

ARTS AND CULTURAL POLICY

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Responsible Division	Growth
Related Documents	Alexandrina Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee Operation Plan 2015 Procurement Policy Disposal of Council Land and other Assets Policy Collections Statement (attachment A to Policy) Alexandrina Council <i>Community Strategic Plan 2014-23</i> Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement 'Creative Australia' National Cultural Policy
Applicable Legislation	<i>Local Government Act 1999 – Financial Internal Control</i>

Background

Community artistic expression is an essential part of our living culture and significantly contributes to a sense of place and identity in our communities and the wider region. It is widely acknowledged that arts and cultural development contributes to community wellbeing, social inclusion and a sense of identity. It facilitates greater understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures, history, and enriches our built and natural environments.

Culture arises from our communities and refers to shares ideas, values and traditions - changing to meet the needs of the present while taking care to preserve a diversity of heritage and traditions.

This policy supports a foundation for arts and cultural showcasing, and development for people who live, work, and visit the Alexandrina Council area. This policy, in conjunction with the Council endorsed *Alexandrina Arts and Cultural Operation Plan (2015)*, provides Council with strategic direction to facilitate a diverse range of services and activities for the community.

Policy Objectives

This policy provides direction to support Council's aim to develop positive and strong community support in the creation and celebration of cultural vitality, diversity and history.

Council recognises the central role Indigenous cultures play in our community life. One of the goals of this policy is to recognise, respect and celebrate local Indigenous cultures and the uniqueness of our local identity.

Council will facilitate partnership opportunities with art and cultural groups, the broader community, young people, Indigenous groups, community organisations, businesses and other key stakeholders.

Council will continue to support community interest in existing and expanding arts and culture sector through advocacy, promotion and communication.

Policy Principles

Alexandrina Council will develop an organisational culture that 'connects communities' by fostering:

- cultural vitality – develop local identity, shared values and a sense of belonging and place
- community building – foster wellbeing, connectedness and cohesion

- social inclusion – promote active participation and engagement across all age and social groups
- sustainability – build economic, environmental, social and cultural sustainability
- diversity – foster cultural diversity, awareness and expression
- innovation and creativity – support creativity, diversity and innovation.

Alexandrina Council will develop and participate in strategies to ensure:

- arts and culture are recognised as vital to our community
- arts and culture are seen as key contributors to the Alexandrina Council region's prosperity
- local partnerships are developed to encourage and showcase regional history
- tourism partnerships are developed to include events for arts and performance
- local artists and cultural practitioners are actively encouraged and supported
- current collections are preserved and contemporary works are acquired
- mentoring and training opportunities are created where possible
- collaboration, creativity and innovative practices are established
- residents and visitors have a wide range of opportunities to engage with the arts and other expressions of our culture
- public spaces are activated by integrating public art, urban design and the planning of infrastructure.

With regard to public art, Alexandrina Council will strive to:

- Engage in public art activities through a process that involves the community and details the procedures to be followed in the implementation of this policy
- Seek advice from its Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee regarding public art proposals as well as to review and evaluate this policy from time to time
- Adopt an open competition model for commissioning public art projects that are publicly funded
- Assess any proposed installation against the following criteria:
 - Represent aspects of historical, cultural, environmental or social significance to the region
 - Enhances and re-vitalises public areas and facilities within the Council area
 - Involves a standard of excellence
 - Creates employment, training and opportunities for local artists, craftspeople, community members and business
 - Demonstrates its relationship with a particular site
 - Complies with public health and safety and access requirements during and after construction
 - Requires minimal ongoing maintenance and are durable
 - Has community support
- Endeavour to provide ongoing annual funding for the commissioning of at least one public art installation
- Identify opportunities for public art inclusion (as part of the project) in the development of identified major capital works undertaken by Council which involve the modification of the urban landscape

- Allocate and monitor resources for the maintenance of existing public art works
- Ensure that any new public art installations of a permanent nature must include a maintenance schedule with a clear indication of how such maintenance will be funded and resourced
- Acquire public art which may be purchased, commissioned or donated. All acquisitions and donations must be measured against the criteria listed above and Council should seek a report from the arts and Cultural Advisory Committee on each acquisition. The report shall include public risk and maintenance assessments together with an explanation of its connection with the region

Delegations

Council acknowledges that the Chief Executive may sub-delegate matters related to this Policy to staff or other persons employed or engaged by council.

