

Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028 And Public Art Policy 2023

Consultation Report Executive Summary

Summary of Key Findings

Overall

- There is overall support for the draft Cultural Vision, with 59 percent of survey respondents providing support or strong support for the draft vision.
- There is overall support for the draft Strategic Outcomes, with all outcomes achieving at least 63 percent support or strong support from survey respondents.
- There is overall support for the revised Public Art Policy, with over 67 percent of survey respondents providing support or strong support for the policy.

Key suggested changes to the Strategy

- Make the vision more creative and dynamic, emphasising collaboration, connection, and sense of place.
- Minor changes to the wording in Strategic Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.
- Amend Strategic Outcome 5 to acknowledge regional identities, and the natural, built, and cultural heritage.
- Expand the priorities under Strategic Outcome 2 relating to the arts and creative sector.

Key Community Priorities

- Re-opening of the Gympie Civic Centre as a cultural and community space as a matter of urgency.
- The need for performing arts venues, and community and cultural hubs, with an emphasis on the Civic Centre.
- The need for improved communications and networking.
- The need for improved and more inclusive event marketing and promotions, with physical as well as digital manifestations.
- The importance of creating more public art, reflecting regional character: for, with, and by the community.
- Improved processes, equipment, management, and support from Council-run venues/events.
- Local artist opportunities.
- A more regional and de-centralised focus.

Key issues

- The need for more small, flexible, affordable performance spaces.
- A lack of networking, communication, and connection between communities of practice; between communities and council; and with potential audience/participants.
- The need for council to improve communication and engagement with the creative sector to enable continuous input and close the loop on feedback.
- The importance to the community and sector of community participation and inclusion, and community and participative arts.
- The importance of a regional and de-centralised approach, providing facilities, opportunities, and activities across the region.
- The need for more performance events and opportunities, and the return of touring events to Gympie.
- The need for both youth and multi-generational opportunities.
- The importance of supporting local artists and local product over importing from other regions.
- The need to address a perceived imbalance in support for performing arts, theatre, dance, classical music etc.
- Concern and lack of trust in Council's commitment and capacity to deliver the strategy.
- Community concern that feedback will not be genuinely represented in the revised strategy.
- The need for community buy-in to the consultation process – the need to make better use of community stakeholders, community hubs (e.g., libraries and halls) and community groups.

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1. Introduction

The Gympie Region Draft Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028 was developed in the context of three existing documents:

- the Arts and Cultural Plan 2015-2025, which was endorsed by Council in January 2015;
- the formal review of Arts and Cultural Plan 2015 -2025 which was carried out between April and June 2020;
- the Gympie Regional Council Corporate Plan 2022 – 2027, which identified the finalisation and implementation of a new Arts and Cultural Plan as a strategic pathway for achieving Council’s vision and priorities.

The Draft Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028 was subsequently developed by council’s Arts, Community and Culture team, in consultation with internal stakeholders. The draft document was taken to Council Workshop on 10 May 2023. Community Consultation on the Draft Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028 and Public Art Policy 2023 was launched on 14 June and closed on 30 July 2023.

The purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive overview of the community consultation process and its findings. The report findings have informed the finalisation of the Arts and Cultural Strategy and the Public Art Policy and will continue to inform priority arts and cultural actions for the next one to two years.

1.1. Consultation Objectives

The main objectives of the consultation were to:

- Provide an overview of the Draft Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028
- Collect stakeholder feedback on the draft:
 - Cultural Vision
 - Strategic Outcomes
 - Priorities
- Collect suggested actions for the first 1-2 years of the strategy implementation
- Seek feedback on the revised Public Art Policy

1.2. Method

During June-July 2023 various methods of engagement were offered to enable accessible and broad participation in the consultation process. These included:

- An online survey
- Printed surveys
- An initial series of 7 face to face drop-in sessions in Kandanga, Imbil, Goomeri, Kilkivan, Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay, and the Gympie Regional Gallery
- A further series of 3 face to face drop-in sessions in Goomeri, Kilkivan, and Kandanga
- An online consultation session
- A consultation station set up in the Gympie Regional Gallery
- The Arts and Cultural Forum 2023

A range of communication tactics was used to promote the consultation including printed and digital flyers, social media, electronic direct mail, and stakeholder invitation. Reference copies of the documents under discussion were attached to invitations, provided as links, available on the website, and printed for collection at the Gympie Regional Gallery, all drop-in sessions, and the Arts and Cultural Forum.

