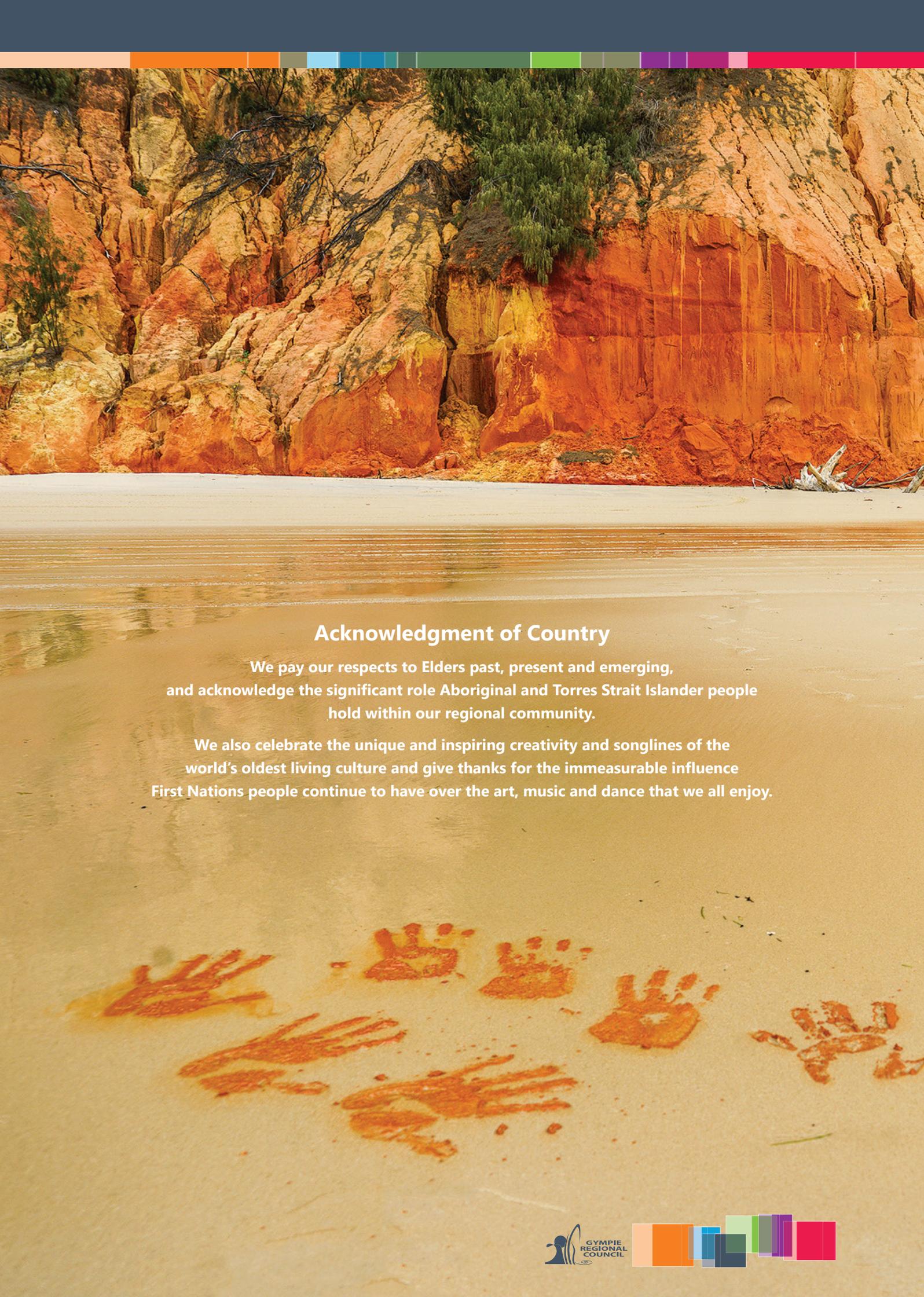


Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028





Acknowledgment of Country

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging,
and acknowledge the significant role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
hold within our regional community.

We also celebrate the unique and inspiring creativity and songlines of the
world's oldest living culture and give thanks for the immeasurable influence
First Nations people continue to have over the art, music and dance that we all enjoy.



