

Agenda

Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting

I hereby give notice that an Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on:

- Date:** Wednesday, 18 February 2026
- Time:** 3:30 PM
- Location:** Meeting Room Bidjpidji (Meeting Room 1)
Level 1, Civic Centre
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin

Simone Saunders
Chief Executive Officer



ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Community Member Rachael Shanahan

Community Member Petrit Abazi

Community Member Kelly Blumberg

Community Member Abby Dunn

Community Member Alyson Evans

Larrakia Nation David Kurnoth

Councillor Patrik Ralph

Arts NT Georgia Thomas

AANT Centre Melissa White

OFFICERS

Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services, Angela O'Donnell

Order of Business

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

3.2 Leave of Absence Granted

3.3 Leave of Absence Notified

4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

4.1 Electronic Attendance Granted

4.2 Electronic Attendance Requested

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting - 26 November 2025

7 MOVING OF ITEMS

7.1 Moving Open Items into Confidential

7.2 Moving of Confidential Items into Open

8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 2025 CREATIVE STRATEGY REPORTING

Author: Arts and Cultural Development Officer
Authoriser: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services
Attachments: 1. Performance Report July - December 2025 [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled 2025 Creative Strategy Reporting be received and noted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the July to December 2025 reporting to Council on the actions achieved through the Creative Strategy 2024 – 2030.

KEY ISSUES

- Council receives reports on actions across Strategies every 6-months – these are referred to as their Tier 2 Performance Reporting.
- Summary report at **Attachment 1** provides members with highlights and information as received by Council regarding the Creative Strategy 2024 – 2030.

DISCUSSION

Council receives reports on actions across Strategies every 6-months – these are referred to as their Tier 2 Performance Reporting.

Tier 2 strategies are enabling plans which operationalise the main actions of the Strategic and Municipal Plan and contain deliverable actions which require reporting to Council and the community biannually.

City of Darwin has ten (10) active strategies and plans which have been classified as Tier 2:

- Climate Emergency Strategy
- Creative Strategy
- Customer Service Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy
- Greening Darwin Strategy
- Movement Strategy
- Play Space Strategy
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy
- Youth Strategy

Summary report at **Attachment 1** provides members with highlights and information as received by Council regarding the Creative Strategy 2024 - 2030. These include:

- achievements for this reporting period
- activities planned for the next reporting period
- circular graphic for statistics
- observations and challenges which are currently being experienced or foreseen next period, if applicable.

The graphic represents the current year achievements against target only, however there is additional detail about items not due for commencement and items completed in previous years.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the 27 January 2026 meeting Council resolved:

RESOLUTION ORD023/26

THAT the report entitled Tier 2 Bi-Annual Performance Report – July to December 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED 12/0

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	5 A Vibrant and Creative City 5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Nil

LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Creative Strategy 2024 - 2030
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Engagement Level: Inform
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).</p>



Creative Strategy

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Development

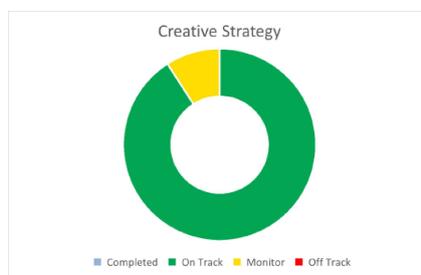
Period: 01/07/2025 – 31/12/2025

Highlights achieved in current period:

- Delivery of Smith Street public art outcomes including installation of Foundation Stone artwork, revitalisation of the Rainbow Crossing and installation of the Rest Stop artwork.
- A copyright agreement was formalised with artist Trent Bundirrik Lee for the use of his works *Walking the Path Together* and *Guidance of Ones' Past*.
- New amenity block artwork delivered using a vinyl wrap featuring a *Walking the Path Together* and *Guidance of Ones' Past* design at Bicentennial Park
- Installation of public art on the irrigation tanks located near the greenbelts of Anula and Wulagi, and at Wulagi Oval. The tanks feature artworks from five Darwin artists – Keelan Fejo, Sarrita King, Carla Russo, Ifa Shiddiq, and Tisha Tejaya.
- Contract awarded for the Civic Centre Integrated Art and Design Project to facilitate workshop and development of concept designs and selection of artists.
- Through a copyright agreement with artist Tara Darcy, supported by Arts Access Darwin, her work *Maningrida Community* has been installed on four new light pole wraps near the Nightcliff Jetty



There are 11 actions over the life of the 6-year Creative Strategy (2024-2030). All 11 actions remain active or due during 2025/26. A total of 10 actions remain on track in the current reporting period, and one action is listed as monitor.



