

Gympie Regional Council recognises that arts and culture are major contributors to building strong and healthy communities, innovation, economic development, self-expression, cultural identity and sense of place.

Gympie Regional Council aims to provide an environment that allows people to enjoy opportunities for artistic and cultural expression and development whilst acknowledging the diversity of cultural values, lifestyle, religious, political, social, economic and ethnic differences.

This policy adopts the definition of Arts and Culture as outlined in the National Cultural Accord 'Partnering for a Creative Australia' (2013):

*"A broad concept of arts and culture encompasses three overlapping and interrelated sectors: Core arts: Music, performing arts, literature and visual arts, including established and emerging art forms and inter-arts activities. ... Creative industries: A sector which harnesses a range of creative and business skills for commercial productions and dissemination. ... Cultural Heritage: In parallel with core arts and creative industries there is a strong recognition of Australia's diverse cultural heritage, and the work of museums, galleries and libraries and archives to preserve and provide access to the artifacts and intangible heritage of Australia's culture.*

Gympie Regional Council also recognises that sport is an important part of our culture bringing people together to engage as a community.

This Policy supports the cultural vision and key objectives of the Gympie Regional Council Arts and Cultural Plan 2015-2025 (CSMP411). Through the delivery of the Arts and Cultural Plan, Gympie Regional Council will:

1. Acknowledge the unique cultural identities of the communities within the Gympie region.
2. Recognise the role that adequate facilities and resources, public and creative spaces have for cultural activities.
3. Endeavour to provide the environment to develop economic potential within the local cultural sector.
4. Foster networks in the community to build capacity, collaboration and resource sharing, including promotion and communication.
5. Support cultural professional development, creativity, participation in and audience development of cultural activities to generate social and economic benefits for individuals, community organizations, business and the region in general.
6. Advocate across all levels of Government, private sectors and arts organisations for support of arts and cultural practice as an integral part of building a vibrant and prosperous community.
7. Recognise the commitment of volunteer organisations and individuals in the provision of cultural activities in the region.

This policy applies to the whole of Council. Implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Corporate and Community Services directorate in line with the Arts and Cultural Plan 2015-2025.