1.2.1. Arts and Culture Survey

A survey comprising 5 open-ended and 4 multiple choice questions was open to the community from 14 June 2023 to 30 July 2023. It was made available on-line through council's Website, with direct QR code links in marketing collateral, and included as links and attachments in invitations to stakeholders. The survey was also printed and made available at all drop-in sessions, the Arts and Cultural Forum, and at the Gympie Regional Gallery.

1.2.2. Community Consultation: Drop-in Sessions

A series of drop-in sessions was held across the region, in Kandanga, Imbil, Goomeri, Kilkivan, Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay, and the Gympie Regional Gallery. While attendance at these sessions was relatively low, attendees represented key stakeholders and groups, and discussions were direct, informative, and fruitful, giving a clear representation of regional, community, and sector concerns.

Discussions at Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach centred on regional identity and needs, the importance of valuing arts and artists, volunteering, sustainability, networking between creative communities, and public art.

Discussions at Gympie Regional Gallery centred on the Civic Centre, theatre and the need for venues, the loss of touring shows and performance opportunities, and the need for networking and artist support.

Two sessions were held at Kandanga, and discussions centred on performance venues, support for local artists, industry, and events, regional facilities (particularly for youth and kids), the importance of community buy-in and using stakeholder networks, and public art.

1.2.3. Arts and Cultural Forum 2023

The Arts and Cultural Forum was held on Tuesday 11 July at the Pavilion. This was a primary method of community consultation. Approximately 46 community members and stakeholders participated in a positive and challenging discussion.

Input was received across four key areas:

- The wording of the strategy
- Strategic inclusions, including priorities and actions
- Community and sector key concerns
- Community and sector feedback on council performance and perceived performance.

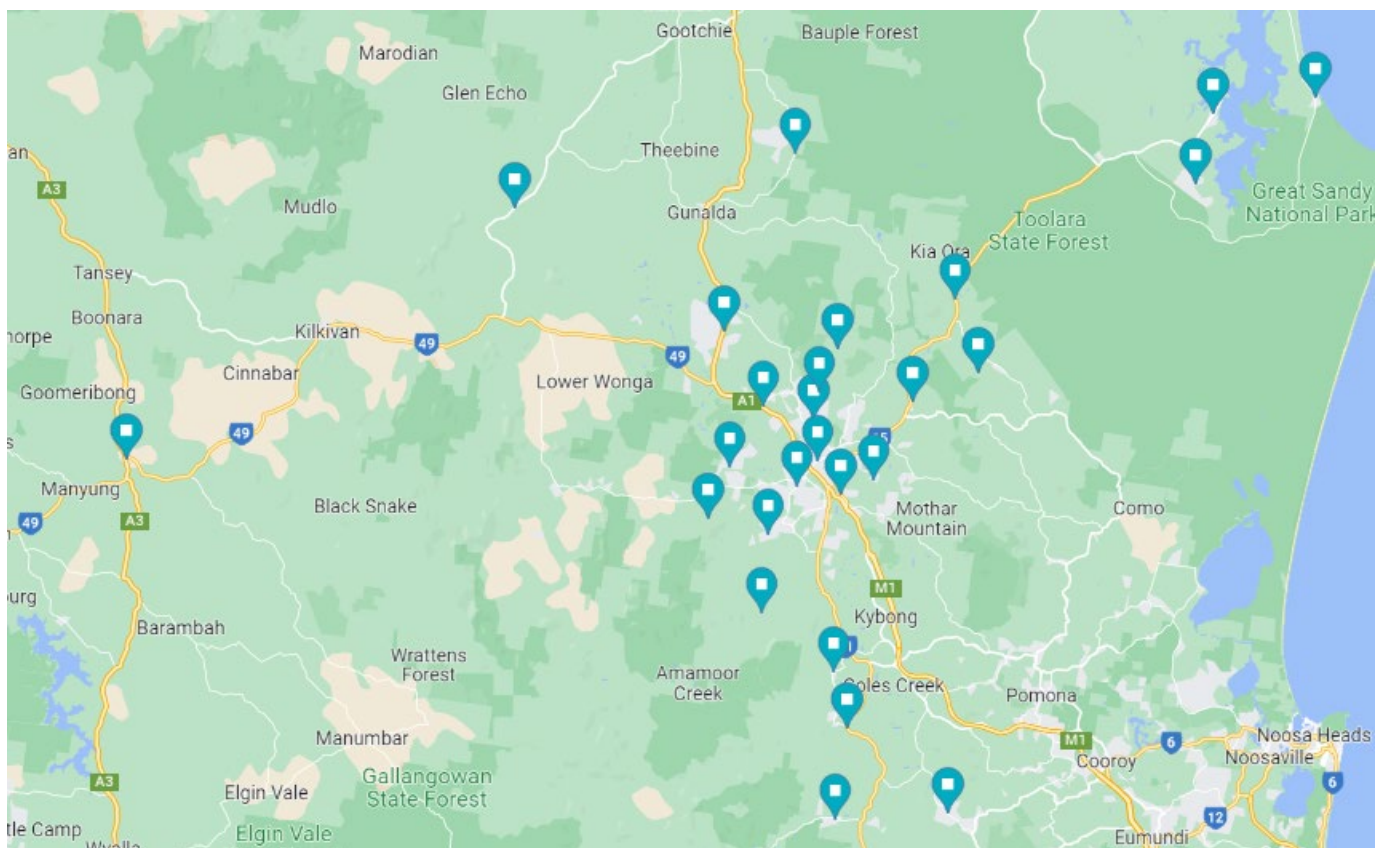
1.3. Community Consultation Participants

