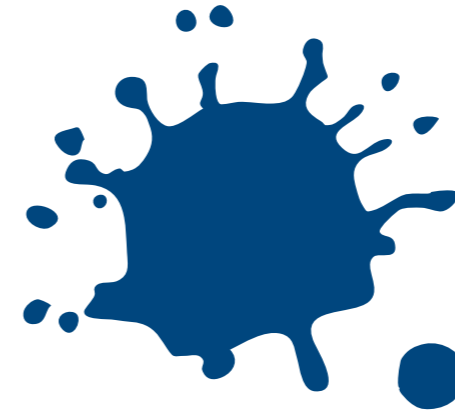


# ARTS PLAN 2015–2020



#### ***Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners***

*Council acknowledges the Larrakia people who are the Traditional Custodians of the land we meet on.*

*We pay our respects to all Larrakia people both past and present. We are also committed to working together with the Larrakia people to care for this land and sea for our shared benefit and future.*

**For further information**

**Visit: [www.darwin.nt.gov.au](http://www.darwin.nt.gov.au)**

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#### **Acknowledgements**

Council acknowledges the assistance and advice provided by the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee and wishes to thank all staff and community members who have contributed to the development of the Arts Plan 2015-2020.


#### **Disclaimer**

The Information contained in this document is based upon the available information at the time of writing.

The Arts Plan 2015 – 2020 should be read in the setting of being a 'living document', which may be amended from time to time.



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# INTRODUCTION AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

## 1.1. INTRODUCTION

The *City of Darwin Arts Plan* provides a strategic focus for Council to deliver on its commitments to arts and culture over the next five years. The aspirations in this Plan have been developed in consultation with the community, key stakeholders and arts and cultural professionals to provide Council with a clear vision and pathways of action. This Plan builds on what we have learnt from Council's first five year Arts Plan 2008- 2013, the considerable change that the arts sector has experienced since the first Arts Plan and the opportunities that are evident through a broader and more holistic approach to arts and cultural delivery.

Council supports diverse and quality arts and cultural activities that promote local participation, strengthen the role of artists in shaping the future of the city and bring arts and cultural activities into the public realm. Council is committed to preserving the cultural heritage of the Larrakia people, their continued participation and future contribution to the arts and cultural life of the City.

Council recognises the importance of community identity and civic development and the arts plays a vital role in this development. It does this by bringing people together, generating outlets for expression, offering new ways of seeing, reflecting on our heritage and celebrating who we are as a community.

We know this well through festivals, dance, live music performances, art in libraries, performing arts, street art, public art, cultural celebrations and exhibitions. We know that Darwin is a networking hub for Aboriginal musicians, dancers, visual artists, radio broadcasting, film and television workers and has a vibrant grassroots creative community of artists, musicians and makers. These traditional and grassroots arts activities are the building blocks of social cohesion and create experiences that enable the community to connect and celebrate Darwin's vibrant and diverse lifestyle.

To build on this and take advantage of the opportunities the future brings requires an ongoing re-imagining of the creative arts and cultural sector, building opportunities for growth, fostering and developing opportunities for artists as well as creative enterprises. Our challenge is in the recognition that to grow the arts and cultural sector, and support an investment in it, we need to look at the full spectrum of arts engagement and activity. There is a need for greater integration and inter-connectedness to add depth, continuity and better outcomes for the sector.

This includes the commercial creative sectors that operate private enterprises including small home based enterprises, solo practitioners, and collaborative ventures.

They may be design collaboratives, architectural, multi-media and software development businesses; or they may be practising artists. If we are able to continue to attract and retain these professionals, they can provide not only economic benefits, but also a high grade of professional service and product.

With economic and social benefits, Council's investment in the arts will be multi-faceted through direct support, facilitation, advocacy, partnership development, skills development and capacity building. Council is committed to integrating arts and culture taking a whole of Council approach to sustain and grow the city's cultural vibrancy.

Council aims to increase opportunity for local employment through partnerships, skills development and capacity building, support small businesses or creative enterprises through advocacy, promotion and facilitation. We will provide opportunities for cultural expression for marginalised and diverse communities, through access and participation programs. Council's investment, guided through this Arts Plan, aims to create a cultural legacy and foster cultural vitality improving the quality of life for the whole Darwin community.