Contents

Purpose of the Strategy.....	1
Background and Context.....	1
Gympie Region Profile.....	1
What is Arts and Culture?.....	2
Why is it Important?.....	3
Strategic Alignment.....	4
The National Context.....	4
The State Context.....	4
The Local Context.....	5
Arts and Culture in Community Recovery and Resilience Building.....	7
The Role of Gympie Regional Council.....	8
Collaboration.....	8
Cultural Vision.....	9
Strategic Outcomes.....	9
Outcome 1: First Nations Arts and Culture is Recognised, Celebrated and Embraced.....	10
Outcome 2: Our Local Creative and Cultural Sector is Valued and Thriving.....	11
Outcome 3: Our Community is Actively Engaged as Participants, Advocates and Co-creators.....	12
Outcome 4: Our Places and Spaces are Buzzing with Creative Activation.....	13
Outcome 5: Our Regional Identities and Diverse Natural, Built, and Cultural Heritage are Acknowledged, Protected and Shared.....	14
Delivering the Strategy.....	15
Action Plans.....	15
Ongoing consultation and communication.....	15
Funding the Strategy.....	15
Reviewing and Evaluating the Strategy.....	16
Appendix 1: Consultation Journey.....	17
Appendix 2: Related Documents.....	18

Front cover image:

Projection artwork by artist James Muller covered the front façade of the Gympie Regional Gallery featuring works by Kabi Kabi artist Lyndon Davis and depiction of local endemic species of the Mary River, part of 22.96 / receding exhibited in 2023.



Purpose of the Strategy

This Arts and Cultural Strategy identifies priorities to develop and celebrate arts and culture in the Gympie region from 2023-2028. The strategy provides council and community stakeholders with a mandate to direct resources, leverage possibilities and advocate for greater funding and opportunities for arts and culture in our region. The strategy also responds to the changing social, economic and environmental factors that have influenced the Gympie region in recent times, articulating the vital role of arts and culture in this landscape moving forward.

Background and Context

Gympie Region Profile

The Gympie region is located on the traditional Country of the Kabi Kabi (Gubbi Gubbi), the Butchulla (Badtjala) and the Wakka Wakka peoples, the first peoples and first artists of this land. Our region is the meeting place between town and country, bush and beach. With beautiful coastlines, majestic hinterlands, rolling hills and stunning nature all around us, the Gympie region has it all.

To the east we have the Cooloola Coast featuring the communities of Tin Can Bay, Cooloola Cove and Rainbow Beach including the southern gateway to K'gari (Fraser Island). To the west are our pioneering towns of Kilkivan and Goomeri, to the south the bespoke communities of the Mary Valley and to the north the growing townships of Chatsworth, Curra and rural communities of Theebine and Gunalda. Centrally located is our city of Gympie, with rich heritage and a growing urban environment.

The 2021 Census population for the region was 53,242, predicted to grow to 58,486 by 2031 (Queensland Government Statisticians Office Forecast). The Gympie region spans almost 6,900 square kilometres averaging 7.79 persons per square km. Gympie is known as the 'Town that Saved Queensland' after James Nash discovered gold in 1867 at the bottom of Caledonian Hill where Gympie's Town Hall is located. This discovery sparked one of the wildest gold rushes in Queensland's history and brought European settlement to the area. A legacy of this era is the impressive and elegant heritage architecture with many buildings registered on the Queensland Heritage Register.