The overall number of participants is considered satisfactory given the high levels of sector representation. Further, as outlined in this report, the quality and depth of feedback from community members, stakeholders, and workers in the arts and cultural sector has provided Council with ample material with which to refine and finalise the strategy and public art policy.

The table below outlines participation levels per engagement methodology:

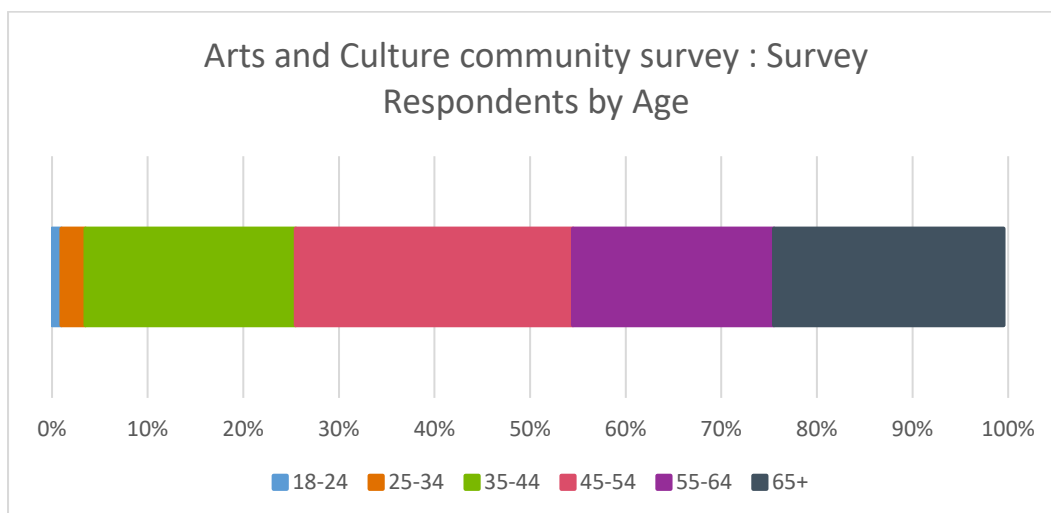
| Method | Participants |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Online Survey Submissions | 68 |
| Written Survey Submissions | 10 |
| Other written submissions | 2 |
| Drop-in Sessions | 16 |
| Arts and Cultural Forum | 46 |
| Total Participants | 142 |

1.3.1. Survey respondents: Geographic



Survey responses were received from across the region, including Amamoor, Amamoor/Kandanga, Araluen, Canina, Carters Ridge, Chatsworth, Cooloola Cove, Curra, East Deep Creek, Glenwood, Goomboorian, Goomeri, Gympie, Imbil, Kandanga, Kandanga Creek, Monkland, Mooloo, North Deep Creek, Pie Creek, Rainbow Beach, Scrubby Creek, Southside, Tamaree, The Palms, Tin Can Bay, Wilsons Pocket, and Woolooga.