## 1.2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *City of Darwin Arts Plan 2015-2020* provides a strategic context and intent for arts and cultural investment by Council. The key themes and goals have been developed as a result of conversations with the community and also support Council's key strategic priorities. The Arts Plan sets out a focus for future programs with each theme listing goals with a number of commitments to actions over the five years of this Plan.

**The four themes that have been identified as priorities for 2015-2020 are:**



**Public Art**



**Creative Spaces**



**Access and Participation**



**Arts Development, Opportunity and Connectivity**

This strategic framework provides a foundation for growth and recognises what is important now to enable our vision to be realised. It provides Council with a structured means to gain a deeper understanding and experience of what it takes today and into the future, working with our partners and government to build a sustainable and thriving arts community in Darwin enabling the creative sector to make a significant contribution to a quality life for all in the city.

The Plan also provides potential partners, peak bodies and the NT Government with a blueprint to work with Council having a clear commitment to arts and culture.

## 1.3. WHY THE ARTS ARE IMPORTANT TO DARWIN

As a destination, Darwin presents a unique cultural and historical heritage for residents, tourists and visitors. Darwin is home to a vibrant, active and diverse community of artists with a strong focus on sustainability and the environment, Indigenous culture and traditional arts activities. These grassroots community art driven activities and events are highly valued by the community and contribute to the quality of life, and entertainment of locals and visitors alike.

The Larrakia people, the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region, have a deep connection with their country. Today the Larrakia people number around 2,000 and are recognised for their strengths in performance, music and art.

Darwin's residents are diverse and today our city contains over 60 nationalities. The arts play a role in building relationships, exploring creative connections and opportunities with near neighbours in Indonesia, East Timor and the Philippines. Already a multicultural city these relationships build on a deeper reality of Darwin as an Asian city having a strong connection to peoples from Asia for centuries.

This strength positions Darwin with an opportunity to share in the unique cultures of our region and the arts is an ideal tool in enabling this culture. Increasingly local artists seek to engage with Asian artists through residencies, events and artist exchanges that provide a deeper understanding of our near neighbours, and our shared values which can be expressed through creative projects or programs.

Darwin is an important gateway for visitors and residents wanting a unique experience of Indigenous culture, access to quality Indigenous art, performance and festivals. In facilitating opportunities for artists through partnerships, advocacy and promotion the City of Darwin works with key stakeholders to realise our cultural tourism potential and support Indigenous cultural practise.

We know through research that the arts can assist in building connections with diverse communities, promoting a safer city, addressing social isolation, stimulating learning and encouraging individuals to broaden their horizons. We also know through the most recent Australia Council for the Arts Report "Arts Nation" 2015 – 65% of individuals aged between 15-24; creatively participated in the arts.

A recent survey of young people in Darwin found the arts are an important area for them to explore potential careers. However, young people also identified the challenges in securing paid work in the arts in Darwin. The City of Darwin aims to address these challenges through a focussed and strategic approach to program delivery providing opportunities for skills development, developing partnerships to build capacity and by working with the Youth Advisory Group and the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee to Council in identifying areas of opportunity.



## 1.4. HOW THE ARTS PLAN FITS WITH OTHER COUNCIL PLANS

The arts and cultural development program sits within the Community and Cultural Services Department of Council. The work unit is guided Council's strategic plan "*Evolving Darwin: Towards 2020*" in particular goals for a *Collaborative, Inclusive and Connected Community and a Historic and Culturally Rich City*. The Arts Plan is also guided by the *Community Participation, Access and Inclusion Policy* which provides an inclusive framework for the provision and support of key community services, facilities and programs that enable a connected and resilient community. The Arts Plan builds on this and provides the strategic focus and actions for increased opportunities for participation. It highlights actions that bring key stakeholders, community and Council together enabling greater connection, knowledge and opportunity.

The Arts and Cultural Development Policy inclusive of Public Art identifies a clear vision and principles for Council's support for arts and culture. Community and stakeholder input through the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee (ACDAC) ensures an integrated approach in the development of strategies and implementation of actions in the Arts Plan.

**Existing City of Darwin policies and plans that are key to implementation of the Arts Plan include:**

- Evolving Darwin Towards 2020 Strategic Plan
- Community Participation, Access and Inclusion
- Arts and Cultural Development Policy
- Public Art Masterplan
- Public Art Guidelines
- Community and Wellbeing Plan
- Safer Vibrant Darwin Plan 2016-2019

### National Local Government Cultural Forum and the Australia Council for the Arts

The National Local Government Cultural Forum (Cultural Forum) is a network of capital city Councils, Local Government associations and partners committed to sharing knowledge and expertise towards a common objective. The objective is to increase the capacity of Local Government to strengthen the arts and cultural development in their areas.

