

Public Art Policy

Corangamite Shire

April 2024



**CORANGAMITE
SHIRE**

Council Policy



Public Art

Introduction

The aim of this policy is to provide a positive and culturally responsible framework which will support the development, acquisition, management, conservation, and support of public art across the Shire.

Public art is an important contributor to the vibrancy, creativity and values of a region. Public Art enhances an area and plays a critical placemaking role stimulating discussion, fostering social connections and providing enjoyment and stimulation for both residents and visitors.

Purpose

This policy guides the management of Council's public art to ensure its longevity and protect its significance.

Public art may be created/acquired through:

- gift or donation
- transfer or exchange
- commission
- purchase.

Scope

This policy applies to all public artworks currently in Council's public art collection and new or proposed artworks using Council resources. It applies to projects and decision making processes within Council and forms a part of Council's Grow and Prosper Framework 2023 - 2033. Aspects of the policy apply to public artworks created by external parties on Council owned or managed property.

Public art for the purpose of this policy can include many forms such as sculpture, murals, water features, memorials, performances, lighting and landscape elements and can be ephemeral, temporary or permanent.

Definitions

Public art

Public art is art intended to enrich, activate and beautify public places. The works can be in public spaces such as parks, open space, business/retail areas, public buildings and other facilities. They can take any form including sculpture, murals, water features, memorials, performances, lighting and landscape elements and can be presented in any medium. They can be ephemeral (transitory, changing and existing for a brief time), temporary (with a limited life) or permanent (sited for the longer term). The term art, in the visual sense, can be applied to any work/subject which engenders, by intent or otherwise, aesthetic and/or intellectual appreciation.

Public places

These are any spaces which are freely available to the public, regardless of whether they are publicly or commercially owned. This may include parks, roadsides, streets, squares, and open landscapes, as well as built environments such as building exteriors and public interior spaces.

Site-specific

Site-specific works are works of art designed for specific locations, especially those that exploit or incorporate aspects of their sites. These works often incorporate history, cultural heritage, community uses, themes, content and styles.

Community art

Community art involves members of the community, led by a community artist, who directly involves citizens in the design of themes, development and delivery of the artwork.

References

- Corangamite Shire Council Plan 2021-2025
- Grow and Prosper Corangamite 2023-2033
- Regional Arts Victoria Creative Industries Strategy
- Creative Victoria Creative State
- Australia Council for the Arts Protocols for using First Nations cultural and intellectual property in the arts (2020)
- Corangamite Shire Aboriginal Participation and Engagement Plan 2023
- Corangamite Shire Council Procurement Policy 2021
- Public Art Guidelines

Policy Detail

Artist selection, art creation and acquisition

The Corangamite Shire Council will use the following principles to select artists for the creation of public art and when acquiring works:

- collect works which value: contemporaneity, excellence, innovation, high aesthetic quality, relevance and authenticity.
- acquire works of art of outstanding quality.
- build community support, engagement and enthusiasm.
- enhance the public space where the art will be located.

Site selection

Considerations for the selection of potential sites for art works, and their specific placement within the site will include:

- community engagement and stakeholder input
- due acknowledgement of a sense of place, in the choice of artist, artwork and specific site
- that the artist in collaboration with the Council and community partners will determine the exact placement of the work
- constraints on size, placement, materials, form and subject matter
- due regard for public access and safety, including vandalism.
- long term management and maintenance, including expectations of all stakeholders, resources, and costs, and due regard to be given to pathways, entrances, existing elements, accessible access, plantings, and other Council overlays and requirements.

Architectural lighting and projection

Lighting of council's public building (e.g. the Clock Tower and Courthouse) will be managed by Council and programmed as a contribution towards the vibrancy and creativity of the region. Requests relating to the lighting elements can be submitted to Council and will be considered against the criteria outlined in the Public Art Guidelines. Considerations include:

- the colour and lighting must promote respect for all and be consistent with Council's values and policies, embrace a sense of belonging and enhance community life.
- light and projection requests that are for an individual's enhancement, are political or culturally sensitive or may expose Council to adverse criticism will not be supported

Council's digital projection and creative art boxes are exclusively used for its own purpose, with curated content managed by council officers. Consideration may be given for programming which would be managed through an Expression of Interest or similar process.

Murals

Murals are emerging as an increasingly popular public art form. Murals on public property require Council permission including in some cases planning permits. Murals can take on many forms, including permanent mural applications applied directly to walls and temporary art on walls or paths. Preparation for murals should include community consultation. In some cases, privately funded murals on private buildings will not require council permission or permits however, council strongly encourages all artists to seek community feedback on any proposed murals and ensure the artwork is of the highest quality.

Managing artworks by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Artists

If the artwork is by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artist or the artwork incorporates, is sourced from, or refers to, Indigenous objects, knowledge or works, Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property (ICIP) is considered by Council.

Permission will be obtained from the Traditional Custodians and/or local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders before commissioning, accessioning, removing, relocation or deaccessioning Indigenous objects, knowledge, or artworks.

Traditional Custodians and/or relevant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander representative bodies will be consulted as much as possible with regard to how the community should be attributed to and given the opportunity to approve the way in which any ICIP material is used.

Maintenance and conservation/restoration

The Corangamite Shire Council will oversee the maintenance, conservation and restoration of public art that it has registered as public art as defined in the agreement with the artist. The requirements for maintenance, conservation and restoration will be included in all proposals for future acquisitions to council's public art collection.

Deaccessioning

Works which are part of council's public art collection may be considered for deaccessioning for a variety of reasons.

Removal, relocation and deaccessioning processes may be instigated when an artwork is no longer considered appropriate; the use of the site has changed; the artwork has become unsafe to the public; the artwork has deteriorated beyond repair; the artwork has deteriorated so that it no longer represents the artist's intent; and/or the artwork's integrity cannot be maintained for any reason.

Public Art Community Reference Group

Council Officers maintain a list of expert advisors to consult on public art projects as required. A local short-term Public Art Community Reference Group may be formed if required for a specific public art project with Officers across Council.

When forming a reference group preference will be given to those in the local region, however where specific expertise is required members may be invited from other areas.

Funding

Council will pursue a diverse range of sources to ensure a secure financial base for public art so that it is an achievable and sustainable program. Council will consider support annually through its budget.

In addition to supporting public art acquisition directly, Council will pursue support from private, public, commercial and others, including:

- State and Federal Government funding
- construction associated with private and commercial capital works projects
- one-off Council funded projects
- partnerships with local business, community, or industry groups
- philanthropic trusts and foundations
- private donations of artwork from individuals, companies, and others.

Human Rights

It is considered that this Policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006)*.

Gender Impact Assessment

It is considered that this policy does not adversely impact community members or employees of different genders and has been developed in accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Review Date

April 2028