
PUBLIC ART POLICY

INTENT

Cook Shire is home to a vibrant visual and performing arts community, who contribute to the enrichment of the Shire in many ways, including the design and production of significant art works for public spaces.

This Policy seeks to provide a framework for the development, planning, fabrication, acquisition, maintenance and decommissioning of public art across the Cook Shire region. The Policy also seeks to ensure all public art contributes to making our public spaces exciting, well-planned and complementary to the Shire’s natural assets.

SCOPE

Cook Shire Council (Council) recognises and encourages the role of public art in contributing to a sense of identity and the enrichment of community life across the Cape for residents and for visitors.

This Policy is intended to provide guidance for Council in the commissioning, management, implementation, maintenance and decommissioning of public art in the Shire.

This Policy provides guidance for council, artists, businesses, developers, architects and arts and cultural workers in the proposition, design and production of public art. Additionally, this policy provides guidance for Council in evaluating proposals for public art and public art projects.

For the purposes of this Policy, public art is all artistic works located in public spaces or facilities and accessible to the public. Public Art can encompass sculptures, statues, monuments, artistic elements of large scale infrastructure, examples include murals, laser cut panels etc. and memorials that incorporate sculptural relief or may be considered an artistic work.

Council encourages the development of a high quality, progressive and varied public art collection across the Shire that will enhance the aesthetic value of the built and natural environment maximising the community’s understanding and ownership of their local landscape, culture, history and identity

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| Authorised By: | Council | | |
| Original Issue Date: | November 2016 | | |
| Last Modified: | March 2022 | | |
| Review Date: | March 2025 | | |
| Current Version: | 3.0 | | |

DEFINITIONS

| TERM | DEFINITION |
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| Public Art | <p>Public art, in the broadest sense, is site specific art or design work located in public spaces outside of traditional galleries and museums.</p> <p>These public spaces may be indoor or outdoor and are generally categorised by being easily accessible to the public. These may include public buildings such as libraries and social spaces such as parks.</p> <p>The art may take on a variety of forms including, but not limited to, sculpture, paintings, photography, murals, text, installation, multimedia, sound and light works and performances.</p> <p>Public Art may be permanent, temporary or ephemeral in nature.</p> <p>Public art is planned and executed with intention of being staged in a public space and experienced and accessible by the general public.</p> |
| Temporary Public Art | Works of temporary public art are intended to occupy a place and/or have a presence in the public realm for less than 12 months |
| Ephemeral Public Art | Such as banners, collages, digital projections, chalk drawings and works made from materials such as sand or ice that deteriorate over time, ephemeral artworks will be subject to negotiation with key stakeholders at or near the location, artists and Council staff, on a case-by-case basis. |
| Monuments | <p>Monuments are statues, buildings or other structures explicitly created to commemorate a notable person and/or event.</p> <p>Memorials are an object established in memory of a person or event. On occasions memorials may incorporate sculptural elements and would be considered an artistic work, covered by this policy. If not, please refer to Council's Plaques, Memorials and Monuments Policy.</p> |

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| Authorised By: | Council | | |
| Original Issue Date: | November 2016 | | |
| Last Modified: | March 2022 | | |
| Review Date: | March 2025 | | |
| Current Version: | 3.0 | | |

PROVISIONS

This policy supplements Council’s Arts and Culture Policy.

This policy should be considered in conjunction with:

- Cook Shire Council Community Plan 2021 – 2031;
- Cook Shire Council Corporate Plan 2022-2025;
- Cook Shire Council Annual Operational Plan;
- Cook Shire Council Arts and Culture Policy;
- Cook Shire Council Arts and Cultural Strategy;
- Cook Shire Council Planning Scheme;
- Cook Shire Council Plaques Memorials and Monuments Policy;
- Cook Shire Council Procurement Policy;
- Cook Shire Council Asset Disposal Policy;
- Cook Shire Council Community Grants and Support Program Policy; and
- Cook Shire Council WHS Policy.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles underpin Council’s commitment to the curation of a vibrant, diverse and well-planned public art collection:

1. *Create more distinctive places through arts and cultural activities that will encourage community reflection, wellbeing and celebration;*
2. *Promote local artists, providing opportunities for employment plus building the capacity and skills of the region’s artists and art organisations, increasing the resilience and sustainability of the region’s creative industries;*
3. *Actively support projects and initiatives that lead to quality and vibrant public art:*
 - i. *that enrich our communities and build a sense of shared history, connectedness and ownership;*
 - ii. *that act as tourism attractions, drawing visitors to the region and contributing to the local economy; and*
 - iii. *that animate public spaces and places for the general public and visitors, including temporal and permanent public art initiatives.*
4. *Improve, curate and maintain Council’s collection of public artworks across the Shire.*

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|----------------------|---------------|---|-------------|
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| Authorised By: | Council | | |
| Original Issue Date: | November 2016 | | |
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POLICY

1. Acquisition of Public Art

Acquisition of public art will be achieved through the following methods:

1.1. Artist Call Out and Expression of Interest:

- i. *Open Submission* - where artists respond to an advertised Expression of Interest (EOI) to provide a schematic response to a project brief. Short-listed artists or teams may then be invited to further develop conceptual designs for a fee and a preferred artist is selected;
- ii. *Limited Submission* - where specific identified artists are invited to submit proposals in response to a project brief.

All EOIs will be established in consultation with a selected committee. This committee will be made up of a combination of staff and community members relevant to the project. The committee will assess the submissions in accordance with the Assessment Criteria and make recommendations based on all artists' submissions.

1.2. Direct procurement of a particular completed art piece – designed for small scale projects and at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer, a delegated Council employee or Councillors.

1.3. Application from community members, organisations or businesses interested in donating or commissioning Public artworks. A project plan must be submitted to council for consideration, following the guidelines in this policy. Including:

- Design plans and/or drawings of the proposal;
- Dimensions;
- Materials;
- Location;
- Installation plan and maintenance plan;
- Expected lifespan of the final work; and
- The organisation must identify stakeholders and demonstrate that the stakeholders have been consulted with prior to commencing the project.

2. All proposals for public art and monuments must be submitted to Council for assessment and approval prior to commencement

Proposals are to be submitted to Council for assessment, including but not limited to the following considerations:

- ***Extent to which the proposal complies with and responds to this policy***

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|----------------------|---------------|---|-------------|
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| Authorised By: | Council | | |
| Original Issue Date: | November 2016 | | |
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A detailed design should be submitted in a visual format, which gives the assessment committee sufficient information to assess its artistic merit.

A conceptual statement about the proposed artwork describing the relationship between it and the project brief should also be submitted.

The committee will use the detailed design and conceptual statement to assess the extent to which they comply with council’s policy and respond to the design brief, as well as the artistic merit of the proposal;

- **Health and safety**

Location (including any underground plumbing or electrical work), materials, size, construction and installation methods and any relevant local, state and national regulations;

- A building permit may be recommended for public artworks under three metres high and is required for artworks over three metres high. The responsibility for a building permit will be outlined during the process of commissioning the artwork.
- The prevention of serious injury is an important consideration in the construction and location of artworks. It is recommended that safety considerations need to be balanced with awareness that children will, inevitably, play in public spaces. Artworks should consider the need for play, learning and fun.

- **Sustainability and maintenance requirements**

Location and materials, expected life span of work, financial and physical maintenance requirements, installation costs, insurance and risk management;

Construction, materials and finishes must be of a high quality and standard suitable for the Cook Shire’s environment, considering exposure to salty air and water, cyclonic winds and ultraviolet rays.

Lifespan should be made to a minimum of ten years and should provide for a practical maintenance schedule.

