

Title:	Public Art
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3			

1 Policy Summary

The City of Darwin Public Art Policy sets out Council's strategic direction and defines the administrative framework for public art in the municipality.

The Public Art Policy provides a framework to realise and fully integrate public art across all of Council's major strategies, arts and cultural development strategies, infrastructure developments, urban renewals and the Darwin City Centre Master Plan.

2 Policy Objectives

To create a visible arts presence throughout the municipality through planning, design and celebrating the values of Darwin, its history, its cultures and future aspirations.

3 Background

The City of Darwin strategic plan '*Evolving Darwin Towards 2020*', identifies goals that support a vibrant, flexible and tropical lifestyle aiming to create a sense of place. It recognises Darwin as a welcoming and culturally rich and diverse city celebrating our Indigenous culture, local history and cultural diversity. Public art plays a vital role in realising these goals.

4 Policy Statement

The aim of public art in Darwin is to:

- Create a strong feeling of identity, public ownership and pride in public spaces;
- Contribute to the wellbeing and empowerment of communities through their participation in helping to shape their environment;
- Create landmarks within the urban environment that will become natural gathering places;
- Establish art and artists as recognised assets of the municipality.

Council is committed to implementing a program guided by best practise. Darwin's public art will exemplify the best of contemporary art practise and processes to help create a vibrant city that engages with and meets the needs of its communities, both now and into the future, creating a significant cultural legacy.

Public Art Program

The City of Darwin will realise public art projects guided by this policy and Council's major strategies including the City of Darwin Public Art Master Plan. Expert advice will be sought from suitable experienced professionals with appropriate skills-sets in public art and guided by the terms of reference of Council's Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee (ACDAC).

Additional expertise, as required, will be sought from engineering, maintenance and asset management personnel within Council to inform and assist decision making but would not sit on ACDAC as voting members.

All issues relating to public art within the City of Darwin are to be referred in the first instance to the City Life Department. These matters will then be referred to the appropriate Officers.

Sponsorship, Donations and Bequests

The City of Darwin may be offered donations and gifts of existing artworks, sculptures, memorials and other objects or be offered funds or sponsorship to have new works of public art produced.

Given the potential for a vast range in terms of quality, relevance and the ongoing responsibility and maintenance requirements, the City of Darwin does not encourage and will not automatically accept a gift or donation of public art. Council reserves the right to decline the offer of any work proposed for a public place which does not meet safety, aesthetic, structural or durability requirements.

Conditions to accept any public artwork, sponsorships, donations, gifts or bequests are detailed in the City of Darwin Public Art Guidelines.

Memorials

Public Art Memorials proposed for commemoration, including nomination of sites, budget requirements and funding support, engagement of artists and criteria for assessment are detailed in the City of Darwin Public Art Guidelines.

Street Art

Council recognises street art as a legitimate and distinct art form which is celebrated internationally. Council distinguishes between legal street art, which is a legitimate art practice undertaken with the sanction of the property owner, and illegal graffiti (e.g. tagging) which is the vandalism of property. Council takes a strong stance on illegal graffiti and has a range of measures in place to ensure its rapid removal.

Council aims to facilitate, maintain and promote legal street art spaces for the benefit of local and visiting artists and the Darwin community through its established public art program.

Legal Art Spaces

Council owned infrastructure designated as legal art space:

- Skate Park, Jingili Water Gardens (Council Decision No. 20\0504, 29/07/08).

Removal, Relocation and De-Commissioning

Public Art works have a finite lifespan. Council reserves the right to decommission a work when:

- The work is no longer relevant to its site or purpose,
- The work poses a risk to public safety,
- The work poses a risk to the environment,
- There is deterioration or damage to the work beyond reasonable repair.

5 Legislation, terminology and references

The Local Government Act establishes the roles, functions and objectives of Councils which provide the basis for City of Darwin's active role in community, cultural and social development (Part 2.3).

6 Implementation and delegation

Responsibilities and Accountabilities

Management, employees and contractors all have joint responsibilities in complying with the public art policy as set out in this document.

Council provides the basis on which the framework of the public art policy can be based and adequate budgetary provision for the maintenance of the policy and program delivery.

The Executive Leadership Team maintains overall responsibility for the effective management of a public art program including maintenance or any public art work initiatives and delivery undertaken and related to this policy across Council's operation.

In addition the Executive Leadership Team will ensure that Council's assets and operations, together with liability risks to the public, are adequately protected through appropriate risk financing, loss control programs and measures.

7 Evaluation and review

Policy to be reviewed in accordance with *Policy 032 – Policy and Procedures Framework*, clause 5.3 - Reviewing Existing Policies and may be amended at any time as approved by the CEO.

Further review to this policy should occur within a strong public art best practice framework.