



CULTURAL STRATEGY

2022-2032

Our People, Our Places, Our Shire

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Sutherland Shire Council acknowledges the Dharawal people as the Traditional Custodians of the land within Sutherland Shire.

We value and celebrate Dharawal culture and language, and acknowledge Dharawal people's continuing connection to the land, the sea and community.

We pay respect to the Elders and their families, past, present and emerging, and through them, to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Cover

Hazelhurst Exhibition
Nganampa Kililpil:
Our Stars, 2016
Installation view
Image by Silversalt
photography

Prepared by
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At Sutherland Shire Council we do more than serve our community - we are our community.

We understand that our natural landscapes - the bays, beaches and bush - and our love of outdoor living gives us a unique energy that sets us apart from anywhere else.

This translates into an active community, and a living energy, that propels us forward.

To align our culture to our community, we are active, evolving, respectful and collaborative in everything we do. From having a can-do attitude, to embracing opportunity and change, being people-centred and working together as one.

That's why Sutherland Shire is a place for life; its vibrancy brings people to life and makes it a place they want to stay forever.

It's our role to enhance the spirit of our area and its people.

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WELCOME MESSAGES



Noeleen Timbery

CHAIRPERSON
LA PEROUSE
LOCAL
ABORIGINAL
LAND COUNCIL

FROM CHAIRPERSON LA PEROUSE LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

I acknowledge all Dharawal Elders past and present, and pay tribute to our young ones, the Elders of the future who will continue to maintain the balance between traditional ways and contemporary life.

I want to congratulate Sutherland Shire Council on developing this Cultural Strategy, and for their commitment to promoting and celebrating local Aboriginal culture.

Sutherland Shire Council is an area with a significant place in the history of Australia. Through events such as the Meeting of Two Cultures, local Aboriginal people are now able to be recognised partners in the story telling of the arrival of the HMB Endeavour in 1770, and of our shared history. These events, and this cultural strategy are an acknowledgement that there is a human history that goes beyond what the history books used to tell us. It's an acknowledgement of a culture that is ancient, resilient and forever ongoing.

The story of Australia started within the Sutherland Shire Council boundary, and the full story of that needs to be shared, accepted and commemorated. The story of this land continues by celebrating its cultures ancient and new.



Aunty Deanna Schreiber

CHAIRPERSON
SUTHERLAND
SHIRE COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

FROM CHAIRPERSON SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE

I acknowledge the Gweagal People of the Dharawal Nation and pay my respect to all Elders past who have made so many sacrifices so that we could have a better life and future. To all Elders on this land of the Dharawal on which Sutherland Shire is located I also pay my respects as well to the leaders of our future.

I encourage you to learn, grow and strengthen your connection to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history, land and heritage. To all other peoples that call Sutherland Shire home I also pay my respect. Those that stand beside us, support us, and celebrate our culture.

This Cultural Strategy will be an important document and act as an anchor to embed the rich teachings of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's culture – through our people and places – respectfully belonging and sharing our culture through education. All people must have a voice in order to move forward together and we must always respect our differences. This way we can make decisions bringing us together as one in the beautiful Sutherland Shire, we call Country.

It is my pleasure to participate in the development of this Cultural Strategy aligning with the Council's Reconciliation Action Plan. I believe that through these processes the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and Council can walk together in becoming 'One with Country'.



The Eyes of the Land and the Sea, Kamay Botany Bay National Park
Image by Lisa Sturis, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2020

FOREWORD FROM THE MAYOR



**Councillor
Carmello Pesce**

MAYOR
SUTHERLAND
SHIRE

This Strategy reflects the community vision for the future of Sutherland Shire as a vibrant and active and inclusive community. Sutherland Shire Council values and celebrates the rich shared history of our area and will, through the sharing of culture and the creative arts continue to tell the story of Sutherland Shire.

Local government is central to enabling people to participate in arts and culture and Sutherland Shire Council recognises the importance of planning for and investing in arts and culture to bring our community together, activate our public spaces, drive our local economies and evolve a culturally rich and vibrant community for all.

We recognise our Indigenous history, diverse society and local culture and are committed to creating opportunities for our community to learn, share and celebrate our ongoing stories.

This Plan provides us with a strategic direction for the future, as we aim to grow creative industries, support community participation in creative life and celebrate our unique places and spaces.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the various phases of the development of this Strategy. I would also like to acknowledge the many hours community members have contributed and the knowledge and expertise they have shared with Council to help us achieve our social and cultural goals.



Djaadjawan Dancers,
Meeting of Two Cultures, Kurnell
Kamay Botany Bay National Park, 2019

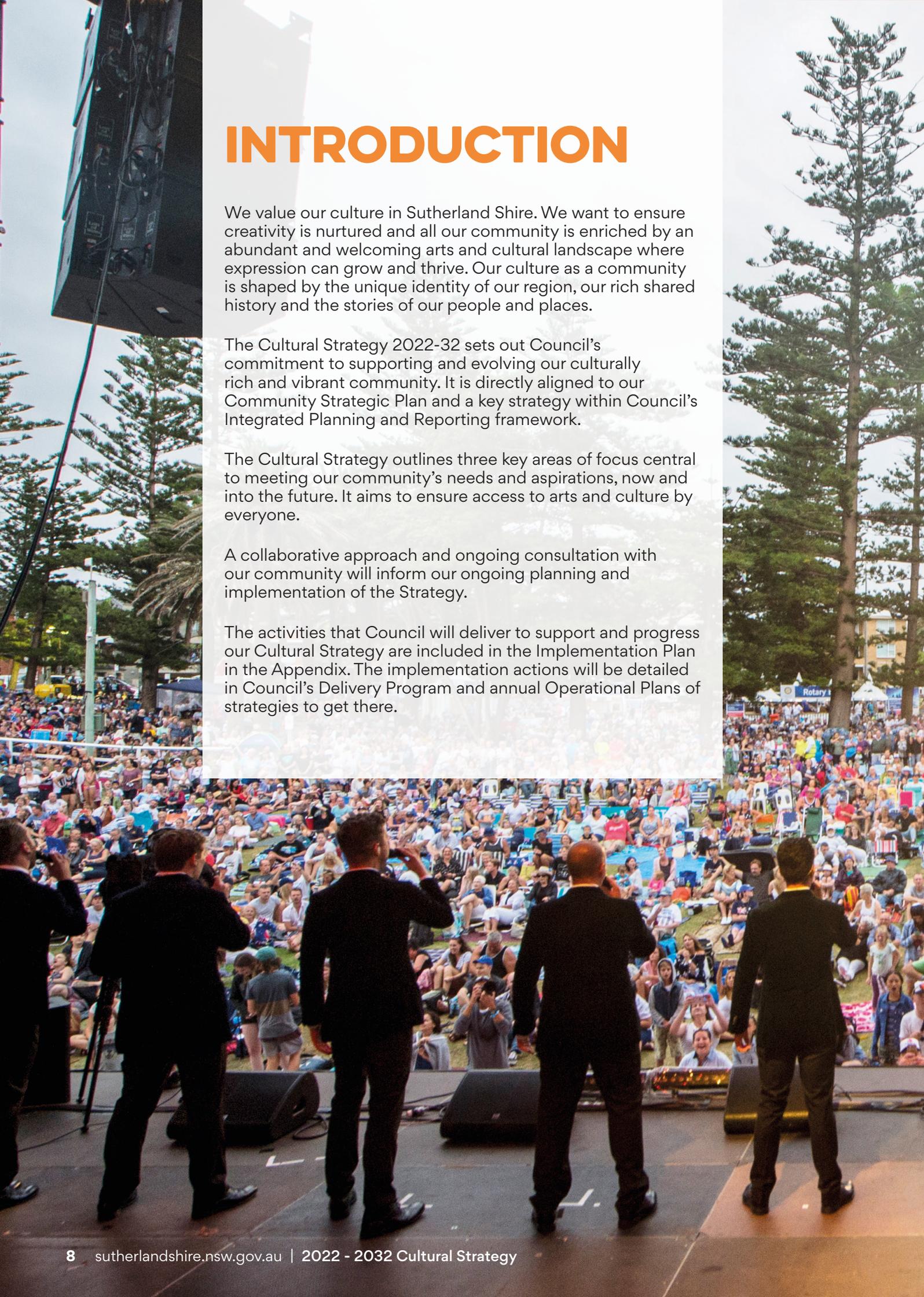


Como Hotel
Nov 1996
Fire erupts in the
early hours

Lights in the Park
Pleasure Ground



The new Performing Arts Centre Sutherland
Rendering by CHROFI & NBR ARCHITECTURE

A large outdoor event, possibly a festival or concert, with a stage in the foreground and a large audience seated on the grass in the background. Several men in dark suits are standing on the stage, facing the audience. A large speaker is visible on the left side of the stage. The background is filled with people sitting on the grass, and there are trees and buildings in the distance. The sky is overcast.

INTRODUCTION

We value our culture in Sutherland Shire. We want to ensure creativity is nurtured and all our community is enriched by an abundant and welcoming arts and cultural landscape where expression can grow and thrive. Our culture as a community is shaped by the unique identity of our region, our rich shared history and the stories of our people and places.

The Cultural Strategy 2022-32 sets out Council's commitment to supporting and evolving our culturally rich and vibrant community. It is directly aligned to our Community Strategic Plan and a key strategy within Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting framework.

The Cultural Strategy outlines three key areas of focus central to meeting our community's needs and aspirations, now and into the future. It aims to ensure access to arts and culture by everyone.

A collaborative approach and ongoing consultation with our community will inform our ongoing planning and implementation of the Strategy.