**The Cultural Forum aims to:**

1. Strengthen heritage, creativity, cultural industries, crafts, and cultural tourism
2. Ensure arts and culture has its rightful place in all public policies, particularly those related to education, the economy, science, communication, environment, social cohesion and international cooperation

Membership to the Cultural Forum includes representation from the eight capital cities, seven state-based local government associations, Australian Local Government Association, Cultural Development Network, Australia Council for the Arts, Office for the Arts and Global Cities Research Institute.

The City of Darwin as a member of the Cultural Forum will continue to research, identify and develop partnerships where possible and stay abreast of current trends in the arts and cultural sector. Through the Cultural Forum, Council has an opportunity to work in identifying key priorities for the Local Government arts and cultural sector, including our unique issues and opportunities.

## 1.5. WHAT YOU TOLD US AND WHAT WE KNOW

The Arts Plan has been developed through a number of community consultations carried out through:

- Email questionnaire
- Arts Forum over two locations
- One on one consultations with internal and external stakeholders

The Plan has also drawn on additional consultations conducted through Community and Cultural Services core programs.

You told us that the community values the City of Darwin's commitment to a dedicated Arts Plan, its engagement with stakeholders and the consultation process. The community also expressed the need for the City of Darwin to provide a long-term approach to the arts.

The consultation process revealed that the arts sector is looking for the City of Darwin to:

- Lead and acknowledge the benefits and importance of arts and cultural activity in the wider community and internally;
- Partner with Northern Territory Government and Charles Darwin University to build a creative economy;
- Increase the likelihood of audience participation inclusive of diverse social and cultural backgrounds;
- Provide strategic direction for the inclusion of arts and cultural activity in the development and master plans;
- Focus on quality and professional development of local artists;
- Provide access to facilities for the creation and presentation of unique, local work;
- Develop ways to attract and retain artists in Darwin.

Darwin is one of Australia's most multicultural cities with a complex and fascinating history. Our challenge is to find ways to celebrate and preserve this history with particular focus on Aboriginal people of Darwin including the Stolen Generations and their descendants. We know through our community consultations that residents said recognition of this history helps develop a sense of belonging and community for all Darwin residents, and that it adds to Darwin's attraction as a place for tourists to spend time.

Through consultations with our young people, data shows that the top career choice was entertainment and the arts at 40.9%. A high number of young people identified a desire to access more skills development and training in the creative arts.

In terms of creative industries the Charles Darwin University acts as a hub not only for research and languages but also for orchestras, exhibitions and design culture. With graduates in key disciplines of Design, New Media, Music, Technology and Engineering, who will become Darwin's software engineers, communication designers, animators and creative entrepreneurs. The University also contributes through graduates in visual arts, contemporary music, architecture, and writing. The University is key to building Darwin as a smart city and it will be critical to the creative sector that graduates continue to have opportunities for employment and participation, building on our arts economy.

Public Art will also play a key role in the preservation of history and cultural heritage, but also visioning a place that reflects a distinct image of Darwin and its people today. Public Art has been consistently raised throughout community consultations as a way for artists to participate in shaping the future of the city and in so doing build on the city's cultural heritage.

Council's Public Art program will play a key role in the city's activation and future developments providing artists opportunities both through permanent commissions and temporary commissions.

The most recent Australia Council for the Arts Report "Arts Nation" describes the arts as a big part of everyday life for Australians with 85% agreeing that the arts make for a more rich and meaningful life. It describes national cultural expenditure as a proportion of total government expenditure at 1.3%. *'Overall cultural expenditure by government has not changed substantially between 2008-2009 and 2012-2013 once inflation has been taken into account. However, the largest increase was at a local government level (11% in real terms).'*<sup>\*</sup>

Further local data will be collected over the five years of this plan to provide an accurate picture of arts and cultural investment at a local level and to measure the impact of current programs in meeting the commitments of this Plan.

<sup>\*</sup> Arts Nation an Overview of the Australian Arts 2015 Edition

## 1.6. City of Darwin's commitments to art and culture:

- Investor in public art, arts and cultural sponsorships and community events/ projects and grants.
- A champion of the arts through promotion, advocacy, and partnerships.
- A facilitator of opportunities through skills development and capacity building.