- **Community support, suitability and cultural sensitivity**

Evidence of community consultation and support for the work, that it is respectful of any relevant community groups, reflective of local community values, and that it stands in consideration of and harmony with the surrounding built environment and does not detract from the Shire’s natural assets; and

- **Project management**

Capacity to ensure project is delivered to scope, budget, time and quality considerations.

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| Authorised By: | Council | | |
| Original Issue Date: | November 2016 | | |
| Last Modified: | March 2022 | | |
| Review Date: | March 2025 | | |
| Current Version: | 3.0 | | |

3. Decommissioning of Public Art

In certain circumstances, it may be necessary for a public art work to be relocated, stored or disposed of because of health and safety considerations, significant changes in contemporary values or substantial capital works, significant deterioration of the works and/or changes to Council's Planning Schemes.

With appropriate community consultation, as detailed in Council's Community Engagement Policy, disposal will occur in accordance with Council's Disposal of Assets Policy.

In determining the need to remove or relocate a work of art from public display the following factors will be considered:

- Public health and safety – the artwork poses a serious risk to individuals, and or the wider community;
- The condition of the artwork – the artwork is no longer considered safe and/ or requires an excessive amount of maintenance;
- The location of the work – the location is no longer appropriate in line with new development or redesign of streetscape/landscape features;
- The aesthetic quality of the work – the work no longer meets functional or aesthetic requirements.

Decommissioning processes can include:

- Relocation of the artwork to a more suitable location;
- Selling the artwork;
- Donation of the artwork;
- Disposing of the artwork.

If a work is to be decommissioned, every effort will be made to provide that artist with at least 30 days' notice of the Council's intent. Decisions concerning the decommissioning process will be made in consultation with the artist.

In the event that the work is to be disposed of, the artist will be given the option to acquire the work.

4. Lending of Collections

Council may consider a loan agreement of public artworks when requested, where possible and upon application.

5. Public Art Curation

Council will conduct regular reviews and inspections of public art pieces. It will implement appropriate plans for the care, maintenance and decommissioning of

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|----------------------|---------------|---|-------------|
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| Original Issue Date: | November 2016 | | |
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| Review Date: | March 2025 | | |
| Current Version: | 3.0 | | |

public art under Council control. This will also include addressing matters relating to protocols and procedures for cultural heritage, moral rights, copyright, intellectual property and authenticity.

6. Maintenance Schedule

The Maintenance Schedule will detail materials and finishes including Materials Safety Data Sheets and construction drawings for the artwork.

This is required to be supplied by the Artist before final payment is made. The schedule will outline recommended cleaning products and schedule for cleaning, as well as frequency and application of recommended sealing products or other maintenance requirements.

MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS

The outcomes of this Policy will be measured by:

- Community acceptance and appreciation of the completed public art piece, post-installation;
- The number of public art installations in public spaces within the Shire that are economically and environmentally sustainable and well-maintained;
- The level of engagement from local residents in public art processes;
- Recognition of Cook Shire public art pieces from outside the Shire by tourists, media or in public forums; and
- Increased capacity and employment of local artists and art organisations in the public art process.

REVIEW

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| SPONSOR: | Director Community Economy and Innovation |
| OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEW: | Tourism, Arts and Events Manager |
| ADOPTION DATE: | March 2022 |
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|----------------------|---------------|---|-------------|
| Document Number: | D22/3927 | CONTROLLED DOCUMENT This electronic document is guaranteed as the most current. DO NOT COPY. Unauthorised hard copies of this document are prohibited. | Page 7 of 8 |
| Authorised By: | Council | | |
| Original Issue Date: | November 2016 | | |
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THIS POLICY IS TO REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL OTHERWISE DETERMINED BY COUNCIL

AMENDMENT HISTORY

| VERSION | AMENDMENT DETAILS | AMENDMENT DATE | APPROVAL |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.0 | New Policy | November 2016 | Council Resolution 2016/158 |
| 2.0 | Change as per resolution | March 2019 | Council Resolution 2019/59 |
| 3.0 | Change as per resolution | March 2022 | Council Resolution 2022/51 |

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