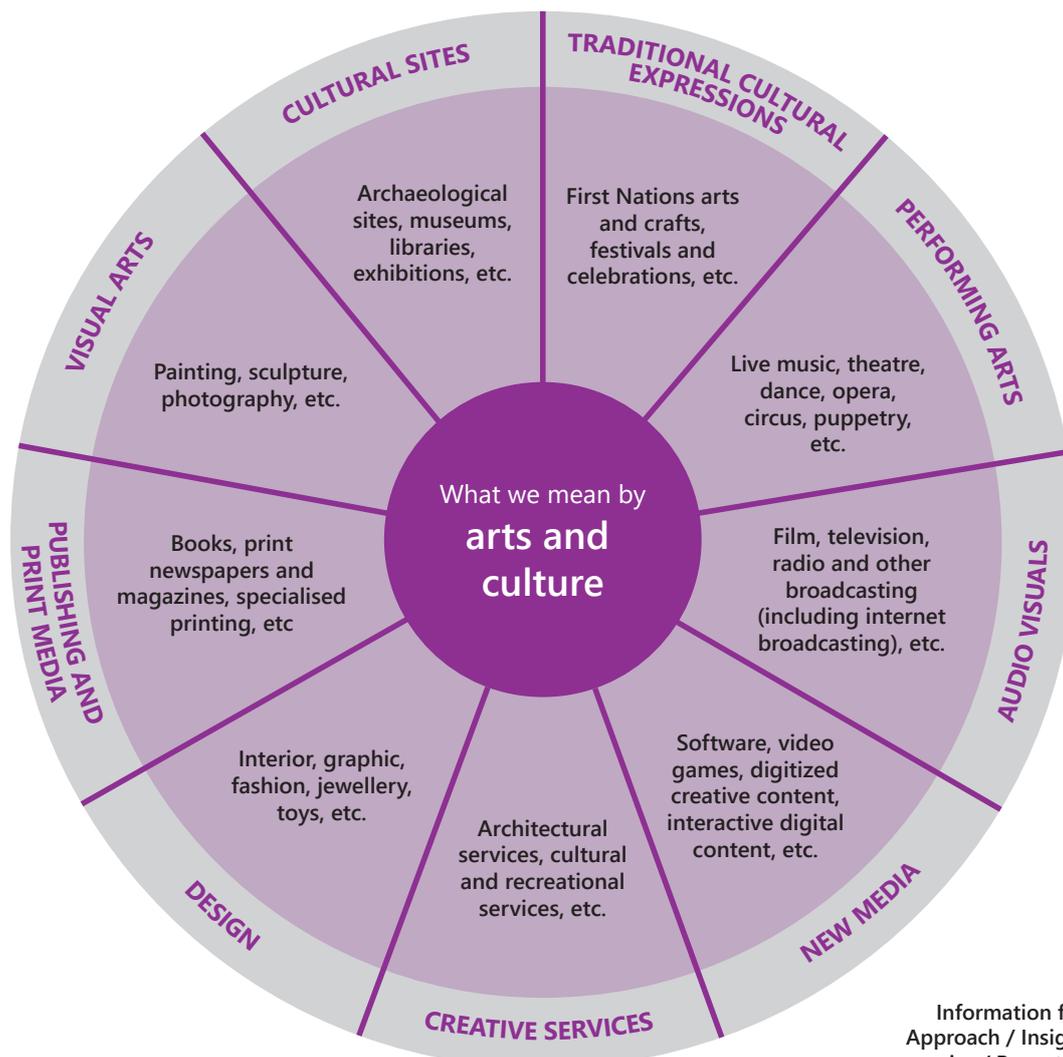
Creative expression and cultural exchange are at the very heart of the Gympie Region. From the earliest recorded community gatherings of the Bunya Nut Feasts held by the Kabi Kabi (Gubbi Gubbi) people, to exhibitions that adorn the Gympie Regional Gallery, to signature events such as the iconic Gympie Music Muster, the Heart of Gold International Short Film Festival, the Mary Valley Art Festival and many others, the Gympie community celebrates the region's distinctive qualities and values.

Home to both professional artists and community-led arts activity, our region is confident in our creative ability and excited by the future we can help shape.



What is Arts and Culture?

The phrase "Arts and Culture" incorporates a broad range of creative practices and disciplines. The diagram below illustrates the breadth of creative pursuits that are recognised by our Gympie Region Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028.



Information from A New Approach / Insight Research series / Report Five / 2020



Why is it Important?

'Creating Our Future: Results of the National Arts Participation Survey 2020' undertaken by Australia Council for the Arts explores Australians engagement with and attitudes towards the arts. The key findings from this research are that:

- 98 per cent of Australians are still engaging with the arts
- Arts and creativity are highly valued, and significantly more Australians now recognise the range of positive impacts on our lives, communities, and our national identity
- As well as strong and growing support for public funding for the arts in Australia, Australians have clear priorities for investment. The top three priorities are:
 1. arts in the lives of young people
 2. access to free or low-cost events
 3. to support health and well-being
- More Australians now agree First Nations arts are an important part of Australia's culture and both attendance at and interest in First Nations arts were strong and growing prior to COVID-19
- More than one in three Australians connect with, and share, their cultural background through arts and creativity
- Prior to COVID-19, live arts attendance was thriving, with more than two in three Australians attending the arts in person in 2019
- Entertainment, social connection and understanding other perspectives and cultures were the main drivers of arts attendance
- Four in 10 Australians would like to attend more arts events with cost and location the main barriers to increased attendance
- Festivals are a part of life for many Australians, and were growing in popularity prior to COVID-19
- More Australians are creatively participating in the arts and most Australians were listening to recorded music, reading for pleasure, and engaging with the arts online.

