



Council Policy

Arts, Heritage & Cultural

Version 2 - 27 April 2022

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Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of the Lake Macquarie Arts, Heritage and Culture Policy is to define the strategic context for Council to develop, invigorate and promote the arts, heritage, culture, and diversity in our City for the benefit our residents, creative community, businesses, and visitors.

Scope

Lake Macquarie City Council acknowledges the Awabakal people as the Traditional Custodians of this area and as First Australians whose cultures are among the oldest living cultures in human history. Council pays respect to all Elders past and present, and to future generations of cultural knowledge holders of this Country, and respects the rights of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to pursue their own values and culture.

This Policy will be implemented through the Lake Macquarie Arts, Heritage and Culture Plan 2017-2027 that provides a broad framework for expanding the role of culture in Lake Macquarie over the next 10 years.

Policy statement

Lake Macquarie is a vibrant, contemporary and cosmopolitan City that actively celebrates, promotes and values the arts, heritage, culture and diversity of our community.

As the arts, heritage and culture are the foundations upon which vibrant, resilient and industrious communities are built, Council is committed to supporting the growth and diversity of world-class cultural and artistic activities in Lake Macquarie City.

Principles

Developing a culturally vibrant, resilient and active community requires a collaborative approach. Lake Macquarie City Council sees itself as an important player and committed to developing partnerships with education and business community, the tourism industry, neighbouring communities and other levels of government. These partnerships galvanise support and action to realise the community's vision for a contemporary and cosmopolitan City that celebrates, promotes and values the arts, heritage, culture and community diversity.

As communities grow and mature, so does cultural diversity, value and participation. The community of Lake Macquarie values creativity; the City's beautiful, unique environment; lifestyle and wellbeing; mobility and accessibility; a diverse economy; connected communities and shared decision-making.

Objectives

Culture is expressed through our relationships, shared memories, experiences and identity. It is our aspirations, values, beliefs, customs and traditions, our history and our heritage and our morals. Culture is intangible, created by community and passed on from generation to generation.

In the context of this policy, the arts include the performing and visual arts, crafts and fashion/design, community art, media, digital, film, television, language, literature, writing, publishing and all forms of creative thinking and expression.

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Heritage is something that we have inherited from the past and something that is valued enough today to leave for future generations. Heritage can incorporate both the tangible and intangible and is present in many forms including landscapes, landmarks, places, buildings, objects, languages, customs and ceremonies. (Heritage Policies | National Trust Australia)

In Lake Macquarie, culture is demonstrated through libraries and art galleries, sports and events, our foreshore parks and recreational facilities and our value for our natural environment, lake and ocean. Culture is defined by the kind of work and business we do, our civic pride, heritage and cultural backgrounds.

An Arts, Heritage and Cultural Plan translates the creative, heritage and cultural needs and identity of a community into strategies and actions. These actions seek to:

- address gaps in the delivery of arts, heritage and cultural programming and services;
- expand participation;
- broaden the impact of arts, heritage and culture;
- identify new opportunities for engagement within the arts, heritage and cultural sector; and
- stake out Lake Macquarie's identity through creative and cultural expression.

Rationale and connection

Broad strategic priorities that are relevant to the arts, heritage and culture in Lake Macquarie are identified in a number of documents. These documents and their relationships are shown below.

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To ensure that our community’s expectations are realised, Council has nine goals upon which strategies and actions are formed, these are;

Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture

Lake Macquarie is traditional Awakabal land where the culture of all people is recognised, acknowledged and respected.

Develop our City’s visual identity

Promote and facilitate quality and diverse public art initiatives in the Lake Macquarie City by providing a course or method to guide and determine decisions for urban and public art.

Champion heritage and history

Lake Macquarie values the tangible and intangible heritage of the City’s built and natural environments, and its social history and artefacts.

Celebrate connectedness yet invest in the cities uniqueness

Support and care for all and provide a sense of belonging yet encourage our towns and villages to develop their own cultural identity by encouraging new initiatives and activities that make the places that our residents live, work and play a central facet of Lake Macquarie's cultural life.

Actively encourage creativity and experiences

Together with creative process and outcomes that bring together history, culture, knowledge and expertise that supports innovation, enquiry and creative education.

Continuously improve Council's cultural facilities, programs and teams

Lake Macquarie City Council plays a pivotal role as a leading partner with our community to achieve our City's vision of being a vibrant, contemporary and cosmopolitan City by continuously improving how we enable creativity and cultural activities to be presented and supported.

Foster open communication, partnerships and leadership

Honour open and honest communication with the creative community, facilitate and champion partnerships that strive for the City's' arts, heritage and cultural vision and act and facilitate strong leadership within the sector.

Value and support our creative industry and cultural economy

Lake Macquarie values and supports individual creativity, skill and talent which has the potential for employment and the development of a sustainable creative economy

Communicate our culture: be local, aim global

Celebrate and promote creativity, innovation and uniqueness through engaging and active events, festivals, programs and exhibitions for community and visitors.

Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed 4 years from its commencement date or as required.

Controlled Document Information

Authorisation Details

Folder No:	F2005/00167	TRIM Record No:	D10621661
Audience:	External - Staff and residents of Lake Macquarie		
Department:	Arts, Culture & Tourism	Officer:	Manager Arts, Culture and Tourism - Jacqui Hemsley
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Related Document Information, Standards & References

Related Legislation:	(Legislation Name)	(Relationship/Context)
Related Policies:	(Policy Name)	(Relationship/Context)
Related Procedures, Guidelines, Forms, WHS Modules/PCD's, Risk Assessments, Work Method Statements:	(Document Name)	(Relationship/Context)
Standards, COP's & Other References	(Standard, COP or Other References)	(Relationship/Context)

Definitions

Term / Abbreviation	Definition

Consultation (update for each version created)

Key Departments, Teams, Positions, Meetings:	J Hemsley K McNaughton
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Version History

Version No	Date Changed	Modified By	Details and Comments
1	28 August 2017	J Hemsley	New Policy
2	22 April 2022	J Hemsley K McNaughton	No changes. Updated to current template.