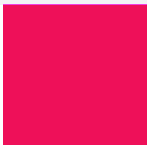


OUR CREATIVE CITY

20
33





translation information

ENGLISH

If you do not understand this information, please come to the Council or contact the Telephone Interpreter Service (TIS) on 13 14 50 and ask them to connect you to Council on 9911 6555. We will try to answer your enquiries by using an interpreter.

ITALIAN

Se hai difficoltà a capire questo document presentati direttamente all'ufficio del Comune, oppure telefona al Servizio Telefonico Interpreti (TIS, numero di telefono 13 14 50) e chiedi di essere messo in contatto con l'ufficio del Comune (numero di telefono 9911 6555). Cercheremo di rispondere alle tue domande con l'aiuto di un interprete.

GREEK

Αν δεν καταλαβαίνετε αυτές τις πληροφορίες, παρακαλούμε ελάτε στο Δήμο ή επικοινωνήστε με την Τηλεφωνική Υπηρεσία Διερμηνεων (TIS) στο 13 14 50 και ζητείστε να σας συνδέσουν με τον Δήμο στον αριθμό 9911 6555. Θα προσπαθήσουμε να απαντήσουμε στις ερωτήσεις σας χρησιμοποιώντας ένα διερμηνέα.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

如果您对这些内容不理解，请向地方议会咨询或致电13 14 50 联系电话口译服务 (TIS)，并在他们的帮助下通过电话与9911 6555地方议会联系。他们将尽力通过口译员回答您的问。

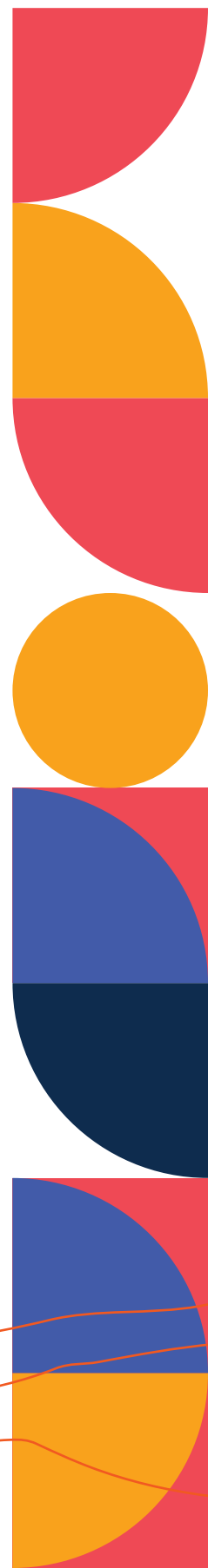
KOREAN

이 정보내용을 잘 이해하지 못 하신다면, 심의회(Council)로 방문해 주시거나, <13 14 50>으로 전화통역서비스를 이용하셔서 심의회(9911 6555)로 연결해 달라고 요청하시기 바랍니다. 통역사의 도움을 받아 귀하의 문의사항에 답변해 드리도록 하겠습니다.

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acknowledgement **of country**

The City of Canada Bay acknowledges the Wangal clan, one of the 29 tribes of the Eora nation and the traditional custodians of this land. Council pays respect to Elders past, present, and emerging and extends this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in or visiting the City of Canada Bay.

mayor's message

Culture and creativity are essential to a healthy, vibrant, and thriving City. They provide context and heart to our places, give communities opportunities to come together, speak to our hopes for a shared future and reflect our heritage, history, and language.

The City of Canada Bay's Draft Cultural Plan is a strategic plan that captures our community's collective vision for the City of Canada Bay's artistic and cultural life until 2033. It incorporates the voices of our community gathered through workshops, online polls, surveys, and feedback provided in-person, over the phone and by email. Thank you to all who participated in this community engagement and shared with us your vision for the next eight years.



Through our consultation we heard from a wide and diverse spectrum of our community – from artists, art societies, cultural groups, businesses, young adults, and seniors. You told us that you value the creative economy, want more ways to show off and support our local artists, and that our City's events, festivals and multicultural heritage should take centre stage. You also expressed that our plan should place First Nations first and take pride in our Indigenous histories and contemporary culture.

These conversations have helped shape this Cultural Plan and its short, medium, and long-term aspirations. Like many metropolitan areas, Council expects the profile of our community to change significantly over the life of this plan, and you have also let us know that our creativity and culture will play an important role in bringing our community together for a stronger, healthier, and brighter future.

Thank you again to all who have given their feedback as part of this plan. I look forward to hearing more about your thoughts about our creative future and ways Council can foster a vibrant cultural life in the City of Canada Bay.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angelo Tsirekas".

Mayor Angelo Tsirekas
City of Canada Bay



02

understanding

the City of Canada Bay



03

The Wangal people are the traditional custodians of the City of Canada Bay and hold a deep connection to the landscape. The bushlands and foreshore areas were their lands, their home and part of the territory they were responsible for. Traditionally, the lives of the Wangal people were strongly focused around the harbour and its foreshore. The local area of Hen and Chicken Bay was a major meeting place for First Nations people from Port Jackson and the wider Sydney region. The

Parramatta River provided a place for traditional food gathering and the Wangal people also hunted animals, harvested plants, and gathered raw materials in the local area. Today, some First Nations people living in the area may still have ties to the Wangal people and the Eora nation, while others in our City are likely to have ties with other parts of New South Wales and Australia.

As one of the fastest growing local government areas in NSW,

our population is expected to rise to 132,249 in 2041. The area is also adjacent to Wentworth Point and Sydney Olympic Park, which are both expanding rapidly with an additional 56,000 residents connected to our key centres. These new communities around our core create new cultural experiences for our community. Our capacity to establish productive partnerships and links to the variety of cultural facilities and attractions is important to create ongoing and sustainable

The City of Canada Bay is a vibrant and attractive City in the heart of the inner west of Sydney. Our boundary, which is bordered by 36km of the Parramatta River, defines the area. Much of it is accessible public foreshore, and it is a place of increasing significance in the Sydney conurbation. Eat streets such as Majors Bay Road, heritage sites such as Yaralla, established centres like Five Dock and the emerging centre at Rhodes are defining our area as an attractive urban destination. A new generation of workers in creative and knowledge-based industries are relocating to our City and creating new demands, services, and attractions.