The activities that Council will deliver to support and progress our Cultural Strategy are included in the Implementation Plan in the Appendix. The implementation actions will be detailed in Council's Delivery Program and annual Operational Plans of strategies to get there.



Ten Tenors performing at AUSFEST, Cronulla, 2017
Image by Monde Photography



BACKGROUND

In Sutherland Shire we recognise the central role that culture plays in the liveability, wellbeing and identity of our community. Our rich and unique shared history has shaped who we are and our vibrant and active communities contribute to ensuring our valued lifestyles and region continue to grow and evolve.

This Cultural Strategy aims to recognise the strengths in our places, services and people and build on these to continue supporting the community for many years to come. Our cultural places have grown considerably in recent years. Hazelhurst Arts Centre opened in 2000 and has been enthusiastically embraced by the community and visitors to become one of the most popular and leading arts centres in NSW. Our major cultural events enliven the public domain and recognise our ongoing commitment to supporting the sharing of local Dharawal culture and the myriad of key national events locally. Our libraries are central to providing access to lifelong learning and a host of services to cultivate an engaged and connected community. Our many community halls and open spaces provide the platform for cultural programs and for our communities to gather, connect and create.



Hazelhurst Fest Day, 2015

To build on those strengths and the increasing demand for cultural resources some major investments are already underway and will actively contribute to increased access to culture in coming years. In particular a significant increase in support for the performing arts with the opening of the redeveloped Performing Arts Centre Sutherland end 2022 with a major state of the art theatre performance spaces. In addition the renovated theatre in the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts opening in 2022 will offer a boutique creative space. Together they will be a major injection into the cultural life of our region, build a growing creative precinct and further enable Sutherland Shire to provide leading arts services for our community and visitors.

The driver for this new Cultural Strategy is the aim to help ensure we build on these strengths and grow a culturally rich and vibrant community for generations to come. To set the direction for our facilities, services and programs for the long term. It has been developed through community consultation and will continue to evolve with continued input from the community in years to come.



THE CULTURAL STRATEGY – AN OVERVIEW

OUR VISION

To enrich the lives of our community by integrating arts and culture into the everyday, cultivating creativity and celebrating our diversity and rich shared history.

KEY PRINCIPLES



FOCUS AREAS



Whales of the Gweagal event, Oak Park, Cronulla, 2019

Focus Area

1

A Sense of Place and Storytelling

We want to infuse our places and spaces with our unique local identity and the stories that have shaped us. To recognise our rich shared history and what makes us proud to call Sutherland Shire our home and a great place to visit. To do this we:

- Acknowledge and embrace this is Dharawal Country
- Capture the unique stories that have shaped the culture of Sutherland Shire
- Express Sutherland Shire's rich history in the public realm



Hazelhurst Early Education Program

Focus Area

2

A Community Enriched by Creativity and its Culture

We want an active and vibrant cultural life that engages our community, inspires us and enhances our quality of life. We want to be a place of opportunity for our young people, artists and creatives who add to the richness of our lives, the creative economy and cultural tourism. To do this:

- Our Arts and Cultural Centres are hubs of excellence and inspiration
- Supporting the Sustainability and Growth of the Creative Industries
- An Empowered Network of community cultural organisations



ShireAbility Film Festival 2020 winners
Image by David Molloy Shopfront Arts Co-Op.

Focus Area

3

Culture is Inclusive, Welcoming and Accessible

We want our cultural life to be readily available to the whole community. Our places, spaces and programs must consider how best to provide a variety of experiences and ensure we are inclusive of our diverse community, making them feel welcome and connected. To do this :

- Our Arts and Cultural Programs Engage Our Diverse Community
- Our Arts and Cultural Facilities and Programs are Accessible and Inclusive

STRATEGIC CONTENT

Our Community Strategic Plan identified key outcomes for Sutherland Shire, one of which was Outcome 4 **“To evolve a culturally rich and vibrant community”**. To achieve this Council committed to develop and implement a Cultural Strategy.

The aims of this Strategy are to:

- Provide a framework for future planning, services and investment in arts and culture for the next 10 years
- Ensure there are opportunities for all the community to participate in the arts and creativity
- Support the growth and vitality of our arts and culture community and creative industries
- Integrate arts and culture into Council’s planning framework as an Informing Strategy

WHAT IS COUNCIL’S ROLE?

Sutherland Shire Council:

Listens and responds to our community’s needs

Supports innovation and creativity by delivering cultural services and programs

Champions the role **culture** plays in building a culturally rich and vibrant community

Develops partnerships to achieve outcomes and build capacity in the creative industries

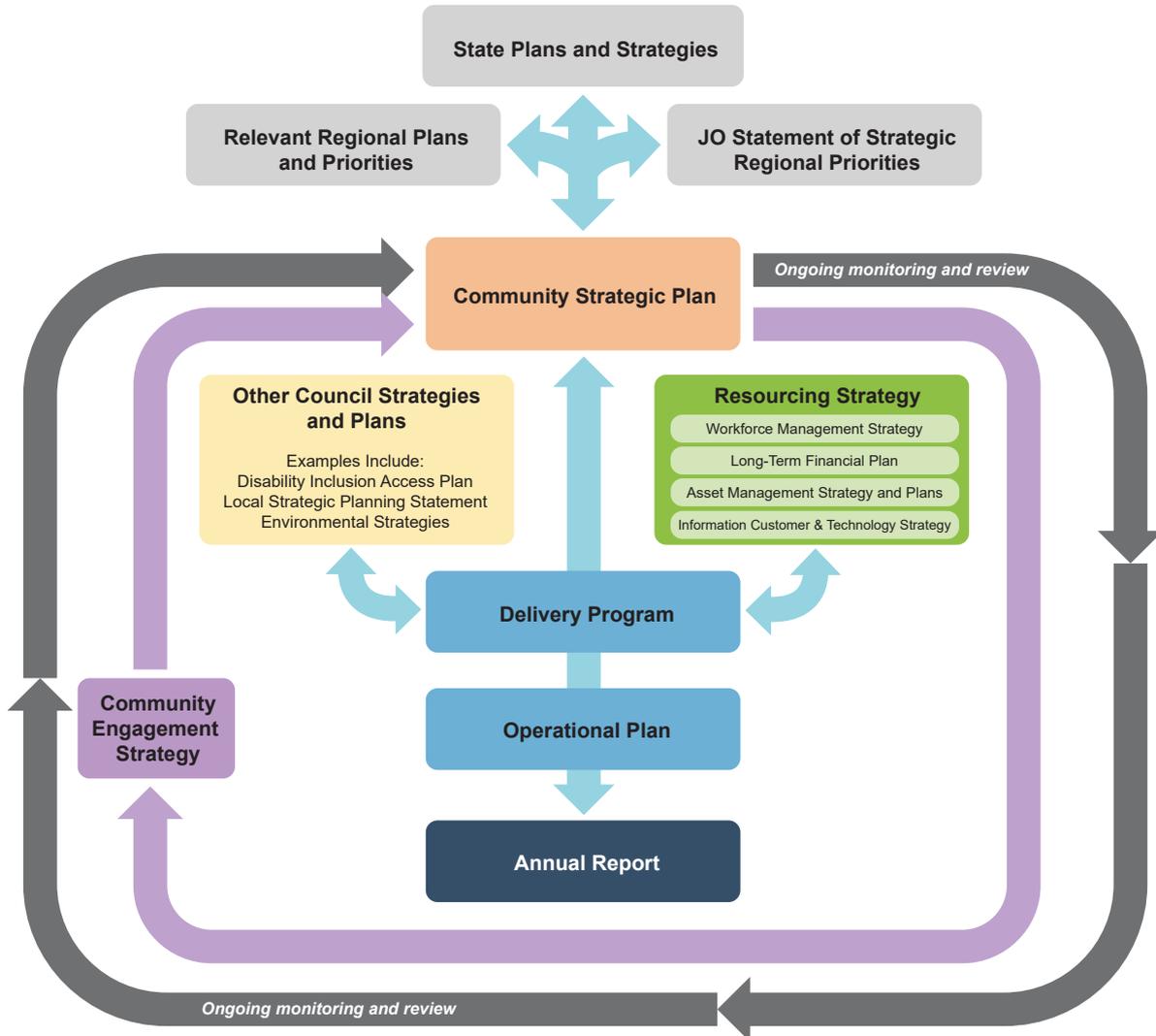
Encourages community participation in culture and the arts

Provides facilities and resources to empower the community

Works with our community to provide access to and preservation of our Aboriginal heritage, our rich local history, cultural collections and sites

OUR PLANNING PROCESS

Council's Plans and Strategies work together to make Sutherland Shire a connected and safe community that respects people and nature, enjoying active lives in a strong local economy.



OUR COMMUNITY PLAN OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIES

The Cultural Strategy contributes to delivering “Our Community Plan” which aims to deliver a healthy and connected community. It also supports a number of Outcomes and Strategies in the plan relating to culture and heritage.

| Outcome 4 | A CULTURALLY RICH AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY |
|------------------|---|
| Strategy 4.1 | Create and strengthen community connections through shared cultural experiences |
| Strategy 4.2 | Maintain and enhance our cultural facilities |
| Strategy 4.3 | Protect our Aboriginal heritage |

FROM IDEAS TO ACTION

Council has an integrated approach and our Plans and Strategies work together to make Sutherland Shire a liveable place for all people.



INTEGRATION WITH OTHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The Cultural Strategy is closely linked to the following supporting documents:

- Community Development Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy
- Public Art Policy
- Library Strategy (draft)
- Hazelhurst Exhibition Policy
- Reconciliation Action Plan

Some of the above were still in development at the time of publication of this document.

