

ARTS AND CULTURAL POLICY

Responsible Department:	Planning and Sustainability
Responsible Section:	Tourism and Cultural Services
Responsible Officer:	Manager Tourism and Cultural Services

Objective

Narrabri Shire will have a strong and vibrant arts and cultural sector which celebrates our diverse community, landscapes and heritage, and fosters innovation and creativity within our community.

The aim of this Arts and Cultural Policy for the Narrabri Shire Council is to:

- State the principles and objectives of Narrabri Shire's Arts and Cultural policy;
- Define the implementation and management structure necessary to realise the aims of the policy;
- Explain clearly the rationale underlying this policy;
- Provide Council staff with the structure necessary for a planned and coordinated approach to arts and culture and ensure that the community clearly understand Council's role in providing this service; and
- Allow Council to lead by example in the area of arts and culture, particularly in relation to what is expected from partners and the community. The importance of leading by example should not be underestimated in creating a positive context where local communities value the benefits of arts and cultural expression.

Narrabri Shire Council recognises that a strong arts and cultural sector will maintain and improve community well-being. It will do this by providing opportunities and the environment for art and cultural activities that will foster a strong community identity, build pride in our Shire and encourage and support the community and economic development.

Introduction

Arts and cultural activities contribute strongly to the well-being of the Narrabri Shire community. These activities are part of our identity and our sense of place, with a strong arts and cultural sector being integral to both community and economic development and sustainability.

The Narrabri Shire Arts and Cultural Policy embraces all forms of visual, written and performing arts, and our heritage and cultural attributes – both past and contemporary.

This Policy applies to the whole of the Narrabri Shire area, and to the arts and cultural based venues, activities and events held within the Shire, including but not limited to The Crossing Theatre, the Narrabri Visitors Centre, Narrabri Shire Libraries, Museums, sites of historical and cultural significance for Gamilaraay/Gamilaroi/Gomeri/Kamilaroi people and for the broader community, and events held within the Shire.

The Narrabri Shire Arts and Cultural Policy recognises and is part of the Narrabri Shire Community Strategic Plan (and related documents) and the Narrabri Shire Cultural Plan. It also acknowledges the overarching arts and cultural policies of the NSW and Federal Governments.

Policy

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. Narrabri Shire Council recognises that a strong arts and cultural sector will:
- (a) Strengthen, enrich and unite our community;
 - (b) Build pride in and commitment to the Shire;
 - (c) Assist in protecting and preserving our heritage and cultural assets;
 - (d) Provide opportunities for education and social interaction;
 - (e) Assist in place-making - creating and strengthening a 'sense of place';
 - (f) Encourage and facilitate community and economic development;
 - (g) Diversify and enhance the attraction, activity and experience base of the Shire for the benefit of both residents and visitors.
- 1.2. This will be achieved through:
- (a) Engaging the community;
 - (b) Creating a strong sense of place;
 - (c) Celebrating the diversity within our community;
 - (d) Building and consolidating creative activities and talents within our community;
 - (e) Facilitating and supporting the establishment and growth of sustainable creative industries;
 - (f) Embracing the future;
 - (g) Fostering Partnerships at all levels to grow the Arts and Cultural sector within the Shire.

2. Engaging the Community

- 2.1. In accordance with Council's Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, and other Strategies, Plans, and Protocols, Council will, where possible:
- (a) Develop cultural activities and programs reflective of community needs and aspirations;
 - (b) Encourage local artists, artisans and community groups to provide leadership and inspiration;
 - (c) Encourage on-going community participation in arts and cultural development;
 - (d) Develop and implement a community education program to raise awareness of and encourage participation in arts and cultural activities and resources available locally; and
 - (e) Encourage collaborative marketing between community and cultural organisations to optimise use of resources.