### Community Development

Grass root art activities and events, community groups, schools, cultural diversity *Seniors, Youth, Disability, Community Safety, Families and Children.*

### Arts Economy, Education and Cultural Heritage

#### Creative spaces:

Skills development and capacity building working with partners:

Arts organisations, key stakeholders eg. Darwin Entertainment Centre, commercial businesses, not for profit, cultural institutions, education sector and Government.

### Major Festivals and Events

Community events, one off arts and cultural initiatives eg. Cyclone Tracy 40<sup>th</sup> celebrations, anniversaries, and Civic Park activation.



### Public Arts

Placemaking city activation building cultural vitality, community engagement, tourism, cultural heritage, sense of place.

## The Darwin arts and cultural canvas is diverse

Council's role and investment in arts and culture takes a holistic approach making best use of current resources.

Council works with key stakeholders, NT Government, and business in building capacity, identifying opportunities for enhanced community engagement and participation and the promotion of arts and culture in the city.

## 1.6. HOW DOES ARTS AND CULTURE HAPPEN AT CITY OF DARWIN

### Arts and Cultural Development

#### PUBLIC ART

- Management and coordination of Public Art Program: permanent and temporary commissions, integrated opportunities through city development and the City Centre Masterplan priorities. Skills development programs, advocacy, forums, capacity building.
- Liaise and provide input as a major stakeholder on external developments which include public art commissions.
- Develop and maintain asset register of capital works, undertake repair and maintenance of city public art collection.

#### ARTS DEVELOPMENT FOCUSED PROGRAMS: WORKSHOPS AND ARTIST RESIDENCIES: (TRANSFORM)

- Research, plan and deliver activities focussing on art and the environment
  - Art workshops, forums, and program development.
  - Artist residencies.
- Skills development, temporary public art, community engagement and participation.

#### CIVIC PARK CULTURAL USAGE – ARTS ACTIVATION

- Trial mobile food van program.
- Identify, facilitate opportunities for arts activation including temporary public art.
- Increase participation, access and community engagement.

### Other Council departments / areas

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Arts programs for community and groups including Seniors, People with Disability, Family and Children, Young People, and Community Centres.

#### Disability and Seniors

- Disability Awareness Week art exhibition and activities.

#### Family and Children

- Children's Week art exhibition and activities.

#### Young People

- LAUNCH - Youth Festival, Event Coordinator Training, street art, art residencies and workshops.

#### Community Centres

- Various arts and cultural activities.



Arts and Cultural Development	Other Council departments / areas
<p><b>ACDAC (ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource Committee including development of Agendas, Minutes, Reports, Briefing Papers. Member input into consultation and recommendations to Council on arts and cultural priorities, public art program, program development and opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support through identifying integrated opportunities for public art development through Darwin City Centre Masterplan, re-developments and parks.</li> <li>• Representative input on ACDAC.</li> <li>• Support in working with the Coordinator Arts and Cultural Development on the maintenance of city infrastructure including graffiti removal and management of asset register.</li> <li>• Public space maintenance and beautification.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ARTS DEVELOPMENT, PARTICIPATION, ACCESS AND SUPPORT SERVICES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and facilitate opportunities as identified through the Arts Plan including:</li> <li>• Identification of <b>creative spaces</b> - capacity building, skills development, partnership development, advocacy, marketing, benchmarking, review and evaluation of programs, data collection, development of improved systems, connectivity, collaboration and promotion</li> <li>• Work with key arts organisations to facilitate opportunities, partnerships, advocacy and promotion.</li> </ul>	<p><b>STRATEGIC AND STATUTORY PLANNING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning input into public art commissions.</li> <li>• Advice and support in public art program development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT CULTURAL FORUM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member representative on National Local Government Cultural Forum</li> <li>• Review current evaluation procedures, arts and cultural data collection and input into development of national baseline data model.</li> <li>• Improve systems of data collection, evaluation and research enabling better understanding of community participation and engagement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>Partner in developing opportunities for education through the arts including arts and cultural activities, events linking arts and environment, education and learning. eg. 'Transform' art workshops with an environmental theme, raising awareness of climate change issues, environmental sustainability and recycling.</p>