04

cultural experiences.

The City of Canada Bay has developed a focus on place management which defines our approach to cultural development. The aim is to turn spaces into places, giving people reason to stop and become involved and to create stronger and more strategic relationships with people around identifiable activity hubs whether they be suburbs like Rhodes, centres like Five Dock, parks like Cabarita

Park or facilities like the Five Dock Library. The focus on place management for cultural development addresses a place's history and heritage, stories, people, landscape, streetscape, and culture. It is about discovering what makes a place distinctive, authentic, and memorable, and the experience they have as individuals and communities. Cultural markers, public art and interpretive features can inform residents, visitors and future generations about the

significance and meaning of special places, people, and stories.

The City of Canada Bay Cultural Plan enables Council to develop a robust approach to cultural development through the development of appropriate infrastructure, support for creative industries and ensuring that the links between cultural identity and community wellbeing are energetic.

our place and our people

City
Area
19.9 km²

785
people
employed in
**Arts and
Recreation**

(GRP) Gross
Regional
Product
\$7,382m
in 2021

37,897 active library
members

17
Suburbs

36
kilometres of
foreshore

Number of
Businesses

Average GRP
per capita (local workers)
\$180,560

138
community
facilities
in the local
government area (LGA)

Population
89,667

Local
Workforce
40,884

Number of
Businesses
11,322

120,000
attendees of the 2022
Ferragosto festival

160,000+
participants in cultural events
and sustainability workshops

Over 12,000
participants in library
programs annually

Population
projection

2%
p.a. increase to

2041

place

The City of Canada Bay has a land area of 199km² and an estimated population of 97,022 living in our 17 suburbs. Our area boasts 36 kilometres of Parramatta River foreshore and is a beacon to locals and visitors who flock to enjoy more than 300 open green recreation spaces and 348 hectares of open space.

The traditional custodians of the City are the Wangal clan, who lived in an area called Wanne stretching from Birchgrove almost to Parramatta. The river was a rich food source and fishing was an important communal activity. There are seven midden sites in the City of Canada Bay. Rock engravings can still be seen at Ryde and Gladesville and hand stencils at Birchgrove, Chiswick, and Abbotsford. The first recorded contact was with the First Fleet in 1788 at Breakfast Point and subsequent contact and conflict resulted in the loss of traditional territory and food sources.

Since the 1970s the area was settled as a halfway point between Sydney and Parramatta. It was defined by transport links — the Parramatta River to the north, a bush track cut by convicts in 1791 to the south which became Parramatta Road, and the east/west boundaries of Victoria Road and Great North Road. Early industries developed around overnight accommodation for convicts at the Longbottom Stockade and private inns servicing the coaching industry between the settlements. In the

early 1840s 58 French speaking Canadian exiles were jailed here, hence the names of France Bay, Exile Bay, and Canada Bay.

Over time our area has grown, its character changing as former industrial sites have been adapted into residential dwellings. There is a strong shared sense of community throughout the City, and with 40 per cent of residents born overseas, the cultural and linguistic diversity of our residents is one of the area's most celebrated attributes.



Jason Wing, Mullet Feast and Wangal Wall, 2015, play equipment concepts and retaining wall.

06

people

Our population is currently 89,667 and it is forecasted to reach 132,249 by 2041. Local employment is trending upwards, and we boast a diverse and vibrant economy with a strong economic outlook. Our community has the highest percentile rank within Sydney's inner west region for access to economic resources. This index considers home ownership, household income and expenditure and unemployment levels. Over 40,884 people work in the LGA, and local employment diversity and opportunity is expected to grow significantly over the next 10 and 20 years.



506 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders live in the City (0.6% of the population) with the 2021 census seeing a large increase in the number of people identified as having Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ancestry compared to the 2016 census. Migrant communities are also attracted to employment opportunities in the area, with 39.5% of the current population speaking another language in addition to English. Mandarin/ Cantonese, Italian, Korean, Greek and Arabic are the five major languages spoken. There is a significant Italian population and a steady increase in residents who have relocated from Southeast Asia. 40.1% of the total population were born overseas with 34.3% of the population

from non-English speaking countries. Emerging communities within the City include Nepalese, Lebanese, Filipino and Vietnamese communities.

In 2016, approximately 1% of the population in Australia was identified as “same sex couples” (ABS 2016). This is often considered an underestimation of members of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex Queer Asexual (LGBTIQ+) community as it excludes people who are single or not living with their partner as well as bisexual people whose sexual identity may be hidden by their current relationship status. In Australia and internationally, research has found that approximately 3-4%

of the population are identifying as a member of the LGBTIQ+ community (La Trobe University 2020). This figure is higher for younger people under 25 years old in Australia, increasing to 4% for males and 7% for females.

39.1% of households in the City of Canada Bay have children, an increase of 3.3% from the 2016 census period. Young adults are also attracted to the area with increases in the young workforce and those in tertiary education. The area has a larger percentage of a young workforce (25-34 year olds) than Greater Sydney more broadly (16.7% compared to 15.5%).



cultural development

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



In this plan, ‘culture’ is defined as the expression of creativity, values, actions, social behaviours, and environments that give people a common, shared identity. It incorporates the way a community lives, creates, works, and enjoys leisure and recreation. It also includes visual and performing arts, music, craft, literature, design, galleries, libraries, literature, publishing, archives, history, heritage, collections, museums, digital media, screen-based media, customs, food,

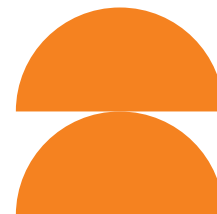
architecture, fashion, lighting and sound design and all other forms of creative output. Connected to this are the elements of our community’s experience that Council is a part of – how people respond to places, the way they use the natural and built environment, their expectations of public spaces, their relationship to nature along the foreshore and parks, and the value they place on creativity, heritage, and modernity.

demand for cultural development

Increased prosperity, leisure time and higher levels of education are driving the demand for cultural participation. Results from the Australia Council for the Arts' National Participation Survey showed that prior to COVID-19, 98% of Australians engaged with the arts, with 68% attending live events and 45% of the population engaged in creative participation. 84% of Australians also acknowledged the positive impacts of art and creativity, with the *Creating Our Future* report finding increasing recognition of the impacts on child development, wellbeing and happiness, the ability to understand other people and cultures, and bringing customers to local businesses.

