



BOULIA SHIRE COUNCIL

Arts and Cultural Policy

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Summary:	Policy is for Council to recognise its artistic and cultural obligations to a diverse society and how the preservation of our history and culture is a benefit to the community. Council is therefore committed to providing opportunity for residents to participate in developmental workshops/forums and other cultural or artistic mediums involving Arts and Culture.
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Responsible Section:	Economic and Community Development
Responsible Officer:	Economic and Community Development Manager
Legislation:	Local Government Act 2009



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OBJECTIVE

Boulia Shire is an area rich in its own cultural history and home to people from many diverse backgrounds. Boulia has a strong local Indigenous, pioneering and outback culture.

The objective for Council is to recognise its artistic and cultural obligations to this diverse society and how the preservation of our history and culture is of benefit to the community. Council is therefore committed to providing an opportunity for residents to participate in developmental workshops/forums, visiting tours and other cultural or artistic mediums involving Arts and Culture.

SCOPE

This policy has been developed as a guide to Council when considering matters, which will have an impact on the cultural life of Boulia Shire residents.

This policy will be applied during the process of determining how Regional Arts Development Funding (RADF) or similar is to be distributed amongst the community.

POLICY

The objective of this policy is to:

- Establish and manage a committee composed of Council and community members to assess applications for Regional Arts Development Funding and provide recommendations to Council (refer to policy Addendum for further Boulia Arts and Cultural Committee information).
- Regulate and monitor the approval process of Regional Arts Development Funding applications providing they meet the KPO's of Council.
- Provide a transparent and accountable process for any funding approval related to RADF and Arts & Culture programs.

DEFINITIONS

Art: In this policy, the term art has a broad definition referring to all art forms which include visual arts, crafts, music, theatre, entertainment, heritage, community festivals, workshops and events and public space design.

Culture: The word culture in this policy describes a way of life for a group of people or a time. It is the representation of customs, traditions, a set of common understandings, shared beliefs and values. It can include associations with land, language, ways of living and working, artistic expression, relationships and identity.



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GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Goals and strategies are meant to enhance Council's capacity to effectively develop Art programs or projects and Community Events, to preserve our heritage in the community and to build creative capital in our community.

STRATEGIES:

- Ensuring adequate Council staff and resources are available where possible and within Council budget guidelines to realise strategies identified for implementation.
- Provide a financial contribution to the Regional Arts Development Fund and ensure budgets are kept within Council guidelines.
- Support and utilise Regional Arts Development Fund Guidelines.
- To make available alternate discretionary funding for Arts and Cultural activities which do not fully meet RADF guidelines but are still deemed to be valuable activities for the community.
- To engage creative community members when developing solutions to a range of issues pertaining to arts and cultural projects.
- To encourage and foster Indigenous art at all levels in partnership with Indigenous groups.
- Encourage partnerships with ARTour or similar groups to continue facilitating regional cultural tours.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

To encourage and support the participation of community members in local Arts and Heritage groups to promote town pride and a better awareness and understanding of Local History and Cultures.

STRATEGIES:

- Provide adequate financial and in-kind support to local arts and heritage groups
- Operate the Regional Arts Development Fund to assist groups and organisations in sourcing relevant experts to deliver training/ workshops in relevant fields and deliver new works.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Provide facilities/venues for arts and cultural activities and the preservation of historic and heritage artefacts.

STRATEGIES:

- Preserve Indigenous and non-Indigenous culture wherever possible.
- Provide a library service in the Shire that meets the needs of the community and follows the State Governments rural library lending policies.
- Facilitate an awareness of the shire's unique heritage and cultural importance by area promotion when and where possible.



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- Maintain functional Community infrastructure e.g. Racecourse Reserve Complex and Boulia Heritage Centre.

LOCAL ARTIST AND HERITAGE ENTHUSIASTS

To provide support and encouragement to local artists and Heritage enthusiasts such as the Boulia Historical Society to retain a culture of knowledge that is able to be passed onto visitors and generations to come.

STRATEGIES:

- Identifying skills development needs of local artists and pursuing opportunities for appropriate training to be delivered within the Shire.
- Support the collection of locally significant stories as a valued resource.
- Support local artists in acquiring training to further their own skills and in turn be able to pass them onto other community members by way of workshops or professional development courses

DISCLOSURE:

This policy does not remove any other obligations under the *Local Government Act*, any other legislation, or relevant codes and policies regarding the disclosure of any interests.



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Boulia Arts and Cultural Committee – Addendum

Purpose: The Boulia Arts and Cultural Committee (BACC) provides advice and assistance to the Council on the delivery of the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) program. This recognises the value of arts, culture and heritage as key drivers of diverse and inclusive communities.

Membership: Council will establish a BACC Committee with membership that is culturally and geographically representative of the community by:

- Publicly advertising for expressions of interest and/or
- Direct invitation of Committee members.

The Committee will consist of two Councillors, one of whom will be the chairperson, and up to five community members.

The term of appointment will be for a maximum of four years.

To be considered for a position a community member will need to:

- Provide Council with a current CV highlighting relevant arts or cultural experience and outlining any involvement with relevant arts networks and organisations.
- Indicate which groups they represent within the community.

Nominations for community members will be assessed by a panel including the RADF Liaison Officer and two other Council employees appointed by the Chief Executive Officer. The panel will submit their recommendations for community members for endorsement by Council.

A member may be removed from the BACC committee by Council if they do not meet the expectations of this Addendum.

Community membership of the BACC is on a voluntary basis and eligible for remuneration or reimbursement of expenses.

Authority: The BACC is an advisory group and does not have the authority to direct Council or staff or authorise expenditure.

Administrative support: Provided by the RADF Liaison Officer to the committee.

Roles and responsibilities: Attend and participate in BACC meetings through the assessment of grant applications against current RADF criteria and recommend funding allocations to Council. Recognising that advice on any real or perceived conflict of interest is reported to the RADF Liaison Officer prior to the meeting.

Council's Chief Executive Officer will appoint a staff member as the RADF Liaison Officer to support the Committee and local RADF program.

Meetings: These will be coordinated with the two annual RADF grant rounds. There will be a need for a quorum of at least two Councillors who are committee



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members. Agendas, applications and support material will be circulated in sufficient time to enable consideration prior to each meeting.

Committee members may also be invited to additional meetings to address any issues that may arise.

Meetings are not open to the public for observation.

Grant approval process: Once the BACC has reached agreement on the grant applications to be recommended for a level of funding the RADF Liaison Officer will submit the matters to a Council Meeting for determination.

Confidentiality: All matters discussed at Committee meetings, together with all material are confidential. The Chair may determine that some material should be released for community information/engagement.

Communication: Dialogue with the media and other stakeholders is to be undertaken by Council unless otherwise approved by CEO.

Amendment of Addendum: The BACC may recommend to Council variations to the Addendum which Council will consider. Council may at any time through consideration at a Council Meeting vary the terms of this Addendum.