Arts and Cultural Development	Other Council departments / areas
<p><b>ARTS AND CULTURAL ADMINISTRATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration, governance and coordination of service. Enquiries, communication and advice.</li> <li>• Development and implementation of Arts and Cultural Policy, Public Art strategy development and planning, Arts Plan development and implementation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>LIBRARIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art exhibitions, digital and multi-media programs, arts activities, events and live music.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ARTS MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting, promoting and marketing arts and culture programs including Council's website and Facebook.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SPONSORSHIP AND COMMUNITY GRANTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling various arts and culture programs.</li> <li>• Supporting major events.</li> </ul>

## 1.7. ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

As part of community and stakeholder consultations a number of issues and opportunities were identified:

Issues	Opportunities
Darwin is at risk of losing its legacy of rich cultural heritage without ongoing support for its artists.	Support an arts program which provides the opportunity to create a special identity for our diverse local places. The identity and unique character of these places can be celebrated and retained through a mix of good urban design, public art, festivals and events, activations and installations.
Much of Council's arts and cultural activity has historically been focussed on community development.  This is sometimes done at the expense of a balanced arts program which targets many other areas within the sector including emerging artists, mid-career artists and creative collaborations to build a strong arts economy.	Support for arts activities, particularly community art and community cultural development which can help build socially inclusive societies and should continue to be promoted.  Taking a whole of Council approach and strategic focus, the arts program has the potential to re-evaluate and leverage from current programs, and initiate new programs with an evidenced based approach for greatest impact.  Council recognises the opportunity and importance of digital content, programs and new technologies in building participation and engagement with the community.
The places that constitute Darwin are diverse as are its people. The needs of groups and areas are fundamentally different.	Provide an arts program that promotes a high quality of art experiences, supports marginal groups and promotes inclusion, including activities that engage and are accessible for creative people.
Darwin's art programs may not adequately reflect the changing needs or tensions in the community.	A key opportunity is to create a strategy that balances the needs of all sections of the community, maintains community cohesion and appeals to, and is supported by the public.
Potential for the arts and creative sector to grow.	There is an opportunity to broaden the scope of arts engagement, leveraging non-traditional areas of arts activity, building opportunity for creative enterprises through skills development and partnerships.
Some of Council's current arts activities lack clarity of purpose and clear directions	The Arts Plan will provide a clear and strategic approach, learning from continued evaluation and data collection informing future arts programs.



Issues	Opportunities
Limited public/private sector involvement, awareness and support for arts initiatives.	There is an opportunity to develop partnerships, identifying potential financial and in-kind support, including expertise and advocacy for arts and culture.  There is a need for increased advocacy and partnership development in support of key arts organisations and their access to facilities, venues, and creative spaces at an affordable cost to build sustainability into the sector.
Lack of awareness of talent in arts and culture sector.	Opportunity to showcase local content and talent, skills development programs and activation of spaces with young talent and energy for the arts. Opportunity to build relationships with professional artists who otherwise would not participate in Council programs.
Limited opportunity to network, gather and connect with the whole arts sector	With enhanced connectivity, and communication across the sector there is an opportunity to build capacity, increase knowledge and develop skills. There is great scope to program activities that bring people together, build connectivity, and integrate programs across Council, Government and Non-Government sectors.
Lack of integrated planning across three tiers of government in arts and culture.	The Local Government Cultural Forum is an opportunity to build awareness and evidence of the contribution of local government sector through arts and cultural initiatives. There is opportunity to develop relationships with state and federal partners developing arts plans that are complimentary and address needs through a strategic focus.
Limited understanding or experience within Council of the broad arts and cultural opportunities, models and programs of success offered in other local government jurisdictions.	With a strategic focus, we will increase our ability to enable strong data collection, evaluation and review of the impact of our arts programs.

2

## OUR GOALS AND VISION

## 2.1. VISION

To support diverse and quality art programs that encourage participation, provide access to creative spaces, enhance a sense of place and foster cultural vitality.