DELIVERING THE STRATEGY



Integration

The actions in this Strategy may become part of our Delivery Program and Operational Plan and will help to deliver Sutherland Shire's Community Strategic Plan.

Implementation

A detailed implementation Plan that includes timeframes, priorities, resources, and responsibilities will be developed to help with delivery of the Strategy.

Evaluation

Measures have been developed to record our progress towards delivering this Strategy. Data will be collected throughout the implementation of the Strategy.

Reporting

Council's progress towards delivering this Strategy will be reported as part of our normal performance reporting cycle.

INTEGRATION

This Cultural Strategy will integrate with our four-year Delivery program and annual Operational plans, supporting our delivery of Sutherland Shire's Community Strategic Plan. Unfunded strategic actions will be considered as part of the annual planning process.

IMPLEMENTATION

The delivery of the strategy will be guided by the implementation plan. The Implementation plan sets out a program of actions for each of the Focus Areas and includes timeframes, responsibilities and resources required.

EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluating our delivery of the Strategy will be ongoing. We will use a range of methods to help us measure the Strategy's outcomes. These methods may include demographic data, participation and attendances data, community and customer satisfaction surveys, focus groups and case studies.

REPORTING

We will report on the delivery of this Strategy in the following ways:

Actions included in the Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan will be reported half yearly

- Annual Report
- Reporting via social media and Our Shire newsletter
- Major review in 2026 prior to development of the next Cultural Strategy

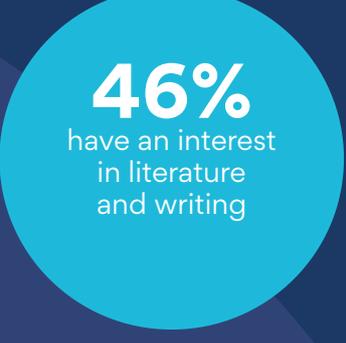
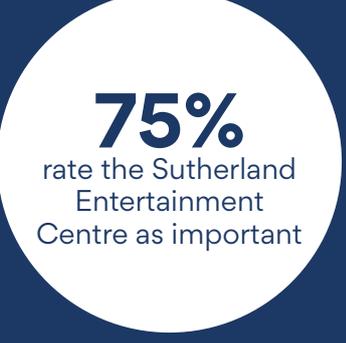
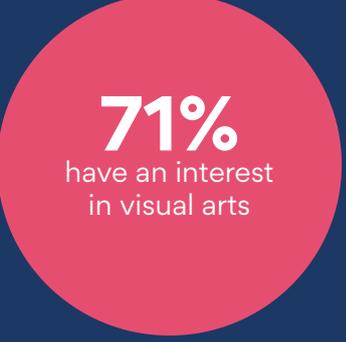
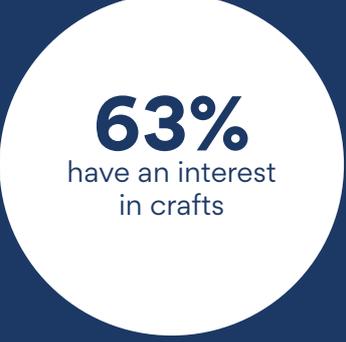
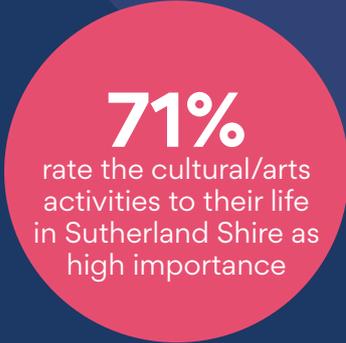
RESOURCING

- Many of the actions in this Strategy will not require additional funding and will be included as part of our everyday work, may include reviewing the way we work and looking at how existing resources are being utilised. These actions may be included in Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan.
- Some actions will require additional funding, and these will be considered as part of Council's annual budget and planning process.
- We may apply for external funding or partner with other agencies to help us deliver the actions in this Strategy.

AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

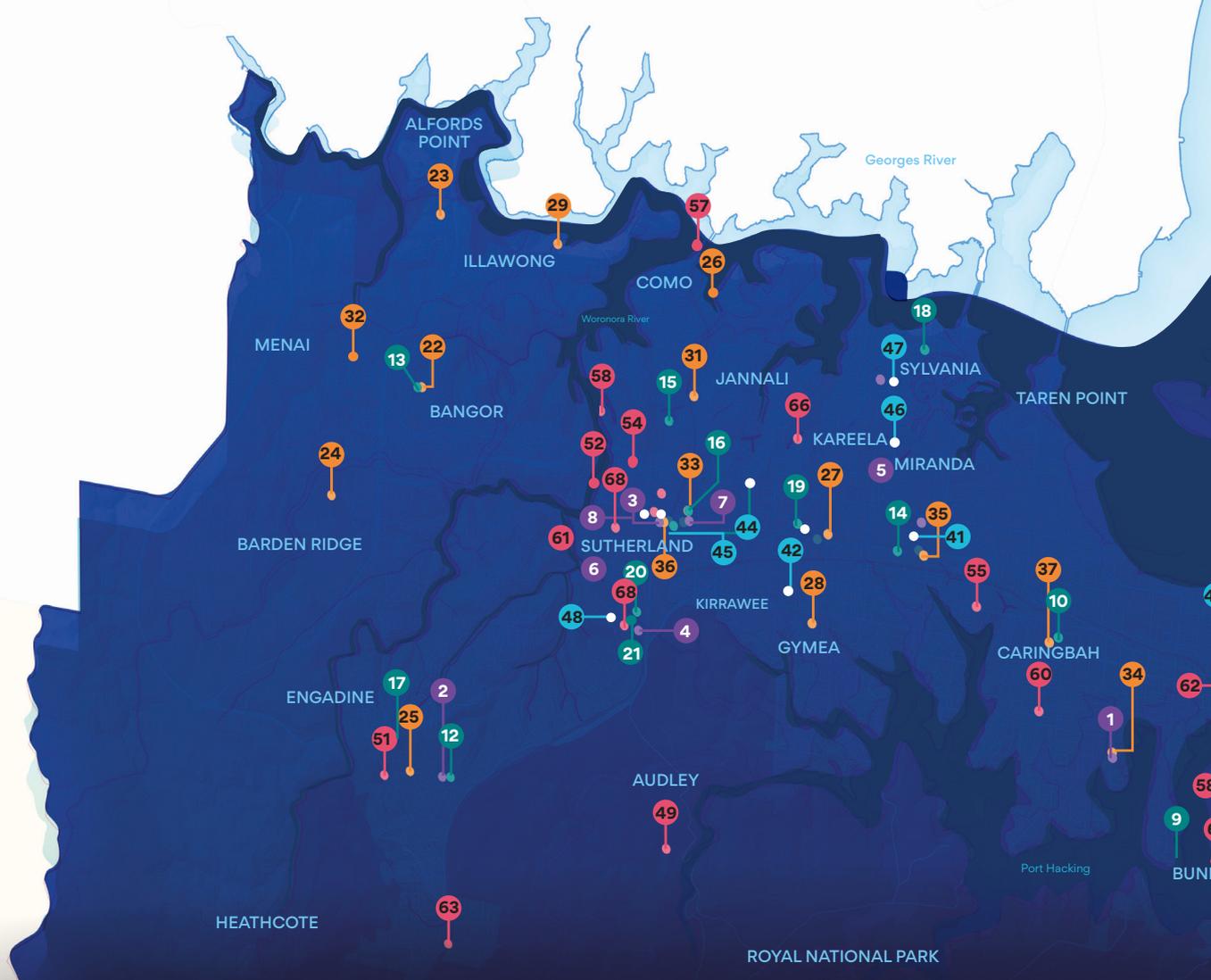
The Strategy is also supported by the:

- [Create NSW Cultural Infrastructure Plan \(2025\)](#)
- [Cultural Infrastructure in NSW \(2018\)](#)
- [NSW Health and the Arts Framework \(2016\)](#)
- [NSW Arts and Cultural Policy Framework \(2015\)](#)



Source: Sutherland Shire Council Arts and Culture Survey 2019 (Brecknock consulting)

OUR CULTURAL COMMUNITY



Creative spaces and places in **SUTHERLAND SHIRE**

Please note: This map presents an example of the wide range of services and places in Sutherland Shire and is not intended as a complete list.



Cultural groups

- 1 Botany Bay Family History Society
- 2 Engadine Musical Society
- 3 Miranda Musical Society
- 4 Sutherland Music Club
- 5 Sutherland Shire Choral Society
- 6 Sutherland Shire Fellowship of Australian Writers
- 7 Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra
- 8 Sutherland Theatre Company

Libraries & Arts education facilities

- 9 Bundeena Library
- 10 Caringbah Library
- 11 Cronulla Library
- 12 Engadine Library
- 13 Menai Library
- 14 Miranda Library
- 15 St George & Sutherland Community College
- 16 Sutherland Library
- 17 Sutherland Shire Toy Library
- 18 Sylvania Library
- 19 TAFE - Gymea
- 20 TAFE - Loftus
- 21 University of Wollongong - Loftus

Community Centres

- 22 3 Bridges Menai
- 23 Alford's Point Community Centre
- 24 Bosco Men's Shed
- 25 Bundeena Men's Shed
- 26 Como School of Arts
- 27 Gymea Bay Community & Recreation Centre
- 28 Gymea Community Centre
- 29 Illawong Community Centre
- 30 Kurnell Men's Shed
- 31 Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation
- 32 Menai Men's Shed
- 33 Orana NSW
- 34 Port Hacking Community Centre
- 35 Project Youth
- 36 Sutherland Pensioners Centre
- 37 Sutherland Shire Community Options

