collections have artistic or heritage merit – based on an agreed assessment framework and outlined in relevant documentation.

Policy scope

This Policy applies to:

Sunshine Coast Art Collection: which includes existing and future artworks that have been formally acquired.

Collection Focus Statement

1. *Arts and Culture of the Sunshine Coast:* Council seeks to expand its collection and acquire artworks, in any media, that have regional relevance (being the Sunshine Coast LGA) and that illustrate the history and development of the region. This collecting area serves to capture and document changes in the visual culture and character of the region and represent the unique environment and culturally diverse communities of the Sunshine Coast.
2. *Contemporary Australian Art:* Council seeks to expand its collection of artworks by significant contemporary Australian artists with an emphasis on artworks by contemporary Queensland artists, in any media, primarily through council's Sunshine Coast Art Prize. This collecting area serves to capture and document developments in broader contemporary Australian visual art practice.
3. *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art:* Council seeks to acquire artworks that represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture, in any media. Emphasis will be given to artworks that capture, interpret and narrate the people and places of the Kabi Kabi and Jinibara First Nation peoples of the Sunshine Coast region. This collecting area serves to represent the diverse visual culture of the First Nation peoples of Australia and assist to build strong cultural awareness and understanding.
4. *The Art of Sport:* Council seeks to support its collection and acquire or commission artworks in any media that thematically explore depictions of sport as a subject or discernable inspiration. This collecting area serves to build a unique point of difference for the Sunshine Coast art collection through stimulating new bodies of work and capturing and documenting our local and national interest in sport as a cultural characteristic of our community.

Public Art Collection: which includes existing and future artworks within public spaces that have been formally acquired.

Collection Focus Statement

1. *Enduring and traditional Public Art:* Council will continue to acquire or commission public artworks of enduring permanent materials (usually as sculpture, statues or murals). While there is scope to add to the collection of permanent works, strict adherence to engineering and planning guidelines will ensure existing and new works are sustainable, have regional relevance (being the Sunshine Coast LGA) and illustrate the history, people and development of the region.

2. *Integrated and functional Public Art*: Council seeks to commission artist led integrated public art such as seating, balustrades, bollards, creative paving, etc to positively influence and shape the built environment.
3. *Temporary and ephemeral Public Art*: Council seeks to develop programs to activate and energise public spaces (libraries, markets, parks, reserves, walkways) by encouraging and supporting temporary and ephemeral public art events. This may include new media, animation, light projections, film, soundscapes, as well as other non-permanent materials.

Cultural Heritage Collection: which includes heritage objects, content (including digital), images and documents retained and managed for the purposes of historic significance, conservation, interpretation, access and research that have been formally acquired.

Collection Focus Statement

1. *Material of historic significance*: Council seeks to collect and maintain material based on historic associations with to the Sunshine Coast region and demonstrated social, aesthetic, community and cultural significance. This collection will add to the understanding of the history and experience of residents and visitors of the Sunshine Coast.
2. *Examples of contemporary and retrospective materials, as both tangible and intangible heritage*: Council aims to develop and collect both contemporary and historic items of tangible and intangible heritage as living history in forms such as oral histories, family memoirs, digital stories and films that capture the vivid stories, events and lifestyles of the region's people and places.

Policy statement

This Policy describes the framework for how council supports and manages its art and cultural heritage collections across our region.

Council is the custodian of a number of art and heritage collections that reflect the unique cultural landscape of the Sunshine Coast region. Council's Art and Heritage Collections include the Sunshine Coast Art Collection, Public Art Collection and Cultural Heritage Collection.

Through the management and growth of these vibrant collections, council demonstrates its commitment to providing opportunities to connect people with arts and heritage experiences that, support and celebrate the character and identity of our region and enrich the lives of our community. Council's commitment to the importance of these collections, their development and maintenance, brings with it both economic and social benefits to the region. This Policy supports the strategic vision of council's *Cultural Development Policy (2012)* and *Heritage Plan 2015 – 2020*.

Guiding principles

The following principles underpin council's commitment to the provision of its art and heritage collections:

The collections are showcased and access and engagement are optimised: through educational, interactive and participatory experiences and both ongoing and innovative viewing opportunities for residents and visitors.

The collections contribute to the building of place and regional identity: through continuous development to capture and reflect the changing history, lifestyle and culture of our region.

The collections develop capacity within the local arts and cultural sector: through inclusive practices and opportunities, skill sharing and learning.

The collections economic value as assets for the region is increased: through strategic and considered management.

The collections contribute to community belonging and wellbeing: by adding value to the way in which we share and understand our region's history, lifestyle and culture, our people and places, and by contributing to an aspirational vision of our future.

Roles and responsibilities

Council

- acts as owner/trustee and steward for council's art and heritage collections
- sets the strategic direction through creating council's policy position on council's art and heritage collections
- ensures appropriate resources and funding for management of council's art and heritage collections.