1.3.2. Survey Respondents: Age Demographic



Of 78 survey respondents:

- 1% of respondents are aged between 18 and 24
- 3% of respondents are aged between 25 and 34
- 22% of respondents are aged between 35 and 44
- 29% of respondents are aged between 45 and 54
- 21% of respondents are aged between 55 and 64
- 24% of respondents are over 65

1.3.3. Consultation participants by industry representation

Survey responses were anonymous, but community consultation sessions and the Arts and Cultural Forum received input from a broad range of sector and community stakeholders, including;

- First Nations cultural advisors
- Community members
- Musicians and DJs
- Sound engineers and technicians
- Visual artists
- Arts and cultural workers
- Venue workers
- Local government representatives
- Community groups including Gympie RSL, QCWA, Probus, Friends of Kandanga
- Event organisers from events including Mary River Festival, Heart of Gold Film Festival, Duets Part Deux, the Kandanga Bush Dance, and Mad Mary's Cabaret
- Creative arts groups and companies including Heart and Soul Sisters, The Silky Project, Mary Valley Film Society, and Creative Arts Gympie Region.
- Theatre performers and groups including Perseverance Street Theatre, Gympie Theatre Association, and Gympie Performing Arts Collaboration
- Local writers and media organisations, including the Pineapple and Gympie Living.

1.3.4. Survey Respondents: other

One response to the online survey was received from a respondent who appeared to utilise the Arts and Culture community survey as a means to express their concerns about Council spending and the need to fix roads. The responses from this participant were consistently “disagree” or “do not support”. This respondent’s views may be considered representative of some members of the community who do not value the role of arts and culture in the context of government policy and funding, and for that reason it is important to reflect the responses throughout the dataset. However, the responses provide less value in shaping the actual vision, outcomes and priorities of the strategy itself.

2. Results

2.1. Key Findings

Overall

- There is overall support for the draft Cultural Vision, with 59 percent of survey respondents providing support or strong support for the draft vision.
- There is overall support for the draft Strategic Outcomes, with all outcomes achieving at least 63 percent support or strong support from survey respondents.
- There is overall support for the revised Public Art Policy, with over 67 percent of respondents providing support or strong support for the policy.

Key suggested changes to the Strategy

- Make the vision more creative and dynamic, emphasising collaboration, connection, and sense of place.
- Minor changes to the wording in Strategic Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.
- Amend Strategic Outcome 5 to acknowledge regional identities, and the natural, built, and cultural heritage.
- Expand the priorities under Strategic Outcome 2 relating to the arts and creative sector.

Key Community Priorities

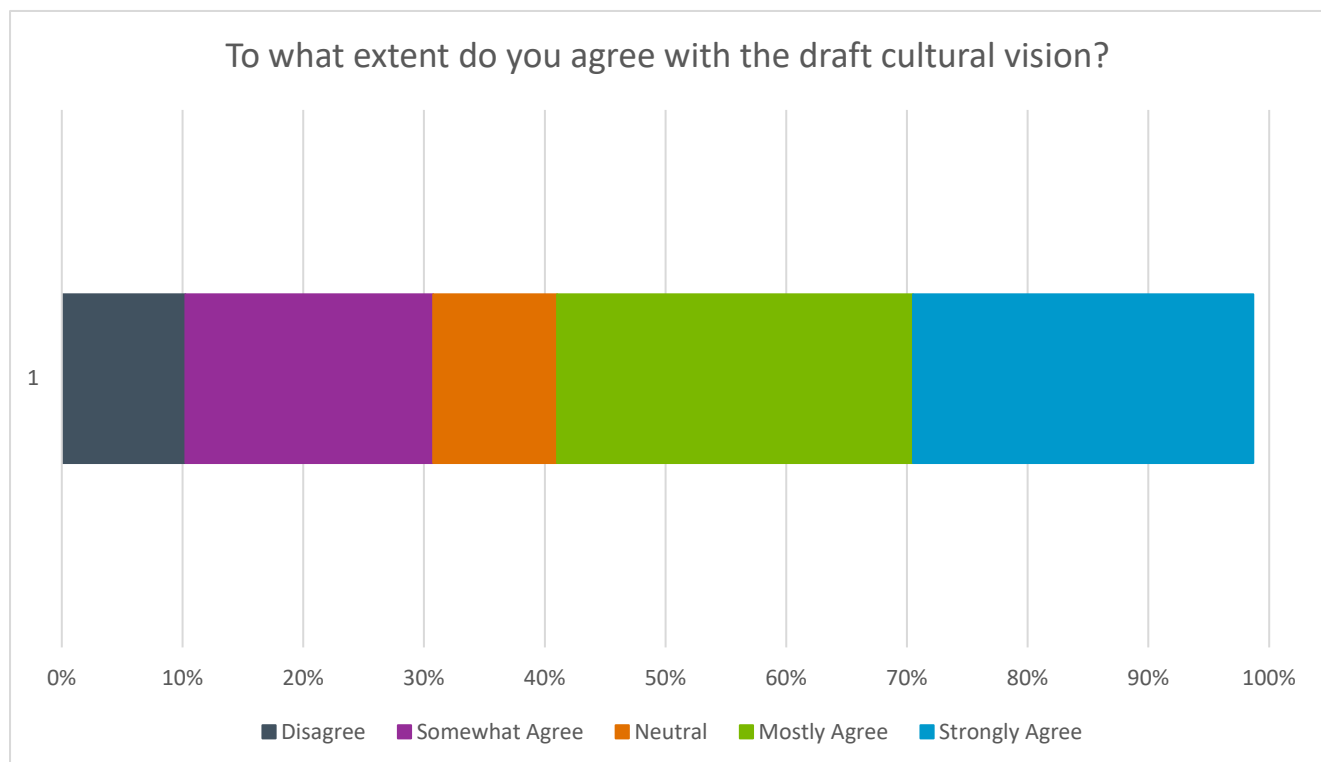
- Re-opening of the Gympie Civic Centre as a cultural and community space as a matter of urgency.
- The need for performing arts venues, and community and cultural hubs, with an emphasis on the Civic Centre.
- The need for improved communications and networking.
- The need for improved and more inclusive event marketing and promotions, with physical as well as digital manifestations.
- The importance of creating more public art, reflecting regional character: for, with, and by the community.
- Improved processes, equipment, management, and support from Council-run venues/events.
- Local artist opportunities.
- A more regional and de-centralised focus.