Galleries, Museums, Theatres, Cinemas, Music venues

- 38 Arts Theatre Cronulla
- 39 Brass Monkey, Cronulla
- 40 Cronulla Surf Museum
- 41 Events Cinema, Miranda
- 42 Hazelhurst Arts Centre
- 43 Hoyts Cinemas, Cronulla
- 44 Sutherland Entertainment Centre
- 45 Sutherland Memorial School of Arts
- 46 Shire Military History Club
- 47 Sutherland Shire Historical Society & Museum
- 48 Sydney Tramway Museum

Sites of cultural significance

- 49 Audley Boat Shed
- 50 Bass and Flinders Point
- 51 Boy's Town (Dunlea Centre)
- 52 Brinsley's Joinery Works
- 53 Bundeena Ferry
- 54 Burnum Burnum Sanctuary
- 55 Camellia Gardens
- 56 Captain Cook's Landing Place
- 57 Como Pleasure Ground
- 58 Darook Park
- 59 Dunningham Park
- 60 Fernleigh House
- 61 Forby Sutherland Memorial Park
- 62 Gunnamatta Park
- 63 Heathcote Hall
- 64 Hungry Point Reserve
- 65 Jibbon Aboriginal Carvings
- 66 Joseph Banks Native Plant Reserve
- 67 Whales of the Gweagal Plaque
- 68 Woronora Cemetery



Culture is

“... the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of a society or a social group, that encompasses not only art and literature, but lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs.” (UNESCO, 2001)

“Culture embodies the soul of a city, allowing it to progress and build a future of dignity for all”

Irina Bokova Director-General of UNESCO, 2016



Cronulla Park

WHAT IS CULTURE ?

The definition of culture can be quite broad and embraces our identity, the way we live our lives, our traditions and the way we think. In Sutherland Shire we refer to our surf culture, our love of nature, our volunteering culture and the rich traditions of our Indigenous culture. It is also how we express ourselves through the arts and heritage, how we communicate and connect.

How we tell and share our stories is at the heart of this Cultural Strategy. In this Strategy we adopt a broad definition of culture that draws on the NSW Government's planning for a creative Sydney and considers:

- Our sense of place, our values, our diversity, heritage, our identity, our digital and place-based communities
- The products of our creative and cultural processes – the visual and performing arts, literature, film and new media, fashion and design, crafts and new forms of creative thinking and expression
- Our engagement with, and participation in, creative and cultural processes.

Culture in Sutherland Shire is experienced in a variety of spaces and places including in our cultural facilities, in our parks and even by our beaches and rivers. Nurturing our culture and our sense of connection contributes to our sense of wellbeing and quality of life. This Cultural Strategy is a commitment to actively supporting our community and growing our culturally rich and vibrant community.

Hazelhurst

REGIONAL GALLERY & ARTS CENTRE

A facility of Sutherland Shire Council



Mark Vincent performing at AUSFEST 2018, Cronulla
Image by Monde Photograph



WHAT WE CURRENTLY DO

HAZELHURST ARTS CENTRE

Opened in 2000 Hazelhurst Arts Centre is a vibrant community hub set amid extensive gardens which has grown into one of the most popular arts centres in NSW. Presenting a changing program of exhibitions in the Regional and Broadhurst galleries it brings great art locally and supports local and emerging artists. A wide range of term and holiday art classes in six art studios along with programs for schools and the public engage the community hands on with art. Special events, film programs, talks, tours and a bustling Café and shop help ensure Hazelhurst is a welcoming and creative resource.

LIBRARIES

Sutherland Shire Libraries ensure everyone who lives here has access to information, public space, technology and resources for leisure and lifelong learning. The central Sutherland Library and seven branch libraries provide arts and cultural opportunities in the heart of the local community, sparking curiosity, creativity and connectedness. They promote literacy, build community and create a 'third place' separate from home or work. The services provide fun and interesting events, resources and things to do for all ages, access to essential and emerging technologies, social and cultural connection opportunities, supporting resilience and cultivate a vibrant engaged community.

REFURBISHED SUTHERLAND MEMORIAL SCHOOL OF ARTS

Officially opened in 1922 this hidden gem has been home to performances by our local theatre and music companies for many years. The refurbishment in 2022 will help revitalise this heritage building to enable boutique performing arts programs and be a social venue within a revitalised performing arts precinct in Sutherland.

The refurbishment will enable a range of performing arts programs with an upgraded theatre and staging, new bar and courtyards. The valued renewal of the heritage features will see a significant part of the history of Sutherland Shire recognised for generations to come.

CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

National and locally significant occasions are celebrated through an annual calendar of Council run events. The annual Meeting of Two Cultures acknowledges our nation's first contact with the Gweagal Community on the shores of Botany Bay in 1770. Fire Stories and Whales of the Gweagal events share cultural history and in partnership with Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation our NAIDOC Week event has grown to one of the largest events in NSW events. Cultural events enable gathering as a community with Music in the Park, outdoor film festivals and Hazelhurst at Night.

A myriad of national themes are marked with social initiatives and events during Reconciliation, Seniors, Youth and Refugee Weeks as well as Harmony, Grandparents' and Neighbour Days and International Day for People with a Disability .

Major events such as spring festivals, Sutherland to Surf, Relay for Life, and village fairs add to the cultural richness of our community.



Community Grants and Subsidies Program recipients 2018/2019



The new Performing Arts Centre Sutherland
Rendering by CHROFI & NBR ARCHITECTURE

THE REDEVELOPED SUTHERLAND ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE – PLANNED TO OPEN END 2022

One of the most ambitious projects for our community in many years is the major \$42m redevelopment of our Sutherland Entertainment Centre (SEC) in 2021-22. This initiative will create a place of stimulation, engagement, enjoyment and pride that brings great talent locally and supports our local talent. It will become a place of artistic excellence, diversity and originality for our community to enjoy. A significant transformation of the site and adjoining gardens. For over 40 years the SEC has brought drama, song, music, dance and more to residents and visitors and this new performing arts centre will set a new benchmark for our community and visitors to enjoy.

The new Performing Arts Centre will feature:

- A new main theatre that can host a myriad of high calibre productions with seating for 650 patrons, expanded and state of the art staging features and back of house
- An expanded building design to enjoy pre-show with new terrace, foyers and function room
- Opportunities for arts classes and with a new teaching and rehearsal space
- Integration with an outdoor performance and event space with a major upgrade to Peace Park
- Enhanced accessibility including 2 new passenger lifts

CIVIC EVENTS

Bringing the community together for important occasions Council manages and supports a range of civic events each year including Citizenship ceremonies to welcome new Australians to our community. Our major Australia Day events are enjoyed across Sutherland Shire with thousands of attendees. Council also coordinates Sister City programs with Chuo City, Japan and Lakewood, Colorado, USA. Supporting our local community organisations is also key for commemorations such as ANZAC Day and other national days.

ENGADINE THEATRE AND COMMUNITY CENTRES

Engadine Community Centre is a multipurpose performing arts venue with a dedicated Engadine Theatre which regularly hosts an array of dynamic dance groups, award winning theatre productions, civic and cultural events as well as private and commercial functions. Council's many community halls across Sutherland Shire provide a valuable resource for a range of cultural and social programs and gatherings.

COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SUPPORT

Council provides a number of community grants annually to many community groups and has a specific funding category supporting applications targeted at enhancing a 'Culturally Rich and Vibrant Community'. These include subsidies to utilise the many Council facilities.

Cultural planning for community enrichment is key for services to meet future needs, addressing identified gaps and challenges, and providing for a strategic focus on culture.

COMMUNITY PLACES AND OPEN SPACES

We aim to support our community's cultural expression and connection through spaces for performance, outdoor events and coming together to create and collaborate. Our network of 35 community halls, many parks, facilities and grounds are places actively used by our community groups, collectives and creative industries. Council facilitates nearly 300 third party events run by community members, groups and businesses to provide an array of activities for residents to participate in and also attract visitors. By activating public spaces these events provide cultural, social and economic benefits to the community.



60%

of residents believe that it's important Sutherland Shire has strong arts & culture opportunities (2017 Survey)

HOW WE ENGAGED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Key to the development of this Cultural Strategy has been the insights, the stories and the aspirations of our community and what they wanted to see in the next 10 years. Consultation with our community commenced in 2019 and between September and December 2019, a consulting team undertook, with the support of Council staff, engagement with Shire residents through face to face meetings and analysed the evidence collected through an online Cultural Survey. The community engagement was undertaken to inform the development of this Draft Cultural Strategy for Sutherland Shire.

This consultation involved the direct engagement process involving both round table groups, small group and one on one meetings with a range of representative local individuals from across Sutherland Shire. In the order of 40 active community members, cultural leaders and artists, councillors and relevant council staff members were consulted through sessions in September and December 2019.

In addition, the project implemented an online survey undertaken in November 2019 which received 257 responses. This was a self-selecting survey and as such represents the views of community members with an interest

in Sutherland Shire and its cultural activities and facilities. Dialogue paused in 2020 with the impact of COVID -19 but resumed late 2020 with further consultation undertaken through Council's Arts & Culture Sub-Committee. Again in June 2021 consultation has occurred with key community representatives through the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, the Hazelhurst Arts Centre Board, and the Arts & Culture Sub-Committee.

The Draft Cultural Strategy will be further informed by community consultation in 2022 when it is placed on public exhibition for comment.

WHAT YOU TOLD US

The community consultation gave great insights to understanding what is unique in Sutherland Shire, what is important to us, what makes us proud and what is key in our identity. It directed us as to what we want to see more of, to nurture and celebrate.