## 2.2. KEY THEMES SUMMARY

The Arts Plan supports Council's strategic goals and responds to the arts and cultural vision of the city through:

1. **Public Art**, by delivering a program that encourages innovation and sustainable design to enhance public places, engages with the community through public space activation and provides opportunities and encourages local artists through permanent and temporary public art commissions. Public Art plays an important role in building the city's sense of place, expressing civic pride and engaging the community.
2. **Creative Spaces**, by identifying, facilitating and enabling the use of accessible and affordable spaces for artists, arts organisations, and creative enterprises to develop, produce and present their work in a professional and appropriate way. We will continue to identify ways to retain our artists, addressing barriers for success and working in partnership to develop a portfolio of affordable, secure and appropriate working spaces for artists.
3. **Access and Participation**, by celebrating diversity and facilitating opportunities to share and strengthen unique cultural values. To lead in the advocacy of arts and cultural investment, and support for, arts opportunities for all.
4. **Arts Development, Opportunity and Connectivity**, by supporting opportunities to learn, connect and explore through engagement in arts and cultural programs, forums, residencies, workshops, events and festivals.

## 2.3. THEME 1 | PUBLIC ART



### GOAL:

Public Art that enhances our natural and built environments, builds upon our cultural heritage, diversity, sense of identity, and provides opportunities for our artists to contribute to the development of our city's cultural vitality.

### COMMITMENTS:

1. To develop a strategic Public Art program that builds on our cultural heritage through high quality contemporary public art commissions both permanent and temporary, integrated with master planning and major infrastructure developments.
2. To professionalise the approach to public art commissioning in the city.
3. To promote the cultural histories, strengths and characteristics of the city.
4. To provide a program that is accessible and provides a number of opportunities for local artists.
5. To inform, educate and support interest in public art and facilitate professional development opportunities for local artists, through forums, residencies and workshops.



## 2.4. THEME 2 | CREATIVE SPACES

### GOAL:

Artists and creative enterprises are able to access affordable and appropriate spaces for the development, production and presentation of work.

### COMMITMENTS:

1. We will undertake an audit of available Council owned facilities that have potential to be utilised as creative spaces.
2. We will support and advocate for vacant and privately owned spaces to be utilised by artists and creative enterprises.
3. We will identify opportunities for partnerships and strategies to overcome the limited access to creative spaces.

## 2.5. THEME 3 | ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION



### GOAL:

Artists and audiences have access to information, and opportunities for participation and engagement to support cultural understanding.

### COMMITMENTS:

1. We will develop a communication and engagement strategy for diverse communities
2. We will celebrate diversity and facilitate opportunities to share, advocate and strengthen unique cultural values.



## 2.6. THEME 4 | ARTS DEVELOPMENT, OPPORTUNITY AND CONNECTIVITY

### GOAL:

Artists, creative enterprises and the community engage and connect through our arts and culture programs.

### COMMITMENTS:

1. We will provide skills development opportunities for artists, creative enterprises and community through workshops, residencies and collaborations.
2. We will facilitate networking opportunities and cross sector engagement with the arts and cultural sector.



Celebrating 25 years of the Fun Bus  
Weaving Workshop 2014



Faces In Spaces mobile Arts program 2016



3

## IMPLEMENTATION AND COMMITMENTS

## 3.1. THEME 1 | PUBLIC ART



<b>COMMITMENT 1:</b> To develop a strategic Public Art program that builds on our cultural heritage through high quality contemporary public art commissions both permanent and temporary integrated with master planning and major infrastructure developments.	Through the public art program we aim to enhance the distinct identity of Darwin, building on our cultural heritage and providing exciting, innovative and contemporary public art that explores the Darwin of today and tomorrow. We will identify opportunities through the Darwin City Centre Masterplan and opportunities for integrated public art in infrastructure developments.
<b>COMMITMENT 2:</b> To professionalise the approach to public art commissioning in the city.	We will identify opportunities to partner with the Northern Territory Government in future developments. We will develop appropriate models of delivery, management and commissioning public art, incorporating best practise methods and engaging professionals with experience in public art commissions and delivery.
<b>COMMITMENT 3:</b> To promote the cultural histories, strengths and characteristics of the city.	We will work with key stakeholders, professionals and cultural heritage experts in identifying sites of historic and cultural significance for public art commissions.
<b>COMMITMENT 4:</b> To provide a program that is accessible and provides a number of opportunities for local artists.	<p>There is a strong environmental art practice within the community as well as a growing street art movement. We will continue to provide, both permanent and temporary public art commissions on an annual basis, and will identify opportunities to activate open spaces through temporary public art initiatives that are relevant to all sectors of the community.</p> <p>We will continue to work with arts organisations, government and the community wishing to develop public art projects or commissions. Council will also identify and research opportunities for public art commissions through integrated projects and city development both internally and externally.</p>
<b>COMMITMENT 5:</b> To inform, educate and support interest in public art and facilitate professional development opportunities for local artists, through forums, residencies and workshops.	To continue to build our program we will facilitate professional development opportunities through forums, workshops and potential artist residencies. We will further develop the public art database of skilled public artists and suppliers to assist in the delivery of the public art program and continue to identify opportunities for local artists to gain valuable experience in design development and implementation specific to public art.



