

# Cultural Policy

## Purpose

This Policy states the Council's commitment to fostering the unique culture of the Northern Beaches.

## Policy Statement

Council will:

- recognise Aboriginal people as the original custodians of the Northern Beaches and acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and elders past and present. Aboriginal culture is integral to our understanding of belonging, community and care of the land.
- work collaboratively to ensure Aboriginal heritage and areas of cultural significance are preserved and celebrated as the heart of the area's living heritage and rich cultural assets.
- support local creativity at all stages of life as essential to our community's spirit of belonging as proudly expressed by the diversity of communities brought to the area through migration, lifestyle choice and love of its natural beauty.
- celebrate diversity in all forms as essential to an inclusive and engaged community. Council supports residents' freedom to choose their creative life and expressions of culture.
- foster our community's innate creativity, imagination and connection to place, as realised through our heritage and contemporary arts, vital to generating the big ideas and new ways that will deliver our thriving social, environmental and economic future.
- recognise that local creative industries are essential to cultural vitality. Council will actively support sector growth and innovation for change.
- enable established and emerging creatives through places and spaces, partnerships, programs and services to share local stories, engage, inspire and connect our community and visitors to the Northern Beaches.
- support the growth of Northern Beaches as a destination for arts, culture and creativity through leadership, with an outward-focused and inclusive approach achieving the best possible outcomes for our community.

## Principles

This policy operates under the following principles:

- Local Aboriginal communities have the right to self-determination, including the sharing of culture, and the right to access and contribute to the region's cultural and creative life.
- Northern Beaches' residents and visitors have the right to self-expression and the right to access and contribute to the region's cultural and creative life.
- Place and spaces for the arts, cultural expressions and creativity, including experimentation and cross-disciplinary collaboration, are fundamental to community wellbeing, innovation and industry growth.

- Participation and engagement in arts and culture supports our community to express shared values, negotiate diverse beliefs, and increase connection to each other, promoting understanding and a sense of belonging.
- The arts can explore and respond to complex cultural, social, and environmental issues, revealing new possibilities and perspectives that provide opportunities to transform communities.
- Design excellence and artistic expression in the public domain embed creativity and strengthen our connection to place.
- Collaboration, partnership, and open communication between Council and residents fosters understanding of the role and impacts of the arts and culture on community wellbeing and a thriving creative economy.

### Scope and application

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

### Application

This policy will be implemented through key Council documents, principally the *Arts and Creativity Strategy - Connected through Creativity 2029* that provides a framework for embedding creativity and expanding arts and culture across the Northern Beaches over the next decade.

### Council's role

Council understands that thriving arts and creativity in diverse and inclusive communities will keep our cultural ecosystem strong, producing ideas that will allow us to meet challenges now and into the future. We recognise that creative communities need creative Councils to understand and support them, and we are committed to exploring new ways of working with the community. Council recognises that it needs to be adaptive and responsive and will review the policy periodically to ensure it continues to meet community needs and expectations.

### References and related documents

Northern Beaches Council Community Strategic Plan 2040  
 Northern Beaches Council Arts & Creativity Strategy *Connected through Creativity 2029*  
 Northern Beaches Council Cultural Collections Management and Gifts Policy (2021)  
 Northern Beaches Council Social Sustainability Policy (2021)  
 Northern Beaches Council Community Centres Strategy (2021)  
 Northern Beaches Council Public Art Policy (2023)  
 Northern Beaches Council Coast Walk Strategic Plan (2019)  
 Northern Beaches Events Strategy 2018 – 2023 (2018)  
 Northern Beaches Council Local Strategic Planning Statement, Towards 2040  
 Northern Beaches Council Better Together, Social Sustainability Strategy (2022)  
 Local Government Act (1993)  
 UNESCO, Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted 2 November (2001)  
 Arts NSW, Create in NSW: NSW Arts and Cultural Policy Framework (2015)

## Definitions

Council considers art to be the manifestations of culture encompassing visual and performing arts, crafts, fashion and design, film and screen-based works, literature, digital and new media, and hybrid and new forms of creative thinking and expression. It also includes community arts, exhibitions, museums and galleries, and activations in public space.

Culture is considered as an inclusive term incorporating creativity, community, diversity, knowledge, heritage and expressed imagination that creates the way of life unique to the Northern Beaches.

Creative industries include a range of businesses that use creativity and knowledge as their primary source of economic generation. This may include:

- Aboriginal arts
- Advertising
- Audio-visual
- Craft
- Cultural heritage
- Design, including architecture, fashion and graphic, industrial and interior design
- Radio, film and television
- Makers
- Media and digital media music
- Publishing
- Performing arts
- Visual arts

## Responsible Officer

Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture

## Review Date

28 November 2027

## Revision History

Revision	Date	Status	TRIM Ref
1	25/09/2019	First draft Cultural Policy	2019/554576
2	22/10/2019	Approved Northern Beaches Cultural Policy	2019/554576
3	25/02/2020	Adopted Northern Beaches Cultural Policy	2019/554576
4	22/08/2023	Policy review presented to Council for public exhibition	2023/513118
5	28/11/2023	Cultural Policy presented to Council and adopted	2023/513118