It is clear people feel privileged to live in Sutherland Shire – it's a special place of natural beauty, including kilometres of fabulous beaches and coastal environments. Its close to the expanse of the Royal National Park, has open space, good transport connections, excellent shopping and amenities, good eateries and great cultural facilities for art, music and theatre. We want our built environment to be as stimulating as our natural environment, conserving the best of our past and making the most of our places and spaces.

“

Closeness to cultural activities, friendly, small shop owners, the outdoor environment.
[Gymea Bay resident]

”

“

A mix of active pursuits of the mind and body - recreation, beaches and national park, combined with libraries, art gallery and entertainment centre all complemented by a thriving community sector which connects communities and cares about both people and the environment.
[Caringbah South resident]

”

“

Beaches, bush, family environment, community feel, harmonious community, rivers, National Parks.
[Cronulla resident]

”

“

The past 20 odd years the Shire feels that it has diversified and become more accepting. This is encouraging and forward thinking.
[Gymea resident]

”

“

In Bundeena we have peace, nature all round, a small community of friends & good transport to anywhere.
[Bundeena resident]

”

“

Hazelhurst to me is one of the main attractors to the Shire for me with my interest in the arts and culture. The centre improves its local identity and landmark position yearly as it reaches out in so many ways - markets, social media, a place to eat and admire art. A place to take classes.
[Mortdale resident]

”

“

The community life/ atmosphere, cafes, shops, libraries, entertainment- we have it all.
[Engadine resident]

”

“

The people are always friendly, lots of beautiful outdoor spaces to enjoy and always something happening!
[Kirrawee resident]

”

“

Close knit community with a shared passion for the Shire.
[Menai resident]

”

“

It is a great place to live, close to the city, but still with lots of parks and good facilities for recreation e.g. Beaches, historic buildings, theatres, etc.
[Como resident]

”

WHO WE ARE

“The bedrock of cultural stories and heritage in Sutherland must be its Aboriginal history.”
(Resident)

“Aboriginal culture is/ should be core across all that Council does. Need clear pathways to educate people”
(Resident)

Djaadjawan Dancers,
Meeting of Two Cultures, Kurnell
Kamay Botany Bay National Park, 2019



Emerging from consultation were 5 key pillars that form the basis of what is uniquely a Sutherland Shire community and place

1. A COMMUNITY WITH A RICH AND UNIQUE SHARED HISTORY

We have a unique place in Australia's history as the site of the first meeting of two cultures, the British and the Dharawal speaking people at Kurnell in 1770. For thousands of years this has been Dharawal country, the home of a people who fished the waters of Towra Point, collected oysters on the shores of Port Hacking and watched the migration of the whales from the sea cliffs of the Royal National Park.

Europeans attempted to establish farms in the early 19th century and later came as tourists exploring the first National Park in Australia with the opening of the Illawarra Railway in 1886. The depression saw more seek refuge in rock shelters around Kurnell, Woronora and shanties at Heathcote. After WWII the population surged with returned soldiers settling and from humble beginnings grew suburbs, and the 1960's housing boom saw the growth of schools and the hospital.

We continue to evolve as new peoples from around the world choose to call the Sutherland Shire home from places as diverse as Russia, China, Malta, India and Lebanon.

2. A COLLECTIVE OF COMMUNITIES

We are many communities which together form Sutherland Shire. From the perimeter of Sandy Point to the southern edge of Waterfall, to Cronulla in the east and Menai district in the west, we are a community of communities. Our neighbourhoods have their own unique qualities that we value and celebrate with village festivals, art trails, sporting events and even our local street parties. We don't want to be seen as one homogenous area

Our local communities support one another and we are proud of where we live and the neighbourhoods generations have grown together. Of those who may have left as many have returned to raise their own families because of the abundance of healthy opportunities. We are protective of our lifestyle and the places we live in and work.



3. A COMMUNITY DEEPLY CONNECTED TO NATURE

We are proud that our area is uniquely surrounded and intersected by beautiful waterways, beaches and bays, shouldered by great expanses, bush and national parks such as the Royal, Kamay Botany Bay and Heathcote. This amazing natural beauty we actively enjoy is a large part of what makes Sutherland Shire a great place to live and bring up a family.

Our lifestyle is intertwined with nature. We love to celebrate our culture outdoors at street festivals, music in parks, food and wine events, concerts by the beach and cinema under the stars. We actively care for our environment with Bushcare and passionately defend our high proportion of green spaces and parks. Our iconic flora of the Gynea Lily and Cabbage Tree Palm are important local cultural symbols. Our natural beauty is often featured in the many films produced in the area.

4. AN ACTIVE AND INVOLVED COMMUNITY

We are, at heart, about our people. We value living in a caring community, coming together to celebrate our sporting prowess, cultural achievements and in tough times coming together and working for the community's benefit. Our volunteering spirit is strong with one of the largest participation levels in Sydney including lifesaving, the arts, sport, emergency services, caring for our seniors or those doing it tough.

Cultural and community events bring us together too helping us discover our area, history and people and just celebrate life. Our sport is important but we also have a strong interest in cultural events, arts, local heritage and Aboriginal culture.



Hazelhurst volunteer guides visit studio of artist Jiawei Shen



Bushcare volunteers



5. A COMMUNITY OF CREATIVE PEOPLE

Many creative people call Sutherland Shire home and are inspired by the peace, beauty and tranquility of the area. Bundeena with its unique location has been the home of many creatives and across Sutherland Shire there is a myriad of artist studios, creative development and performing arts. We are proud of the many leading artists and writers who have come from our community - opera stars, authors, comedians, musicians and artists.

Creativity is embedded in our community through the many arts and culture groups. We value our cultural hubs such as Hazelhurst Arts Centre, our libraries, Cronulla Arts Theatre and the Sutherland Entertainment Centre which bring us together to explore our interests. We value our emerging artists, creatives, our many dance, music and drama schools and our local schools which nurture talent and celebrate their achievements in the abundance of concerts and events each year. Our local educational hubs of TAFE, UOW and St George and Sutherland Community College extended the creative tuition and opportunities for our community.



Papaya Tree performing at AUSTFEST 2018
Image by Monde Photography



Artist Bruno Mota at Hazelhurst Arts Centre painting mural *Where the flowers are always brighter and the grass is always greener*, 2021, image courtesy of the artist.

WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE FUTURE





Source: Sutherland Shire Council Arts and Culture Survey 2019 (Brecknock consulting)

OUR VISION

To enrich the lives of our community by integrating arts and culture into the everyday, cultivating creativity and celebrating our diversity and rich shared history.



Musicians Abel Cross and Daniel Kennedy performing at Hazelhurst At Night, 2021

THE CULTURAL STRATEGY – IN DEPTH

We have developed a vision for the future built on the foundation of what the community has shared with us about who we are, what makes us unique and what we want to see in the next 10 years. The eight Key Principles have been identified to guide us and set an aspirational framework for the Strategy. The three Focus Areas are the pillars of the Strategy and encompass the distinct areas of work to deliver on with key goals identified for each and a range of strategies to achieve them.

OUR PRINCIPLES

Culture is For Everyone

We want to ensure inclusive and welcoming access to the arts and culture by all our community. The arts can inspire and lift our spirits, provide enjoyment and stimulation, a break from the everyday and the opportunity to see the world through different eyes.

Honour the Dharawal speaking people and Dharawal Country

We want to meaningfully acknowledge the rich history of the original custodians of this land and actively support the sharing of their stories and culture through truth telling in places, spaces and programs. We will do this through being respectful and listening.

Be a leader in cultural spaces, places and programs

We want to strive for excellence in all we do, be inspiring, original, authentic and ambitious. We are committed to best practice in our programs and facilities, creating a vibrant network of spaces and places to support creativity, cultural expression and cultural tourism.

Value our artists and creatives

We want to nurture and enable our writers, performers, artists and creatives through our spaces, places, and programs, showcasing their talents to help further their careers. We aim to actively encourage the creativity of our young and support connections in our creative ecosystem.

Embrace and celebrate diversity

We want to encourage the respect and understanding of all the community, and acceptance of diversity in cultures and peoples. We aim through our programs and places to be a catalyst for increasing recognition and support through shared stories.

Empower our community

We want to support our community networks and cultural groups and their collaboration to help enable delivery of services and initiatives for the community. It is important to connect creatives and help create community hubs and partnerships to continue to grow our connected communities.

Support the creative industries and the cultural economy

A thriving creative economy directly contributes to the community and our evolving culture. We want to help enable our artists and creatives through building connections and opportunities in places and spaces, projects and programs,