A creative region is a prosperous one. Arts and culture contribute to the economic development of the region through employment, commerce, innovation and tourism. New opportunities, partnerships and collaborations are possible with well-placed investment, support and leadership. Gympie Regional Council recognises that arts and culture are major contributors to building strong and healthy communities, innovation, economic development, public relations, self-expression, cultural identity, and sense of place.

Source: Creating Our Future: Spotlight on equal access to arts and creativity for all Australians (Australia Council for the Arts, August 2020)

Credit images 1. Inaugural Annual Dance Affair 2. Kayt Wallace from the Moonsets 3. Miriam Innes



"All Australians, regardless of social, physical, geographic or personal circumstances should feel invited to connect and immerse themselves in exceptional arts experiences".



Strategic Alignment

The Gympie Regional Council Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028 is developed in the context of three key documents:

- Commonwealth of Australia 2023, *Revive: A place for every story. A story for every place – Australia’s cultural policy for the next five years*
- Queensland Government, *Creative Together 2020 - 2030: A 10-Year Roadmap for arts, culture and creativity in Queensland*
- *Gympie Regional Council Corporate Plan 2022-2027.*

Our strategy is intentionally positioned in the context of these strategic documents to leverage opportunities across all levels of government to achieve positive outcomes for the arts and cultural sector and our region.

The National Context

In February 2023, Australia’s first Cultural Policy since 2013 was released. *Revive* represents a prioritisation of Arts and Culture at the federal level and acknowledges its role in identity and nation-building.

The policy is structured around five key pillars:

1. First Nations First
2. A Place for Every Story
3. Centrality of the Artist
4. Strong Cultural Infrastructure
5. Engaging the Audience.

This policy makes a commitment to the development, restoration and maintenance of cultural infrastructure, including galleries, venues, theatres, libraries, museums, archives, and digital collections. It also acknowledges that regional artists are critical to a vibrant arts sector that reflects Australia’s depth and diversity. The policy further reaffirms creativity and culture are critical in supporting regional communities and local economies.

The State Context

Creative Together 2020-2030 is the Queensland Government’s 10-year roadmap for arts, culture and creativity. Three separate action plans sit alongside this broader roadmap and provide strategies to chart Queensland’s arts and cultural sector out of the challenges of COVID-19, towards the opportunities presented by 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games. These respective plans are *Sustain: 2021–2022*; *Grow: 2022–2026*; and *Thrive: 2026-2030*.

Creative Together’s key priorities are:

1. Embrace Brisbane 2032 across Queensland
2. Elevate First Nations arts
3. Activate Queensland’s places and spaces
4. Drive social change and strengthen communities
5. Share our stories and celebrate our storytellers.





Grow: 2022-2026 will be underpinned by a new investment of \$50 million over four years. Several actions articulated as part of this State strategy speak directly to regional investment and growth providing a strong background in which to situate Gympie Regional Council's Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028. Through the Grow Plan, Arts Queensland undertakes to:

- Work across all levels of government in the consideration of priority cultural infrastructure requirements in regional centres
- Support opportunities to activate non-traditional spaces in regional and remote communities with cultural and creative experiences
- Support regionally based and community driven capacity building and arts careers in communities
- Support local arts and cultural initiatives that enable vibrant, inclusive, and cohesive Queensland communities
- Grow opportunities for arts-led programs in communities through partnerships with education, health and wellbeing and youth services
- Partner with councils and other funding partners to deliver impactful arts projects and programs in regional and remote communities.

The Local Context

The Gympie Regional Council Corporate Plan 2022-2027 provides a roadmap for the region into the future. It acknowledges the recent challenges our community has faced through the rise in the cost of living, the COVID-19 pandemic and a series of significant flood events.

Future considerations for our region are increasing migration to the area and resultant population growth, the impending opening of the Bruce Highway upgrade, and the potential opportunities associated with the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In response to these factors the Gympie Regional Council Corporate Plan incorporates the following vision:

- *Opportunities:* Our region will maximise the opportunities presented by our location, heritage, and people to attract projects and industries in a balanced and sustainable way.
- *Wellbeing:* Our community's wellbeing will be supported by our natural and built assets that are accessible, maintained and developed to cater for current and future needs including spaces for living, working, learning, sport and recreation that enhances liveability, nurtures creativity, and encourages healthy living.
- *Strong communities:* Our resilient communities will be respected, connected, and supported by fostering strong community values and embracing diversity.



