



PORT STEPHENS
COUNCIL

Public Art Guidelines

2024

Creating better spaces that celebrate creativity and culture is an integral part of enhancing our community's physical, social and economic environment.



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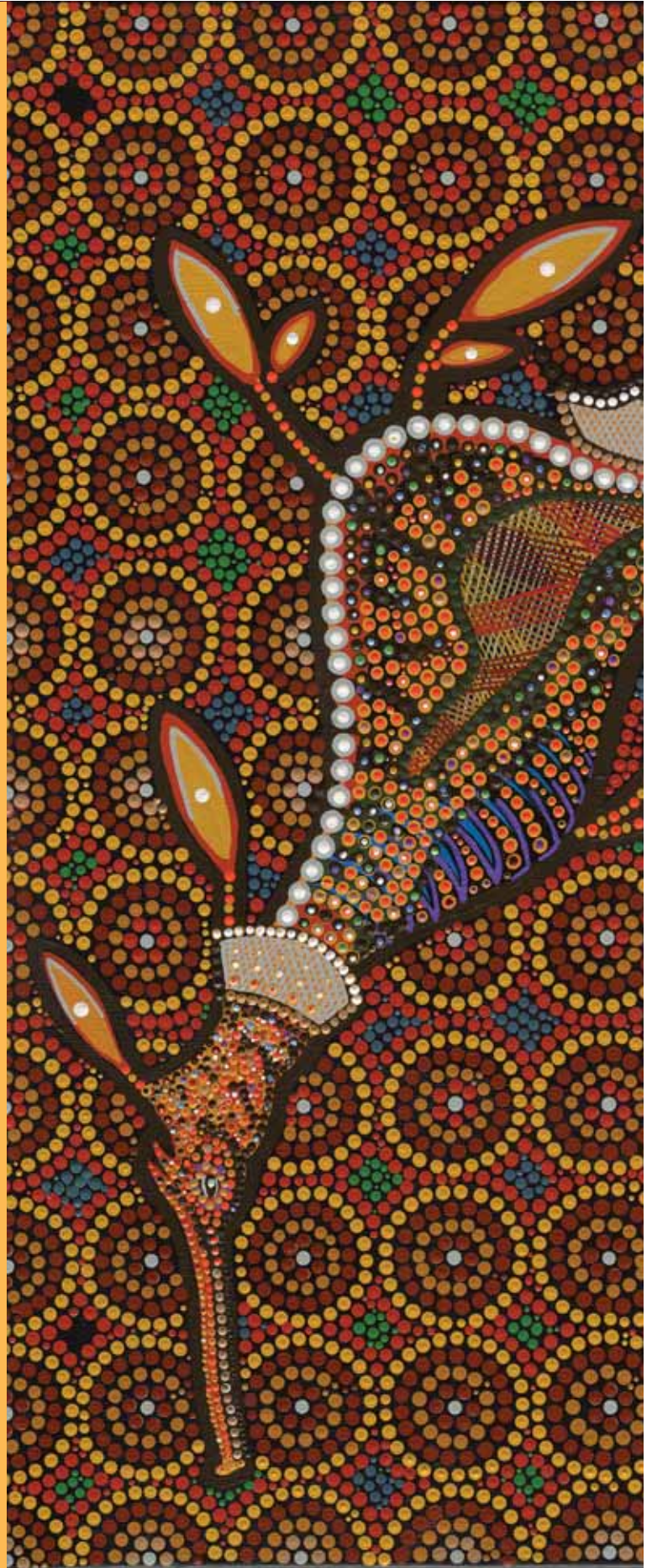
(GOO-JEE IK-KOO)

We welcome you to Port Stephens – part of the Worimi Aboriginal Nation. Port Stephens Council acknowledges the Worimi people as traditional owners and custodians of the lands and waterways on which we all live, learn, work and play.

