

## Blacktown Arts Centre/Arts and Cultural Development Programming Protocols

### Blacktown Arts Centre Core Roles

This document outlines the processes and principles that guide the selection of programming for the Blacktown Arts Centre.

All programming is related to Council's Cultural Plan, City Vision and the objectives and criteria below which have been developed through community input.

### Program Objectives

**Support the development of contemporary art and culture in Blacktown that is reflective of Blacktown and its history and its communities through:**

- Providing development opportunities to Blacktown and Western Sydney artists such as residencies, mentorships, masterclasses, studios and opportunities for relevant artistic exchange and collaboration with artists within and outside the region.
- Commissioning of new work by local and Western Sydney professional artists.
- Presenting new work created by Blacktown and Western Sydney professional artists.
- Providing business development opportunities for artists through programs such as Viscopy, Artslaw, Music NSW and other programs designed to meet the business, employment and economic development needs of artists.

**Contribute towards the well-being of Blacktown residents and communities through:**

- Providing a stimulating, educational and accessible program at professional standards.
- Providing opportunities for residents to engage with the arts at a range of levels (ie creation, education, appreciation).
- Provide opportunities for Blacktown's diverse communities to learn about, understand, appreciate and work with each other through arts and cultural presentations and activities.
- Providing opportunities to enhance community cohesion through targeted projects for disadvantaged and disenfranchised communities.

**Strive to maintain a leadership role in Western Sydney and beyond in order to enhance the positive profile of Blacktown and Western Sydney and increase visitation and funding to Blacktown through:**

- Implementing innovative programming which is unique to the region and contributes towards an understanding and appreciation of Blacktown, its history and people.
- Demonstrating best practice in contemporary arts development and programming in order to remain competitive within the sector.
- Promoting local government as a critical player in arts development in Australia.

### Program criteria

**The following are the programming criteria used when considering a particular project for inclusion in the Blacktown Arts Centre's program.**

- The project should be consistent with the Program Objectives of the Blacktown Arts Centre (see above).
- The project should benefit local artists either through employment, creative development, or professional (business) development.

- The project should involve the development or presentation of new work. (in most instances the centre does not program work which has already been performed/shown elsewhere).
- The project should provide opportunities for the participation of Blacktown residents/communities in arts and cultural activities.
- The project should have some relevance to Blacktown artists and/or communities and include strategies for engaging Blacktown audiences.
- The project should be relevant to our program, current , future and/or historical
- The program is determined by the Blacktown Arts Centre Director, in consultation with staff and the Arts Reference Advisory Sub-Committee.

## **Exhibitions**

Due to the large number of exhibition proposals received by the Arts Centre the following information is provided as clarification of the guidelines followed by staff in the programming of exhibitions:

- Solo exhibitions are generally not included in the exhibition program due to the need to maximise opportunities for artists to exhibit.
- With the exception of the Blacktown City Art Prize, and the occasional touring exhibition, all exhibitions are curated by the Blacktown Arts Centre. Touring exhibitions are selected for their relevance to Blacktown and the program objectives and criteria listed above.
- Our exhibitions are curated to meet particular arts development, community engagement, educational objectives, or themes within Council's Cultural Plan.