Additionally, 87% of community members think it is very important to have cultural activity in their local area (NSW Department of Planning and Environment, *Cultural Infrastructure Community and Cultural Sector Survey 2018 Analysis*) and one in two Australians believe the arts build creative skills that will be necessary for the future workforce (Australia Council for the Arts, *Creating Our Future: Results of the National Arts Participation Survey, 2020*). In our own community consultation, you told us that you believe that arts and culture provide important means for community connection, cohesion, and economic opportunity in the City of Canada Bay. In this context it is important for Council to plan for cultural facilities and activities to meet growing demand and capitalise on this growing economy.

The notion of cultural sustainability is also becoming more important in local government, meaning that the economic, social, and environmental outcomes of a strong local culture are 'renewable'. For example, investment in beautifying streetscapes and the widening of footpaths have contributed to a strong local economy that is attracting new, market driven creative industries, or placemaking initiatives that welcome new residents have evolved into a range of community led social and cultural activities.



benefits of cultural development

The effective and integrated management of the Cultural Plan can have long-term benefits for our City and community in achieving quadruple bottom line outputs.

Economic

- Developing creative industries
- Increasing local employment
- Skilling up creativity and innovation
- Growing tourism
- Value from creative infrastructure

Environmental

- Promote best practice placemaking and public art
- Identifying cultural heritage and special places
- Improving lifestyle and local environments

Governance

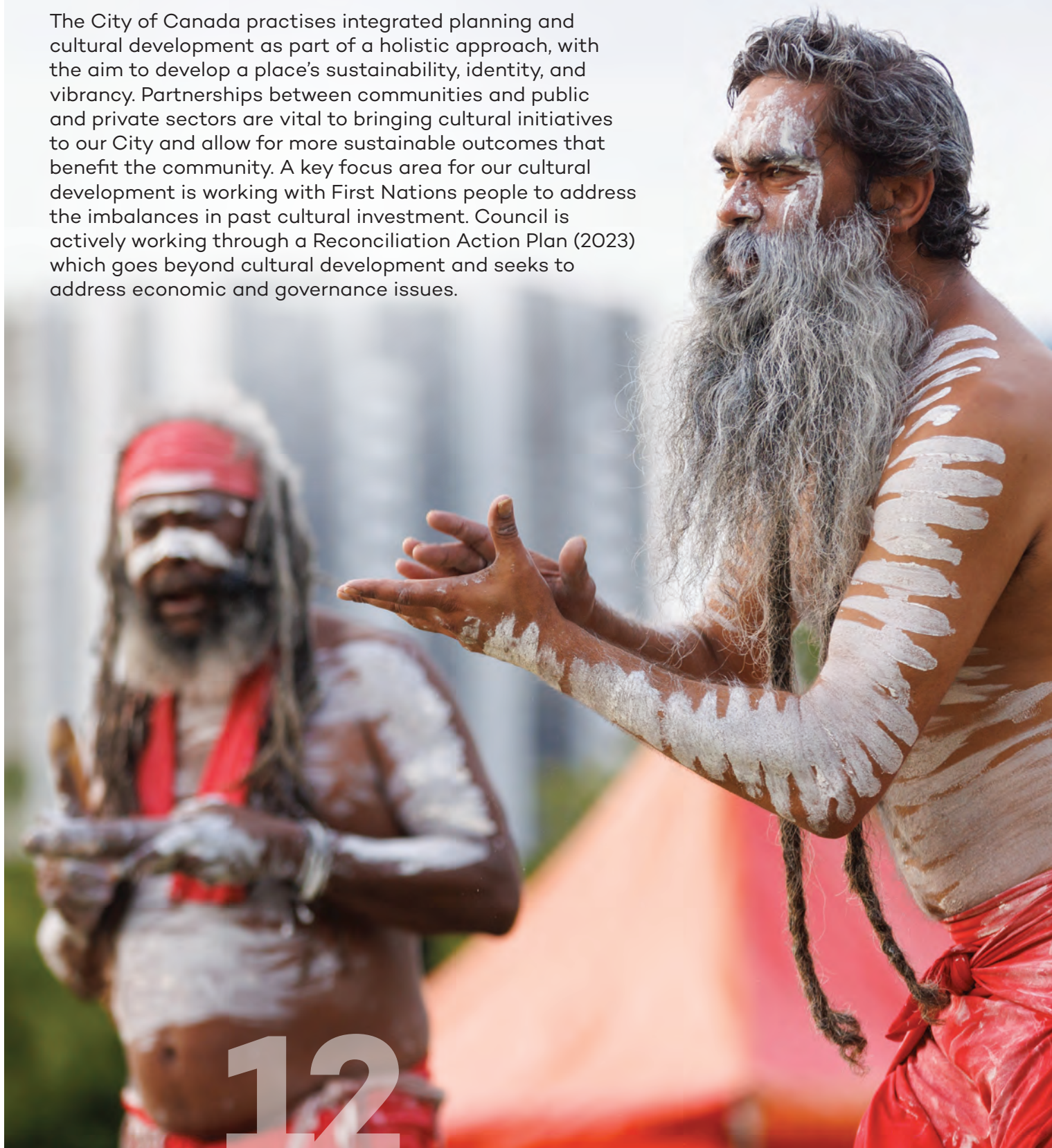
- Increasing community participation and engagement
- Forming partnerships to support and activate public places
- Fundraising and sponsorship of activities
- Delivering best practice in working with artists, cultural management, and copyright

Social

- Identifying partnerships to build community
- Stimulating vibrant and distinct community cultures
- Increasing community participation and engagement
- Supporting community wellbeing
- Creates a collective identity within the community and brings groups together
- Supports the development of curiosity and learning

our approach to cultural development

The City of Canada practises integrated planning and cultural development as part of a holistic approach, with the aim to develop a place's sustainability, identity, and vibrancy. Partnerships between communities and public and private sectors are vital to bringing cultural initiatives to our City and allow for more sustainable outcomes that benefit the community. A key focus area for our cultural development is working with First Nations people to address the imbalances in past cultural investment. Council is actively working through a Reconciliation Action Plan (2023) which goes beyond cultural development and seeks to address economic and governance issues.





policy

context

All levels of government in Australia have policies and programs that acknowledge the importance of the arts and culture in developing engaged and vibrant communities, improving the urban environment, and enhancing quality of life.