## 3.2. THEME 2 | CREATIVE SPACES

<b>COMMITMENT 1:</b> We will undertake an audit of available Council owned facilities that have potential to be utilised as creative spaces.	Council will commission an audit of current available venues, facilities and spaces in Darwin, both Council owned and externally owned and operated as a starting point in providing an inventory of cultural venues that are available, conditions of use, hire fees and potential to be utilised as creative spaces.
<b>COMMITMENT 2:</b> We will support and advocate for vacant and privately owned spaces to be utilised by artists and creative enterprises.	The impact of the rising cost of living, which has had an adverse effect on access to affordable housing and the leasing of affordable and appropriate creative spaces, continues to be a barrier for artists. There is evidence that spaces currently available are unaffordable and create barriers for artists, but are also under-utilized. We will work with owners and managers of suitable properties, venues and facilities, identified through the audit, in addressing issues of under use and potential access for artists and creative enterprises across the municipality.
<b>COMMITMENT 3:</b> We will identify opportunities for partnerships and strategies to overcome the limited access to creative spaces.	We will continue to develop options, including potential partnerships, advocacy, and provide targeted support to enable access to affordable spaces. We will work with business and the private sector to ascertain opportunities for leases and continue to look at current council owned property to determine availability and suitability for use by artists and creative enterprises.



### 3.3. THEME 3 | ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION



#### COMMITMENT 1:

**We will develop a communication and engagement strategy for diverse communities.**

Community art programs, arts organisations and artists will be supported to promote their activities through a variety of medium including social media, the community noticeboard and promotional boxes in the mall. We will continue to strive to address issues of language and access and distribute arts and cultural information through our online networks.

Through existing arts programs, City of Darwin has established a strong relationship and consultation process with the Traditional Owners of the land, the Larrakia people. Arts programs that embrace diversity and promote community values are highly regarded, for example the Nightcliff Seabreeze Festival and the Darwin Festival program. We are committed to growing and promoting such important Arts programs.

The size of Darwin's somewhat transient population poses ongoing issues around programming and maintaining connections with representatives from diverse communities. We will continue to identify opportunities to link with communities in a meaningful and sustainable way and to further bond arts and cultural communities and identify ways to improve access to transportation to events and exhibitions.

#### COMMITMENT 2:

**We will celebrate diversity and facilitate opportunities to share, advocate and strengthen unique cultural values.**

In celebrating diversity we will continue to work with key stakeholders in building relationships, communication and identifying opportunities to participate in arts and cultural programs. Through the public art program we will identify suitable commissions to enable a diversity of cultural heritage delivery and implementation and work closely with Larrakia Nation.

We will continue to work with diverse groups to better understand their needs and ability to participate in programs. We will also continue to work in partnership with key arts organisations that continue to develop improved methods of engagement of diverse communities for example Darwin Community Arts and the online digital resource.



### 3.4. THEME 4 | ARTS DEVELOPMENT, OPPORTUNITY AND CONNECTIVITY

#### COMMITMENT 1:

**We will provide skills development opportunities for artists, creative enterprises and community through workshops, residencies and collaborations.**

Responding to the limited opportunities for sector capacity building, we will provide opportunities for skills development through residencies, workshops, and forums. We will also encourage a greater uptake in community grant applications representing the arts and culture sector. We will support a partnership approach in providing services, education and opportunity for our artists and the community.

We will continue to work closely with government and non-government representatives in the arts and cultural sector to better integrate services, evaluate the impact of our programs and improve connectivity across the whole community.

#### COMMITMENT 2:

**We will facilitate networking opportunities and cross sector engagement with the arts and cultural sector.**

With a strategic focus in building networks we can build confidence in the arts community and raise the profile of arts and culture in the City and celebrate its value. Working together we will be able to further develop a shared vision, foster collaborations and skills exchange.

We will work with key partners, arts organisations and stakeholders in facilitating opportunities. We will invite leaders in the arts and cultural sector to visit Darwin through forums, cross cultural workshops, leveraging and value adding onto already established programs, major events or arts and cultural initiatives.





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