Enliven the public realm

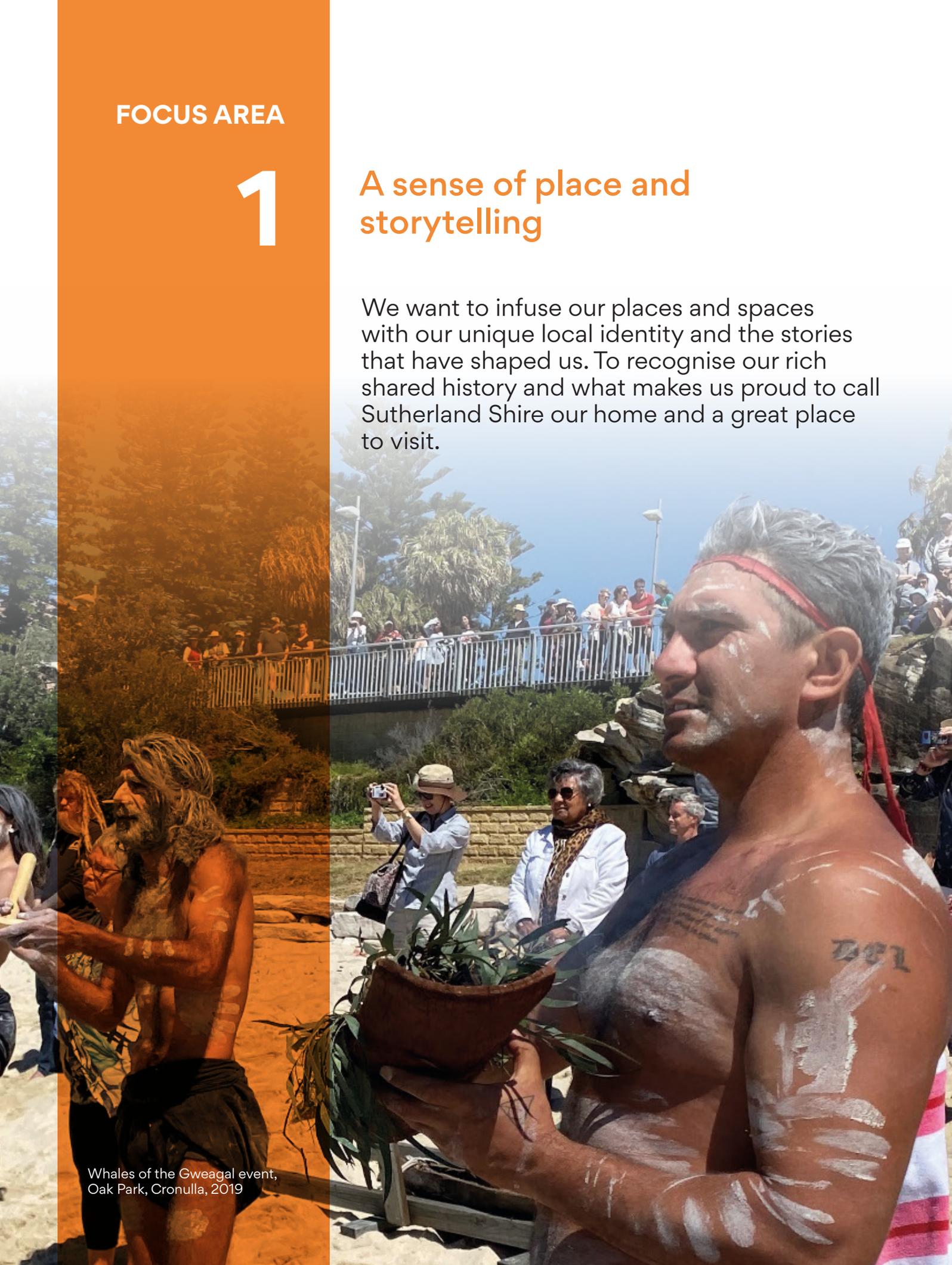
We want culture to be evident and celebrated in the public domain. Through place making, public art, cultural experiences and inspiring events we can share local stories and provide inspiration in the everyday.

FOCUS AREA

1

A sense of place and storytelling

We want to infuse our places and spaces with our unique local identity and the stories that have shaped us. To recognise our rich shared history and what makes us proud to call Sutherland Shire our home and a great place to visit.



Whales of the Gweagal event,
Oak Park, Cronulla, 2019

WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND EMBRACE THIS IS DHARAWAL COUNTRY

We recognise this is the Country of the Dharawal speaking people and we respect and honour their rich history and living culture. Based on listening and consultation we will grow acknowledgement and understanding through place making and signage to include key sites and stories and develop and implement meaningful and engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural programs

1.1 Recognise, respect and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through development and implementation of Reconciliation Actions Plans (RAP).

1.2 Develop and present exhibitions and programs at Hazelhurst Arts Centre which further understanding of Dharawal culture and wider First Nations culture.

1.3 Evolve and present an annual program of cultural events including Meeting of Two Cultures, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.

1.4 Develop educational and public programs to support implementation of the Public Art Policy which prioritises First Nations artists and projects at key locations.

1.5 Sutherland Shire Libraries develop and present inter-cultural programs to create connection with and improve knowledge of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island culture.

1.6 Performing Arts programs at the Refurbished Sutherland Entertainment Centre feature First Nations culture through working with artists and programmers.

1.7 Build on the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan and its implementation plan for signage and place making to develop interpretive signage, resources and cultural programs.

1.8 Ensure entry signage to Sutherland Shire recognises Dharawal country.

1.9 Investigate the opportunities for developing an Aboriginal cultural trail of key locations across Sutherland Shire connecting places of significance, stories and history.

1.10 Develop an implementation plan for Acknowledgement of Country signage across Council buildings and key locations.

1.11 Work with Kamay Botany Bay National Park to identify synergies and opportunities with the new Cultural Centre and its programs at Kurnell.

1.12 Review opportunities to create an accessible and prominent presence of rich content including sharing stories, history and programs on Council's new website (2022) and on line channels.

1.13 Review opportunities to increase recognition and acknowledgement of Dharawal people across Council communications to the community and internally.

CELEBRATING THE UNIQUE STORIES THAT HAVE SHAPED THE CULTURE OF SUTHERLAND SHIRE

The rich shared history of Sutherland Shire holds many milestones and significant stories of the people and places that have helped shape the unique identity of our region. It helps us understand our foundations and provides some fascinating insights to reflect on, celebrate and share with generations to come.

1.14 Collect and preserve content on the Library's Discover Local History website, including adding new oral histories to capture local stories.

1.15 Incorporate prioritised key local stories and themes in planning for exhibitions, events and programs.

1.16 Investigate the opportunity for presenting local surfing history and culture through a Surfing exhibition space.

1.17 Further develop our Local Stories trail and investigate opportunities for an integrated signage and on-line platform self-guided tour across Sutherland Shire.

1.18 Support the endeavours of key historic community groups to preserve and promote the area's rich shared history.

1.19 Support the investigation of an Aboriginal Cultural Centre for sharing culture, connecting with the new Kamay Botany Bay National Park Visitor Centre.

1.20 Implement the Public Art Policy and develop a new Public Art Plan for Sutherland Shire in consultation with the community.



Kurnell Gateway signage, Kurnell



Sutherland Shire Libraries' *Discover Local History* website

EXPRESSING SUTHERLAND SHIRE'S RICH HISTORY IN THE PUBLIC REALM

We are a community who love to celebrate our culture outdoors and enjoy active lifestyles in our natural environment. By continuing to develop relevant cultural events we can enliven and enhance the use of our public spaces and introducing public art can create a source of inspiration and fascination in the natural and urban landscape.

- 1.21 Research and consult through the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to identify priorities for implementing increased Public Art which recognises and celebrates Dharawal speaking people's stories, culture and heritage.
- 1.22 Investigate opportunities to illuminate identified local history and stories through an integrated program of site specific interpretive signage, virtual resources and cultural trails.
- 1.23 Work with projects for precinct plans and local character statements for suburbs to identify opportunities to express Sutherland Shire's cultural stories.
- 1.24 Support community involvement through the annual grants program.
- 1.25 Incorporate key local stories and themes in evolving the Events Calendar which helps celebrate our unique living and historical culture in a locally relevant and engaging manner.



Burnum Burnum Sanctuary signage, Woronora



Whales of the Gweagal Plaque, Cronulla



Sutherland Shire Libraries' Step Into Sutherland Shire App

FOCUS AREA

2

A community enriched by creativity and its culture

We want an active and vibrant cultural life that engages our community, inspires us and enhances our quality of life. We want to be a place of opportunity for our young people, artists and creatives who add to the richness of our lives, the creative economy and cultural tourism



Hazelhurst exhibition *Wonder*
2016. Installation shot

OUR ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRES ARE HUBS OF EXCELLENCE AND INSPIRATION

We embrace and value our local creative community hubs such as Hazelhurst Arts Centre which brings great art locally and supports our artistic and cultural life. The redeveloped Performing Arts Centre Sutherland will provide an equally vibrant and high calibre performing arts hub seeing Sutherland Shire as a leading region for culture attracting locals and visitors to our area.

- 2.1** Implement Hazelhurst Arts Centre’s diverse artistic program of exhibitions, art classes and public programs based on active and meaningful engagement.
- 2.2** Further develop the Cultural Events Plan and Calendar to reflect the key local stories and places and the diverse needs of the community to engage in culture.
- 2.3** Sutherland Shire Libraries deliver a variety of programs and events suitable for all age groups and to support cultural diversity, skill development and community engagement.
- 2.4** Develop a diverse and engaging artistic performing arts program to be presented at the redeveloped Performing Arts Centre Sutherland catering for a wide range of the community.
- 2.5** Continue investigation and development of the Hazelhurst Arts Centre Masterplan.
- 2.6** Support high calibre programs at the refurbished Sutherland School of Arts and Engadine Theatre at Engadine Community Centre.
- 2.7** Support, mentor and promote young and emerging artists, writers and creatives through opportunities in showcase their work in exhibitions, performances , literary events and forums.
- 2.8** Develop and present a stimulating range of programs tailored to engage key audiences such as young families, seniors, youth, multicultural and the diverse range of groups in our community.

SUPPORTING THE SUSTAINABILITY AND GROWTH OF THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Our artists and creatives help us see the world in new ways and provide imaginative ways to experience the everyday through the arts, design, literature and media. A vibrant creative sector can contribute directly to our community and help it thrive as a place to live, work and be sustainable.

