



Arts and Exhibition Policy

Local Government 2009

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Council is a collecting institution of significant cultural resources in the North Queensland region. Art, craft and cultural material may be displayed in the Perc Tucker Regional Gallery and Pinnacles Gallery and Public spaces. Council must ensure that acquisition and display of art, craft and cultural material is appropriate and in the interest of the public.

2. PRINCIPLES

The following principles underpin this Policy:

1. **Strategy:** The exhibition programs are informed by the Arts Strategy goals and objectives.
2. **Research and Innovation:** Exhibitions aim to meet the highest standards of curatorial research, challenge and introduce new understandings, and include a focus on innovative and creative interpretation and presentation of content.
3. **Collection focus:** Certain exhibitions and display in the exhibition and display program aim to highlight, contextualise, or enable greater access to work from the City of Townsville's Art Collection.
4. **Resource management:** The exhibition program is planned and implemented in a sustainable and responsible manner with regard for:
 - the responsible use of human and material resources.
 - the Council's existing and future priorities and commitments.
 - the strategic management of risks.
 - sound financial management practices during exhibition development, planning and delivery.
5. **Range:** The exhibition program consists of a diverse range of exhibitions and displays that includes local, north Queensland, Queensland, Australian, Pacific and international content, historical and contemporary works and covers a wide range of media
6. **Reconciliation and consultation:** The exhibition programs include exhibitions of Indigenous Australian art, and supports programs, services and process that promote Indigenous art and culture. The Gallery is committed to a consultative curatorial process when developing exhibitions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and similar consultation and engagement will occur with other communities where relevant and possible; and
7. **Partnerships:** The exhibition program supports the development, expansion and strengthening of important partnerships and alliances with key national and international galleries and touring organisations.
8. **Local:** Provide opportunities for local artists;
9. **Management:** Managing the City of Townsville Art Collection (COTAC) on behalf of the people of Townsville;
10. **Working Group:** Maintaining an Art Acquisition Working Group (AAWG) to provide community oversight of the implementation of this policy.
11. **Procedures and Processes:** Procedures and processes which members of the public are to follow relating to this policy will be made available on the Council's website.

3. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all:

- Activities relating to the Exhibitions program of Townsville City Galleries and applies to all workers. Where collaborative projects are undertaken with other Townsville City Council departments, this policy would apply.
- All Council activities and services relating to COTAC.
- All public art projects proposed, implemented and/or managed by Council and includes fine-art based public art, community art, integrated permanent and temporary public art, along with street art, and site activation projects.

4. RESPONSIBILITY

Director of Community, Environment & Lifestyle and Managers within Community & Lifestyle are responsible for ensuring the policy contained herein is understood and adhered to by all workers.

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Document No. –

Authorised By – Director Community, Environment & Lifestyle

Document Maintained by – Community & Lifestyle

Version No. 1

Initial Date of Adoption (Version 1) – 22.11.2023

Current Version Reviewed – 22.11.2023

Next Review Date – 22.11.2027

5. DEFINITIONS

Acquisition – means the collection of art, craft and cultural material whether by purchase (from private individuals, dealers, at auction), acquisitive prize, transfer, exchange, bequest, donation, by gift through the Australian Government's Taxation Incentives for the Arts Scheme, the Cultural Gifts Program or other method, is accepted into either Collection resulting in the transfer of the legal ownership, custody or control of Townsville City Council.

Art Acquisition Working Group (AAWG) – means an advisory group established by Council and may be comprised of the relevant Councillors, Council officers and community representatives depending on availability.

Art, Craft and Cultural Material – includes all types of objects that can be created for an internal or external environment, including but not limited to: artefacts, art built-in, artist's books, carvings, ceramics, community art, drawings, ephemeral art, film, fountains, memorials, monuments, mosaics, multimedia, murals, paintings, photo media, photographs, prints, public art, sculpture, street art, terrazzo, textiles and war memorial.

Arts Strategy - The Townsville City Council Arts Strategy brings together Council's visual and performing arts areas in one strategic document. It recognises the alignment of the two areas under common themes as well as their distinctiveness in providing programs and services for the community. Notably the strategy acknowledges the importance of the arts to community wellbeing and economic growth. It is informed by thorough community and stakeholder engagement.

Collections Management System (CMS) - A Collections Management System (CMS), sometimes called a Collections Information System, is software used by the collections staff of a collecting institution.

Community and Cultural Development (CCD) Committee - The CCD Committee has been established as a Standing Committee in accordance with section 264 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 ("the Regulation"). Its purpose is to provide advice to Council on community, arts and culture matters affecting the community, and strategic direction and leadership on matters detailed in the Committee's Roles and Responsibilities. The Committee will provide much of the investigative and detailed work leading to a recommendation to Council to enable an informed decision to be made. Cultural development is the process of enabling cultural activities, including the arts, towards the realisation of a desired future, particularly of a culturally rich and vibrant community.

