

# Art in Public Space Policy

## Local Government Act 2009

### 1. POLICY STATEMENT

Council is committed to optimising the opportunities for art in public space by:

- Contributing to an innovative and stimulating built environment;
- Supporting the community's access, appreciation and, knowledge of the visual arts in their region by committing to public art opportunities;
- Identifying opportunities for art in public spaces; and
- Providing best practice initiatives for the acquisition of public art works.

### 2. PRINCIPLES

Council recognises that the development of public art in Townsville should:

- Continue to strengthen the cultural identity of the city to compete in the economics of cultural tourism and visitor engagement;
- Contribute to the city's cultural collection by public art acquisitions;
- Engage art experts and art professionals to guide Council decisions in public art projects and acquisitions;
- Provide a collaborative approach between Council departments for a unified vision and output of art that is integrated into the fabric of design and development in the City;
- Provide opportunities for local artists;
- Demonstrate high calibre art which follows industry standards and best practice models;
- Activate spaces and act as a catalyst for public discussion;
- Acknowledge the cultural diversity of contemporary Townsville; and
- Acknowledge the Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage of Townsville.

### 3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all art in public space projects proposed, implemented and/or managed by Council and includes fine-art based public art, community art, integrated permanent and temporary public art, along with street art, and site activation projects.

### 4. RESPONSIBILITY

The Team Manager Arts and the Creative Director Galleries are responsible for ensuring that this policy is understood and adhered to by all council officers and artists involved with producing, implementing and exhibiting art in public space on behalf of Council.

## 5. DEFINITIONS

**Community Art** – includes artwork created by members of the community for a local site, either working with an artist or wholly motivated by a community group.

**Integrated public art** – means artwork integrated/incorporated into another structure such as a building, street scape or landscape design.

**Legal Street Art** – means art forms including practices of writing, drawing, stenciling, painting, pasting up and scratching surfaces, sanctioned by a commissioning body with approval of the property owner, local governing authority and complies with local laws.

**Manager** – includes persons appointed to positions with the title, Team Manager, General Manager, Principal, Director and Chief.

**Permanent Public Art** – means artworks which will be or have been placed on the council's public art register. The life expectancy of permanent public art work is five years. However, permanent public artworks may exceed this.

**A Professional Artist** – means a person with imagination and the creative ability to convey messages to a wider audience through at least one medium, who identifies her/himself on basis of skill, training or experience and is accepted by peers or the arts industry as professional.

**Public Art** – means a concept or work created by an artist/s in any medium, permanent, temporary or ephemeral, which enables stimulation of one or more of the senses and is situated in a place of public access.

**Street Art** – means a permanent artwork that is created in a public space by one or several artists and helps informs the city's cultural identity by the provision of public art displays within streetscapes.

**Site Specific** – means where an artwork has been designed for a set location and draws on elements which influence the site (be they constructed or natural) to create the final effect.

**Temporary Public Art** – includes an artwork, installation or performance piece that is not designed to last. A temporary or short-lived artwork may remain anywhere from a few hours up to approximately 24 months.

**Workers** – includes employees, contractors, volunteers and all others who perform work on behalf of council.

## 6. POLICY

Council acknowledges the need to employ artists to produce art in public space:

- Where possible, artists will be engaged at the inception of a project to ensure that art can be integrated and/or readily accommodated in the project's concept design phase. It is essential to establish strong working relationships between all relevant stakeholders throughout the planning process to ensure that the most appropriate implementation process is followed and a successful public art outcome achieved.
- Council recognises artists have the ability to communicate in visual form which can elude verbal or written expression. Artists also have the ability to interpret the social and cultural values of the community. A well-chosen and appropriately sited public artwork adds significantly to a sense of place as well as communicating the city's point of difference.

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- Council supports the role public art has to impact on the urban landscape and encourages artists to pursue artistic excellence, innovation and experimentation in their work.
- Council promotes consultation across disciplines and encourages collaboration between artists, communities, and design professionals. The process will contribute to a greater understanding of the role and contribution of artists and cultural workers in the life of the community.
- Council recognises the need to encourage artistic works which reflect Townsville's diverse cultural identity. Council recognises the traditional rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in all issues concerning the evaluation, planning, design and development of public spaces.
- Council encourages the involvement of council's Heritage and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Liaison Officers area in providing advice regarding the cultural significance of the selected site. This information will promote a greater awareness of the cultural, social, historical and aesthetic value of Townsville and may or may not be used by the artists.

### 6.1 PUBLIC ART PROCUREMENT

Council recognises the following methods for procuring public artworks:

- Acquisitions;
- Commissioning;
- Artists as part of collaborative design teams;
- Artists in Residence; and
- Artists collaborating with the community in the design and/or implementation of place making projects.

### 6.2 PUBLIC ART SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT

- Preferential consideration should be given to engaging local artists but not isolated to local content;
- The selection and management of public art will follow the Public Art Procedure and Street Art Framework developed by council; and
- The Art Acquisition working group will guide commissioning recommendations of major public art projects. This group will comprise of art experts, art professionals, community members and appropriate officers from Council. Where external partnerships exist there is to be a representative from these organisations. Community stakeholders are to be consulted in the commissioning of site-specific installations.

### 6.3 PUBLIC ART FUNDING

Council will explore a range of funding options for future public art projects, including:

- Program budget allocations.
- Partnership, sponsorship and donations.
- State and Federal Government funding. Council will actively seek funding, either whole or part project cost, from other tiers of government.

### 6.4 TEMPORARY ART IN PUBLIC SPACES

Council recognises the importance of temporary public art projects, including projects such as Council's *Strand Ephemera*.

Temporary public art projects enliven our environment, bring economic growth to the region through local visitation and cultural tourism, raise awareness and engender debate about public art. Council encourages the development of temporary public art projects throughout Townsville. Temporary public art projects should meet a high standard and include demonstrable long-term outcomes.

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## 6.5 PUBLIC ART REGISTER

A register listing council's permanent public artworks is maintained by Council's Gallery Services within council. All artworks in this register are considered assets in Council's Corporate Financial Asset System.

## 6.6 PUBLIC ART MAINTENANCE AND CONSERVATION

Galleries will maintain and arrange for specialised conservation of registered public artworks in linked with standard art procedures.

## 6.7 DEACCESSIONING OR RELOCATING ARTWORK

From time to time decisions need to be made about either relocating or removing public artworks from council's ownership for a range of reasons including:

- Artistic relevance;
- Public safety;
- Changes to the design and use of the public space occupied by the artwork;
- The possibility that a new and better site has become available for an artwork;
- The work no longer reflects the site or community;
- The work sustains irretrievable loss or irreparable damage; and
- Deterioration of the work has progressed to such a degree that conservation of the work is valued at a cost greater than the original cost of the work.

The recommendation to de-accession or relocate any permanent public artwork is made in consultation with Galleries. Galleries will make the necessary contact with stakeholders, including artists. In regard to all other public artworks including community art projects, the project officer who co-ordinated the project should be consulted and if not available Galleries should be advised.

## 7. LEGAL PARAMETERS

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Local Government Regulations 2012*

## 8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Townsville City Council Arts Strategy 2020-2024

City of Townsville Art in Public Spaces Collection Terms of Reference

Townsville City Council - Street Art Activation framework

Public Art Register

Public Art Procedure

Arts Queensland Arts and Cultural Investment Framework 2018

Queensland Government, Arts for all Queenslanders Strategy 2014 - 2018

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