

# Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028

## Implementation Progress Report 2023/2024

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### Executive Summary

The Gympie Regional Council Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028 was endorsed by Council on 25 October 2023.

A copy of the Strategy and Consultation Report can be accessed on Council's website at [Arts and Cultural Strategy, Policies, and Forums – Gympie Regional Council](#).

With the Strategy endorsed, implementation has progressed against the Short-Term Action Plan.

The purpose of this implementation report is to provide a high-level summary of actions progressed from October 2023 (when the Arts and Cultural Strategy was endorsed) to June 2024.

For further information, please contact Council's Arts and Cultural Development Officer via email on [radf@gympie.qld.gov.au](mailto:radf@gympie.qld.gov.au) or phone 1300 307 800.

## Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023 – 2028 – Implementation Progress Report 2023/2024

### Short Term Action Plan: Progress Report

Below is a summary of progressed and completed actions and tasks.

Strategic Outcome 1: First Nations Arts and Culture is Recognised, Celebrated, and Embraced				
#	Action	Task	Status	Comments
1a	Review the First Nations Regional Partnership Project 2022 to inform Council approach.	Review Documents	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Nations Regional partnership report reviewed and findings summarised.</li> <li>Key learnings identified for ongoing implementation.</li> </ul>
1b	Work with First Nations artists to develop an exhibition at the Gympie Regional Gallery in 2024-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue conversations and establish exhibition parameters</li> <li>Explore internal and external funding options</li> <li>Establish best practice curation practices</li> <li>Plan exhibition proposal</li> </ul>	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following conversations with Cherbourg Ration Shed Museum, exhibition confirmed for Gympie Regional Gallery November 2024.</li> </ul>
Strategic Priority 2: Our Local Creative and Cultural Sector is Valued and Thriving				
2a	Support the creative community to access alternate performance venues by providing services as intermediary and information hub.	Work to identify and activate non-traditional performance spaces.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Live and Local performances carried out in Nelson Reserve in April, May, and June 2024</li> <li>Grit Regional Halls tour carried out February 2024</li> </ul>

## Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023 – 2028 – Implementation Progress Report 2023/2024

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little Seed Theatre regional Halls tour to be carried out June 2024.</li> <li>ART POST activation supported February -April 2024</li> </ul>
		Draw on community halls scoping project to extend and share understanding of available offerings.	In progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial halls scoping project completed.</li> <li>Next steps: extend with technical and hirer information.</li> </ul>
		Work with community development and the creative community to activate the Nelson Reserve Sound Stage with performing arts.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Live and Local performances carried out in Nelson Reserve in April, May, and June 2024</li> </ul>
2b	Work with sector to improve communications between council and community, identifying and removing roadblocks, and clarifying/simplifying processes	Identify key Council lines of communication and create a communication tree for internal reference, including working with the Customer Contact Team to establish better pathways for incoming customer queries relating to Arts and Culture.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication tree in development</li> <li>Next steps: Focus on communications and networking in Q1 and Q2 2024-2025</li> </ul>
2c	Continue arts and cultural forums on a six-monthly basis, to improve networking and communication across the creative sector	Plan, promote and deliver Arts and Cultural Forum for February 2024.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arts and Cultural forum carried out on 21 February 2024 at UniSC Gympie, launching the Creative Recovery Mentoring Program.</li> </ul>

## Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023 – 2028 – Implementation Progress Report 2023/2024

2d	Work with sector to develop an up-to-date database of creatives, performers, providers, and stakeholders as a council and business reference.	Create an up-to-date creatives and stakeholder database as a first step towards undertaking cultural mapping in 2025.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Existing stakeholder database under review and updates proceeding.</li><li>Arts and Cultural forum introducing Cultural Mapping to be held 20 June 2024 at Chatsworth Hall.</li></ul>
		Develop and distribute stakeholder survey to update contact details in database, including RASN representative in distribution.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Survey distribution began April 2024. Next steps: publish on website, integrate events artist form.</li></ul>
Strategic Priority 3: Our Community is Actively Engaged as Participants, Advocates and Co-creators				
3a	Establish a communications plan to improve marketing and promotions, improving access for digitally disconnected, extending digital reach, and improving audience development. Using a relationship marketing approach, the new communications plan should leverage community and cultural hubs, through establishment of community noticeboards, a digital notice board on Mary	Continue Arts and Culture E-News and Gallery E-news and work to extend subscriptions / engagement.	Continuing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Newsletter continuing on a fortnightly basis, subscription increased by a third since relaunch in 2023</li></ul>
		Partner with community development to develop scope for a digital noticeboard on Mary Street.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Scope under review</li></ul>

## Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023 – 2028 – Implementation Progress Report 2023/2024

	Street, and use of print media including use of posters, flyers, and mailbox drops, local newspapers and magazines			
3b	Work with the local creative sector and community groups to mentor the development and implementation of successful Creative Recovery Projects, developing a framework of training and project development.	Develop a framework of training and project development.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Development of the Creative Recovery Mentoring Program commenced in Q2 and the project was launched on 21 February 2024.</li></ul>
		Implement Creative Recovery: Mentoring Program.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expressions of Interest for the Creative Recovery Mentoring Program opened on 21 February and closed on 7 April 2024.</li><li>Participants completed an induction on 2 May, and continued training and mentorship across May and June.</li></ul> <p>The training and mentorship component of the program will be completed on June 16 with the submission of project proposals.</p>
Strategic Priority 4: Our Places and Spaces are buzzing with creative activation				
4a	Focus resources on reopening and reactivating the Civic Centre as a hub for live	Contribute to Growing Regions Fund Grant applications.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Research and documentation carried out and submitted 15</li></ul>

## Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023 – 2028 – Implementation Progress Report 2023/2024

	arts, theatre, and performance for both local artists and touring events.			January 2024. Outcome unsuccessful.
		Build Business plan and operational plan for reopened Civic Centre.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documents developed as part of Growing Regions grant application included operational plans for reopened Civic Centre.</li> </ul>
		Stakeholders to be invited to tour facility.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A stakeholder tour of the Civic Centre was conducted on 6 December 2023.</li> </ul>
		Renovation and outfitting work to commence in 2024.	In preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Control group developed plans, designs, and costings. Next steps to be determined by Council following full briefing from Council's Executive Officers (expected Q1 2024/2025).</li> </ul>
4b	Support local artists to work with community to scope, develop and implement region-specific public art.	Source funding to carry out an inventory and condition report on existing public art to establish maintenance and safety needs.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dependant on available Council funding in 2024/2025, with external funding also to be sought.</li> </ul>
		Implement Public Art Information Portal.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webpage developed pending approval</li> </ul>
		Carry out audit of council properties to	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spreadsheet and mapping begun 2023.</li> </ul>

## Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023 – 2028 – Implementation Progress Report 2023/2024

		establish potential locations for public art.		
4c	Continue to invest in Studio Trails, expanding to benefit community museums and heritage organisations.	Review past events to refine and improve processes and procedures.	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on previous events developed Q1 and planning for revised Gympie Regional Studio Trails subsequently commenced Q2.</li> </ul>
		Establish 2024 Studio Trails event, incorporating identified additional features such as public art, museums and keeping places, eat and stay, and establishing an earlier timeline.	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expressions of interest to participate closed 11 February and 38 submissions were received.</li> <li>Program, trails, maps, and designs prepared and launched 30 May.</li> </ul>
		Pursue active communications and marketing.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Arts Funding sourced to support marketing and communications.</li> <li>Marketing designs developed with Communications and Marketing Team and launched 30 May</li> <li>Opening event planned for 29 June 2024.</li> </ul>



## Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023 – 2028 – Implementation Progress Report 2023/2024

### Other progress

#### RADF Grants Awarded 2023/2024

Applicant	Project	Amount
Johanna Wallace T/A Little Seed Theatre Company	Ballistic Dispersal: Connecting emerging actors to regional communities with halls	\$8,000
The Genus Inc	Art Post Artist Run Initiative	\$8,000
Elisa Mele	Italian-Australian heritage, migration stories, cultural contributions to the Gympie Region	\$5,000
Anna Brennan	Arting: Small Works Visual Art Exhibition	\$3,000
Susan Davis/Wildflower Women	Wild-flowering by Design at Gympie and Cooloola	\$5,500
Sharon Hogan/Perseverance Street Theatre	Leading Emerging Artist Program Cabaret	\$8,000
	Total:	\$37,500

#### RADF Funding 2024/2025

The Arts and Cultural Team have also progressed strategic priority 2.8 (Leverage opportunities with state and federal counterparts and continue to invest in the Regional Arts Development Fund program with State Government). The team prepared the 2024/2025 program and budget bid, including a request for increased funding. The application was submitted to Arts Queensland on 2 May 2024.