We value and respect the Worimi people and the legacy 60,000 years of Aboriginal Nation traditions and culture brings with it. As part of Council's culture of acceptance, diversification and harmony we walk alongside the Worimi people on a journey of listening and learning.

Together we will strive to make this a better place for all peoples. As guardians of these lands, we ask that you tread lightly to help preserve the biodiversity and respect those who came before as well as those who will follow.

Artwork by Regan Lilley.



A message from the Mayor

Port Stephens Council is committed to increasing the wellbeing and liveability of the Port Stephens community. Creating better spaces that celebrate creativity and culture is an integral part of enhancing our community's physical, social and economic environment.

Public art has the potential to transform our places. Public Art is much more than an object to look at from a distance – it's a way of expressing ourselves and telling a story. It can express our aspirations for the past, present and the future. It creates new experiences, brings our places to life, celebrates our identity and connects us together.

Council manages or owns well-utilised and publically accessible open spaces such as parks, sportsgrounds and reserves; and civic spaces such as libraries and aquatic centres. These places give us opportunities to express creative aspirations through public art – whether that be led by Council or initiated by the community. Council can also facilitate public art as part of private developments.

Developing public art in our streets, buildings, town centres and public spaces requires careful planning and when we get it right it has the potential to transform our places. These guidelines will help us do just that. I'm looking forward to seeing all of the amazing public art that pops up in Port Stephens – making it an even more beautiful place to live, work and play!



Ryan Palmer
Mayor of Port Stephens



Introduction

The Public Art Guidelines (the guidelines), in line with the Public Art Policy, are intended to assist artists, community groups, Council staff, Councillors and private developers in the provision of public art projects in Port Stephens.

The guidelines should be read in conjunction with Council's Public Art Policy and Council's Our Incredible Place Strategy 2021-2024.



What is public art?

Public art is the term used to describe creative work or activities which are located in or visible from the public domain and readily accessible to the broader community. Public art may be temporary or permanent.

There are many different types of public art, ranging in type, size and location and expressing a variety of different ideas, interpretations and concepts.



Permanent public art

Artwork that is designed to last for a long time. This artwork is often made of more durable materials and the location and installation are important considerations.



Temporary public art

Artwork that is positioned in or created within a public place for a short time and can be easily transformed back to the original state. It can be made from less durable materials or be an installation designed to be experienced.

What are the benefits to our community?

The benefits of public art to the Port Stephens community:

- Acknowledgement of the importance of cultural and Aboriginal heritage and identity.
- Explores historical events, local heritage and meanings and facilitates links with the past.
- Creates special environments that can contribute to community sense of wellbeing and bring benefits of social interaction and involvement.
- Encourages opportunities for community involvement and expression of creativity and engages people of different ages.
- Create a landscape that is interesting, stimulating and surprising, adding vibrancy that enhance the experience of the community and visitors.
- Provides a focal point for community areas, creating a sense of place that compliments thematic planning schemes.
- Enhances employment and training opportunities for local and regional artists.

Providing public art



There are lots of ways public art can be provided



Community led public art

Public art can be initiated by the community, business or artist on community, private or Council managed land. This includes recipients of Council grant or sponsorship funding.



Developer led public art

The Port Stephens Development Control Plan requires commercial developments with a capital investment value over \$2 million and that provides frontage to the public domain to incorporate public art.



Council led public art

Council can initiate public art as part of public space improvements or place activation programs on Council owned land or Council managed land such as Crown land.



Public art purchases

Council's purchase of public art for permanent or temporary display.



Donations of public art

Community groups, businesses or members of the public may seek to donate items of public art to Council for ongoing display.