The strategic priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan that support the development and implementation of the Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028 are as follows:

1. Community and Environment

- 1.1 Encourage and enhance communication and engagement with all stakeholders.
- 1.2 Foster and support inclusive and connected communities including providing opportunities for, and forming partnerships with, traditional owners, cultural, environmental, and other community groups together with supporting and developing intergenerational volunteering.
- 1.3 Provide inclusive cultural and community places and spaces that nurtures creativity, promotes healthy living, enhances liveability, and accommodates the needs of a growing population.
- 1.6 Advocate to the state and federal governments for improved infrastructure and outcomes for the region.

2. Infrastructure and Economic Opportunity

- 2.1 Develop, implement, and regularly revise asset management plans.
- 2.3 Facilitate integration of land use and infrastructure planning to meet future needs and diverse population and economic growth including resilient community infrastructure.
- 2.5 Delivery of capital works programs effectively and efficiently.
- 2.6 Support industry development, assist in developing economic resilience and advocate for economic opportunities including tourism and recreation.

In addition to Gympie Regional Council's Corporate Plan, the outcomes articulated in this Arts and Cultural Strategy will be realised through embedding arts and cultural priorities across inter-related council strategies, plans and programming:

- Economic Development Strategy
- Tourism, Events and Festival Planning
- Heritage Planning and Investment
- Open Space and Recreation Planning
- Community Development Policies and Programming
- Town planning, revitalisation and capital works programming
- Disaster Management, Recovery and Resilience.



Arts and Culture in Community Recovery and Resilience Building

Gympie Regional Council understands the important role that arts and culture plays in communities responding to, and recovering from, challenges and disasters.

After COVID-19 and a series of flood events in 2022, the community continues to recover and build resilience. Arts and culture provide a fundamental tool to drive this process. Through sharing our stories and seeing them reflected in the stories that others tell, we are able to make sense of our past challenges and plot a path forwards.

Arts and culture also provide important opportunities for community remembrance and reflection, positive psychological and physical health outcomes, and stronger, more connected communities.

Source: Creative Recovery Network



Image Credit: Courtesy of Leeroy Todd

The Role of Gympie Regional Council

Gympie Regional Council plays a vital role in enabling the community to participate in artistic and cultural expression, supporting arts and culture in a variety of ways:

Connector	Creating an environment where arts and culture can flourish by brokering partnerships, access and opportunity, and creating and supporting community networks and resources.
Leader	Setting a positive example, proactively addressing community needs to make a difference.
Host	Providing community spaces and cultural infrastructure to support local cultural activity and attract artistic work from outside the region.
Advocate	As a champion for local arts and culture, leveraging Gympie Regional Council's position to generate new opportunities, and promoting the interests of the community to decision makers.
Partner	An active and engaged collaborator, working hand in hand with the community to support arts and cultural activity.
Investor	Empowering communities and artists to realise their own creative initiatives, encouraging diversity and vibrancy through strategic funding programs.
Capacity Builder	Providing opportunities, knowledge, and support to community members to enable them to initiate, drive and lead arts and cultural initiatives in the region.
Custodian	Owning and managing cultural infrastructure and local heritage assets.

Collaboration

Collaboration is fundamental to achieving the vision and outcomes outlined in this Arts and Cultural Strategy. Artists, local business, creative practitioners, community groups, artisans, writers, musicians, producers, venues, creative industries, museums, residents, education and health services, cultural institutions, other levels of government and more all play essential roles in generating, funding, and valuing creativity, arts and culture in our region. Everyone is encouraged to contribute to the implementation and ongoing development of this Arts and Cultural Strategy.



Cultural Vision

Creativity and culture connect and empower us; celebrating our stories, our people and our places. Together we see what the Gympie region can be, and we create it.

Strategic Outcomes

The delivery of this strategy is framed around achieving our cultural vision and the five inter-connected outcomes below:



Outcome 1: First Nations Arts and Culture is Recognised, Celebrated, and Embraced

- 1.1 Gympie Regional Council undertakes to work with First Nations communities and artists to identify their arts and cultural priorities and opportunities in the region. We acknowledge that much work needs to be done. Through this strategy, we are committed to ongoing partnership and investment in First Nations Arts and Culture that is led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and community together.
- 1.2 Support the development of a First Nation's Cultural Centre in the region.

