

Warringah Council Policy

Policy No. STR-PL 010

Public Art Policy

1 Purpose of Policy

- To support the development and commissioning of a diverse range of permanent, temporary and ephemeral artworks in public places which contribute to the social, cultural, environmental and economic value of the area
- To support integration of public art into Council's capital works program to create high quality, innovative, distinctive and relevant public places
- To improve the quality of the built environment and enhance the relationship between the community and their urban landscape
- To improve funding opportunities for public art including incorporation into capital works projects and private developments.

Warringah is a place where art and cultural activity are integrated into the public domain:

- Where people can participate and be engaged in their urban environment in a way that contributes to their understanding of the places and spaces in which they interact
- Where places are distinctive and reflect the history of the area while fostering the contemporary culture and ideas of the community
- Where places are injected with qualities such as imagination, creativity, magic, humanity and heart.

2 Principles

a) Integration

Warringah Council recognises that public art is an integral part of the development of projects within the public domain. Integration means the identification and scoping of projects in the development phase of capital works projects.

Integration also refers to the public art itself – the artworks do not need to be an exclusive 'layer' in the design process and can be functional: for example, paving, seating, building design, lighting, play equipment etc

b) Sense of Place

Warringah Council recognises that public art plays an important role in enhancing a sense of place for the Warringah community.

A sense of place is central to feelings of community identity and belonging. A sense of place captures and creates our desire to belong, not just to a community, but to the places around us. Public art contributes to a sense of place by humanising spaces and giving them a human voice and scale.

c) **Distinctiveness and Diversity**

Public art can be a powerful medium to reflect diversity, share stories and connect us to the history of a place. These elements contribute to the uniqueness and individuality that make places distinct.

Warringah Council recognises that experiencing a diverse range of opinions and ideas that might be different from our own contributes to a strong and cohesive community. Public art can contribute to the richness and meaning of public spaces by offering experiences and values from a different perspective.

d) **Imagination and Creativity**

Public art provides an opportunity to celebrate the imagination and creativity not only of artists, but also of our community. There will be opportunities for monuments and memorials, but there is also room for colour, movement, originality, inspiration, and whimsy.

e) **Community and Collaboration**

Warringah Council recognises that public art is most effective when it is a collaboration. Collaboration in this sense could be between artist and designer, landscape architects, architects, planners and developers, or artist and the community.

The active participation of the community in the creation of public spaces can make a positive contribution to the development of public spaces, by enhancing a sense of belonging and place, and can be a factor in the reduction of vandalism.

f) **Access and Equity**

Public art should be accessible to all members of the community, irrespective of their age, ability or socio-economic status.

Public art is usually considered to be a primarily visual experience, but it can also provide a range of sensory experiences. It can be tactile, aural, and/or aromatic as well as visual. Artworks can be interactive and can include elements of play for adults and children.

g) **Learning and Discovery**

Public art has a unique opportunity to be able to educate and inspire people about the natural and urban environments and the history of the places around them.

Where appropriate, public art should contain an element of learning and discovery of the local picture through interactive and inspiring artworks.

3 Authorisation

This Policy was adopted by Council on 26 February 2008

It is effective from 26 February 2008

It is due for review on 26 February 2010

4 Amendments

This policy replaces policy CCS-PL 215 – Art in Public Spaces.

This Policy was last amended on [insert date].

5 Who is responsible for implementing this Policy?

Director Community and Environment Services

6 Document owner



Director Strategy & Policy

7 Related Council Policies

- a) Cultural Plan 2007
- b) Cultural Policy

8 Legislation and references

Nil

9 Definitions

- c) Public Art

In its widest sense, public art is defined as artistic works created for, or located in part of, a public space or facility and/or accessible to the public. The site may be built, landscaped or natural or in parts of buildings frequented by the public.

- d) Permanent Artworks

Permanent artworks are generally considered to be made from materials and construction methods that guarantee a lifespan of at least 10 years in external conditions. The artwork should be made to withstand wear and tear and, as far as possible, withstand vandalism.

- e) Temporary Artworks

Temporary artworks are pieces that have a defined lifespan of no more than five years – or much less. Temporary artworks might be:

- Sculptures made from found objects
- Artworks on walls, hoardings, amenities, public infrastructure etc.

- f) Ephemeral Artworks

Ephemeral art has an even shorter lifespan in the public domain than temporary art and may last for only a few hours or less. Ephemeral art may include

- Chalk artworks
- Performances
- Projection images