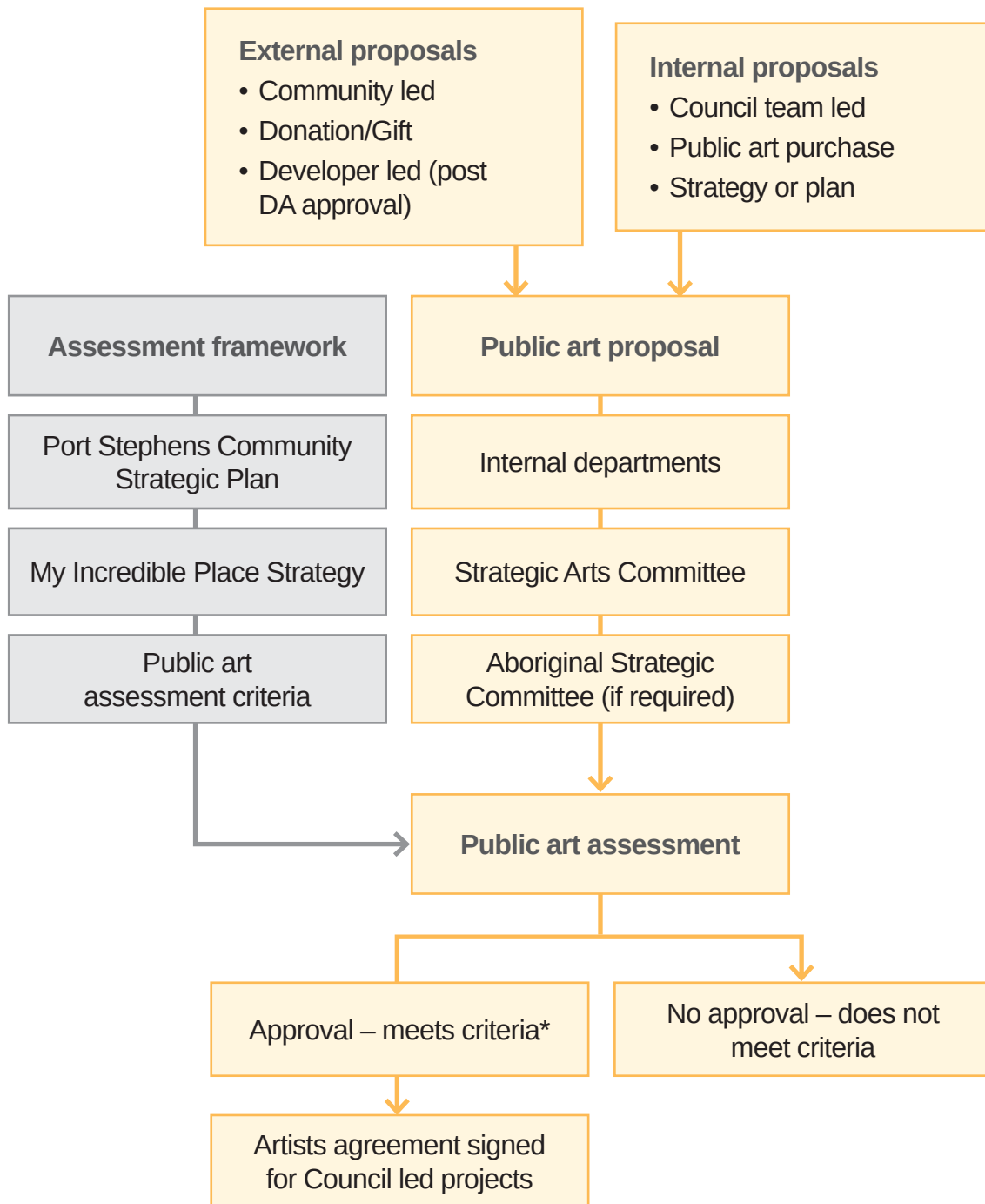


Plans or strategies that relate to the public realm

Future location and intent of public art outlined in a local area planning strategy or place plan.

Public art process





*Public art donations require Council approval.

Who is eligible?

