

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES POLICY

Policy Number:	5.2.2
Approved by:	Council
Date Approved:	December 2025
Date of Next Review:	December 2026
Applicable to:	Arts and Culture Business Unit Natural Environment and Parks Business Unit
Responsible Officer:	Manager Culture and Leisure
Related Policies:	Nil
Related Documents:	Art in Public Places Guidelines
Statutory Reference:	Nil

OVERVIEW

The Wellington Shire Council Art in Public Places Policy has been developed to assist in the achievement of the objectives of Wellington 2030 and the Arts and Culture Strategy.

GOAL

To enhance public places in Wellington Shire through the promotion and encouragement of engaging and appropriate public art.

AIMS

- To enrich the lives of residents and visitors to Wellington Shire through the presence of high quality works of art and craft in the Shire's public spaces.
- To integrate arts into the structure, fabric and daily life of the community.
- To foster a sense of place, of community belonging and a sense of identity in residents of Wellington Shire.
- To celebrate the cultural diversity of the Shire and wider community by the public display of arts including those that showcase our Indigenous First Nations heritage.
- To enliven and enrich the public spaces of the Shire to achieve a rich and lively environment which goes beyond that which good urban planning and design can achieve on its own.
- To realise the economic, health and wellbeing potential of the arts and crafts industry in Wellington Shire and to promote cultural tourism.
- To encourage innovative linkages between the arts, education, business and tourist sectors.
- To enhance the lifespan of the community's cultural heritage through a planned maintenance program and protection from vandalism.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

- Community engagement
- Partnerships
- Identity and sense of place
- Cultural diversity
- A creative and vibrant environment

DEFINITIONS

Public Place

In Wellington Shire this includes but is not necessarily limited to streets and laneways, footpaths and walkways, gardens, building exteriors, and open space.

Artists

All professional practitioners in the visual, literary and performing arts, including visual artists, designers, craftspeople, writers, poets, performers, composers, musicians, etc.

Arts

In the context of this policy, this refers to all visual and performing arts (permanent or ephemeral). This includes but is not necessarily limited to visual art, craft, sculpture, design, new media, sound, ephemeral art, performance, projections and collaborative art/urban design projects. The public art can be functional, decorative, iconic, integrated, site specific, interpretive, commemorative or temporary.

COUNCIL'S ROLE IN ART IN PUBLIC SPACES

Council's role in public art is that of:

- A planner for and provider of public art.
- A facilitator of arts development.
- A custodian and a partner in the management of the Shire's arts resources and assets.
- A designer of an environment that sustains a diverse artistic community.
- An advocate for public art.

PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Public art projects can be initiated by Council, by artists, by organisations, or by the wider community and can be realised through the following processes.

- Acquisitions and long-term loans of public art.
- Commissions of contemporary art, both permanent and temporary.
- Acceptance of selected donations of art.
- Temporary placement of art in public places; exhibitions, art performances and site-based installations.
- Engagement of professional artists in specific projects - as consultants for specialist advice, concept development, planning, or as part of collaborative community-based projects.
- Engagement of arts practitioners from the region where appropriate.
- Artist-in-residence projects.

REVISION HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
1.0	December 2022	Date of Next Review updated to: December 2023.
1.1	December 2023	Date of Next Review updated to December 2024. Minor formatting changes, including removal of numbering.
1.2	December 2024	Date of Next Review updated to December 2025.
1.3	December 2025	Date of Next Review updated to December 2026. Responsible Officer: updated to Manager Culture and Leisure.