The Australian Government's Cultural Policy, *Revive* (2023), exists to celebrate Australia's strong, diverse, and inclusive culture. It describes the essential role arts and culture play in the life of every Australian and how creativity is central to Australia's economic and social success. Similarly, the State Government's *NSW 2040 Economic Blueprint* outlines the importance of arts culture and creative industries in the economic success of NSW; with arts and technology precincts, cultural tourism and creative ageing activities listed as strategies for post-COVID-19 economic recovery and to secure the State's future as a \$2 trillion economy by 2040.

Local Government has a lead role in local cultural planning and development because it already has the skills, experience and the knowledge of local communities to deliver a range of cultural services. This includes libraries, museums and projects alongside its regulatory and development powers to implement policies and plans.

“ A culturally ambitious nation acknowledges that music, books, theatre, film, paintings, sculpture, dance and a myriad of other art forms are central to our lives.”

Australia Council for the Arts, *A Culturally Ambitious Nation*, 2014

Ellen Schlobohm, *Fairy Wrens*, 2019, mural.





“Australians demand opportunities to... be consumers or creators.”

Australia Council for the Arts, *A Culturally Ambitious Nation*, 2014



Australia's Cultural Policy Revive

Australian Government's Arts and Cultural Accord

Australia Council and Creative Australia Strategies and Plans

National Innovations Policy

NSW Treasury's 2040 Economic Blueprint

Create NSW Cultural Framework, Protocols and Strategies

Our Future 2036 Community Strategic Plan

Reconciliation Action Plan (2023)

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study
- Social Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan
- Riverside Cultural Mapping
- Library Strategic Plan
- Place Plans

Cultural Plan

- Public Art Strategy
- City Art Collection Policy
- Creative Hoardings Policy
- Arts Committee



eveloping

this plan

The development of this plan draws upon several targeted consultations around arts and cultural practice in the City. Key work was completed through consultation with the community, including a Cultural Plan Review survey, public art survey and two focus groups with 20 local artists and creatives. 637 people engaged with our Collaborate webpage for the Cultural Plan Review, over 77 participants provided feedback and 64 suggestions were made for public art across our City. Your feedback told us that you see the City of Canada Bay's potential to have a vibrant and dynamic cultural life and that arts and culture provide opportunities for our community to come together. You identified opportunities for arts and cultural activities to support local business, attract new residents to our area, communicate between different cultures and support our young people. You also told us that it was important for our Cultural Plan to reflect our First Nations culture and our area's unique heritage.

Along with your feedback, this plan draws upon a range of the Council's Place, Library and Community Services policies. This includes our Community Strategic Plan: Our Future 2036, Vibrant Villages Plan, Community Facilities Resourcing Strategy, Social Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan, Riverside Cultural Scoping Study, and Library Strategic Plan.



our role

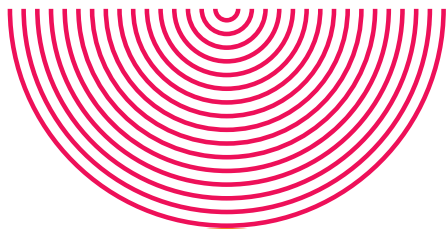
The City of Canada Bay has identified several responsibilities we have in delivering our shared cultural future:

custodian

In partnership with our community, we have a shared responsibility to care for our First Nations history and culture, colonial and diverse migrant history and culture and emerging cultures, as well as our art collections and creative spaces.

leader

To lead our community's cultural ambitions, we are required to listen to and consult our communities and reflect our City's distinct character throughout our cultural activities.





producer

We directly invest in and produce local arts and culture activities, including events, festivals, programs, and public art.

host

We welcome and accommodate arts and culture and create the right environment to attract people, events, businesses and activity to our City.

collaborator

We work in collaboration with our community, business, and key partners, participating in open and engaged dialogue and acting as a point of connection.

advocate

We champion and empower our local cultural and creative community and celebrate the work of practitioners, organisations and venues across the City.



a shared

vision

After extensive community consultation and research, we established the following themes as the keystones for a creative City of Canada Bay:

01. First Nations first
02. Creative economy
03. Displaying creativity
04. Diverse cultures, vibrant events, and a proud heritage



Jason Wing, Mullet Feast and Wangal Wall, 2015, play equipment concepts and retaining wall.

First Nations first

“[I would like to see] recognition of First Nations culture and place names throughout Canada Bay and lift prominence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture throughout the City.”

Community Feedback

.....

“[I would like to see the City of Canada Bay] create relationships with all local Indigenous artists... and build Indigenous culture into all our work.”

Community Feedback

.....

The City of Canada Bay was, and always will be, Aboriginal Country. We are a City that aspires to be an inclusive,

sustainable, and thriving foreshore community and to achieve this we have a responsibility to recognise the rich First Nations history of our area, celebrate our City’s contemporary First Nations culture, and support the oldest living culture in the world.

You told us that recognising our First Nations history was important to you and that you were interested in learning more about First Nations culture more broadly. With Council developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (2023) and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study (2023), we hope to develop a strong cultural foundation to support a suite of projects that will acknowledge the importance of our shared history and facilitate meaningful collaboration.





Welcome to Country, smoke ceremonies and virtual storytelling circles like the one at Wangal Reserve in Mortlake are all ways of sharing stories, culture and connecting people to Country. It's about recognising and respecting the land we are on as Wangal land, of the Eora Nation."

Brendan Kerin | Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council





context

The traditional custodians of the City of Canada Bay are the Wanggal people, who lived in an area called Wanne stretching from Birchgrove almost to Parramatta, with the Parramatta River forming the northern boundary. Goat Island (called Me-mel or Memill) is also a part of this land. It is believed that Parramatta Road was built upon an Aboriginal pathway which had been in use for centuries.