COTAC – means City of Townsville Art Collection.

COTAIPSC – means City of Townsville Art in Public Spaces Collection.

Cultural Gifts Program - The Cultural Gifts Program offers tax incentives to encourage people to donate cultural items to public art galleries, museums, libraries, and archives in Australia. Gifted items can include visual and decorative arts, Indigenous arts and cultural artefacts, social history and scientific collections, and archival material. The program is managed under the gift provisions in Australia's income tax law and with advice from technical experts (approved accredited Valuer).

Deaccession – means the process by which an object is permanently removed from a Collection.

Disposal – means the process by which any unwanted or deaccessioned object is disposed of from a Collection.

Due diligence – means the requirement that every endeavour is made to establish the facts of a case before deciding a course of action, particularly in identifying the source and history of an object offered for acquisition or use before acquiring it.

Exhibition – means the presentation of paintings, drawings, video, sound, installation, performance, interactive art, new media art or sculptures by individual artists, groups of artists or a collection of specific forms of art and may include inward loans, commissions or works drawn from the collection. It is usually displayed for a temporary period in the Gallery unless otherwise stated as a permanent exhibition.

Exhibition Management Team – means the team established to review and discuss the exhibition program quarterly. The team may comprise the Galleries Director, Team Manager, senior and key Gallery staff.

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Exhibition program – means the forward program and schedule of temporary, collection and touring exhibitions.

Galleries – means the business unit established by Townsville City Council to manage the operations of Perc Tucker Regional Gallery and Pinnacles Gallery.

Incoming loan – means any work of art or object borrowed by Townsville City Council for a specific period of time, as specified in an Incoming Loan Agreement or similar Outgoing Loan Agreement provided by another cultural institution or individually signed by Council, and the lender.

Manager – includes persons appointed to positions including with the title, Team Manager, Lead, General Manager, Principal, Director and Chief.

Outgoing loan - means any work of art or object borrowed by Townsville City Council for a specific period of time, as specified in an Outgoing Loan Agreement or similar Incoming Loan Agreement provided by another cultural institution or individually signed by Council, and the lender.

Permanent Public Art – means Art, Craft, and Cultural Material which will be or have been placed on the Council's COTAIPSC register. The life expectancy of permanent public artwork is ten years. However, permanent public Art, Craft, and Cultural Material may exceed this.

Public Art – means a concept or work created by an artist/s in any medium, permanent, temporary or ephemeral, which engages of one or more of the senses and is situated in a place of public view and in a public space.

Significance – includes the meaning and values of an object or collection, or what makes it important. Significance is the historic, aesthetic, scientific and social values that an item or collection has for past, present and future generations as outlined in the guiding industry document, *Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collection*.

Temporary Public Art – includes an Art, Craft, and Cultural Material, installation or performance piece that is not designed to last. A temporary or short-lived artwork may remain anywhere from a few hours up to approximately 5 years.

Touring exhibition – means an exhibition of work(s) of art that may include works drawn from the collection, inward loans and/or commissions that the Gallery tours to other venues.

Workers – includes employees, contractors, volunteers and all others who perform work on behalf of Council.

6. POLICY

6.1 GALLERIES EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition proposals for the Galleries are reviewed and assessed by Council, in line with the principles of this policy. The Gallery program supports a range of exhibition models including, but not limited to, the following:

1. significant major or blockbuster exhibitions with wide appeal that develop audiences, build on the Gallery's northern Australia profile and promote a sustainable destination that embraces and participates in the arts..
2. exhibitions developed by the Gallery that may feature works borrowed from other galleries or private collections.
3. exhibitions developed by the Gallery from COTAC. This type of exhibition is intended to highlight new acquisitions, collection strengths and to stimulate scholarly research into the collection.
4. monographic or group exhibitions by local and regional artists including Indigenous artists.
5. exhibitions developed in partnership with other organisations.
6. children's exhibitions with an interactive focus, developed in collaboration with artist/s or other organisations.
7. inbound touring exhibitions from interstate or international organisations.
8. Collection-based or lender exhibitions intended to tour nationally.

6.2 ART COLLECTION AND MAINTENANCE

Council will collect Art, Craft and Cultural Material and ensure that it is responsibly managed.

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6.2.1 COTAC PROCUREMENT

Council recognises the following methods for procuring Art, Craft and Cultural Material for the permanent collection as opposed to loaned or temporary Art, Craft and Cultural Material:

1. Acquisition by purchase;
2. Acquisition by straight donation;
3. Acquisition by donation through, the Cultural Gifts Program; and,
4. Acquisition by prize.