What will be achieved next period?

- Delivery of final Smith Street public art outcomes
- Civic Centre Integrated Art and Design Project - Delivery of a three-day development workshop for up to 20 Garramilla/Darwin-based artists.
- Development of public art videos for the Public Art Register

9.2 PROJECT UPDATES

Author: Arts and Cultural Development Officer
Authoriser: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Project Updates be received and noted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on current and upcoming arts projects within City of Darwin's Arts and Cultural Development portfolio.

KEY ISSUES

Arts and Cultural Development Officers to update on:

- Celebrating Larrakia
 - Amenity Blocks

- Distinctly Darwin
 - Irrigation Tank
 - Lightbox Exhibitions
 - Multicultural Creative Commission

- Invigorating Spaces
 - Public Art Map
 - Smith Street Streetscape Public Art

DISCUSSION

In line with Council's Creative Strategy 2024 – 2030, Arts and Cultural Development Officers have prioritised projects that fit under the three focus areas: Celebrating Larrakia, Distinctly Darwin and Invigorating Spaces.

Celebrating Larrakia

Goals under Celebrating Larrakia include elevating Larrakia stories, culture and creativity through increased audience exposure and advocating for increased visibility of creatives.

Two New Amenity Blocks - Esplanade

Following the success of the first amenity block vinyl wrap, the Infrastructure team requested two additional wraps for new amenity blocks scheduled for installation in March 2026. The new blocks will be located opposite Peel Street and at the Cenotaph along the Esplanade. Both buildings will feature the same artwork, *Guidance of Ones' Past* by artist Trent Bundirrik Lee, extending the visual and cultural theme across the site.



Amenity block featuring the artwork *Guidance of Ones' Past* by Trent Bundirrik Lee. Located between the playground and the sculpture *mirragma gunugurr-wa*.

Photo credit: Helspix



Guidance of Ones' Past by Trent Bundirrik Lee

Distinctly Darwin

One of our priority areas is to support creative initiatives that promote and celebrate Darwin.

Irrigation Tanks – Waters Ward – Cyclone Fina

Installed late July 2025 in the Brolga Greenbelt, artist Ifa Shiddiq's *Around Town* was destroyed during the Cyclone Fina storms in December 2025. The damaged tank will be replaced and re-wrapped the artist contacted and advised.



Original tank.
Around Town by Ifa Shiddiq. Photo credit: Helspix

Lightbox Exhibitions

The current lightbox exhibition of NATSIAA Top End Finalists will run until 28 February 2026. A next round will be installed in March.

<p>Invigorating Spaces</p> <p>Embedding the arts in City of Darwin’s major projects, refining our approach to maintenance, upgrades and enhancement of our existing creative and cultural assets and the creation of a public art register.</p> <p>Digital Public Art Register and Map</p> <p>As part of refining our approach to the maintenance, upgrade and enhancement of existing creative and cultural assets, the team has been developing the creative concept for a digital public art register and map.</p> <p>The first stage of the project has catalogued 74 public artworks.</p> <p>In collaboration with a member of the Geographic Information System (GIS) team, a public art map is currently in development, showcasing the City of Darwin’s creative assets.</p> <p>In addition, a complementary project is underway to film artists alongside their works, with this content to be incorporated into the digital map.</p> <p>Smith Street Streetscape - Public Art</p> <p>The remaining public artworks commissioned as part of the Smith Street Streetscape Project have been delayed due to seasonal holiday closures, supplier challenges and adverse weather conditions. The seating node <i>Rest. Stop.</i> by artists Katy Moir and Amina McConvell is currently awaiting finish. Road surface installations by Minna Leunig (<i>Humidity Rising</i>) and Denise Quall (<i>Hermit Hustle</i>) have been stalled due to product availability issues and ongoing weather constraints.</p>	
<p>PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION</p> <p>Nil</p>	
<p>STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT</p>	<p>5 A Vibrant and Creative City</p> <p>5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity</p>
<p>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</p>	<p>Creative Strategy 2024 – 2030</p>
<p>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION</p>	<p>Engagement Level: Inform</p>
<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</p>	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).</p>

9.3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN - UPDATES

Author: Arts and Cultural Development Officer
Authoriser: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Advisory Committee Action Plan - Updates be received and noted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for members to discuss ideas and structure of the two-day Sector Connect event scheduled for 27-28 April 2026.

