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Public Art Policy

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Table of Contents

1. Purpose.....	4
2. Background.....	4
3. Scope	4
4. Definitions	4
5. Council’s Role in Public Art.....	5
6. Management of Public Art	5
7. Process for commissioning or acquiring public art	7
8. References & Associated Documents	7
9. Policy History	7
10. Reviews.....	8

To increase public art in the council area, Council will explore opportunities to incorporate public art into future community infrastructure projects and will identify suitable sites in the public realm for temporary and permanent commissions.

To deliver the best outcome for the public from an aesthetic, functional and economic basis public art should be considered (where appropriate) from the earliest planning stages of capital work projects. This allows for the design and function to influence the art and vice versa. This also enables public art commissions to include diverse art forms, practices and styles in response to each unique infrastructure project, site and context.

Integrated Public Artworks

Many opportunities to integrate public art as part of streetscape or community building projects arise from urban design and infrastructure improvement projects. These provide valuable and appropriate opportunities for public art and consideration for its inclusion should be part of the scoping phase of Council led projects.

Temporary Public Art

The commission of temporary public art, sometimes on an ongoing platform, provides new points of interest to Federation Council's community, opportunities for emerging artists and as a whole is more affordable than permanent works of art.

The identification of sites for the installation of temporary art (including billboards, projection sites, walls of buildings) will be managed by Council through the development of a public art program.

Murals/Street Art

Murals and street art are important art forms in their own right with a long history and the ability to respond to architecture, culture and social contexts. It is also recognised that murals and street art treatments can be used as a graffiti management tool.

Where appropriate, murals will be used to improve open space amenity and streetscapes. Mural and/or street art projects should focus on addressing gaps, facilitating and fostering opportunities for emerging artists, artists from diverse backgrounds and those with capacity to produce high quality murals.

Council recognises the ongoing interest in murals and street art from artists, community members and businesses and will endeavour to play a facilitating role to enable private commissions. Reference documents such as fact sheets will be produced to provide information and guidance in this space.

In terms of murals and street art (including but not limited to paste up, stencil and spray-art) Council's role is:

- Service provision (graffiti management projects) particularly in coordination with private property owners
- Facilitation - by providing information and guidance
- Commissioning

Council's Public Art Program

Council will take a leading role in including public art as a primary consideration in community infrastructure developments and will encourage private developers to do the same.

A Public Art Program that identifies priority areas in the council area for Public Art installations will be developed and reviewed every 5 years. Council will also encourage and facilitate opportunities for public art to be commissioned by private property owners.

Implementation of the Public Art Program will be dependent on:

- The provision of funding in future Council budgets.
- The ability to attract external grant funding for public art.
- The development of sponsorship or partnership arrangements with community, local businesses or industry.
- Voluntary developer contributions that include public art.

7. Process for commissioning or acquiring public art

Public art commissions and acquisitions will be assessed by the criteria outlined below. This applies to Council commissions, acquisitions and negotiated or unsolicited donations and transfers from external parties.

Assessment Criteria

1. Standards of excellence, innovation and quality
2. Relevance and appropriateness of the work to the context of the proposed site
3. Consistency with Council's current planning, heritage, environmental and social policies
4. Consideration of public safety and the public's access to and use of the public domain
5. Consideration of ongoing maintenance and durability requirements
6. Adequate funding and resources
7. Responsiveness to any brief provided
8. Maintenance of Artworks
 - Council recognises the importance of adequate and appropriate maintenance of public artworks. As such, the life of the work should be considered in the commissioning phase and any ongoing maintenance requirements, and the cost for such maintenance, form a core part of the consideration for the work; an assessment of the work's ongoing durability, life of materials and the limitation of maintenance are criteria for Council's consideration.
 - Council also recognises the ephemeral nature of some works, especially in the area of murals and street art works, and outside exceptional circumstances, adopts a five year lifespan ceiling for murals and street art commissions. Council understands that many works may have an even shorter lifespan.

8. References & Associated Documents

Guidelines for Public Art in Private Development

Horsham Rural City Public Art Policy

Public Art Policy Yarra City

Cairns Regional Council Public Art Policy

9. Policy History

Version	Date	Changes / Amendments
1.0	29/06/2018	The Public Art Policy will be reviewed every four years.

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10. Reviews

The Public Art Policy will be reviewed in June 2022.

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