6.2.2 COTAC SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Council recognises the importance of collecting Art, Craft, and Cultural Material that are made locally in North Queensland by local and visiting artists of Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage in addition to national and international historical and contemporary art in accordance with the collecting priorities outlined below:

COLLECTING PRIORITIES

Australian Art

- Art of North Queensland
This collection area focuses on Art, Craft, and Cultural Material created in North Queensland including historical, modern, and contemporary Art, Craft, and Cultural Material of all media created by artists both indigenous and non-indigenous.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art
This collection area focuses on traditional and contemporary Art, Craft, and Artefacts from North Queensland across all media.
- Australian 19th and 20th Century Art
This collection area focuses on Art, Craft, and Cultural Material, which are aesthetic schools and styles of this period in art history, cultural traditions, and development of Australia, particularly Townsville and the surrounding region, across all media.
- Australian Modern and Contemporary Art
This collection area focuses on modern and contemporary Art, Craft, and Cultural Material of Australia of all disciplines and media, including the Art of North Queensland and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art.

International Art

- Pacific Arts (including Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia)
This collection area includes a significant collection of Pacific Art, Craft, and Cultural Material, particularly of the Polynesia and Melanesia regions showcasing Australia's closest neighbours of traditional and contemporary Art, Craft, and cultural material of all media.
- Global Arts
This collection area is a small but significant growth area of the collection. Council recognises the importance of collecting significant Art, Craft, and Cultural Material by international artists through initiatives such as Sister City relationships and projects specific partnerships including art in public spaces. Priority will be given to acquisitions that can be justified in terms of their specific relationship to Australian Art/ Art of North Queensland.

6.2.3 ART LOANS

Council may permit temporary incoming and outgoing loans of Art, Craft and Cultural Material into and from COTAC, where:

- The outcomes are in line with Council's goals and objectives outlined in the relevant Arts Strategy.
- Promotes community engagement through major touring exhibitions, or curated exhibitions from external collections.
- Promotes COTAC to a national audience.

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6.3 PUBLIC ART

Council acknowledges the need to employ artists to produce Public Art:

- Where possible, artists will be engaged at the inception of a project to ensure that art can be integrated and/or readily accommodated in the project's concept design phase. It is essential to establish strong working relationships between all relevant stakeholders throughout the planning process to ensure that the most appropriate implementation process is followed, and a successful public art outcome achieved.
- Council recognises artists have the ability to communicate in visual form which can elude verbal or written expression. Artists also have the ability to interpret the social and cultural values of the community. A well-chosen and appropriately sited Public Art adds significantly to a sense of place as well as communicating the city's point of difference.
- Council supports the role public art has to impact on the urban landscape and encourages artists to pursue artistic excellence, innovation and experimentation in their work.
- Council promotes consultation across disciplines and encourages collaboration between artists, communities, and design professionals. The process will contribute to a greater understanding of the role and contribution of artists and cultural workers in the life of the community.
- Council recognises the need to encourage artistic works which reflect Townsville's diverse cultural identity. Council recognises the traditional rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in all issues concerning the evaluation, planning, design and development of public spaces.
- Council encourages the involvement of Council's Heritage and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Liaison Officers in providing advice regarding the cultural significance of the selected site. This information will promote a greater awareness of the cultural, social, historical and aesthetic value of Townsville and may or may not be used by the artists.

6.3.1 PUBLIC ART ACQUISITION

Council recognises the following methods for procuring Public Art:

- Acquisitions by purchase;
- Acquisitions by prize;
- Commissioning;
- Artists as part of collaborative design teams;
- Artists in Residence;
- Artists collaborating with the community in the design and/or implementation of place making projects; and,
- Donations.

6.3.2 PUBLIC ART SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT

- Preferential consideration should be given to engaging local artists but not isolated to local content;
- The selection and management of public art will occur in alignment with Council's procedures and frameworks
- A public art reference group will be formed to guide the commissioning process of major public art projects. This group will comprise of industry experts, art professionals, community members and appropriate officers from Council. Where external partnerships exist, there is to be a representative from these organisations. Community stakeholders are to be consulted in the commissioning of site-specific installations; and,
- Council will also maintain an Art Acquisition Working Group (AAWG) to provide recommendations to Council in relation to the acquisition, deaccession, and disposal of public art.

6.3.3 TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART

Council recognises the importance of temporary public art projects, including projects such as Council's *Ephemera: Seaside Sculptures*.

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Temporary public art projects enliven our environment, bring economic and cultural growth to the region through visitation, and raise awareness of contemporary matters. Council encourages the development of temporary public art projects throughout Townsville. Temporary public art projects should meet a high standard and include demonstrable long-term outcomes.