Spotlight: First Nations Memorial Stone, Gympie Memorial Park

On 7 June 2021, the Gympie region formally recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen and women for their military contribution to Australia's wartime efforts. Veterans, supporters and guests gathered for the unveiling of a commemorative stone monument in Memorial Park, Gympie. The monument provides a lasting tribute to those who served and sacrificed. For Aboriginal Elder, Aunty Lillian Burke, the unveiling of the monument was the culmination of the long-awaited recognition for her family and people, and an untold part of Australia's history and culture.



Spotlight: Uncle Jimmys Creek

As part of Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week 2023, Traditional Owners, local residents, community leaders and Gympie Regional Council honoured the spirit of Uncle Jimmy and all known and unknown First Nations people.

While we may never know his real name or ancestral heritage, Jimmy was a highly respected and skilled Aboriginal horseman who lived in the late 1800s/early 1900s. He lived on the banks of what was locally named Jimmys Creek in the Glastonbury area of Kabi Kabi country.

First Nations residents Raylene Gibb and Aunty Lillian Burke brought this history to the attention of Gympie Regional Council which subsequently facilitated the official naming of "Uncle Jimmys Creek" by the State Government. The project focused on sharing First Nations history and commemoration through ritual, ceremony and storytelling.

Outcome 2: Our Local Creative and Cultural Sector is Valued and Thriving

Priorities

- 2.1 Embed the value of creativity and culture across Council departments to achieve the vision and outcomes of the strategy.
- 2.2 Recognise and support creative and cultural industries as economic drivers in the prosperity of the region.
- 2.3 Support creative and cultural careers across the region, increasing opportunities for local artists and creatives to earn, develop and present new work, and progress professionally.
- 2.4 Facilitate capacity building and professional development for the creative and cultural sector, supporting training and mentoring of the next generation.
- 2.5 Identify and leverage cultural hubs and facilitate networking, connection, and collaboration.
- 2.6 Work to broker partnerships within the sector, removing barriers, and improving communication and connection between Council, communities of practice, venues, and community.
- 2.7 Establish partnerships with the non-arts sector (such as local business, agriculture, sports, tourism, education, environment and health) to broaden the creation and delivery of arts and cultural experiences.
- 2.8 Leverage opportunities with state and federal counterparts and continue to invest in the Regional Arts Development Fund program with State Government.
- 2.9 Continue to foster partnerships with the Regional Arts Services Network, University of the Sunshine Coast, TAFE Queensland, and other key institutions and agencies to support our local creative sector.
- 2.10 Support and work with community cultural and heritage organisations to develop capacity, organisational sustainability, and succession planning, to ensure their continuing contribution to our cultural ecology.

Spotlight: Gympie Region Studio Trails

Artists and artisans across the Gympie region open their studios and ateliers during the annual Studio Trails. The program provides local artists with an opportunity to increase their profile with regional and visiting audiences, sell their work and offer workshops. In the lead up to the trails, participating artists have opportunities to participate in professional development and networking events.



Image credit – Des Spencer Studio

Outcome 3: Our Community is Actively Engaged as Participants, Advocates and Co-creators

Priorities

- 3.1 Develop and support arts and cultural programs that encourage access and inclusion for all people, actively addressing barriers preventing engagement in arts and cultural activities.
- 3.2 Co-design programs with the community to develop ongoing resilience and recovery in relation to disaster events.
- 3.3 Explore alternative modes of cultural delivery and engagement through digital and online arts and cultural activities.
- 3.4 Host arts and cultural programs, connecting the community to high quality professional arts experiences from within and outside the region.
- 3.5 Engage and mentor young people to develop relevant arts and cultural actions that encourage participation, creativity, and career and personal development.
- 3.6 Enhance and extend communication and marketing channels and leverage community and cultural hubs to promote the region's arts and cultural experiences to increase engagement with new audiences within and outside the region.

Spotlight: Inaugural Annual Dance Affair

In 2021, Gympie Regional Council in partnership with Everybody Now! presented the *Inaugural Annual Dance Affair*; a funny, exhilarating and energising performance event spanning generations and genres, connected by the knowledge that people love to dance. Part theatre performance, part get up and dance, the Inaugural Annual Dance Affair was an all-ages performance event that immersed the audience in an evening of old time and new time dance floor magic.