- 2.9** Identify gaps and opportunities in the cultural sector locally that could be supported to build capacity for local cultural services and industries.
- 2.10** Encourage opportunities for artist run initiatives and creative spaces in available facilities including industrial areas and retail.
- 2.11** Help facilitate partnerships with private and corporate entities and other government agencies which support artists and the creative industries.
- 2.12** Provide opportunities for local artists to exhibit, sell work, perform, be mentored and develop their practice and careers.
- 2.13** Commission, produce and present artworks, performances and programs by local and Australian artists at Hazelhurst Arts Centre, the redeveloped Performing Arts Centre Sutherland, in events and the public domain.
- 2.14** Help promote local artists and creatives through our networks and to the community.
- 2.15** Facilitate third party events that enhance the cultural offerings throughout Sutherland Shire.
- 2.16** Facilitate a night time economy that builds on current strengths and creates a diverse and vital offer for current and future needs.
- 2.17** Actively promote Sutherland Shire as a film friendly location.



Australian Trilogry performing at AUSFEST Menai, 2019
Image by Monde Photography



Hazelhurst Dream Machines Fest Day, 2017
Image by Silversalt Photography

AN EMPOWERED NETWORK OF COMMUNITY CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS

We are an active and involved community who work together to enhance the lives of our local area in a myriad of ways. Our interests in the arts, heritage, literature and nature fuel our desire to create more opportunities for ourselves and others to engage in a life enriched by the arts and culture. Our community groups embed and enhance the range of cultural offerings that otherwise would not be possible.

2.18 Support connections between community cultural organisations to develop synergies and as a source of community engagement with Council.

2.19 Facilitate forums and platforms to enhance networking opportunities and capacity building.

2.20 Provide a merit based community grant program to support initiatives and help realise projects and programs otherwise not possible.

2.21 Provide community subsidies to help enable use of cultural and community facilities to realise programs.

2.22 Support the delivery of programs through advice, connections to businesses and government.



Artist Jiawei Shen painting Brendan 'Jonesy' Jones Hazelhurst At Night 2021. Image by Sam Venn Photography

Wild Ones Art & Design Market, Hazelhurst, 2013

FOCUS AREA

3

Culture is inclusive, welcoming and accessible

We want our cultural life to be readily available to the whole community. Our places, spaces and programs must consider how best to provide a variety of experiences and ensure we are inclusive of our diverse community, making them feel welcome and connected.



ShireAbility Film Festival
2020 winners
Image by David Molloy
Shopfront Arts Co-Op

OUR ARTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS ENGAGE OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

We value meaningful engagement with arts and culture which can enhance all our lives. Tailoring programs to meet the needs of our diverse groups in our community just makes sense and helps ensure everyone can benefit from creative engagement.

- 3.1** Develop and present specialist arts programs across Council cultural centres that cater for all age groups from early childhood to elderly, varied levels of ability and people with special needs.
- 3.2** Explore opportunities to increase representation of our diverse community in our programs and services including people with disabilities, for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) audiences and LGBTQIA+ communities.
- 3.3** Identify and explore opportunities to increase accessibility and relevance of programs services for key audience groups including hearing and sight impaired and people with intellectually and physical disabilities.
- 3.4** Pursue ways to embed multiculturalism and celebrate diversity as a core part of our community identity through development of a Diversity Action Plan and realised in our cultural programming.
- 3.5** Deliver an annual program of community events and initiatives aimed at celebrating and connecting our community, building neighbourhoods and intergenerational sharing and learning.



OUR ARTS AND CULTURAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS ARE ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE

- 3.6** Ensure our cultural facilities and event spaces are safe and welcoming in design and service for all abilities and meet key access building codes.
- 3.7** Complete new Library Facilities Plan to embed accessibility for the future.
- 3.8** Review and develop a communication strategy that increases community awareness of services and programs and is accessible to the diverse groups and those with special needs.
- 3.9** Ensure communications are relevant and respectful of the diversity of people in our community.



Wonder exhibition, Hazelhurst, 2016
Image by Silversalt Photography



Holly Prasser, winner of
ShireAbility Film Festival 2020



Sutherland Shire Libraries Ability Links Grant, 2019

MEASURING OUR PROGRESS

Our Cultural Strategy 2022-32 will be reviewed with key strategic plans to ensure it continues to respond to the changes in our community, the arts and cultural sector and aligns with Council's Community Strategic Plan. A full review of the overall Cultural Strategy will be undertaken in five years including an updated Implementation Plan. All reporting and review will be informed by consistent evaluation of the success of individual projects and programs, as well as community satisfaction with access to and enjoyment of cultural programs and facilities in Sutherland Shire.

MONITORING & MEASUREMENTS

The Actions in the Implementation Plan will be monitored on an annual basis as part of Council's planning and review process. This is required to ensure the planned outcomes and actions are being achieved.

Council will monitor and review our progress by keeping track of outcome indicators.

Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of our plan will be undertaken through key indicators to see how we are progressing against each focus area include:

- **Cultural Vitality and Engagement**
The visibility and profile of programs, services and projects in the public domain. Levels of attendances at our cultural facilities, in our programs and events. Satisfaction levels of our community and key stakeholders are key in revealing the success of the actions.
- **Achievement of Best Practice**
Our strategy is ambitious for our community and can be measured by research and methodologies of cultural value, industry and peer review of the calibre of programs and facilities and the overall community engagement and satisfaction.
- **Completing the Actions**
Monitoring the delivery of the Implementation Plan and the actions against success measures and key performance indicators relevant to each. These will progressively be embedded in the Delivery Plan and Operational Plan of Council and reviewed as part of the regular reporting process.

GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS

Council has created key Governance Structures to support specialist consultation and management review through a range of Sub Committees. These included representation by elected Councillors and Community representatives who focus on strategy and the achievement of outcomes for the community. The Cultural Strategy 2022 - 2023 outcomes will be reviewed by these which currently include - the Arts and Culture Sub-Committee, Aboriginal Advisory Committee and the Hazelhurst Arts Centre Board.

APPENDIX 1

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

FOCUS AREA 1: A SENSE OF PLACE AND STORYTELLING

We want to infuse our places and spaces with our unique local identity and the stories that have shaped us. To recognise our rich shared history and what makes us proud to call Sutherland Shire our home and a great place to visit.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND EMBRACE THIS IS DHARAWAL COUNTRY

| | | Years | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|------------------------|---|---------|---|---|---|---|----|---------|
| | | Delivery Stream | Collaboration | Funding | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5+ | Ongoing |
| 1.1 | Recognise, respect and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through development and implementation of Reconciliation Actions Plans (RAPs) | Business and Community | Arts & Culture, Strategic Planning/ Asset Services, Communications and Engagement, People and Culture Aboriginal Advisory Committee, RAP Working Party, Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 1.2 | Develop and present exhibitions and programs at Hazelhurst Arts Centre which further understanding of Dharawal culture and wider First Nations culture | Arts & Culture | Aboriginal Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Lands Council, First Nations artists | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 1.3 | Evolve and present an annual program of cultural events including Meeting of Two Cultures, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week | | Business and Community, Aboriginal Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, First Nations artists | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 1.4 | Develop educational and public programs to support implementation of the Public Art Policy which prioritises First Nations artists and projects at key locations | | Aboriginal Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, First Nations artists | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 1.5 | Sutherland Shire Libraries to develop and present inter-cultural programs to create connection with and improve knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island culture | Libraries | Aboriginal Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, First Nations artists | Funded | | | | | | ● |

| | | | | | | Years | | | | |
|-------|---|-----------------|--|---------|---|-------|---|---|----|---------|
| | | Delivery Stream | Collaboration | Funding | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5+ | Ongoing |
| 1.6 | Performing Arts programs at the Redeveloped Performing Arts Centre Sutherland feature First Nations culture through working with artists and programmers | Arts & Culture | Aboriginal Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, First Nations artists | Funded | | ● | | | | ● |
| 1.7 | Build on the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan and its implementation plan for signage and place making to include developed interpretive signage | Asset Services | Arts & Culture, Aboriginal Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, First Nations artists | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 1.8 | Ensure entry signage to Sutherland Shire recognises Dharawal country | | Strategic Planning, Aboriginal Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 1.9 | Investigate the opportunities for developing an Aboriginal cultural trail of key locations across Sutherland Shire connecting places of significance, stories and history | Arts & Culture | Libraries, Strategic Planning, Asset Services Aboriginal Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council | Funded | ● | ● | | | | |
| 1.10a | Develop an implementation plan for Acknowledgement of Country signage across Council buildings and key locations and inclusion across gatherings and meetings | | Business and Community, Libraries, Communication and Engagement, Asset Services, Aboriginal Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Lands Council, | Funded | ● | ● | | | | |
| 1.10b | Provision for new signage projects to be submitted for budget approval | | Unfunded | | ● | | | | | |
| 1.11 | Work with Kamay Botany Bay National Park to identify synergies and opportunities with the new Cultural Centre and its programs at Kurnell | | Libraries, NPWS, Aboriginal Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Lands Council, First Nations artists | Funded | ● | ● | ● | | | |

| | | | | | | Years | | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|----------|---|-------|---|---|----|---------|
| | | Delivery Stream | Collaboration | Funding | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5+ | Ongoing |
| 1.12 | Review opportunities to create an accessible and prominent presence of rich content including sharing stories, history and programs on Council's new website (2022) and on line channels | Communication and Engagement | Arts & Culture, Libraries, Aboriginal Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Lands Council, First Nations artists | Funded | ● | ● | | | | |
| 1.13 | Review opportunities to increase recognition and acknowledgement of Dharawal people across Council communications to the community and internally | | Arts & Culture, Business and Community, Aboriginal Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Lands Council, First Nations artists | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| CELEBRATING THE UNIQUE STORIES THAT HAVE SHAPED THE CULTURE OF SUTHERLAND SHIRE | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.14 | Collect and preserve content on the Library's Discover Local History website, including adding new oral histories to capture local stories | Libraries | Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 1.15 | Incorporate prioritised key local stories and themes in planning for exhibitions, events and programs | Arts & Culture | Business and Community, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 1.16a | Investigate the opportunity for presenting local surfing history and culture through a Surf exhibition space | Arts & Culture | Business and Community, Strategic Planning, Asset Services, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | ● | ● | | | | |
| 1.16b | Development of a surfing history and culture exhibition space subject to proposals and approvals | | | Unfunded | | | | | | ● |
| 1.17 | Further develop our Local Stories trail and investigate opportunities for an integrated signage and on-line platform self-guided tour across Sutherland Shire | Libraries | Asset Services, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | ● | ● | | | | |
| 1.17 | Support the endeavours of key historic community groups to preserve and promote the area's rich shared history | Arts & Culture | Libraries, Business, and Community, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 1.19 | Support the investigation of an Aboriginal Cultural Centre for sharing culture, connecting with the new Kamay National Park Discovery Centre | | Libraries, Aboriginal Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Lands Council, First Nations artists | Funded | | ● | ● | | | |

