

Document Control		
Policy Title:	Public Art Policy	Policy Type: Council
Responsible Directorate:	Community Sustainability	Doc Id No: 2202879
Date Review Due	25/10/2027	

Version	Council/Executive Meeting Date (Date of Adoption/Endorsement)	Minute Number
1	12 February 2020	M13/02/20
2	25 October 2023	M13/10/23

1. Purpose and Scope

This policy provides a guiding framework to ensure a professional and consistent approach to the inception, coordination, installation, maintenance and ongoing management of Public Art in the Gympie region Local Government Area.

This policy applies to any existing and future Public Art projects on land and/or facilities that are owned or managed by Gympie Regional Council. The policy aims to expand the region's Public Art assets and appreciation of Public Art within a systemised approach.

This Public Art policy is supported by a Public Art Management Plan that outlines the process for procurement, risk management, structural planning and approvals, asset management and maintenance, and the custodianship of Public Art.

Public Art may include:

- permanent and temporary projects
- professionally commissioned, community-led and event specific Public Art
- traditional and contemporary sculpture
- murals and street art
- multimedia, projection, sound and light art
- functional art (benches, tables, outdoor lighting, recreational and gathering spaces, bridges and walkways)
- creative design incorporated into functional infrastructure.

Memorials and monuments are not within the scope of this policy. Refer to Gympie Regional Council's Memorials and Monuments Policy.

2. Guiding Principles

This Public Art Policy is underpinned by a set of guiding principles:

- Support the development of Public Art projects within the Gympie region that are Council or community/private sector led, where it is established that such activity will give added value to public open spaces.
- Ensure excellence, quality, diversity and artistic merit.
- Consider existing themes of Public Art in the Gympie region, and curate future projects with a considered and holistic approach.
- Deliver value for money in Public Art and ensure the asset/s can be effectively maintained through a maintenance plan that considers whole of life costs.
- Ensure well located, appropriate, safe and securely installed Public Art.
- Support opportunities for capacity building for local artists and local organisations.
- Engage in meaningful community engagement and stakeholder consultation, as appropriate.
- Ensure proposed Public Art projects are evaluated and regulated by peers and experts of the Public Art Advisory Group (as per the Public Art Management Plan).
- Ensure consistent decision making with transparent processes.
- Integrate Public Art into Council thinking and processes to take advantage of development opportunities as they arise, including working in partnership with commercial and major developments to identify opportunities in the planning stages; and
- Support the creation and placement of Public Art to reflect and enhance the region's values, environment, culture (including First Nations Peoples), history and heritage, and the specific proposed location's character and context.

3. Relationship to Council's Strategic Goals

This Public Art Policy acknowledges the importance of Public Art in enhancing public spaces, and the contribution of Public Art in placemaking, tourism, and enhancing a sense of community belonging and pride. The development of Public Art is supported through Council's Corporate Plan, and Arts and Cultural Strategy.

3.1 Corporate Plan 2022-2027 (relevant extracts)

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 livability, 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.

Economic Opportunity:

Strategic Pathway: Destination management to capitalise on tourism, sporting and recreation opportunities to develop the region as a sought destination.

3.2 Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028 (relevant extracts)

Outcome 4: Our Places and Spaces are buzzing with creative activation.

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.

4.7 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.

4. Related Legislation/Documents

4.1 Legislation

- Local Government Act 2009
- Local Government Regulation 2012
- Planning Act 2016
- Building Act 1975
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003
- Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003
- Queensland Heritage Act 1992
- Tourism and Events Queensland Act 2012
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999
- Creative Australia National Cultural Policy 2023
- Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011
- Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2008

4.2 Related Documents

- Gympie Regional Council Public Art Management Plan
- Queensland Heritage Register
- Gympie Regional Council Corporate Plan 2022-2027
- Arts and Culture Policy
- Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028
- Procurement Policy
- Public Art Management Plan
- Work Health and Safety Policy

5. Definitions

To assist in interpretation of this policy the following definitions apply:

Art	An object or experience of significant and/or aesthetic value which is created or presented as art by an arts practitioner or design team. Although it may be decorative, entertaining and functional, art may also transcend these to convey a sense of purpose, meaning and intent.
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Artist	A person with refined skills in creative interpretation and conceptualisation. A person recognised by their professional peers as an artist and/or with professional training in fine art or contemporary craft. A person involved in the creation of art as their primary profession. An artist may or may not draw their primary income from the sale/production of works of art. The artist may be defined as someone other than the architect or professional design team, who contributes design ideas, creative problem solving or works of art to a project.
Placemaking	A collaborative process by which our public realm can be shaped to maximise shared value. Placemaking facilitates creative patterns of use, paying particular attention to the physical, cultural and social identities that define a place and supports its ongoing evolution. Strengthening the connection between people and the places they share builds attachment to place, which in turn generates stewardship, a sense of community pride, and a sense of place.
Public Art	Art that is created, exhibited, performed or installed in a public space or space freely accessed by the public whether inside or outside. Public Art may be temporary, ephemeral, durational or permanent and may be created from numerous and diverse mediums.

6. Policy Statement

Council recognises that Public Art contributes to the livability of Gympie Region by fostering community identity and pride, enhancing public spaces and contributing to place making activities. Public Art provides interest and increases the region's attractiveness as a place to live, work and visit. It is the most visible and accessible art form, which plays a major role in creating a stimulating and memorable region.

Gympie Regional Council will:

- Effectively develop, implement and maintain Public Art in a planned and strategic manner.
- Support an increased understanding and enjoyment of Public Art by integrating art into the structure, fabric and daily life within the built environment and associated public open spaces.
- Encourage the development of Public Art that supports inclusiveness, interaction and a sense of place in public spaces, where Public Art changes the nature and use of a place, slows traffic flow and stimulates interaction and exploration within a specific environment; and
- Recognise the strong economic and social value of Public Art.

7. Review

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

1. The related legislation/documents are amended or replaced.
2. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of Council.
3. As initiated by the CEO or Executive Team.
4. Periodic Review – Within four years from date of adoption.

8. Delegations

NIL