

Policy Number	P000452.5
Subject	Cultural Policy
Subject Area	ARTS & CULTURAL DEVLEOPMENT
Strategy	A creative friendly and inclusive City
File Number	127-55-180/7
Inception Date	24/08/2005
Last Review Date	18/03/2009
Reports	PO1295 CS250102; PO1420 FC290034
Responsible Officer	Director City Living - DCL, General Manager - GM
Policy	

Definition/s

Art: the production or expression of what is beautiful, appealing, or of more than usual significance. Art is integral to quality of life, offering engagement, enjoyment, celebration, challenge, introspection, troubling questions, human affirmation and spiritual nourishment. Art includes objects created by humans that have aesthetic value or express symbolic meaning.

Culture: includes artistic activities such as dance, theatre, music, literature, architecture, painting, sculpture, public art, film and photography. It also refers to clothing and hairstyles, food and its preparation, language, sport, religion, customs, law and politics, history and heritage, libraries, galleries and museums.

Heritage: Culture, traditions and community assets preserved, celebrated and/or re-interpreted from one generation to another.

City Vision

To be a vibrant, healthy and safe City - a City of excellence.

Cultural Vision

To be a City where culture and creativity enrich the lives of the whole community.

Purpose/Objectives

The purpose for developing Cultural Policy for Blacktown is to provide a rationale, set of principles and framework by which Council undertakes to encourage, provide and attract arts and cultural activity, development and resources for Blacktown residents and visitors.

The objectives of the policy are:

- to define the principles of art and cultural practices and development in Blacktown.
- to support and develop vital communities that have access to art and cultural opportunities and facilities that improve the quality of life for residents.
- to provide direction in the development and maintenance of cultural facilities, programs and activities.
- to provide leadership in cultural development in Western Sydney.
- to ensure compliance with State legislation, Council's Business Plan and the delivery of a high quality art and cultural environment for the City of Blacktown.
- to promote an integrated approach to cultural development in all Council business.

Policy Statement

1. Blacktown City Council recognises the following guiding principles in artistic and cultural development.

1.1 Cultural Diversity. Blacktown is a richly diverse multicultural community. Acknowledgement, acceptance and support for the wealth of arts and cultural expression of peoples irrespective of ethnicity or language, custom of belief, age, gender or sexuality are key components of its cultural richness. Within this overall context, Indigenous heritage has a unique place of honour in the cultural development of Blacktown. The widest possible range of arts and cultural expression are recognised and supported as part of embracing cultural diversity.

1.2 Creativity. Creativity, expressiveness innovation and imagination are integral to the development of all forms of culture and cultural related opportunities.

1.3 Access and Equity. There are people within our community who face hardship participating in programs or attending functions whether this is due to economic, social, education, language or physical factors and concerted efforts should be made to remove these barriers.

1.4 Participation and Collaboration. The strength and initiative of a community lies in its ability to reflect on itself, develop languages and symbols, determine and contribute to the development of itself. Collaborative and participatory arts, heritage and cultural activities provide opportunities for shared local cultural experiences, generate a sense of community belonging and pride and can make valuable contributions to a unique and distinctive cultural environment for Blacktown.

1.5 Community Cultural Development. Community Cultural development brings together professional artists and the community in a synergy of arts, heritage and community processes and activities through which people may define, describe, record and celebrate aspects of personal and collective life.

1.6 Originality and Relevance. Arts, heritage and cultural activities and expressions that are creative, imaginative, original and relevant to Blacktown and the Western Sydney Region are encouraged.

1.7 Heritage and Placemaking. The recognition and celebration of Blacktown's art, heritage and culture contributes to the development of a sense of place.

1.8 Civic Responsibility/Governance. Council will take a leadership and advocacy role in developing a receptive climate for art in Blacktown and to ensure that cultural development is recognised as a high priority in all its activities and actions. Council is also responsible for the promotion of sustainable cultural development and the use of best practice models in cultural management.

2. Blacktown City Council is committed to:

2.1 Access around the City

Develop transport services that improve access to arts, cultural and heritage services and facilities in Blacktown.

Strategic location of arts, cultural and heritage services and facilities throughout the City.

2.2 City image

Develop an image that proclaims Blacktown's regional status.

Conserve and acknowledge the City's natural, built and indigenous heritage.

Utilise art, heritage and cultural development to promote the Blacktown CBD as a vibrant regional centre.

Provide choice, variety and innovative design in residential, commercial and industrial development.

2.3 Communication and Consultation

Extend to all our residents, clients, users and partners excellent customer service in all aspects of art, heritage and culture.

2.4 Community Services and Facilities

Work with the local Indigenous people to assist in the preservation, development and enhancement of the art, culture and heritage of that community.

Plan and provide services and facilities for the art, cultural and heritage development of all members of the community.

Build the capacity of the Blacktown community to identify and develop initiatives that meet its art, cultural and heritage needs.

Research, develop, celebrate and promote the story of Blacktown and the stories and artistic expressions of its people.

Promote the celebration of and respect for Blacktown's art, cultural and heritage diversity.

Develop audiences for art, culture and heritage.

Revitalise and renew existing urban areas through art, cultural and heritage programs.

Contribute to the continual education and skilling of the population in art, culture and heritage.

Utilise art, heritage and culture to promote healthy communities.

Actively seek to engage marginalised communities within Blacktown in art, cultural and heritage activities.

Create a culturally active CBD and City-wide Mainstreet program.

Maintain and strengthen Council's library services and facilities.

Resource and maintain a Cultural Development Team to coordinate City-wide arts and cultural initiatives.

2.5 Economic development

Facilitate research and development activities for the establishment of Blacktown-centred cultural industries.

Facilitate the attraction of new art, cultural and heritage investment into the City.

Create a sustainable tourism industry utilising art, culture and heritage development.

Plan services and facilities supporting Blacktown's role as a regional arts, cultural and heritage centre.

Establish strategic partnerships with other government and corporate bodies and community organisations to provide arts, cultural and heritage facilities and services.

Increase employment opportunities in local art, culture and heritage industries.

Support the establishment of artist run initiatives and enterprises.

Support and strengthen Sister City relationships through art, culture and heritage.

2.6 Environment

Enhance and link open space areas with art, culture and heritage.

2.7 Infrastructure - Provision and Maintenance

Maximise the use of Council resources through an effective arts, cultural and heritage capital works program.

Develop a City-wide program of public art.

Develop a cultural precinct in the redevelopment of the Blacktown Showground.

Develop appropriate cultural facilities in consultation with the indigenous community.

2.8 Management and Performance of Council

Provide a strategic plan for the long-term sustainability of local art, culture and heritage initiatives.

Provide innovative structures for the long term funding and sustainability of art, culture and heritage initiatives.

Provide leadership in cultural development initiatives.

Review date - by completion of Social Plan June 2006.

Procedure

Related Delegations

Related Documents Local Government Act 1993

References

Investing in Culture, Cultural Policy Framework and Plan, Blacktown City Council, 2001.

Liverpool City Council Cultural Policy, 2002.

(The) Macquarie Concise Dictionary, Third edition (2000).

Management Plan, Blacktown City Council, 2003-6.

Priorities for the Arts, NSW Ministry for the Arts Strategic Plan

2004 - 2007.

Western Sydney Art Strategy, NSW Ministry for the Arts, 1999.