The local area of Hen and Chicken Bay was traditionally a major meeting place for First Nations people from Port Jackson and the wider Sydney region. The Parramatta River provided a place for traditional food gathering and the Wanggal people also hunted animals, harvested plants, and gathered raw materials in the local area. There are seven midden sites in the City of Canada Bay. Rock engravings can still be seen at Ryde and Gladesville and hand stencils at Birchgrove, Chiswick, and Abbotsford. Every 3-5 years, First Nations groups would congregate at Homebush Bay for the mullet feast, which coincided with mullet gathering in the bay to mate. Many First Nations people would gather to celebrate the feast and it was an opportunity to arrange marriages, settle disputes and socialise.

The first recorded contact was with the First Fleet in 1788 at Breakfast Point and subsequent contact and conflict resulted in the loss of traditional territory and food sources.

One of the best known members of the Wanggal people was Woollarawarre Bennelong, who was the first Aboriginal man to visit Europe and return. He was born around 1764 and was about 25 years old when he was initially captured under the instructions of Governor Arthur Phillip.

The City of Canada Bay has significant First Nations cultural heritage which has been identified in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study (to be adopted in 2023).. Council seeks to protect and enhance these culturally significant sites and deepen its relationship with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council to improve a range of activities and protocols. It is also working with First Nations artists and the community to commission interpretive artworks and undertake environmental and cultural initiatives.

Council recognises that the City's art and culture are, as stated in Australia's Cultural Policy *Revive*, "grounded in the material heritage, practices and knowledges of First Nations peoples, who possess the world's longest surviving cultures." In the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, First Nations people call for a future where their children "will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country" (First Nations National Constitutional Convention 2017).

Jason Wing,
The Serpent,
2012, sculpture.

24



goals

- 01. Manage and adopt the actions of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study (2023) and commission interpretive artworks that explore key sites**
- 02. Celebrate First Nations culture and work with the community to facilitate meaningful reconciliation**
- 03. Support First Nations artists through the commissioning of public art and performances**



opportunities

FIRST NATIONS FIRST	Short Term (0-2 years)	Medium Term (2-3 years)	Long Term (3+ years)
1. Manage and adopt the actions of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study (2023) and commission interpretive artworks that explore key sites			
Manage and adopt the actions of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study (2023).			
Explore the role of digital storytelling in communicating Aboriginal stories, culture, and sites across the City of Canada Bay.			
Develop a program of dual place naming and include Aboriginal stories at key sites.			
Explore placemaking program and activities to connect new citizens with the First Nations heritage of the City of Canada Bay.			
Commission interpretive artworks that explore key sites, with a focus on Breakfast Point.			
2. Celebrate Aboriginal culture and work with the community to facilitate meaningful reconciliation			
Develop and implement a Reconciliation Action Plan for the City of Canada Bay.			
Program annual activities, talks, performances, and exhibitions as part of Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.			
Collaborate with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and community to review Council's protocols.			
3. Support First Nations artists through the commissioning of public art and performances			
Commission First Nations artists in public art projects and performances.			
Program and support opportunities for First Nations cultural activities across all artforms.			
Embed Aboriginal content in arts and culture planning across the City's programs and events.			



“

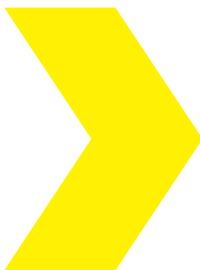
Gig opportunities are vital for musicians. I'm proud to have performed at several City of Canada Bay events – they are a chance to share my music, stories, and culture as a First Nations artist.”

Jesse Manton | Singer-Songwriter





creative economy



“Our community has a great many arts and cultural workers living and working here who are keen to contribute to the life of the City. We can better support and promote their work, and see their work contribute to making the City of Canada Bay a more dynamic and exciting place to live.”

Community Feedback

.....

Creative economy refers to the economic output of the industries involved in the design, production, or servicing of creative or knowledge-based products. Definitions of the creative economy tend to be inclusive and refer to arts, design, architecture, fashion, publishing, advertising, events management, tourism, education, and other linked areas. A creative economy also recognises artists as workers, deserving of long-term career pathways and remuneration for their work and knowledge. In your feedback, you let us know that you would like the City of Canada Bay to support this creative production and provide more opportunities for artists and cultural workers to live, work and create in our City.





“

[Creative investment from Council] will bring more creative people into the area and creates a more diverse and interesting place to live.”

Community Feedback



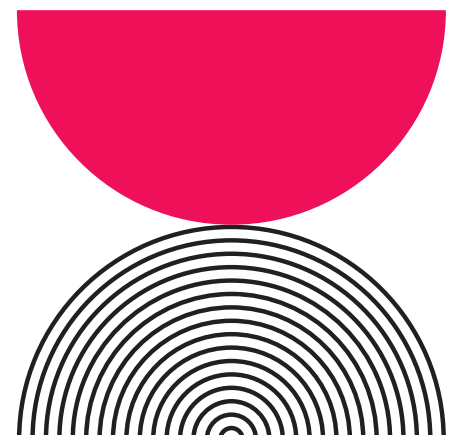
context

In the City of Canada Bay, the Rhodes Business Precinct is the key locality for global creative industries with multinational firms such as Unisys and Hewlett Packard. Our City's close proximity to both the centre of Sydney, Olympic Park and the Inner West along with its 'main road exposure' are an attractor to a range of nationally significant companies which design and market products manufactured elsewhere. In a similar way, the extensive waterfront is associated with a multidimensional 'harbour experience' tourist industry including waterfront clubs and restaurants, film locations for *The Wiggles* to *The Great Gatsby* as well as more traditional boating industries.

Our local area has seen significant growth in media and new technology workers working from home. Here the proliferation of niche markets and work specialisations enabled by new technology is resulting in the capacity of creative industry workers to work within the global or metro market from a small or home-based office. The considerable lifestyle benefits of living in our City appear to be making the area attractive to creative workers. At a local level creative industries include artists and designers, craftspeople, music teachers, local creative retail, and other ventures. Smaller studio clusters and workshops are included here as are locally based tourism ventures. Support for local artists, musicians, painters, and craftspeople is desirable. Communities continue to seek local opportunities to enjoy cultural experiences and performances in small galleries and bars in our village centres.