Key issues

- The need for more small, flexible, affordable performance spaces.
- A lack of networking, communication, and connection between communities of practice; between communities and council; and with potential audience/participants.
- The need for council to improve communication and engagement with the creative sector to enable continuous input and close the loop on feedback.
- The importance to the community and sector of community participation and inclusion, and community and participative arts.
- The importance of a regional and de-centralised approach, providing facilities, opportunities, and activities across the region.
- The need for more performance events and opportunities, and the return of touring events to Gympie.
- The need for both youth and multi-generational opportunities.
- The importance of supporting local artists and local product over importing from other regions.
- The need to address a perceived imbalance in support for performing arts, theatre, dance, classical music etc.
- Concern and lack of trust in Council's commitment and capacity to deliver the strategy.
- Community concern that feedback will not be genuinely represented in the revised strategy.
- The need for community buy-in to the consultation process – the need to make better use of community stakeholders, community hubs (e.g., libraries and halls) and community groups.

2.2. Thematic analysis

2.2.1. Cultural Vision



Feedback on the cultural vision was received from two primary sources, being the Arts and Culture community survey and the Arts and Cultural Forum.

59 percent of survey respondents “mostly or strongly agree” with the vision statement, compared to 31 per cent who either “somewhat agreed or disagreed”.

- 29% Strongly Agree
- 30% Mostly Agree
- 10% Neutral
- 21% Somewhat Agree
- 10% Disagree

Feedback received during the Arts and Cultural Forum indicated that the vision statement is adequate but could be improved – more creative, more active, and more stimulating. It should include creative imagery.