3. Create a Sense of Place

- 3.1. In accordance with Council's Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, and other Strategies, Plans, and Protocols Council will where possible:
- (a) Capitalise on the arts and cultural assets of Narrabri Shire to improve the presentation, attractiveness and appeal of the towns, villages and localities within our Shire – creating environments that are interesting, vibrant and encourage visitation and social interaction.
 - (b) Encourage the protection, preservation and promotion of heritage assets within the Shire and encourage the 'telling of stories'.
 - (c) Ensure that arts and cultural activities reflect the quality and attractiveness of the Shire's physical environment and landscapes.
 - (d) Facilitate community input and networking between communities.

4. Celebrating Diversity

- 4.1. In accordance with Council's Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, and other Strategies, Plans, and Protocols Council will where possible:
- (a) Acknowledge the Gamilaraay/Gamilaroi/Gomeri/Kamilaroi Nation people as the traditional custodians of the land that Narrabri Shire encompasses.
 - (b) Celebrate our heritage – both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.
 - (c) Support arts and cultural events, festivals, activities, forums and awareness programs that contribute to and celebrate our diversity.
 - (d) Encourage creativity and innovation.

5. Building and Consolidating

- 5.1. In accordance with Council's Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, and other Strategies, Plans, and Protocols Council will where possible:
- (a) Identify, assess, and address the needs of the performing and visual arts sectors;
 - (b) Identify, assess, and address the needs of different sectors of the community.
 - (c) Continue to maintain and improve the venues available for arts and cultural activities within the Shire and encourage the use of public areas and assets for arts and cultural activities.
 - (d) Continue to maintain the town and village halls and sporting facilities as a focal point for social and cultural interaction within the Shire community.
 - (e) Within the framework of the Narrabri Shire Tourism Destination Management Plan, prepare and implement a Cultural Tourism Plan to diversify the attractions, activities and experiences offered by the Shire and grow visitation.
 - (f) Integrate arts and culture into the economic development and marketing and promotion of the Shire.
 - (g) Explore opportunities to improve viability of activities, businesses and venues through market development including building visitor markets.

6. Sustainable Creative Industries

- 6.1. In accordance with Council's Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, and other Strategies, Plans, and Protocols Council will where possible:
- (a) Encourage, facilitate and support the development of a strong and sustainable creative industries sector.
 - (b) Encourage mentoring between established creative businesses and new entrants.

7. Embracing the Future

- 7.1. In accordance with Council's Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, and other Strategies, Plans, and Protocols Council will where possible:
- (a) Develop contemporary arts space / gallery with Narrabri Shire.
 - (b) Capitalise on new technologies which promote cultural development and facilitate and enhance 'story-telling'.
 - (c) Continue to utilise the Narrabri Shire libraries, Narrabri Shire Visitor Information Centre, and other significant cultural venues to consolidate and strengthen Narrabri's position within the Region, State and Nationally.
 - (d) Ensure cultural programmes continue to reflect the changing needs and demographics of the Shire.
 - (e) Encourage and support linkages between artistic practitioners. Support linkages between communities and cultural organisations in the development of new work.

8. Fostering Partnerships

- 8.1. In accordance with Council's Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, and other Strategies, Plans, and Protocols Council will where possible:
- (a) Seek opportunities to forge links between independent cultural organisations where efficiencies or creative initiatives may result.
 - (b) Seek opportunities to link Council's cultural resources with the resources of other agencies such as Arts North West, Regional Arts NSW, Museums Association and the Offices of Heritage and the Arts.
 - (c) Develop an effective communication strategy to create alliances with potential partners.
 - (d) Identify resources available from all strategic partners.
 - (e) Develop strategies to suit the range of potential partnerships.
 - (f) Work with local artists and communities on joint ventures and activities.
 - (g) Support local activities through funding, promotion and liaison.
 - (h) Liaise with sectors of the community regarding cultural initiatives.

History

Minute Number	Meeting Date	Description of Change
954/2013	December 17, 2013	Adopted
164/2017	August 15, 2017	Reviewed
	August 31, 2021	Rebranded
336/2022	October 18, 2022	Endorsed for Public Exhibition
362/2022	November 22, 2022	Adopted