Our area also provides opportunities for young people to train within the creative industries. The metro level educational service provider MacDonald College has a focus on the arts while several private dance schools have a regional focus including Dorothy Cowie and Judy McCabe School of Dance.

Further growth and investment in our creative economy will make the City of Canada Bay an attractive place to live, work and play, and increase Council's capacity to meet the needs of various industries.



goals

- 01.** Develop, provide, and broker new opportunities for the City of Canada Bay's creative workforce
- 02.** Residential environments double as workspaces for home-based creative workers and Council aims to increase connectivity and resources in existing village centres for local workers. Council also aims to work with developers to ensure better provision of work/live housing in new developments.
- 03.** Expand studio, workshop and exhibition opportunities for local artists and designers.
- 04.** Develop the capacity of City of Canada Bay to become a key metropolitan stakeholder in water-based river edge tourism.

opportunities

CREATIVE ECONOMY	Short Term (0-2 years)	Medium Term (2-3 years)	Long Term (3+ years)
1. Develop, provide, and broker new opportunities for the City of Canada Bay's creative workforce			
Identify opportunities for local creatives as part of placemaking activities in Five Dock, Rhodes, Chiswick, Concord, and Drummoyne.			
Host professional development workshops and programs to support local artists and creative businesses.			
Establish an Arts Committee that will advocate for local artists.			
Grow the evening economy to create additional performance opportunities across the City.			
Support maker markets and pop ups to promote sales for creatives.			
2. Increase connectivity, resources and provisions for creatives working from home			
Advocate for the provision of combined work/living arrangements in new developments.			
Identify ways to support creative and home-based businesses in the City.			
3. Expand studio, workshop and exhibition opportunities for local artists and designers			
Provide opportunities for artists such as author talks, exhibitions, and fairs through City of Canada Bay Libraries.			
Develop an annual Civic Arts Prize/commission in partnership with Drummoyne Art Society.			
4. Develop capacity to become a metropolitan stakeholder in water-based/river edge tourism			
Participate in the regional foreshore and Parramatta River tourism promotions co-ordinated by Destination NSW and any similar programs.			



An Art Prize to reward the talents of local artists, with the sponsorship of City of Canada Bay Council, will add visibility and credibility to our local artists.

The City of Canada Bay's Cultural Plan is a cultural treat for the whole of the City!"

Jose Gutierrez | Drummoyne Art Society







As the ambassadors of traditional and authentic Italian food and desserts, we at Crostoli King are extremely proud and honoured to be the Presenting Partner of one of the largest Italian festivals in Australia, sharing our cultural delights to help festival goers taste the memories.”

Crostoli King | Presenting Partner of Ferragosto 2022







Spaces like The Digital Gallery provide an essential community setting for photography, digital and video artists to display their work. It provides an ideal intimate environment that is open and accessible.”

Helene Cochaud | Photographer





displaying creativity

“[I would like to see Council promote] multi-functional uses of spaces... for example reframing an oval’s use as a space for alternative gatherings and celebrations that are culturally engaging to other communities.”

Community Feedback



“[I would like to see] ... spaces available for local artists, sculptors, photographers and school children to display their works for a period of time.”

Community Feedback



In our community consultations you let us know that you see a need for more cultural infrastructure in the City so that artists and the community

can display and share creative work. The term ‘cultural infrastructure’ refers to the venues, sites and mechanisms that enable cultural activity to take place. This may include cultural facilities such as art galleries, performance spaces, collection storage, libraries, community cultural centres, outdoor event venues and studios. Infrastructure also includes cultural staffing, collection maintenance and service capacity both within and external to Council.

To work well, cultural infrastructure must meet the changing needs of a community. Like all communities across Sydney, the City of Canada Bay is continually changing and so too are the cultural infrastructure needs of the population.





“

The City of Canada Bay's Cultural Plan gives our community a strong foundation to build creative businesses. It also gives artists and other creatives validation and a firm footing, knowing that culture is a priority in our local area.”

Julie Peadon | Artist



Julie Peadon Art

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context

Council owns 41 community facilities, many of them single purpose. There are a further 97 community facilities located in the LGA that are owned and managed by private, Government and non-Government agencies. Cultural activities also occur in commercial cultural infrastructure including service clubs, which can offer meeting and performance spaces, and in major primary cultural facilities in Sydney or Parramatta. These facilities have the potential to accommodate a range of cultural activities. Older facilities in the LGA include those with a broader community function and offer meeting places for amateur music groups, yoga, and dance classes through a casual and weekly fee for hire program. In addition, an increasing number of creative professionals are establishing their businesses in the City, and a range of informal galleries, markets

and wireless services have improved street-life in town centres and provided a template for the future development of activity hubs.

Council has developed several key cultural facilities including Five Dock and Concord Libraries, The Connection in Rhodes, Cabarita Conservatory, Drummoyne Oval, Kokoda Education Centre and the Lapidary Centre. Council has also provided accommodation for the City of Canada Bay Museum, Drummoyne Art Society (Gallery 57), the Woodworkers Guild and the Concord Men's Shed. In 2023, Council opened the Concord Oval Community and Sports Precinct and developed an acquisition and deaccession policy to better manage the ongoing care, storage and maintenance of the City's Art Collection.

Our community has a keen interest in facilities that

are available for cultural activities, and Council's Community Facilities Resourcing Strategy has defined future directions for our cultural infrastructure. In 2024 the Rhodes Recreation Centre will be delivered and will include digital and traditional gallery spaces, performance areas and wet space for creative practises. The City is also planning new spaces for performances and gatherings in town centres and parks, and investing in screen assets across the LGA to provide a digital platform for artists in shared spaces. Additionally, Council plans to explore display capabilities in existing community facilities such as Drummoyne Community Centre and the City of Canada Bay Museum, with longer term ambitions to develop new library spaces, dedicated performance spaces and other cultural infrastructure to support the growing needs of our community into the future.