KEY ISSUES

- At the 21 May 2025 meeting and in alignment with the Creative Strategy 2024 – 2030, the following short-term goals were identified as top priorities for committee focus, Celebrating Larrakia, Distinctly Darwin and Invigorating Spaces.
- As of 30 September, the Action Plan came into effect for the remainder of Committee member terms.

DISCUSSION	
<p>A priority under the Distinctly Darwin focus area is to support creative initiatives that promote and celebrate Darwin. A short-term goal was established to deliver an annual Sector Connect event for creatives that includes professional development opportunities. The Committee agreed to prioritise this project and nominated Alyson Evans as Project Lead.</p> <p>A survey to inform the event commenced circulation in mid-December 2025 and closed on 31 January 2026. The survey was actively distributed through artists and industry networks.</p> <p>As of 31 January 2026, a total of 45 responses were received. Responses will be presented at the meeting for discussion.</p>	
PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Nil	
STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	<p>5 A Vibrant and Creative City</p> <p>5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity</p>
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Nil
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Creative Strategy 2024 - 2030
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Engagement Level: Inform
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).</p>

10 MEMBER REPORTS**11 GENERAL BUSINESS****12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

THAT the next Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting be held on Wednesday, 20 May 2026, at Meeting Room Bidjpidji (Meeting Room 1), Level 1, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section).

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

THAT pursuant to Section 99 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and Regulation 51 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

14 CLOSURE OF MEETING

Minutes

Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 26 November 2025

Unconfirmed

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MEETING ROOM BIDJPIDJI (MEETING ROOM 1), LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE,
HARRY CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN
ON WEDNESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 3:30 PM**

PRESENT:

Community Member Chairperson Rachael Shanahan
Community Member Petrit Abazi
Community Member Kelly Blumberg
Community Member Alyson Evans
Arts NT Georgia Thomas
AANT Centre Melissa White

OFFICERS:

Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services Angela O'Donnell
Arts and Cultural Development Officer Jenelle Saunders
Arts and Cultural Development Officer Kaye Strange
Senior Administration Officer Karen Long

APOLOGY:

Community Member Abby Dunn
Larrakia Nation David Kurnoth
Councillor Patrik Ralph

GUESTS:

General Manager Community Matt Grassmayr
Lord Mayor Peter Styles

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

City of Darwin acknowledges that we are living and working on Larrakia Country. We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region. We pay our respects to the Larrakia elders past and present and support emerging Larrakia leaders now and into the future. City of Darwin is committed to working together with all Larrakia to care for this land and sea for our shared future.

2 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA012/25

Moved: Community Member Kelly Blumberg

Seconded: Community Member Alyson Evans

The Chair declared the meeting open at 3:35pm.

CARRIED 6/0

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA013/25

Moved: Community Member Kelly Blumberg

Seconded: Community Member Petrit Abazi

THAT an apology from Community Member Abby Dunn, Larrakia Nation David Kurnoth and Councillor Patrik Ralph be received.

CARRIED 6/0

3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

Nil

3.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTED

Nil

The Chair welcomed the Lord Mayor Peter Styles and invited members around the room to introduce themselves.

The Committee moved to item 11 General Business as the first order of business.

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 GENERAL BUSINESS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA014/25

Moved: Community Member Petrit Abazi
Seconded: Community Member Alyson Evans

THAT the General Business discussion on the Committee's roles, priorities and purpose be received and noted.

CARRIED 6/0

4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

4.1 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE GRANTED

Nil

4.2 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE REQUESTED

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

5.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

STANDING MEMBER DECLARATIONS

- Community Member Rachael Shanahan – is on the Textiles Travelling Suitcase Committee and a member on the NT Liquor Commission, NT Racing and Wagering Commission and the Charles Darwin University Finance and Infrastructure Development Committee.
- Community Member Petrit Abazi – is employed by Northern Centre for Contemporary Art (NCCA) which is funded through the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government.
- Community Member Alyson Evans – is employed by Darwin Community Arts (DCA). DCA applies for City of Darwin funding and grant opportunities.