Availability of Policy

This Policy will be available for inspection at the Council's offices during normal business hours and on the Council's website www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au. Copies can also be provided to interested members of the community upon payment of a fee in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

Attachment A: Collections Statement

COLLECTIONS STATEMENT

The Alexandrina Council art collection may be developed under the following guidelines:

Art of the Alexandrina Region

Art work pertaining to the River Murray Lakes and Coorong. Art works in any medium or style that portray some natural, environmental, cultural and social aspect of the River Murray lakes and Coorong by mid-career or senior artists of wide spread regional, national or international significance; or emerging artists who demonstrate outstanding talent.

The collection reflects the region significant to the Alexandrina Council region and of significance to Ngarrindjeri communities.

The quality of all art works for this collection should be of a very high standard as generally agreed by industry experts, that being judges invited to select the first prize winner of the Goolwa Art and Photographic exhibition

Art of the Region, Fleurieu Peninsula, Lower Lakes and Coorong

Art works of a high standard in any medium or style that portrays some aspect of the natural cultural, social or economic environment of the Fleurieu Peninsula Lakes and Coorong region of South Australia.

Contemporary Australian Art

All art works should be by professional Australian artists or an emerging artist of exceptional talent; and art works collected should have regard to building and strengthening the existing collections and be a work believed by the judges to be of relevance in the history of Australian Art.

Disposal/Deaccession

There are number of reasons why deaccession may be considered:

- a collections statement has been developed or revised since the object was acquired

- the collecting focus has been refined or altered

- the object is a duplicate

- the object has been damaged or slowly deteriorated over time and the costs of conservation outweigh the value to the collection

- the object can no longer be suitably stored

- the object should be returned to the Aboriginal, Torres Strait or other community group from which it came.

THE DEACCESSION PROCEDURE

Members of the Alexandrina Council Arts Advisory Committee endorse this activity and will advise the elected body accordingly. Deaccession and disposal is an option and a possibility.

Decision to Deaccess

Any decision will be made by the governing body of the gallery, Alexandrina Council on advice from the Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee to Council in collaboration with the Gallery Director.

Deaccession

All deaccession decisions should be based on this Collections Statement. It should be used to carry out significance assessment to assist in the decision-making process.

The Deaccession Process

The following steps are a guide.

Identify and list the objects to be deaccessioned.

Review Council records, for information such as donor and date of acquisition, or any information on the objects not already known.

Fully document lists with any known relevant information to be presented to the Arts Advisory Committee for consideration, including deaccession recommendation. Recommendations should include the following:

- Provenance
- Advice on legal status of object, if required
- Reason for deaccession
- Any additional information regarding value, etc

Recommended Method of Disposal

If the committee agrees to deaccession, cross the object off all Council asset register records (mark status as deaccessioned with date deaccession was approved). As a Council asset, the deaccession outcome of the object must be recorded in the accession register.

Place object in the 'Deaccessioned Items' area of the Gallery's storeroom for a recommended 'cooling off period' of at least 12 months. This time is provided to allow any further information about the object to come to light, such as relevance, value, provenance, etc.

During this time, the committee's recommendation for method of disposal by contacting donors, other institutions, etc, may be acted upon.

After the cooling off period, dispose of the object following the hierarchy of methods of disposal as per the recommendation.

Develop a file, register or database of deaccessioned items with detailed information including a photograph for future reference.

Recommended Methods of Disposal Guide:

Disposal is the physical removal of the object from the gallery/Council site. This can be done in a number of ways and usually they are attempted through this order:

Return the object to the donor, if donor is in agreement.

If a record of the donor can't be found, draw on the memory of past employees, volunteers, board or committee members to try and establish the missing information. If it is unable to be established and the organisation wishes to continue the process, every effort must be made to establish the provenance and the donor's identity. The committee needs to ensure that a 'reasonable amount of effort and period of time' is undertaken in trying to trace the donor, e.g. four attempts to contact the donor by letter or phone call, and /or placing an ad in the local paper.

Transfer the object to another institution if one can be located willing to accept the object. This would be an institution with a similar collecting area, eg: if a maritime related object, a maritime museum would be most appropriate.

Sell the object at public auction or by tender. This ensures the fair market price for an object. People connected with the art gallery/Council should not be allowed to purchase deaccessioned items. The funds generated from such sales should be transferred into the acquisition budget so that items of greater significance to the organisation may be purchased in the future, or for other purposes such as conservation work for important collection items.

Destruction - only be considered for an object if it were in very poor condition, had irreparable damage, etc. Destruction refers to a situation whereby the object would be simply placed in the bin.

All decisions and actions are fully documented and recorded so that if any queries are made about the object in the future, it is possible to answer those queries with an informed perspective.