Public art projects must:

- Take place within the Port Stephens local government area
- Not have commenced before an application is assessed
- Meet the criteria below

- Building features, streetscape elements and enhancements such as bicycle racks, gates, benches, fountains, playground structures or shade structures which are unique to the locality.
- Landscape art enhancements such as walkways, bridges or art features within a reserve or park.
- Murals, tiles, mosaics or projects covering walls, floors and walkways.
- Sculpture which can be freestanding or wall-supported.
- Fibre works, neon or glass art works, photographs, prints and any combination of media including sound, film, lighting and video systems.
- Community arts projects resulting in tangible art work such as murals or sculptures.
- Visual or performing arts initiatives.
- The conceptual contribution of an artist to the design of a public space or facility.



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- Business logos and promotion of business.
- Directional elements such as super graphics, signage or colour coding.
- Art objects which are mass produced such as fountains, statues or playground equipment.
- Off-the-shelf art and/or reproductions.
- Landscaping or architectural components associated with the project.



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Developer led public art

Public art associated with a development application should be permanent and located in an area that is within or is visible from the public domain and readily accessible to the broader community. Development Applications requiring public art should include a concept public art proposal which details the type, size, location and materials of the public art installation. The concept public art proposal will be assessed by Council as part of the development assessment process. Detailed public art plans and a public art application form will be required following approval of a Development Application, prior to the construction or occupation of the development. Installation of the public art will be required prior to the occupation of the development.

Aboriginal public art

Aboriginal art must be undertaken by an Aboriginal artist, preferably from the local Worimi Traditional Owners of Port Stephens. The local Worimi and Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Councils can be contacted for consultation and engagement of Aboriginal artists and appropriate alignment with the protocols of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP).

Aboriginal Public Art may be funded through an application to Council's Aboriginal Project's Fund, which is assessed by the Aboriginal Strategic Committee, made up of Council executive staff, Councillors and members of the Worimi and Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council. Recommendations for funding from the Committee are made to Council for consideration and endorsement.

Installation and removal



Installation of public art

As public art is typically located in the public domain, there are potential risks associated with its fabrication and installation – whether it's a temporary and permanent piece.

Approved public art may be constructed off site by the artist. If the work is being installed on Council owned or managed land, it must be installed by Council approved contractors in receipt of Council approval for works on Council land.

It is also Council's responsibility to ensure that risk assessments are conducted on all concepts and final artworks both at concept stage and upon installation in line with Australian Standards.

Approved works must consider public safety and consider ongoing maintenance demands

Consideration should also be given to environmental issues and opportunities for construction with sustainable materials with sustainable design and fabrication.

Removal, modification or de-commissioning

All public art has a finite lifespan determined by a number of factors. The decision for removal, modification or de-commissioning of public art is to be considered, where possible, in consultation with the artist, the Strategic Arts Committee, Council and other relevant stakeholders.

Public art may also need to be removed from display or relocated to another area due to changes made to its physical surroundings

The following would be reasons for consideration of removal, modification or de-construction:

- deteriorated to a point where public safety is at risk
- design faults in workmanship or material used
- unsustainable burden on Council resources
- irreparably damaged or its condition has deteriorated to such an extent that it can no longer be considered the original artwork
- the artwork is no longer compatible with the character of locality and or is no longer in line with community sentiment or Council's strategic plans
- the site where the artwork is located is to be redeveloped, demolished or sold and it is not possible to incorporate the artwork into the redevelopment;
- the artwork is a forgery and violates copyright law (or any other law).

Details of the decommissioning process and terms will be determined within the artist agreement. In the case an artwork is considered for removal, Council staff will prepare a report and make a recommendation to the Council on options for the restoration, relocation or disposal of the artwork.

How to apply





Applying is easy!

- 1 Visit portstephens.nsw.gov.au/public-art and download the application form
- 2 Email the application form and any supporting documentation to PublicArt@portstephens.nsw.gov.au

Need help with your application?

-  For help or support please contact 49880255 or PublicArt@portstephens.nsw.gov.au

DISCLAIMER: This document is not an agreement. It provides a guideline only and the Council accepts no responsibility for your use of the information in this document. Application and approvals process may change from time to time in accordance with Council policy and reviews.



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