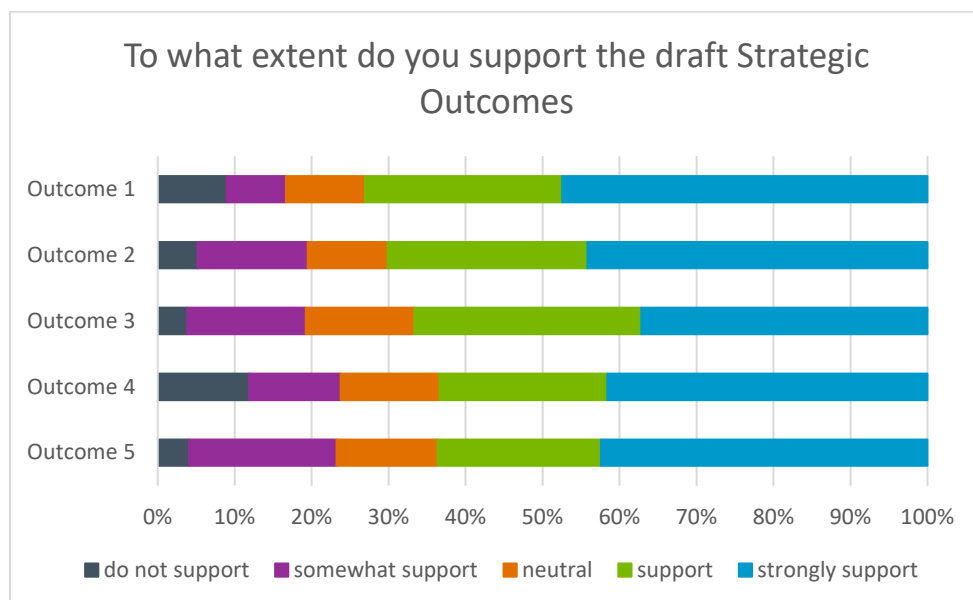
Sample statements from the Arts and Culture community survey indicate some pessimism regarding this aspirational statement:

- *We can't claim to be "alive with creativity, arts and culture" when our main performing arts space, the Civic Centre is STILL closed.*
- *I would hope that the above statement would reflect the region by at least 2025, however at the moment this is not the case, with a closed Civic Centre and very limited venues for performance, high quality touring projects and public art.*
- *Agree with this as a vision, however it is not yet true.*

Other sample statements expressed some support for the vision:

- *I think that this statement is true of Gympie's past and present- it's vibrancy and strong creativity. However it may not get across 100% what the actual 'vision for the future is'? Apologies, I could be nit-picking.*
- *I strongly believe the region is full of creativity, arts and culture, celebrating who we are. I don't believe we are necessarily celebrating where we come from or inspiring what the region can be, but neither do I think we necessarily should.*
- *There is always room for improvement, but celebrating where we are now is a good start, while acknowledging the good and the not so good that has got us here.*
- *I love this, particularly "inspiring what the region can be", we need to be looking forward and always evolving.*

2.2.2. Strategic Outcomes



Feedback on the Strategic Outcomes was received from two primary sources, the Arts and Culture community survey and the Arts and Cultural Forum.

The survey tells us that the Strategic Outcomes are generally well supported, with the majority of respondents expressing “support or strong support”. The highest level of support was expressed for Outcome 1 (First Nations Arts and Culture is recognised and celebrated) with 73 percent expressing support or strong support. The lowest levels of support were for Outcome 4 (Our Places and Spaces are buzzing with creative activation) at 64 percent and Outcome 5 (Our Living History and Unique Regional identity are honoured and shared) at 63 percent. The open-ended feedback indicates that the lower level of support for Outcome 4 is due to overwhelming concern with regard to the Civic Centre, and that Outcome 5 required some revision to be more inclusive.

2.2.3. Priorities

Feedback on the Priorities was received primarily from the Arts and Cultural Forum, and indirectly from community consultation drop-in sessions and the Arts and Culture community survey.

The feedback tells us that the priorities are broadly supported but require further customisation to better reflect the needs of the community and sector. Respondents also expressed concern about Council’s capacity and commitment to deliver, particularly in the area of Outcome 4.

2.2.4. Actions

Throughout the consultation process, participants were invited to nominate key actions or activities to be undertaken in the next 1-2 years to implement the Arts and Cultural Strategy.

Suggested actions were provided from three key sources.

- Survey Responses- open-ended question: What other creative actions or projects are important for Gympie region in the next 1-2 years?
- Arts and Culture Community Consultation: Other Sources
- Survey responses - Multiple choice responses from Arts and Culture community survey.

The resultant actions represent the community's most immediate concerns and clarify the intent of the vision, strategic outcomes, and priorities.

Survey Responses- Open-ended Question: What other creative actions or projects are important for Gympie region in the next 1-2 years?

62 responses were received, comprising 79 suggestions, in direct response to the open-ended question: What other creative actions or projects are important for Gympie region in the next 1-2 years?

