
ARTS AND CULTURE POLICY

INTENT

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a framework for Cook Shire Council (Council) to develop and support arts, culture and heritage to engage with and enrich the lives of our residents and visitors, whilst creating a community focus on arts, culture and heritage.

Council acknowledges that arts and culture form one of the major pillars of any sustainable economy and commits to working with the community to pursue economic advantage for the region, whilst preserving those unique features of our heritage, culture and artistic endeavours that reflect the Shire's community, its character and its strengths.

SCOPE

This policy will provide a framework through which the results of regular community consultation can be applied to identify and refine arts and cultural strategic initiatives. These initiatives will help shape the *Arts and Cultural Strategy/Plan* to reflect the arts and cultural priorities of the community and serve as a foundation for Council's arts funding initiatives.

This policy is designed to assist Council in making decisions and determining how resources will be invested to support the specific needs of local people and their communities.

This policy applies to all Councillors and employees of Council, including contractors, agents and volunteers.

The policy will provide guidance for the assessment of applications to Council funding programs.

This policy reflects the strategic direction as established in:

- Cook Shire Community Plan 2011- 2021;
- Cook Shire Council Corporate Plan 2017-2022; and
- Cook Shire Council Annual Operational Plans.

This policy has the potential to be supplemented by additional policies as appropriate.

Document Number:	D15/4778	<p>CONTROLLED DOCUMENT</p> <p>This electronic document is guaranteed as the most current. DO NOT COPY.</p> <p>Unauthorised hard copies of this document are prohibited.</p>	Page 1 of 5
Authorised By:	Council		
Original Issue Date:	February 2010		
Last Modified:	March 2019		
Review Date:	March 2022		
Current Version:	4.0 FINAL		

PROVISIONS

This policy should be considered in conjunction with;

- Cook Shire Council Community Plan 2011 – 2021;
- Cook Shire Council Corporate Plan 2017-2022;
- Cook Shire Council Planning Scheme;
- Cook Shire Council Public Art Policy;
- Cook Shire Council Annual Operational Plan;
- Cook Shire Council Arts and Cultural Strategy;
- Cook Shire Council Community Grants and Support Program General Policy; and
- Cook Shire Council Plaques Memorials and Monuments Policy.

DEFINITIONS

Throughout this document the terms **arts**, **culture** and **heritage** are used in a broad sense to include all traditional, new and emerging forms of artistic expression, cultural and heritage activities.

TERM	DEFINITION
Arts	Refers to any and all activities pertaining to creative practices and products of creative expression, and or the application of creative skill and imagination. This includes but is not limited to painting, sculpture, music, dance, festivals, theatre and film.
Culture	Refers to the cumulative repository of knowledge, experience, beliefs, values, attitudes, meanings, hierarchies, religion, notions of time, roles, spatial relations, concepts of the universe, and material objects and possessions acquired by a group of people in the course of generations through individual and group endeavour.
Heritage	Refers to treasured property such as historic buildings, artwork, books and manuscripts and other artefacts that have been passed down from previous generations. They are of special value and are worthy of preservation.

Document Number:	D15/4778	CONTROLLED DOCUMENT This electronic document is guaranteed as the most current. DO NOT COPY. Unauthorised hard copies of this document are prohibited.	Page 2 of 5
Authorised By:	Council		
Original Issue Date:	February 2010		
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Current Version:	4.0 FINAL		

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles underpin Council’s commitment to the provision of its arts, cultural and heritage activities:

- *The cultural vitality of Cook Shire is expressed in the arts, cultural and heritage pursuits of its people and is the key to a proud sense of identity, resilience, harmony and economic diversity;*
- *Building the capacity of local artists and art organisations to strengthen the community;*
- *Respecting cultural diversity to make the arts more relevant, dynamic, innovative, and inclusive - encouraging mutual respect and social harmony; and*
- *Artistic excellence is encouraged to lead to artistic work with the highest skill, quality, safety, sustainability, relevance, vibrancy and value for money.*

POLICY

1. Council recognises that arts and culture plays an important role in individual and community wellbeing and the formation and expression of identity.

Council will encourage, facilitate and support:

- 1.1. Participation;
- 1.2. Diversity in arts, cultural and heritage activities; and
- 1.3. Accessibility and inclusiveness.

2. Council recognises that arts and culture play an important role in economic diversification, growth and development.

Council will encourage, facilitate and support:

- 2.1. Cultural and heritage tourism;
- 2.2. Improved standards and best practice in art form skills, organisational governance and enterprise readiness;
- 2.3. Collaboration and the development of partnerships within the arts and cultural sector; and
- 2.4. The sustainability of arts, cultural and heritage enterprises.

3. Council will take an active role in promoting and protecting our cultural and heritage assets.

- 3.1. Council will facilitate and maintain partnerships with relevant arts and tourism bodies.

Document Number:	D15/4778	CONTROLLED DOCUMENT This electronic document is guaranteed as the most current. DO NOT COPY. Unauthorised hard copies of this document are prohibited.	Page 3 of 5
Authorised By:	Council		
Original Issue Date:	February 2010		
Last Modified:	March 2019		
Review Date:	March 2022		
Current Version:	4.0 FINAL		

- 3.2. Council will encourage, facilitate and support community groups assisting with the preservation the Shire’s cultural heritage.
- 3.3. Council will ensure it meets relevant state and national legislative requirements:
- i. *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003;*
 - ii. *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984;*
 - iii. *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999;*
 - iv. *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976;*
 - v. *Queensland Native Title Act 1993;*
 - vi. *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986;*
 - vii. *Queensland Heritage Act 1992; and*
 - viii. *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003.*

MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS

The outcomes of this Policy can be measured by:

- Increased access to and satisfaction with a number of quality arts and cultural experiences delivered in Cook Shire;
- Increased number of arts development opportunities available to the local residents and arts and cultural sector;
- Strong community of arts with quality partnerships between the arts and culture sector, communities, businesses and non-arts sector; and
- Increased level of active participation by Cook Shire residents in local arts and cultural activities.

REVIEW

SPONSOR:	Director Community Economy and Innovation
OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEW:	Events and Cultural Officer
ADOPTION DATE:	March 2019
REVIEW DATE:	March 2022

THIS POLICY IS TO REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL OTHERWISE DETERMINED BY COUNCIL

Document Number:	D15/4778	CONTROLLED DOCUMENT This electronic document is guaranteed as the most current. DO NOT COPY. Unauthorised hard copies of this document are prohibited.	Page 4 of 5
Authorised By:	Council		
Original Issue Date:	February 2010		
Last Modified:	March 2019		
Review Date:	March 2022		
Current Version:	4.0 FINAL		

AMENDMENT HISTORY

VERSION	AMENDMENT DETAILS	AMENDMENT DATE	APPROVAL
1.0	New Policy	May 2006	Council
	2010-2013 Policy Only	November 2010	Council
2.0	Change as per resolution	March 2013	Council
3.0	Change as per resolution	March 2015	Council
4.0	Change as per resolution	March 2019	Council

Document Number:	D15/4778	CONTROLLED DOCUMENT This electronic document is guaranteed as the most current. DO NOT COPY. Unauthorised hard copies of this document are prohibited.	Page 5 of 5
Authorised By:	Council		
Original Issue Date:	February 2010		
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Current Version:	4.0 FINAL		