At the heart of the project was connecting with older community members to gather local stories and dancing traditions. However, the design of the project was to be truly inter-generational and encompassed a broad cross section of the community from the four-year-old ballerinas to teenage contemporary dancers, to the mature aged ballroom dancer and community dance groups.

Through a series of residencies, the artistic team from Everybody Now! consulted and collaborated with community dance groups from across the Gympie region. They researched local history, recorded interviews with local dance legends and recruited a large cast of community dance champions across ages, demographics, and dancing genres. The result was two incredible performances held at The Pavilion Conference and Reception Centre in Gympie in March 2021 that will be remembered for years to come.



Outcome 4: Our Places and Spaces are Buzzing with Creative Activation

Priorities

- 4.1 Continue to invest in cultural facilities including the Gympie Regional Gallery, Gympie Regional libraries, The Pavilion Conference and Reception Centre, the Gympie Civic Centre, other Council performance venues, halls and museums, to provide local community users, visiting professional companies and commercial hirers with access to appropriately resourced, managed, and maintained cultural venues.
- 4.2 Review the Gympie Cultural Precinct Master Plan and explore funding to deliver a best practice Gympie Library.
- 4.3 Identify, develop, and activate public places and spaces with arts and cultural activity to entice the community and visitors to enjoy our region (including unique or non-traditional arts spaces like recreation parks, car parks, bus stops).
- 4.4 Lead the development of permanent and ephemeral public art projects and support community-led public art projects, leveraging opportunities with regional infrastructure projects as sites and funders for public art.
- 4.5 Support and build capacity of Community Hall Management Committees to program and promote the use of local community halls and broker partnerships with the creative and cultural sector.
- 4.6 Support cultural tourism through investment in our cultural infrastructure and events.
- 4.7 Consider existing and future arts and cultural facilities in the planning of town/precinct capital works plans, streetscape plans and development plans across the region.

Spotlight: Gympie Library Makerspace

Libraries are constantly evolving to provide relevant, engaging methods of learning for their communities.

Creativity, engineering and design are gaining prominence among educational organisations as they provide pathways to a wide range of critical careers.

Makerspaces foster learning in these fields by engaging people in high-order problem solving through hands-on design, construction and iteration.

The Gympie Library Makerspace offers patrons access to emerging technologies such as 3D printing, virtual reality and robotics, while also providing a place for community groups and like-minded individuals, to meet, collaborate and create, simultaneously allowing the library to connect with people who would not normally utilise traditional library services.



Outcome 5: Our Regional Identities and Diverse Natural, Built, and Cultural Heritage are Acknowledged, Protected and Shared

Priorities

- 5.1 Provide opportunities and support for First Nations people to celebrate their identity and custodianship of the land, water and sky and their fundamental role in the living history of the region.
- 5.2 Support the discovery, exploration, and celebration of our diverse identities through arts and cultural activities, fostering inclusion and connection, and generating community pride in the region.
- 5.3 Recognise and celebrate the cultural diversity of our community.
- 5.4 Support community-based groups, heritage associations and museums to preserve and share our local history and deliver high quality public experiences that engage the community and visitors in appreciating our regional identity.
- 5.5 Celebrate and showcase the unique natural, built, and cultural identities of our region through a broad range of arts and cultural activities.

Spotlight: Exhibition: 22.96 / receding

In 2023, a multi-faceted exhibition at the Gympie Regional Gallery by three Gympie artists – Miriam Innes, Joolie Gibbs and Leeroy Todd – commemorated the anniversary of the February 2022 flooding events within the region. The exhibition captured the significance of the experience and the impacts on local residents, businesses and the environment.



With a series of public programs including children’s workshop, artist talks and residencies, ‘22.96 / receding’ enabled the broader community to participate in activities, explore artistic techniques and contribute to the sharing of stories and experiences in creative and meaningful ways. Works created by the community will be collated and preserved in a digital presentation and shared through libraries across the region.

The artists’ aim was to create a positive experience for the community, with new impressions to provoke affirming reflections of the Mary River and a sense of belonging to place and regional identity. The theme of creative recovery forms a foundation for building sustainable community resilience and facilitating community healing and recovery. The legacy of this exhibition also serves to document this important event in our region’s history and to highlight our community spirit and collective resilience in the face of natural disasters.