6.3.4 PUBLIC ART MAINTENANCE AND CONSERVATION

Galleries will maintain and arrange for specialised conservation of registered public Art in line with standard art procedures.

6.4 COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CMS)

All Art, Craft and Cultural Material acquired by Council that are documented and listed in the CMS are considered assets in Council's Corporate Financial Asset System. The two main collection categories are:

- COTAC; and
- COTAIPSC.

The COTAC will be guided by national and international standards for museums and galleries for storing Art, Craft and Cultural Material and may enable access for exhibition, education, and research.

6.5 DEACCESSIONING AND DISPOSAL OF ART, CRAFT AND CULTURAL MATERIAL INCLUDING PUBLIC ART

Deaccessioning is part of collection management; it is the formal process of removal of an object from the CMS.

The decision to deaccession or dispose of any object from COTAC or COTAIPSC must only be undertaken with the full understanding of the significance of the object, its character, legal standing and any loss of public trust that might result from such action.

Deaccessioning and disposal of any object will be an open and ethical process. In the case of donated art, craft and cultural material Townsville City Council must contact the living relatives to discuss the deaccession and disposal process.

Deaccessioning of an object is to occur only in the following instances:

- Lack of relevance to the Collection;
- No evidence of clear legal title;
- Theft or loss;
- Damage or serious deterioration in the condition;
- Public safety;
- Changes to the design and use of the public space occupied by the Public Art;
- The asset life expectancy;
- Inferior workmanship;
- Artistic relevance;
- The possibility that a new and better site has become available for Art, Craft, or Cultural Material;
- The work no longer reflects the site or community;
- The work sustains irretrievable loss or irreparable damage; and
- Deterioration of the work has progressed to such a degree that conservation of the work is valued at a cost greater than the original cost of the work.
- Repatriation of cultural property; or,
- Duplication.

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Council may elect to proceed with the below methods of disposal, and must comply with Part 3 of the Default Contracting Procedures in *the Local Government Regulation 2012*, where the object has a value of \$10,000.00 or more:

- Offer the object to another museum, collecting organisation, community organisation which is either a community or government organisation; or
- Sell the object, by auction, tender or expression of interest. If the object is unable to be sold at auction, tender or expression of interest, the object can be sold by private treaty where it is sold for more than the highest tender or auction bid that was received.– If the object was received by the Council through a gift or bequest, then the proceeds of the sale of the object must be applied to the acquisition of alternative objects for the collection, in all other cases the proceeds of a sale are to be applied to the acquisition of alternative objects for the Collection unless the Council otherwise directs; . or
- Where the object has a value of less than \$10,000. Return the object to the source, if possible, unless otherwise instructed by the donor except for donations made through the Cultural Gift Program. The institution is unable to return the items because the donor has already received a benefit of a tax deduction for the gift;
- As a last resort, destroy the object. This may be appropriate where:
 - the item is irreparably damaged;
 - the expense of going to tender, auction, requesting expression of interests, offering the object to a museum, collecting organisation or community organisations outweighs any potential financial benefit which may be received,
 - damage or serious deterioration in the condition;
 - the object is unsafe; or,
 - Other methods of disposal have been unsuccessful.

For Due Diligence recommendations for deaccession or disposal of Art, Craft, and Cultural Material should be supported by a written report and presented and approved by:

1. the Galleries Director,
2. AAWG,
3. CCD Committee; and,
4. Full Council meetings.

This process applies to COTAC and COTAIPSC.

6.6 ART FUNDING

Council budgets annually through its capital budget for both Art in Public Spaces commissions and Art acquisitions. This budget is subject to Council approval annually.

Council will explore a range of funding options for future public art projects also, including:

- Program budget allocations.
- Partnership, sponsorship and donations.
- State and Federal Government funding. Council will actively seek funding, either whole or part project cost, from other tiers of government.

7. LEGAL PARAMETERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulations 2012

Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986

Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan Act 2013

8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

City of Townsville Art Collection Register

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City of Townsville Art in Public Art Spaces Collection Register
 Galleries Exhibitions Procedure and Main Space Exhibition Proposal Form
 Galleries: Art in Public Spaces Framework >> 2020-2024
 Galleries: Street Art Activation Framework >> 2020-2024
 Galleries: Work Instruction Manual (WIM) Managing the City of Townsville Art Collection
 Procurement Policy
 Townsville City Council: Arts Strategy >> 2020-2024

9. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date	Version	Amendment	Reviewer	Approved
22/11/2023	1	Consolidation of policies to create a single point of reference for art and gallery related matters.	GM Community & Lifestyle	Full Council


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