goals

- 01. Recognise and respond to the diverse needs for cultural space in the City of Canada Bay, considering local and regional existing provision and needs**
- 02. Improve the capacity of local libraries to respond to emerging technologies and offer a wider range of programs and services**
- 03. Recognise the central role that staffing plays in effective cultural infrastructure development and management, and include cultural facilities development as part of place planning process**
- 04. Develop strategic partnerships to ensure the community has access to appropriate and affordable cultural facilities**
- 05. Provide cultural programs in existing facilities**

opportunities

DISPLAYING CREATIVITY	Short Term (0-2 years)	Medium Term (2-3 years)	Long Term (3+ years)
1. Recognise and respond to the diverse needs for cultural space			
Identify opportunities for multi-purpose cultural infrastructure and the retrofitting of existing infrastructure in the City of Canada Bay.			
Support and strengthen community activity hubs to centralise cultural interaction in Rhodes, Concord, Five Dock and Drummoyne.			
Promote and program outdoor performance space activities as part of village centre activations and the Rhodes Community Precinct.			
Develop outdoor spaces surrounding Five Dock Library and Concord Library for literary events and readings.			
Identify opportunities for digital display areas for artists with Rhodes Recreation Centre, Five Dock Town Centre, Concord Oval Community and Sports Precinct and Drummoyne a priority.			
Develop a program of digital art to be exhibited in newly developed digital display areas.			
Include power and stages in parks and open spaces for performance and rehearsals.			
Incorporate wet/dry workshop spaces during the planning of new community spaces and ensure these are appropriate for visual arts and craft workshops and classes (e.g., Rhodes Recreational Centre).			
2. Improve the capacity of local libraries to respond to emerging technology and offer a wide range of programs and services			
Support the capacity of libraries as community information hubs, with a focus on community-engaged activities that inspire learning and exchange.			
Invest in new technology i.e., 3D printing, editing and audio/visual recording facilities, and robotics to support our libraries' growth as collaborative creative spaces.			
3. Recognise the central role that staffing plays in effective cultural infrastructure development and management, and include cultural facilities development as part of place planning process			
Invest in staff training in libraries and cultural facilities and incorporate best practice into all planning and procedures (e.g., NAVA Code of Practice).			
Incorporate cultural facilities development and staffing considerations as part of cultural infrastructure development and place planning.			
4. Develop strategic partnerships to ensure the community has access to appropriate and affordable cultural facilities			
Broker strategic partnerships for the development of private and not-for-profit cultural facilities across the City (E.g., Embroiders Guild, Club Five Dock etc.).			
Encourage professional and independent exhibition and creative spaces in the City of Canada Bay.			
Promote community and Council facilities that are available for creative use.			
5. Provide cultural programs in existing facilities			
Support exhibition programming in Council facilities and encourage local programming in independent spaces.			
Develop a cultural map of the City including facilities available for creative use and hire.			



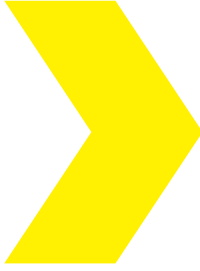
“

Korean calligraphy is a very calming and meditative artform. Having a place like The Learning Space to have classes and display our work allows us to share our passion with others in the community.”

Kevin (Choon Take) Kim | Korean Calligraphy Group



diverse cultures, vibrant events, and a proud heritage



“Greater investment in the vibrant cultural life of the City will generate activity, stimulate the local nightlife economy, support community harmony and celebrate the diversity of our community.”

Community Feedback

.....

You let us know throughout the consultation process that it was important for life in the City of Canada Bay to reflect the many different community cultures in our City. These community cultures express who we are, how we live and what is unique about our way of life. Building cultural capacity improves the quality of life and sense of belonging for individuals and the wider community. Strong communities have sustainable connections, trust, cooperation and common

purposes, which can be nurtured through opportunities to tell stories, celebrate heritage, build creative skills, and be active participants in the development of local culture.

Many of you also identified that the best way to reflect our community cultures and heritage was through events and public art. You let us know that events were an important part of the social fabric of the City of Canada Bay, and provided important opportunities for families, communities, and businesses to collaborate, share stories, and platform creativity. You also noted the importance of art in creating lively and welcoming places and wanted more opportunities for public art installations, murals and sculptures that encourage people to linger and explore our neighbourhoods.





“

With some 40% of residents born overseas, there needs to be opportunities [for these residents] to share their culture with others.”

Community Feedback

“

Public art like that in the City of Canada Bay plays a role in making our cities more welcoming, dynamic, and liveable. I loved the challenge of using the 2.5km stretch of Rhodes foreshore for my Cartwheeling Youngster.”

Caroline Rothwell | Artist





*Caroline Rothwell,
Cartwheeling Youngster,
2015, six bronze
sculptures.*

The large proportion of culturally and linguistically diverse communities already residing and moving into the City of Canada Bay are an invaluable source of cultural diversity and global networks. Our population has increased with more residents living in higher density communities such as Breakfast Point and Rhodes, and with this increase in population and diversity, there is the potential for new and older residents to feel isolated and disconnected from a shared sense of community and culture. Throughout our consultations you also identified the growing needs of young people and families in the area, as well as those of our First Nations residents. In this sense, arts and cultural projects play a significant role in breaking down social barriers, building new community and achieving social cohesion.

Over the years, Council has engaged with early migrant communities from the Mediterranean, as well as more recent arrivals from Southeast Asia, and has seen a positive impact on our community's cultural awareness. Existing events include festivals such

as Ferragosto, Concord Carnival and Lunar New Year celebrations. As part of our community consultation, you have recommended that these events remain authentic and culturally distinctive but include more local arts and cultural products. You also asked for more events, such as Neon Nights and Beats and Eats, that offer opportunities for performances, community connection and economic development. In our consultation for this Cultural Plan you emphasised that events like these are important platforms for local creatives but that they also offer opportunities for the community to share knowledge, find connections and speak to the values of our City. Many of you also emphasised the importance of collaborating with local businesses to produce these events and stimulate the local economy.

City of Canada Bay Libraries also play an important role in providing arts and cultural services, facilities, and activities for young and old alike. Our recent focus on promotion and creating more flexible spaces for activities has seen an

increase in participation. The services offered include outreach programs, children's activities, creative education, author talks, art exhibitions, local studies/history programs, online services and culturally and linguistically diverse resources. Many of you mentioned our library's programming and the importance of training and resourcing to develop programs and services that reflect community need.