Delivering the Strategy

Action Plans

Detailed Action Plans will be developed and delivered to implement the outcomes and priorities outlined in this document.

Ongoing consultation and communication

In consultation with the arts and cultural sector, Gympie Regional Council will:

- Establish a central database that enables targeted on-going communications including updates on strategies, actions and programs, registration and pre-qualification for opportunities such as public art, production management and promotion of events.
- Host one Arts and Cultural Forum annually and report back to the community on how their information and proposals at public forums have been escalated to the council and actioned.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to collate and promote the diverse range of arts and cultural experiences and events in the region.

Funding the Strategy

A range of funding sources will be leveraged to implement this Strategy and related Action Plans, including:

- Gympie Regional Council's annual budget
- State and Federal funding
- One off external grant funding
- Corporate sponsorship and philanthropy.



Reviewing and Evaluating the Strategy

This is a living document that can respond to changing community circumstances and funding opportunities in alignment with the agreed strategic outcomes. Annual reviews will be undertaken as part of reporting back to council and the community on implementation of the strategy.

Performance measures will be specified in the Action Plans. Measures for the plans and/or projects arising from the plans will include:

- Demonstrated attendance and engagement numbers (quantitative)
- Demonstrated feedback from community, artists, audiences and other stakeholders (qualitative)
- Increased programming in local places and spaces of Arts and Cultural products from within and outside the region
- Demonstrated raised profile of the Gympie Region's Arts and Cultural offerings at a state and national level
- Improved communication of arts and cultural events to the community
- Increased retention of local artists in the community able to sustain viable careers (census data)
- Improved number of digital and online engagement strategies
- Improved arts and cultural education and training opportunities in the region
- Increased number of public art projects across the region with clearer processes for application and delivery
- Delivery of annual reporting to council
- Securing of external funding for infrastructure and project delivery.



Appendix 1: Consultation Journey

2019 – 2022

The review of the 2015-2025 Arts and Cultural Plan commenced in February 2019 at the first Arts and Culture Forum hosted by Gympie Regional Council. Over 40 community stakeholders participated in a focus group workshop to identify the priorities for arts and culture in the Gympie region.

In 2020, council engaged an external arts industry professional to undertake a review of the former Arts and Cultural Plan and consultation with the community. With the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020, face-to-face consultation was limited, and much of the consultation was conducted via online focus group discussions and by phone interviews with individual stakeholders. A total of 54 participants were consulted.

Further analysis of data from a survey of the local music industry conducted in January 2019 was incorporated into the review. A total of 75 respondents took part in this survey.

The Arts and Culture Forum held in February 2021 presented the findings of the review and outlined a set of priorities and opportunities for arts and culture in the Gympie region. The 65 participants at the forum provided feedback on the Arts and Cultural Plan 2015-2025 Review: Summary and Action Report. Further consultation was undertaken as part of the Gympie Region Live Music Forum held in 2022.

2023

The draft Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028 was presented to elected Councillors for feedback at the Council Workshop on 10 May 2023.

Between June and July 2023, broad community consultation was undertaken, including identifying short-term actions. Engagement methods included information sessions, an arts and cultural forum and an online survey.

Following public consultation, officers amended and refined the strategy based on feedback. The penultimate draft was presented to Council Workshop on 11 October 2023. The final draft of the strategy was presented to Council Ordinary Meeting and endorsed on 25 October 2023.



Appendix 2: Related Documents

The following documents informed the development of the Gympie Regional Council Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028:

- Commonwealth of Australia 2023, REVIVE – Australia’s Cultural Policy for the next five years 2023 – 2028
- Gympie Regional Council Arts and Cultural Plan 2015-2025
- Gympie Regional Council Arts and Cultural Plan 2015-2025 Review – Summary and Action Plan
- Gympie Regional Council Arts and Cultural Policy 2021
- Gympie Regional Council Corporate Plan 2022-2027
- Queensland Government, *Creative Together 2020 – 2030: A 10-year Roadmap for arts, culture, and creativity in Queensland*
- Queensland Government, *Grow 2022 – 2026: The second action plan for Creative Together 2020 – 2030: A 10-year Roadmap for arts, culture, and creativity in Queensland*
- Trembath, J.L., Fielding, K., 2020, ‘Australia’s cultural and creative economy: A 21st century guide’. Produced by A New Approach think tank with lead delivery partner the Australian Academy of the Humanities, Canberra.