5.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA015/25

Moved: AANT Centre Melissa White
Seconded: Community Member Alyson Evans

THAT the minutes of the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting held on 21 May 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED 6/0

7 MOVING OF ITEMS

7.1 MOVING OF ITEMS INTO CONFIDENTIAL

Nil

7.2 MOVING OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS INTO OPEN

Nil

7.3 MOVING CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO OPEN AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Nil

8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

8.1 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA016/25

Moved: AANT Centre Melissa White

Seconded: Community Member Kelly Blumberg

THAT the presentation from General Manager Community, in relation to the Civic Centre Redevelopment, be received and noted.

CARRIED 6/0

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE 24TH CITY OF DARWIN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA017/25

Moved: Community Member Petrit Abazi

Seconded: AANT Centre Melissa White

THAT the report entitled Introduction to the 24th City of Darwin Council be received and noted.

CARRIED 6/0

9.2 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES 2026

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA018/25

Moved: Arts NT Georgia Thomas

Seconded: Community Member Alyson Evans

1. THAT the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee adopts the following schedule for the meetings in 2026.
2. THAT the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee sets its meeting schedule up

to 30 June 2026 as follows:

3. Meetings to be held on Wednesdays in February and May.
4. Meetings to be held from 3:30pm to 5:00pm
5. Meetings to be held at the City of Darwin, Civic Centre with the option to meet online when needed or preferred.
6. Meetings to be held on:
 - a. 18 February 2026
 - b. 20 May 2026

CARRIED 6/0

9.3 2025 CREATIVE STRATEGY REPORTING

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA019/25

Moved: Community Member Petrit Abazi

Seconded: Arts NT Georgia Thomas

THAT the report entitled 2025 Creative Strategy Reporting be received and noted.

CARRIED 6/0

9.4 PROJECT UPDATES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA020/25

Moved: Community Member Petrit Abazi

Seconded: AANT Centre Melissa White

THAT the report entitled Project Updates be received and noted.

CARRIED 6/0

9.5 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN - UPDATES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA021/25

Moved: Arts NT Georgia Thomas

Seconded: AANT Centre Melissa White

THAT the report entitled Advisory Committee Action Plan - Updates be received and noted.

CARRIED 6/0

10 MEMBER REPORTS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA022/25

Moved: Community Member Kelly Blumberg

Seconded: Darwin Entertainment Centre Melissa White

THAT the following Member Reports be received and noted.

AANT Centre Melissa White

- Name change from Darwin Entertainment Centre to AANT Centre
- Staff movements
- 2025 Broilga Award – Festivals and Events – Darwin Comedy Festival

Community Member Alyson Evans

- End of year events to wrap up program
- 2025 NT Performing Arts Awards – Production of the Year – Antidote, Tracks Dance

Community Member Kelly Blumberg

- Event cancelled due to Cyclone Fina
- Program development for 2026 activity
- New staff
- Arts Access Awards held, for the first time, in Katherine

Arts NT Georgia Thomas

- Meeting of Arts Professionals (MAP) Conference recently held in Katherine. Scheduled for Darwin 2026
- Creative fellowships closing 27 November 2025 with Arts Projects grants opening 2 February 2026
- Longitudinal study on retention of artists in the NT

Community Member Petrit Abazi

- Tre pang (10 August – 5 October) exhibition currently travelling
- Opening of the members exhibition 27 November 2025 with 67 exhibiting artists

Community Member Chairperson Rachael Shanahan

- CWA Craft Fair rescheduled

CARRIED 6/0**12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA023/25**

Moved: Community Member, Chairperson Rachael Shanahan

Seconded: Community Member Alyson Evans

THAT the next Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee be held on Wednesday 18 February 2026, at 3.30 pm at Darwin Community Arts.

CARRIED 6/0

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT pursuant to Section 99 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and Regulation 8 of the Local Government Regulations the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

14 CLOSURE OF MEETING

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA024/25

Moved: Community Member, Chairperson Rachael Shanahan

Seconded: Arts NT Georgia Thomas

THAT the chair declared the meeting closed at 5:05pm.

CARRIED 6/0

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting held on 18 February 2026.

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CHAIR