

Cultural Policy

1 Purpose

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

The Cultural Policy and the accompanying Creative Coffs - Cultural Strategic Plan 2017-2022 provides a guide for Coffs Harbour City Council investment that:

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

2 Policy

The vision of this Policy is to enable:

A vibrant and creative Coffs lifestyle enriched by its natural beauty, diverse people and capacity for innovation.

The goals of the Policy and Plan are to:

1. Engage our community and visitors in the cultural life of the area
2. Create and maintain vibrant cultural and public spaces
3. Understand and celebrate our Aboriginal and diverse cultural heritage
4. Value and support our creative industries; and
5. Encourage connections, collaboration and partnerships.

The Creative Coffs - Cultural Strategic Plan 2017-2022 outlines the Council and community priorities and actions to implement the Policy vision and goals. Implementation of the Cultural Policy is an important opportunity to achieve a significant number of the outcomes, objectives and strategies identified and endorsed in the Coffs Harbour Community 2030 Plan.

Council will implement this Policy through officer time, financial support and grant-making, facilitation, and partnership-building and by:

- Showing leadership to the community and supporting their endeavours
- Applying the Policy intent, vision and goals through the planning processes of Council including the Delivery Program and Operational Plan; and
- Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Policy through the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework.

Careful consideration of the appropriate role or roles for Council is important as few of the goals can be achieved by Council alone. Rather, many organisations and people will need to work together to achieve the best results.

Assessment of the appropriate role(s) for Council will form part of the assessment of Council’s involvement in activity related to the Cultural Policy and may include:

- **Enabler:** Creating an environment for arts and culture to flourish - through capacity building, brokering partnerships, improving access and opportunity, providing cultural facilities, and actively supporting community-led initiatives and networks
- **Leader:** Being proactive, and taking the first step to make things happen in the interests of the cultural life of the area
- **Host:** Making Council spaces available to support local artists and creative businesses, and to improve community access
- **Customer:** Engaging local artists in all artforms and creative businesses to work on Council projects
- **Funder:** Helping communities to realise their own creative initiatives, encouraging diversity and vibrancy through strategic funding programs
- **Advocate:** Championing local arts and culture, leveraging Council’s position to generate new opportunities
- **Partner:** Collaborating with the community and other agencies to support arts and cultural activity; and
- **Provider:** Directly providing cultural services, including access to collections, theatre, museum, gallery, library services and venue management.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this policy the term Cultural includes:

Arts: *The arts represent an outlet of expression that is influenced by culture and, which in turn, helps to change culture. The arts are a physical manifestation of the internal creative impulse. Major branches of the arts include literature, music and performing arts, visual and screen arts, design, and digital forms of expression.*

Culture: *Culture is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, defined by everything from language, kinship, religion, cuisine, social habits, traditions, to music and arts. It can be seen as the growth of group identity fostered by social patterns unique to the group. Culture, therefore, also embraces heritage and heritage-related assets and activity.*

4 Key Responsibilities

Position	Directorate	Responsibility
Mayor	Council	To lead councillors in their understanding of this policy and the related plan. To communicate the policy to the community. To receive regular reports on its implementation.
General	Executive	To lead staff in their understanding of this policy and to

<i>Position</i>	<i>Directorate</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Manager		monitor its relationships with other areas of council activity.
Executive Leadership - Directors	All Directorates	To communicate, implement and comply with this policy and related guidelines including the Creative Coffs - Cultural Strategic Plan 2017-2022.
Group and Section Leaders	All Directorates	To implement this policy and related procedures.
All Council officials	Council	To comply with this policy and consider its implications for related projects and programs.

5 References (laws, standards and other Council documents)

- Coffs Harbour 2030 Community Strategic Plan
- Coffs Coast Tourism Strategic Plan 2020
- Coffs Harbour Events Strategy 2020
- Economic Strategy 2014 – 2017
- Coffs Harbour City Centre Masterplan 2031
- Heritage Strategy 2014-2017
- Public Art Selection Protocols Policy
- Local Growth Management Strategy for Coffs Harbour City to 2031
- Coffs Harbour City Council Heritage Strategy 2014-2017; and
- Graffiti Management Strategy 2016-2020.
- Jetty Memorial Theatre Strategy 2013-2018; and
- Coffs Harbour City Libraries Strategic Plan 2012-2016

6 Details of Approval and revision

- **Approval date: 23/02/2017**
- **Responsible Section: Community Programs**
- **Superseded policies/procedures: Cultural Policy**
- **Next review date: 31/03/2022**

Table of amendments

Amendment	Authoriser	Approval ref	Date

7 Appendices

Creative Coffs - Cultural Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022