

## Purpose

- 1.1 The Arts and Culture Policy will provide the Whitsunday Regional Council with the principles to support and celebrate arts, cultural, historical and heritage endeavours throughout the region. It will respond to local community, council and state government priorities for arts and cultural development in the region, as well as providing practical strategies for achieving community and corporate goals.
- 1.2 The policy will also provide parameters for the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Committee when assessing applications for funding through the RADF program.

## Scope

- 2.1 This policy is applicable to all Council employees, Councillors, ratepayers, and residents of the Whitsunday Regional Council.
- 2.2 This policy is applicable to arts, cultural, and heritage activities coordinated by council, or externally coordinated and supported by council.

## Policy Statement

- 4.1 Council supports the expression of cultural traditions and creative initiatives through the provision and support of a range of facilities, programs, events, and services.
- 4.2 Council's policy vision is to support arts and cultural development that will:
  - 4.2.1 embrace a broad spectrum of community initiatives
  - 4.2.2 enhance community engagement, capacity and participation
  - 4.2.3 celebrate diversity of the Whitsundays community
  - 4.2.4 promote the region's unique community identity and cultural heritage
  - 4.2.5 build skills and capacity
  - 4.2.6 generate employment opportunities
  - 4.2.7 foster a sense of community identity and co-operation; and
  - 4.2.8 define place and lifestyle.
- 4.3 Council acknowledges, and is committed to supporting, the arts' significance to the community in the following areas:
  - 4.3.1 wellbeing and quality of life
  - 4.3.2 value-adding to business; and
  - 4.3.3 education, health, and community development
- 4.4 Council has identified several key roles, it will assume, in relation to arts and cultural development including, but not limited to:
  - 4.4.1 providing support for community initiatives via RADF, the development and facilitation of informed, integrated planning policies and via occasional financial contributions to strategic initiatives
  - 4.4.2 maintaining existing civic venues, cultural programs, assets and services
  - 4.4.3 consulting and collaborating with the community

- 4.4.4 advocating to other tiers of government, arts support services and industry regarding arts and cultural development needs and issues
- 4.4.5 co-operating and/or participating in the establishment of collaborative arts and cultural development partnerships with government, community, and business across the region
- 4.4.6 ensuring an accountable and transparent assessment process is maintained, councillors and council officers assessing proposals are required to declare any perceived or potential conflict of interests prior to the process commencing. This may include a personal connection with any applicant or personal involvement with any organisation. Anyone having a conflict of interest should not debate, be involved in any discussions, or vote on any matter relating to the proposal.

## Applicable Legislation

*Local Government Act 2009*

Local Government Regulation 2012

## Definitions

**CEO** refers to the Chief Executive Officer of the Whitsunday Regional Council appointed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*.

**Council** refers to the Whitsunday Regional Council

**Employee** refers to any employee, contractor, volunteer etc. of the Council

**Cultural** relates to education, the creative arts and society's culture and traditions.

**Culture** refers to the arts and the 'way of life' of groups of people, meaning the way they do things. An integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behaviour. The outlook, attitudes, values, morals, goals, and customs shared by a society.

## Related Documents

Regional Arts Development Fund Guidelines

Whitsunday Corporate Plan 2016-2021

Whitsunday Regional Council Operational Plan 2020-2021

Whitsunday Regional Council Community Plan 2011-2021

The Whitsunday Region Major Festival & Events Attraction Strategy 2019-2023

Arts Queensland - Creative Together 2020-2030: A 10-year Roadmap for arts, culture, and creativity in Queensland

## Human Rights Compatibility Statement

This Policy has been assessed as compatible with the Human Rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

| COUNCIL POLICY                |                                           |                    |               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Date Adopted by Council       | 15 July 2021                              | Council Resolution | 2021/07/15.16 |
| Effective Date                | 15 July 2021                              | Next Review Date   | 15 July 2024  |
| Responsible Officer(s)        | Manager Community Development & Libraries | Revokes            | LSP_C&ENV_04  |
| Public Consultation: Yes / No |                                           |                    |               |