



ARTS & CULTURAL POLICY

1. OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a comprehensive framework that articulates the community's cultural aspirations and Council's role in supporting and promoting them. This framework guides investment, program delivery and strategic partnerships with a view to enhancing the Shire's reputation as a vibrant hub of creativity and a great place to live, work and invest.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All Council elected members, employees, and contractors involved in planning, funding, or delivering arts, cultural, and heritage activities.
- Community members, creative workers, local organisations, and applicants seeking Council funding, facility access, or grant support (including the Regional Arts Development Fund).

3. LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLANS

Corporate Plan 2023 - 2028

Community Services & Facilities - strategy:

- Plan and provide services and financial support to individuals and organisations for community development and welfare purposes (including community connectedness);
- Provide or source funding to carry out Arts & Cultural activities in line with Council's Arts & Cultural Policy;
- Provide and maintain physical and built facilities for use by the community.
- Development of infrastructure to support community well being and social interaction

Economic Development - objective:

- Support local and regional initiatives in tourism promotion and information services for the shire and the region.

Governance and Partnerships – strategy:

- Develop and maintain strong and collaborative relationships with government at all levels.

MSC Community Plan 2019 - 2026:

- Strategy 3 – Stakeholder and community engagement
- Strategy 10 – Sustainable development of community events and activities
- Strategy 13 – Activation of community facilities
- Strategy 17 – Continued focus on economic development

4. OVERARCHING POLICY PRINCIPLES

- Ensuring arts programs and facilities are physically, culturally, and financially accessible to all community members.

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Version: 3.2

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- Respecting, honoring, and celebrating the local First Nations heritage and creative practices.
- Supporting high-quality practice and fostering skills growth across amateur and professional levels.
- Using creative practice to improve health, well-being, and social cohesion

5. LOCAL PRIORITIES

Public space activation

- Support projects and activities that strengthen the connection between people and the places they share, paying particular attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place.

Youth arts

- Support projects and activities that support a wide variety of opportunities to explore and engage in the arts that aid and enhance the personal and social development of young people.

Professional development

- Support local, individual professional artists and arts workers to attend professional development seminars or activities; master classes; mentorships with recognised arts and cultural peers; and placements with recognised arts and cultural organisations.

Cultural tourism

- Support projects and activities that focus on locally distinct arts, culture and heritage both for members of that community and for visitors.

Performances & exhibitions

- Facilitate performances and exhibitions open to the public to nurture creativity, inspire artistic vision and build a community with a passion for the arts.

Regional partnerships:

- Encourage innovative and energising arts projects where artists, communities and Council's work together in their community, or in partnership with another community, to achieve enhanced outcomes from RADF grants.

Workshops

- Support community groups to engage a professional artist or arts worker to work with them on developing their arts practice or to run arts development workshops or community projects.

Artist in residence

- To invite arts and cultural workers into the community and to provide these arts workers with the opportunity to build their portfolio and during their stay to engage and interact with the local community through presentations, workshops, or collaborating with local residents.

Health & wellbeing

- Support projects and activities that improve the wellbeing of people who are experiencing health problems through active social engagement and creative outlets.

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First Nations Arts & Heritage

- Recognise and celebrate the culture of Traditional Owners by supporting local First Nations artists, incorporating Indigenous artwork into public infrastructure, and facilitating authentic cultural storytelling.

6. LEGISLATION & RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

Legislation

Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)

Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)

Copyright Act 1968 (Cth)

Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)

Relevant Documents

MSC Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028

MSC Community Plan 2019 – 2026

7. DEFINITIONS

Arts worker: An individual who works professionally within the creative sector in an administrative, technical, curatorial, or developmental capacity.

First Nations Cultural Heritage: The tangible and intangible aspects of Traditional Owner culture, including stories, art forms, language, songs, sites, and traditions.

Public Space Activation: Creative interventions, installations, or events designed to strengthen social connections and enliven shared physical spaces.

RADF (Regional Arts Development Fund): A partnership between State/Local Government and Council to support local arts and cultural development.

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