

National Cultural Policy Submission

Northern Beaches Council

Submitted: On behalf of government or government body

What challenges and opportunities do you see in the pillar or pillars most relevant to you? Feel free to respond to any or all pillars:

First Nations

Northern Beaches Council is actively seeking opportunities to listen to and support local Aboriginal communities in self-determination in sharing culture and connection to Country.

A key challenge is adequately resourcing First Nations communities to share culture in ways that ensure First Nations advisors and practitioners are appropriately compensated for sharing their time, experience, knowledge, and cultural practices. Council recognises the opportunities and challenges in supporting greater knowledge and awareness of respectful cultural protocols.

A Place for Every Story

Local Government is a key provider of cultural infrastructure that supports local, state, national, and international cultural practices. Much cultural infrastructure is currently rapidly aging and requires significant investment support for renewal and the development of new infrastructure that is accessible, fit-for-purpose, and future-focused to meet current and ongoing requirements for cultural practice and sharing.

As Northern Beaches community grows and diversifies, Council is challenged with the provision of diverse, fit-for-purpose places and spaces for the development and presentation of cultural sharing and storytelling.

The Centrality of the Artist

Council plays a key role in the sustainability of the local creative and cultural sector through cultural planning and development, curatorial and creative programming, community cultural development, public art and placemaking, and provision of cultural infrastructure such as venues, spaces, and studios. Council also plays an important role in advocating for the sector, supporting its growth and resilience, and providing meaningful opportunities for creatives.

The provision of affordable residential and working spaces for the artists to produce, live and work locally is a key challenge, particularly for young people. However, creativity is vital for creating healthy communities, shaping the future, generating mutual understanding and shared meaning as well as providing education and employment.

Strong Institutions

Active participation in a community's arts and cultural life brings people together and our cultural institutions provide a platform for new perspectives and stimulate ideas that foster greater insight, awareness, and action. The Northern Beaches community expects Council to play a stronger role in ensuring the long-term sustainability and viability of arts and culture across the region. Investment

in increased arts participation and cultural engagement is an important part of this process and Council will continue its strong performance in this area

The key challenge for our community will be to ensure all cultural institutions in our local area have the support and capacity to adapt and grow to maintain relevance, accessibility, and inclusion. Fundamental to Council's success is sustainable partnerships across sectors including business, government, arts, and the community.

Reaching the Audience

Northern Beaches Council understands that breaking down barriers, promoting inclusion, and creating understanding across diverse groups is fundamental to our future as a cohesive community and we work closely with our community to find ways to make creativity more inclusive for everyone, regardless of age, background, ability, or circumstance. Community connections to place and each other are strengthened through easy access and participation in arts and creative experiences response. Critical to this is inclusive storytelling, accessibility of format and presentation, and recognition of the role of digital technologies for practice and connection.

Please tell us how each of the 5 pillars are important to you and your practice and why. Feel free to respond to any or all that are applicable to you:

First Nations

Our Northern Beaches community has strongly indicated that they want to see Aboriginal heritage and culture receive greater public value, including respect for Aboriginal knowledge and how it can be shared to learn better care of the land and how to live in place. A key principle of the Northern Beaches Cultural Policy is that local Aboriginal communities have the right to self-determination, including the sharing of culture, and the right to access and contribute to the region's cultural and creative life.

A Place for Every Story

Northern Beaches Council currently manages and diverse range of assets and delivery of programming to support the creative sector including:

- Manly Art Gallery and Museum (MAGM), a regional gallery and museum, including collections of over 5,000 cultural objects of local, state and national significance
- Glen Street Theatre, a professional performing arts centre on the national touring circuit
- Creative spaces and studios at Avalon, Curl Curl, and Mona Vale
- Public art that embeds creativity and connection to place in the public domain

Ensuring the continuity and development of places and spaces for local storytelling, experimentation, and cross-disciplinary collaboration, are fundamental to community wellbeing, innovation, and sector-wide industry growth.

The Centrality of the Artist

The Northern Beaches is home to a significant creative and cultural sector with over 13,000 people (8.5% of all employed residents) working in the field. Council supports working collectively to prioritise expanded opportunities for emerging and established local artists, as residents and visitors to the region. Improved strategic partnerships will ensure a thriving arts and culture sector. Support

and development programs can draw on the energy of our community to bring more places to life, creating opportunities for production, employment, participation, and enjoyment.

Strong Institutions

Northern Beaches' residents and visitors have the right to self-expression and the right to access and contribute to the region's cultural and creative life. Participation and engagement in arts and culture enable our community to express shared values, negotiate diverse beliefs, and increase connection to each other, promoting understanding and a sense of belonging.

Northern Beaches Council currently provides nationally recognised institutions such as Manly Art Gallery and Museum and Glen Street Theatre. These institutions provide a strong base for the development of programs that build the capacities of the local creative community that works locally, nationally, and internationally.

Reaching the Audience

We know that the Northern Beaches is an important destination for tourism and home to a broad spectrum of creative activity. The sector also contributes significantly to the region's economic sustainability, generating \$1.6 billion in output and \$790 million in value added in 2018/19, 6.5% of the total Northern Beaches economy.

Exploring new collaborative opportunities will be crucial to developing and implementing innovative high-quality programs for audiences over the next decade. We know New South Wales' arts, culture, and creative sector is the largest in Australia and that it will be a key driver of the state's economic growth, exports, and innovation over the next decade.

Are there any other things that you would like to see in a National Cultural Policy?

- Acknowledgement of and commitment to the centrality of Local Government as a key provider and enabler of cultural services in communities.
- Recognition of the vital importance of all elements of the Australian cultural ecosystem, to ensure pathways to excellence are valued and supported as well as excellence.
- A focus on the improved coordination of funding and cultural service delivery across all levels of government.