Community Services Department

- is the primary keeper of the Art and Heritage Collections and deliverer of the Art and Heritage Collections Policy
- takes a proactive role in advocating for and educating around the activation of the collections
- is responsible for identifying resources and storage requirements to house and manage the collections
- is responsible for both the development and enforcement of regulations (local laws and permits) which support and enable creative and cultural expression
- is responsible for the implementation and review of this Policy and the development and ongoing review of associated procedures and guidelines that will fully outline the operational responsibilities for each collection area
- is responsible for ensuring appropriate consultation protocols are performed regarding Indigenous cultural heritage considerations.

Infrastructure Services Department

- is responsible for identification and notification to public art officer of potential public art opportunities during master planning, placemaking and design processes
- is responsible for providing appropriate representatives for assessment panels and project teams
- is responsible for ensuring appropriate resources for the maintenance and storage of items in the collection; and the property management of the buildings housing the collections
- is responsible for ensuring appropriate internal communication and duty of care for collection items held and displayed in council buildings and facilities.

Planning and Environment Department

- is responsible for advising the Community Services Department of any developer proposal received with public art components prior to project commencement.

Measurement of success

The outcomes of this Policy can be measured by the:

- ongoing development and increase in value (cultural and financial) of council's art and heritage collections

- increased access to and number of quality opportunities to engage with the collections
- increased number and quality of development opportunities available to the local arts and cultural sector.

The Policy will be reviewed every three years to ensure relevance and to measure success.

Definitions

Art and Heritage Collections

Includes all Art, Public Art, and Cultural Heritage collections owned and managed by the Sunshine Coast Council.

Contemporary Art

Contemporary art is the art of today, produced by artists who are living in the twenty-first century. Contemporary art allows us to reflect on contemporary society and the issues relevant to ourselves, and the world around us.

Cultural Heritage

An expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values. Cultural Heritage can be tangible or intangible and is maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations.

Public Art

May comprise of standalone artworks or may be incorporated into buildings, infrastructure, or open space. Public art can be permanent or temporary, external or internal to any building or place, or integrated into functional infrastructure. It can be, visual, acoustic, interactive, craft or design.

Art and artworks

Means all works and formats of a creative and visual arts nature created by artists and/or crafts workers.

Deaccession

The process by which an item is removed formally and permanently from one of council's Art and Heritage Collections.

Indigenous

Refers to the First Peoples of Australia or First Nation People including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People.

Interpretation

Refers to the process involving both the cultural collection and its visitors/users in understanding and communicating the meaning and significance of objects, collections and places. Modes of interpretation include supporting signage and audio, tours, exhibitions, education programs, publications, social media and websites.

Public spaces

Means both indoor and outdoor spaces that are accessible to the public including parks, waterways and foreshores, open plazas, streetscapes, buildings and public spaces. For the purposes of this Policy, this scope pertains to facilities or land owned or managed by Sunshine Coast Council.

Merit

Means demonstrating cultural significance and / or good provenance.

Region

The Sunshine Coast Region as defined by the Queensland Local Government Areas (LGA).

Related policies and legislation

Sunshine Coast Council

- Sunshine Coast Cultural Development Policy 2012
- Sunshine Coast Corporate Plan 2017 - 2021
- Sunshine Coast Social Strategy 2015
- Sunshine Coast Heritage Plan 2015 - 2020
- Sunshine Coast Heritage Levy Policy 2016
- Sunshine Coast Place Making Policy 2012
- Sunshine Coast Open Space Strategy 2011
- Sunshine Coast Social Infrastructure Strategy 2011
- Sunshine Coast Events Policy 2010
- Sunshine Coast Libraries Plan 2014 - 2024
- Sunshine Coast Community Engagement Policy 2009
- Sunshine Coast Community Grants Policy 2013
- Sunshine Coast Memorials and Plaques Policy 2009
- Sunshine Coast Procurement Policy
- Sunshine Coast Reconciliation Action Plan 2017 - 2019
- Bankfoot House Management Plan 2015
- Bankfoot House Grounds Conservation Management Plan & Schematic Master Plan 2015
- Managing Fairview: Management Plan for Fairview 2014
- Fairview Garden Restoration and Reconstruction Master Plan Folio 2014

Queensland Government

- Queensland Heritage Strategy: protecting, investing in and connecting Queensland's story 2015
- Environment and Heritage Protection – Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020
- South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009 - 2031
- Sustainable Planning Act 2009
- Queensland Heritage Strategy: a ten-year plan

Australian Government

- Copyright Amendment (Moral Rights) Act 2000
- Australian Standards
- Significance 2.0: A guide to assessing the significance of collections (Department of Communications and the Arts)
- Australian Best Practice Guide to Collecting Cultural Material 2015
- The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, The Burra Charter (2013)

Version control:

Version	Reason/ Trigger	Change (Y/N)	Endorsed/ Reviewed by	Date
1.0	Create new		Ordinary Meeting	DD/MM/YYYY
	e.g. Review			

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