| | | Years | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|---|---|--------|---|---|---|----|---------|---|
| | | Delivery Stream | Collaboration | Funding | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5+ | Ongoing | |
| EXPRESSING SUTHERLAND SHIRE'S RICH HISTORY IN THE PUBLIC REALM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.20a | Implement the Public Art Policy and develop a new Public Art Plan for the Sutherland Shire in consultation with the community | Arts & Culture | Asset Services, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● | |
| 1.20b | New Public Art commissions subject to new approved funding | | | Unfunded | | | | | | | ● |
| 1.21 | Research and consult through the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to identify priorities for implementing increased Public Art which recognises and celebrates Dharawal speaking people's stories, culture and heritage | | Strategic Planning, Asset Services, Aboriginal Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Lands Council, First Nations artists | Funded | | | | | | | ● |
| 1.22a | Investigate opportunities to illuminate identified local history and stories through an integrated program of site specific interpretive signage, virtual resources and cultural trails | | Libraries, Strategic Planning, Asset Services, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | ● | ● | | | | | |
| 1.22b | New signage and resources to be submitted for budget approval | | | Unfunded | | | | | | | ● |
| 1.23 | Work with projects for precinct plans and local character statements for suburbs to identify opportunities to express Sutherland Shire's cultural stories | | Asset Services | Arts & Culture, Libraries, Strategic Planning, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 1.24 | Support community involvement through the annual grants program | Business and Community | Communication and Engagement, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● | |
| 1.25 | Incorporate prioritised key local stories and themes in developing an Events Plan which helps celebrate our unique living and historical culture in a locally relevant and engaging manner | Arts & Culture | Business and Community, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● | |

FOCUS AREA 2: A COMMUNITY ENRICHED BY CREATIVITY AND ITS CULTURE

We want an active and vibrant cultural life that engages our community and inspires us and enhances our quality of life. We want to be a place of opportunity for our young people, artists and creatives who add to the richness of our lives, the creative economy and cultural tourism.

OUR ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRES ARE HUBS OF EXCELLENCE AND INSPIRATION

| | | Years | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------|--|---------|---|---|---|---|----|---------|
| | | Delivery Stream | Collaboration | Funding | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5+ | Ongoing |
| 2.1 | Implement Hazelhurst Arts Centre's diverse artistic program of exhibitions, art classes and public programs based on active and meaningful engagement | Arts & Culture | Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 2.2 | Further develop the Cultural Events Plan and Calendar to reflect the key local stories and places and the diverse needs of the community to engage in culture | | Business and Community, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 2.3 | Sutherland Shire Libraries continue to deliver a variety of programs and events suitable for all age groups and to support cultural diversity, skill development and community engagement | Libraries | Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 2.4 | Develop a diverse and engaging artistic performing arts program to be presented at the redeveloped Performing Arts Centre Sutherland catering for a wide range of the community | Arts & Culture | Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | ● | ● | | | | ● |
| 2.5a | Continue investigation and development of the Hazelhurst Arts Centre Masterplan | | Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 2.5b | Major projects subject to submission and approval of proposals | | Unfunded | | | | | | ● | |
| 2.6 | Support high calibre programs at the refurbished Sutherland School of Arts and Engadine Theatre at Engadine Community Centre | | Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 2.7 | Support, mentor and promote young and emerging artists, writers and creatives through opportunities in showcase their work in exhibitions, performances, literary events and forums | | Libraries, Business & Community | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 2.8 | Develop and present a stimulating range of programs tailored to engage key audiences such as young families, seniors, youth, multicultural and the diverse range of groups in our community | | Libraries, Business and Community | Funded | | | | | | ● |

| | | | | | | | | | | Years | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|--|---------|---|---|---|---|----|---------|--|--|--|--|
| | | Delivery Stream | Collaboration | Funding | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5+ | Ongoing | | | | |
| SUPPORTING THE SUSTAINABILITY AND GROWTH OF THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.9 | Identify gaps and opportunities in the cultural sector locally that could be supported to build capacity for local cultural services and industries | Arts & Culture | Libraries, Business and Community | Funded | | ● | ● | | | | | | | |
| 2.10 | Encourage opportunities for artist run initiatives and creative spaces in available and vacant facilities including industrial areas and retail | Arts & Culture | Business and Community, Asset Services, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● | | | | |
| 2.11 | Help facilitate partnerships with private and corporate entities and other government agencies which support artists and the creative industries | Arts & Culture | Business and Community, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● | | | | |
| 2.12 | Provide opportunities for local artists to exhibit, sell work, perform, be mentored and develop their practice and careers | Arts & Culture, Libraries | Business and Community, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● | | | | |
| 2.13 | Commission, produce and present artworks, performances and programs by local and Australian artists at Hazelhurst Arts Centre, the redeveloped Performing Arts Centre Sutherland, in events and the public domain | Arts & Culture | Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | Years | | | | |
|------|---|---|--|---------|---|---|---|---|----|---------|--|--|--|--|
| | | Delivery Stream | Collaboration | Funding | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5+ | Ongoing | | | | |
| 2.14 | Help promote local artists and creatives through our networks and to the community | Arts & Culture, Libraries, Communication and Engagement | Business and Community, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● | | | | |
| 2.15 | Facilitate third party events that enhance the cultural offerings throughout Sutherland Shire | Business and Community Services | Events industry, community groups | Funded | | | | | | ● | | | | |
| 2.16 | Facilitate a night time economy that builds on current strengths and creates a diverse and vital offer for current and future needs | | Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● | | | | |
| 2.17 | Actively promote Sutherland Shire as a film friendly location | Business and Community, Communication and Engagement | Film Industry and associations | Funded | | | | | | ● | | | | |

AN EMPOWERED NETWORK OF COMMUNITY CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|--------------------------------------|---|--------|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| 2.18 | Support connections between community cultural organisations to develop synergies and as a source of community engagement with Council | Arts & Culture | Libraries, Business and Community, Communication and Engagement, Community organisations and groups | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 2.19 | Facilitate forums and platforms to enhance networking opportunities and capacity building | Business, Sport & Community Services | Arts & Culture, Libraries, Communication and Engagement Community organisations and groups | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 2.20 | Provide a merit based community grant program to support initiatives and help realise projects and programs otherwise not possible | | Community organisations and groups | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 2.21 | Provide community subsidies to help enable use of cultural and community facilities to realise programs | | Community organisations and groups | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 2.22 | Support the delivery of programs through advice, connections to businesses and government | | Arts & Culture Businesses, government, Community organisations and groups | Funded | | | | | | ● |

FOCUS AREA 3: CULTURE IS INCLUSIVE, WELCOMING AND ACCESSIBLE

We want our cultural life to be readily available to the whole community. Our places, spaces and programs must consider how best to ensure we are inclusive of our diverse community and make them feel welcome.

OUR ARTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS ENGAGE OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

| | | Years | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---------------------------|---|---------|---|---|---|---|----|---------|
| | | Delivery Stream | Collaboration | Funding | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5+ | Ongoing |
| 3.1 | Develop and present specialist arts programs across Council cultural centres that cater for all age groups from early childhood to elderly, varied levels of ability and people with special needs | Arts & Culture, Libraries | Business and Community | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 3.2 | Explore opportunities to increase representation of our diverse community in our programs and services including people with disabilities, for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) audiences and LGBTIQ+ communities | | Business and Community, Communication and Engagement Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 3.3 | Identify and explore opportunities to increase accessibility and relevance of programs services for key audience groups including hearing and sight impaired and people with intellectually and physical disabilities | | Business and Community, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 3.4 | Pursue ways to embed multiculturalism and celebrate diversity as a core part of our community identity through development of a Diversity Action Plan and realise in our cultural programming | Business, and Community | Arts & Culture, Libraries, Sutherland Shire Multicultural Network, Community Aid, Multicultural Reference Group | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 3.5 | Deliver an annual program of community events and initiatives aimed at celebrating and connecting our community, building neighbourhoods and intergenerational sharing and learning | | Arts & Culture, Libraries, Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● |

OUR ARTS AND CULTURAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS ARE ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|------------------------------|---|--------|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| 3.6 | Ensure our cultural facilities and event spaces are safe and welcoming in design and service for all abilities and meet key access building codes | Arts & Culture, Libraries | Asset Services Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | | | | | | ● |
| 3.7 | Complete new Library Facilities Plan to embed accessibility for the future | Libraries | Asset Services Council Reference groups, community consultation | Funded | ● | ● | | | | |
| 3.8 | Review and develop a communication strategy that increases community awareness of services and programs and is accessible to the diverse groups and those with special needs | Communication and Engagement | Arts & Culture, Libraries, Business and Community | Funded | ● | ● | | | | |
| 3.9 | Ensure communications are relevant and respectful of the diversity in our community | | Arts & Culture, Libraries, Business and Community | Funded | | | | | | ● |

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