



Council Policy

Urban and Public Art

Version 4 - 25 October 2021

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Introduction

Purpose

This policy provides a framework for the implementation of urban and public art within the public domain and applies to any external or internally generated applications to undertake urban and public art works, commissions, grants and major capital works.

This policy also incorporates works associated with the Museum of Art and Culture, Multi-Arts Pavilion and Sculpture Park Collection.

Scope

Public art contributes to the urban environment, provides interest and increases the city's attractiveness as a place to live, work and visit. It is the most visible and accessible art form, which plays a major role in creating a stimulating and memorable city.

Public art has the ability to contribute to public space by providing items of interest, interpretation and discussion within the public realm. Artworks also present a means by which individuals and groups can express themselves, their views, make a statement about society, or challenge social ideas. In this way, public art contributes to the lives of the community in which it occurs.

Urban and public art can include:

- permanent and temporary projects
- cultural and historical interpretation
- creative design incorporated into functional infrastructure
- memorials, monuments or objects that have cultural civic value or recognition
- street art and graffiti art.

Urban and public art works are not signage or other works that promote a business, organisation, individual or enterprise.

Policy statement

Meaningful city design and planning includes urban and public art as an essential component, recognising that art makes a city more attractive as a place in which to live and work, or as a destination to visit.

Principles

The city of Lake Macquarie:

1. supports an increased understanding and enjoyment of public art by citizens by integrating art into the structure, fabric and daily life within the urban built environment and associated public open spaces in a planned and strategic manner
2. will encourage public art by building partnerships with artists, arts organisations and communities through sponsorship and support of innovative arts projects in the public domain, where it is established that such activity will give added value to public open spaces
3. will consider any proposed public art project, including acquisitions, donations or commissions
4. will seek to include a visual arts component in major general construction and refurbishment of Council-managed facilities, such as substitution for existing design features including doors, glass, furniture and other interior design features

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5. will encourage a greater number of public artworks within the city on privately developed sites.
6. will undertake a clear and transparent process in selecting commissions and projects. Artworks that have not been subject to Federal or State prohibition should not be excluded on personal opinion and aesthetic grounds alone. Nor should art works be included on these grounds alone; whatever pressure is brought to bear by groups or individuals. The premise behind this is to support Council in creating a national profile as a creative, vibrant municipality that stands out, not only as an exciting place to visit but as a culturally sophisticated region. Commissions would include as essential criteria, how the artwork highlights the community's sense of identity, citizen and tourism interest, and how the artwork reflects streetscape aesthetics and assists in positioning Lake Macquarie as a contemporary, cultural city.

Objectives

The primary objective of the policy is to promote and facilitate quality, diverse urban and public art initiatives in Lake Macquarie.

The policy also has secondary objectives to:

1. celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture
2. develop our city's visual identity
3. champion local heritage and history
4. promote urban and public art that actively encourages creative learning and experiences
5. celebrate connectedness
6. continuously improve Council's cultural facilities and programs
7. foster open communication, partnerships and leadership
8. value and support our creative industry and cultural economy
9. communicate our culture: Be local, aim global.

Review and Evaluation

The policy is to be formally reviewed four years from the commencement date.

Controlled Document Information

Authorisation Details

Folder No:	F2009/01270	TRIM Record No:	D10322957
Audience:	External - Internal and External stakeholders		
Department:	Arts, Culture & Tourism	Officer:	Urban & Public Art Curator - Kattie Bugeja
Key focus area(s):	Urban and Public Art		
Review Timeframe: Max < 4 years	4 years	Next Scheduled Review Date:	25 October 2025
Authorisation:	Adopted by Council - 25 October 2021		
Authorisation - Council Adoption Date:	25 October 2021		

Related Document Information, Standards & References

Related Legislation:	(Legislation Name)	(Relationship/Context)
	DDA – Disability Discrimination Act	The DDA provides context to assure feasibility of public art in the community in relation to all access.
	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979	Outlines planning pathways for Urban and Public art.
Related Policies:	(Policy Name)	(Relationship/Context)
	Lake Macquarie DCP	The Lake Macquarie DCP may contain clauses that encourage public art to be integrated with urban design processes.
	Procurement Policy	The Procurement Policy provides guidance regarding purchasing requirements that may be relevant for acquisition of public art.
	Banner Policy	The Banner Policy provides guidance on banner installation and banners throughout the city.
	Night Time Economy Policy	Directly reference arts and cultural activities as a key activity that supports policy objectives.
	Commemorative Works at Council Sites	This policy outlines the criteria for the display and management of commemorative works.
	Cultural Collections Policy	Guides the development of the Urban and Public art collection. This policy includes guidelines for the accession and deaccession of artworks.
	Arts, Heritage and Cultural Policy	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.

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	Aboriginal Community Plan	Lake Macquarie's Aboriginal Community Plan includes a number of actions which can be met and or benefited by Urban and Public Art projects. For example, cultural celebration, awareness and understanding.
	Lake Macquarie Local Strategic Planning Statement	Directly references urban and public art and its role in creating vibrant public spaces and the shaping of the city's identity and liveability.
Related Procedures, Guidelines, Forms, WHS Modules/PCD's, Risk Assessments, Work Method Statements:	(Document Name)	(Relationship/Context)
	Donations of Park Furniture Procedure	The Donations of Park Furniture provides a framework for accepting commemorative memorials as donations of park furniture with plaques attached.
	Cultural Collections Procedure	Provides a detailed procedure for the review, acceptance and deaccessioning of Urban and Public artworks.
	Urban and Public Art Procedure	Provides an outline of Urban and Public art implementation.
Standards, COP's & Other References	(Standard, COP or Other References)	(Relationship/Context)

Definitions

Term / Abbreviation	Definition
Public Art	The Arts Law Centre of Australia defines public art as "permanent or temporary artistic works situated in public spaces and accessible by members of the public, excluding artworks held in the collections of galleries and museums."
Urban Art	Urban art is the creative treatment added to functional man-made infrastructure. It directly relates to city planning, city design, architecture, equipment design, amenities and facility design. Urban art includes artworks created by untrained artists and/or artists that fall within categories such as outsider art, street art and graffiti art. Urban art includes memorials, monuments or an object that have cultural civic value or recognition. Cultural, historical and artistic interpretation can also be considered urban art.

Consultation (update for each version created)

Key Departments, Teams, Positions, Meetings:	City Projects, Manager City Projects and Community Development Managers, Cultural Services, Integrated Planning
Version 4	Asset Management, City Works Development, Assessment and Certification, Development Contributions, Integrated Planning, City Projects, Community Partnerships

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Version History

Version No	Date Changed	Modified By	Details and Comments
1	August 2011	K. Vincer	First version of Council Policy
2	June 2013	H. Scarlet	Reviews – no changes were made to the content of this policy
3	December 2016	J Hemsley	Reviewed, Manager Cultural Services, Manager City Projects and Community Development Managers – significant changes made to policy Review by members – Urban and Public Art Working Group
4	August 2021	K Bugeja J Smith	Reviewed, Urban and Public Art Curator Reviewed, Major Creative Projects Innovation Coordinator Transferred content to new policy template Added the Multi-Arts Pavilion within the Purpose, as this facility had not been constructed in 2017 Added further clarification of what is defined as 'Urban and Public Art' in the Scope Added an additional sub-heading 'Policy Statement' to provide context and improve readability Revised the Objectives to improve readability and accessibility, whilst also aligning to the language and objectives within the Cultural Collections Policy and Strategy and the Urban and Public Art Strategy.

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