

## Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy

**NOTE:** Council regularly reviews and updates its policies. The latest controlled version can be obtained from the Policy Register on Council's intranet or by contacting Council's Corporate, Governance & Strategy Branch. A hard copy of this electronic document is considered uncontrolled when printed.

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### 1. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy provides the framework that South Burnett Regional Council ('Council') supports arts, culture, and heritage in engaging with and enriching the lives of our residents and visitors, whilst creating a community focus on arts, culture, and heritage.

### 2. SCOPE

This policy applies to Council representatives and the activities and programs of Council in relation to Council's cultural facilities, the Regional Arts Development Fund ('RADF') program and broader community arts culture heritage sector programs and activities.

### 3. GENERAL INFORMATION

#### 3.1. Council's role as a Facilitator

Council acknowledges that arts and heritage form an important part of sustainable regional economies, fostering a positive experience for community members as well as providing an opportunity for tourism development. Council commits to working with our community to invest in arts development, building on the character and strengths of the region as identified within Council's Corporate Plan.

Council understands the importance of providing resources that link our community, bringing people together to plan for our collective future. Council's primary role as a facilitator supporting the arts, culture and heritage activity in our region works towards:

- providing leadership to the sectors through advocacy, promotion and development / maintenance of Council's arts, cultural and heritage assets;
- identifying and responding to community needs through strategic planning;
- assisting with local coordination of art culture and heritage activities;
- assisting in the stimulation of the arts, culture, and heritage-based enterprises;
- encouraging collaboration across sectors; and
- managing and displaying Council's art and heritage collections across its facilities.

#### 3.2. Arts, Culture and Heritage as Sectors

Council recognises that a cohesive and coordinated arts, culture and heritage sector can make a significant contribution to the South Burnett's local and visitor economy by encouraging the development and expression of the arts, culture, and heritage sectors.

The South Burnett region, with its strengths in tourism and its proximity to Southeast Queensland, has a significant opportunity to build its economy through the arts, culture, and heritage sectors.

Council's role in supporting these sectors includes:

- building competitive advantage for the region based on its unique cultural heritage and the engagement of artists to interpret and respond to this;
- building opportunities for the arts and cultural expression into tourism activities and campaigns;
- understanding the skills development needs of the sector and assisting to deliver on these needs;
- encourage the development of place-based arts, cultural and heritage projects to support the promotion of the region; and
- provide access to arts, cultural and heritage activities through Council owned infrastructure.

### **3.3. Participation**

#### **3.3.1. Equity and Access**

Council understands that building the capacity of the community and the arts, culture and heritage sectors means that activities and facilities need to be accessible to all. The region has significant Indigenous heritage and Council respects and acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the region through its arts, cultural and heritage practices. Council also acknowledges the cultural and linguistic diversity of the region and supports the provision of services that are readily accessible. Providing access to arts, culture and heritage resources means that Council will:

- consult with the community in ways that are appropriate and equitable;
- provide facilities that are broadly accessible to all segments of the community;
- encourage the arts, cultural and heritage activities that provide social interaction and participation by a range of segments of the community to promote social cohesion; and
- emphasise the importance of collaboration and partnerships, not only between different sectors of the arts, culture, and heritage, but in linking these sectors with the broader community through the establishment of an advisory committee to Council.

#### **3.3.2. Community Engagement**

Engaging the community in the arts, cultural and heritage activities is vital to the success of the sectors and of all facets of Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy. A strongly engaged community is a community that comes together to celebrate successes and to plan for the future. Council seeks to support:

- audience development through the encouragement of participation in arts, cultural and heritage activities in the region by the broader community;
- collection of stories to record the arts, culture, and heritage of the region;
- connections with, and support of, the needs of the education sector; and
- planning for, and delivering, public art that tells significant stories of the region.

### **3.4. Partnerships**

The strength of the arts, culture and heritage sectors comes through its connections within and outside the region. Council's role in supporting these connections is to:

- maintain and develop funding partnerships with State and Federal governments (e.g., the RADF);
- connect with arts, cultural and heritage organisations from within and outside the region; and
- partner and collaborate between artists, cultural and heritage organisations from inside and outside the region.

Council considers the benefits to the community of supporting partnerships with arts, culture, and heritage sectors as:

- lifestyle / attractiveness / aesthetics;
- creating opportunities, broadening perspectives;

- offering alternative/external views to challenge/debate issues; and
- promoting innovation, celebrating diversity, evolving community spirit, enhancing health and wellbeing.

Council recognises the cross-portfolio nature of the arts, culture, and heritage sectors within Council operations. Aligned to Council's Corporate Plan and the Annual Operational Plans, Council has further defined the activities and actions Council will undertake to demonstrate its commitment to regional arts, culture, and heritage. It is understood that working across Council operational departments is essential in achieving art culture and heritage outcomes as identified within Council's strategic and operational planning documents.

#### 4. DEFINITIONS

**Arts** means the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination in all art forms, such as visual arts, crafts, music, theatre, entertainment, community festivals and events, cultural traditions, and designs for public spaces. Art includes hand-made or natural objects that have aesthetic value or express symbolic meaning. For inclusions refer to the Australia Bureau of Statistics categories of 'arts' (Arts Nation – An overview of Australian Arts – Technical Appendix 2015 Edition).

**Council representative** means all Councillors and Council employees including permanent, casual, and temporary employees, apprentices, trainees, contractors, volunteers, and work experience students.

**Culture** means to all the traditions, history, customs, and activities that constitute lifestyle, identity, heritage, celebration, and spiritual nourishment, as well as all the creative and innovative aspects of the arts that define a community. For inclusions refer to the Australia Bureau of Statistics categories of 'culture' (Arts Nation – An overview of Australian Arts – Technical Appendix 2015 Edition).

**Facilitator** means the role of helping persons or organisations do something more easily or find the answer to a problem by discussing things, suggesting ways of doing things and enabling the connection of persons/groups/organisations.

**Heritage** means what we inherit. It includes but not limited to customs, language, values, and buildings.

**Public Art** means artwork in any medium, planned and executed outside a gallery context and intended specifically for exhibition within public space. Public spaces are generally open and accessible to all. They can be indoors – such as foyers, atriums, libraries, or shopping centres – or outdoors – such as forecourts, parks, squares, or streets.

#### 5. LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

*Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)*

*Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)*

#### 6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Queensland Government "Creative Together 2020-2030: A 10-Year Roadmap for the arts, culture, and creativity in Queensland

Queensland Heritage Strategy: protecting, investing in and connecting Queensland's story

Queensland Government Regional Arts Development Fund Guidelines and Procedures

South Burnett Regional Council Annual Operational Plans

South Burnett Regional Council Community Plans

South Burnett Regional Council Corporate Plan 2021/2026

South Burnett Regional Council Community Grants Policy

South Burnett Regional Council Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy 2024-2029

#### 7. NEXT REVIEW

As prescribed by legislation or September 2027

## 8. VERSION CONTROL

Version	Revision Description	Approval/Adopted Date	ECM Reference
1	Development of policy	20 January 2021	2745005
2	Administrative change replacing Social & Corporate Performance Branch with Corporate Services Branch as per Council Resolution 2021/296	24 March 2021	2745005
3	Review of policy	23 March 2022	2745005
4	Administrative amendment – organisational structure review – resolution 2022/432	27 April 2022	2745005
5	Review of policy	18 September 2024	2745005

  
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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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