Lastly, our City's art and public art collections are an important part of reflecting our diverse cultures and heritage. Art invigorates our public spaces and is an opportunity to reflect our community's unique identity and stories (past, present, and future). Your feedback emphasised that you value public art that is integrated into our placemaking activities, and this is reflected in our 2023 Public Art Plan (Appendix 1). Our City Art Collection similarly provides an opportunity to exhibit and collect artworks of local significance, and our City Art Collection Policy (to be adopted 2022/2023) provides direction for our collecting activities so that we can continue to care for this important public asset.



goals



- 01. Extend cultural programming to facilitate community relationships and enhance the quality of life for residents in new and established areas**
- 02. Expand the capacity of libraries to deliver a range of cultural information and programs**
- 03. Build community awareness and participation for cultural activities**
- 04. Recognise opportunities to celebrate multicultural activity and ensuring inclusion of culturally and linguistically diverse communities**
- 05. Assist intercultural and intergenerational community led projects and address the specific needs of young people**
- 06. Lead a diverse event program which supports the community's sense of place and of belonging, celebrates our differences and provides opportunities for new and exciting experiences**
- 07. Create vibrant village centres and community hubs which celebrate local character and support economic, environmental, and social outcomes**

opportunities

DIVERSE CULTURES, VIBRANT EVENTS, AND A PROUD HERITAGE	Short Term (0-2 years)	Medium Term (2-3 years)	Long Term (3+ years)
1. Extend cultural programming to facilitate community relationships and enhance the quality of life for residents			
Broker innovative exhibition and performance opportunities for local artists, performers, and creatives.			
Involve community, cultural and educational groups into Council events to showcase more performers, artisans, and cultural groups.			
Participate in regional planning and development networks for cultural development.			
Provide cultural awards as part of the Sustainability Awards program and Cultural Citizen of the year recognition to recognise and reward significant cultural contributions of residents.			
Strengthen the accessibility of Council's cultural programming, including the provision of professional opportunities for artists with a disability.			
2. Expand the capacity of libraries to deliver a range of cultural information and programs			
Host an annual program of talks and debates that respond to topical interests and culture at City of Canada Bay Libraries.			
Train and resource staff and deliver programs that meet the growing digital needs and interests of our community.			
Plan and host outreach programs at City of Canada Bay Libraries, and partner with community groups and organisations.			
3. Build community awareness and participation for cultural activities			
Promote library and cultural programming to residents across varying media and varying demographics.			
Explore digital methods to promote independent creative events and ways Council can facilitate community sharing.			
Develop a legacy program to support the care and growth of the City Art Collection.			



“

The City of Canada Bay's support of RMCA events has been very important for the Rhodes community. We can come together to celebrate and share our many cultures and backgrounds.”

Sandra Zhang | Rhodes Multicultural Community Association







Carla O'Brien, Neon Nights in Five Dock, 2022.

DIVERSE CULTURES, VIBRANT EVENTS, AND A PROUD HERITAGE	Short Term (0–2 years)	Medium Term (2–3 years)	Long Term (3+ years)
4. Recognise opportunities to celebrate multicultural activity and ensure inclusion of culturally and linguistically diverse communities			
Translate community information into main LGA languages and implement best practice use of interpretation and translation services for events and customer service.			
Engage with local community organisations to deliver events and programs that are relevant for our diverse community.			
Publicise and promote Library access programs and available culturally and linguistically diverse resources including books, journals, magazines and reading groups.			
5. Assist intercultural and intergenerational community led projects and address the specific needs of young people			
Extend creative intergenerational programs with schools and organisations such as Harry's Shed.			
Offer an annual program and range of resources for children and young people, including literacy development programs.			
Develop and facilitate programs that are intercultural, intergenerational, and/ or involve migrant stories as part of placemaking and Local Studies programs.			
Enable young people to inform, create, curate, and occupy cultural spaces and programs.			
Promote and expand sites and facilities for the creative training of young people.			
6. Lead a diverse event program which supports the community's sense of place and of belonging, celebrates our differences and provides opportunities for new and exciting experiences.			
Produce a diverse event program which supports the community's sense of belonging, celebrates our differences, and provides opportunities for new and exciting experiences.			
Deliver Ferragosto and collaborate with our Italian community to sustain its authenticity and status as Sydney's most significant Italian festival.			
Explore the feasibility of a 'festival of the arts' for the City of Canada Bay.			
7. Create vibrant village centres and community hubs which celebrate local character and support economic, environmental, and social outcomes			
Implement the Public Art Plan as part of the City's placemaking activities and develop an art hoardings program.			
Research new ways to connect community and business in our village centres and community hubs.			
Integrate sustainable practices and solutions into placemaking plans, events, and activities.			
Create cultural tours to promote local creative industry, cultural businesses, and organisations.			

how will we measure our progress

We will measure our progress through several means, including but not limited to:

- Community satisfaction with cultural programs (including surveys and program evaluation)
- Growth in the attendance of our festivals, events, and programs
- An increase in creative industries working and operating in the City of Canada Bay according to the Australian Business Register
- An increase in the number of creatives using community facilities across the City (measured through facility bookings)
- An increase in the number of artists and creative practitioners engaging with the City's events, EOs and programs (quantitative data from programs)
- Number of cultural programs supported by Council
- Delivery of cultural facilities within the life of the plan
- Diversity in the audiences engaging with the City's events, EOs and programs
- Low rates of vandalism of public art

references and resources

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“

Ferragosto is such a unique festival that attracts huge crowds. We love to bring our Italian-themed performances to such a great celebration and commend the City of Canada Bay's vital support of artists and commissioning of new acts.”

Circus Solaris







acknowledgements

Cover Artworks

Caroline Rothwell, *Cartwheeling Youngster*, 2015, six bronze sculptures.

Sturt Associates, *Mill Park*, 2010, stencil in concrete casting.

Jason Wing, *The Serpent*, 2012, sculpture.

Performer at a Rhodes Multicultural Community Association Lunar New Year event, photo by Ben Williams.

Anderson Hunt, *Drummoyne Oval*, bronze mural and plantings.

Jason Wing, *Mullet Feast and Wangal Wall*, 2015, play equipment concepts and retaining wall.

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Designer

JMR Creative Design

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