

Council Policy

Public Art

Purpose

This Policy defines the objectives and principles that support Council's vision for delivering quality public art across the Northern Beaches.

Policy Statement

Council will deliver and encourage public art that responds to the unique natural, social and built environments of the Northern Beaches, encourages artistic excellence and community connection, supports innovation and diversity, and includes processes that are inclusive and transparent.

Objectives

The Policy will embrace a wide diversity of art while requiring a high standard of artistic quality and appropriate and meaningful connections between art and place in all instances.

The objectives of the Policy are:

- Ensure excellence in public art
- Encourage original, innovative art that reflects contemporary art practice
- Support the creation of art that will contribute to the enhancement, enjoyment or understanding of the community's experience of its context
- Ensure that art is appropriate to the significance and character of its location and that both art and site mutually benefit from their association and interaction
- Encourage and ensure a diverse range of art in keeping with the unique qualities of the Northern Beaches' distinct urban and natural environments

Principles

Public art plays a vital role in strategic and place planning, and in economic, cultural and community development. It improves the quality of our public spaces and places, and enhances the community's creativity, imagination and connection to place.

Council will:

- Support the development and commissioning of a diverse range of permanent, temporary and ephemeral artworks in public places
- Align public art projects with major urban, suburban and landscape design and infrastructure projects
- Recognise and celebrate the Northern Beaches' cultural identity through art in public places
- Recognise and celebrate Aboriginal stories and heritage through art in public spaces
- Support public art opportunities for local artists
- Activate local places through temporary, ephemeral and community art projects
- Encourage high quality public art in private development
- Support community, private and government partners to facilitate public art opportunities

- Manage and maintain the Northern Beaches' collection of permanent artworks, monuments and memorials
- Ensure the creation of art that will contribute to the enhancement, enjoyment or understanding of its context and place
- Enhance the design and functionality of the public domain through public art
- Deliver robust, durable public art that will retain its quality and integrity over time
- Ensure that all future public art projects are procured and managed in accordance with the Public Art Policy and Guidelines.

Acquisitions

Acquisitions to the Public Art Collection will be considered with the support of a Public Art Selection Group, comprising of up to four (4) representatives with professional expertise and extensive experience in the selection and commissioning of public art; the visual arts; architectural, urban and landscape design or Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Public Art Policy Guidelines

Guidelines to be used in conjunction with this Policy outline specific criteria for the evaluation, formal acceptance and ongoing management of all types of public art commissioned by or proposed to Northern Beaches Council.

Scope and application

This policy applies to all employees, agents, officers, councillors and committee members of Northern Beaches Council, and the general community.

References and related documents

Northern Beaches Council - Northern Beaches Collection Management and Gifts Policy (2018)

Northern Beaches Council - Northern Beaches Coast Walk Strategic Plan (2018)

Northern Beaches Council - Arts and Creativity Strategy (2018)

Northern Beaches Council (2018), Community Strategic Plan SHAPE2028

NSW Government (2015), Create in NSW: Arts and Cultural Policy Framework

City of Sydney (2016), Public Art Policy

Definitions

Public Art refers to a range of artwork and art-based activities that interface with the public, including property in private ownership that has publicly accessible space and the public domain. Public Art can include sculpture, place-making elements, wall embellishments, art integrated into the design of buildings, artist-designed seating and fencing, paving work, lighting elements and other creative possibilities. Public Art can serve both an aesthetic and functional purpose.

The Northern Beaches Council Public Art Policy recognises that public art consists of a highly diverse and constantly evolving range of activities and outcomes. For the purpose of this Policy, *public art* is defined in the broadest sense as the product of artists and community members who intend their work or activities to be seen and understood as art in the public realm. Embracing material and immaterial products, public art also includes concepts and activities, which emanate from the creative thinking of artists and the community.

For the purposes of this Policy, the *public domain* means public places and/or open spaces that are situated within, vested in or managed by Council, including parks, beaches, bushland, outdoor recreation facilities, streets, laneways, pathways and foreshore promenades and public buildings, facilities or enclosed structures, owned and managed by Council which are physically accessible to the general public.

Responsible Officer

Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture

Review Date

August 2027

Revision History

Revision	Date	Status	TRIM Ref
1	5 November 2018	First draft Northern Beaches Council Public Art Policy	2018/703107
2	3 May 2019	Second draft Northern Beaches Council Public Art Policy	2019/246034
3	28 May 2019	Policy adopted by Council	2019/349581
4	22 November 2022	Policy submitted to Council for consideration and placed on public exhibition – no proposed changes.	2019/349581
5	22 August 2023	Public Art Policy presented to Council and adopted.	2019/349581