The following are the top five suggested action:

- The need for performing arts venues with an emphasis on the Civic Centre
- The need for improved communications and networking, including improved and more inclusive event marketing and promotions, with physical as well as digital manifestations
- Public Art
- Improved management, support, and processes. particularly in council venues and events
- Local artist opportunities

Arts and Culture Community Consultation: Other Sources

Throughout the consultation process, over 165 proposed open-ended actions were received from a broad range of sources, including:

- Discussions during Community Consultation sessions, including the Arts and Cultural Forum
- Written submissions received during community consultation.
- Open- ended written responses from the Arts and Cultural Forum.
- Survey responses – Other Open-Ended responses

The top 5 proposed actions were:

- The need for performing arts venues, and community and cultural hubs, with an emphasis on the Civic Centre.
- The need for improved communications and networking, including improved and more inclusive event marketing and promotions, with physical as well as digital manifestations.
- Public Art.
- Local Artist opportunities.
- Improved management, support, and processes, particularly in venues and events.

Followed by the need for a more regional focus.

In total, more than 245 actions were suggested through open-ended sources, falling into approximately 20 broad categories.

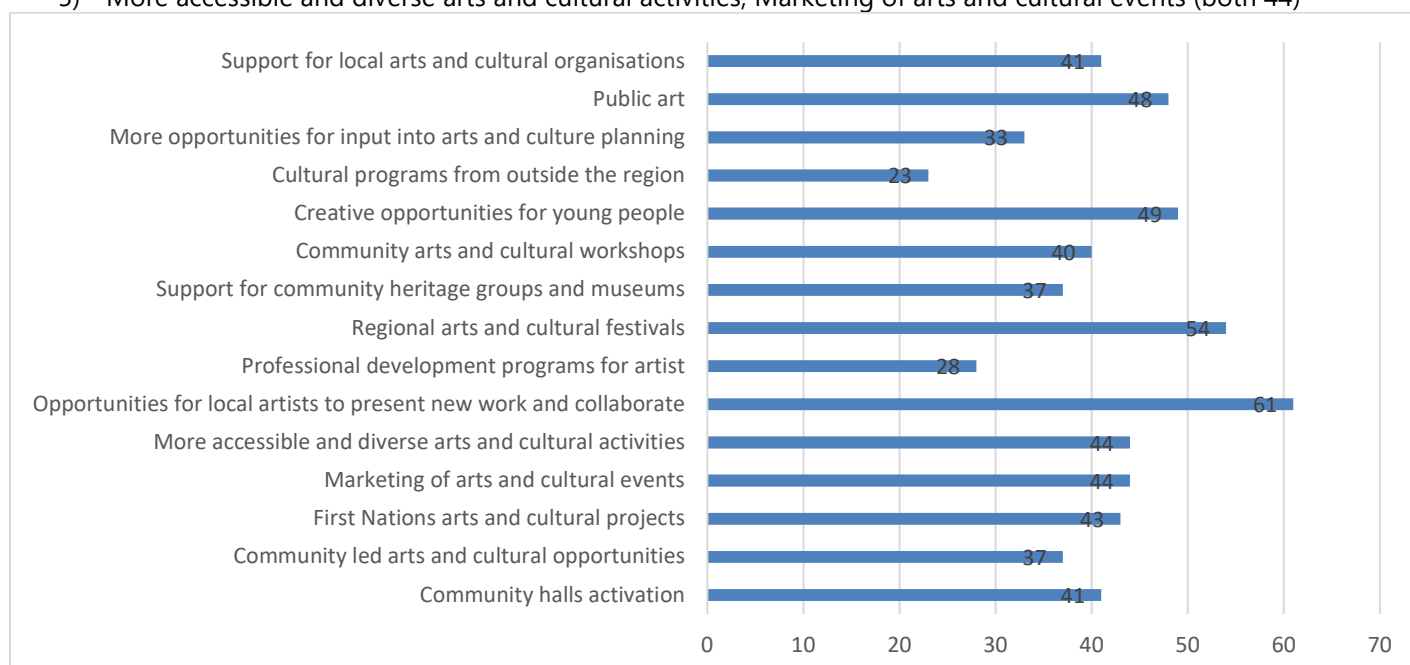
- The need for performing arts venues, with an emphasis on the Civic Centre
- The need for community arts and cultural hubs
- The need for improved events marketing and promotions, with physical as well as digital manifestations
- Improved communications including more and better networking.
- Improved processes, management, and support, particularly in venues and events,
- More opportunities and support for local arts and artists.
- Public Art
- Regional opportunities and facilities
- Youth and training opportunities
- Community, inclusion, and participative arts
- More workshops, activities, and participative opportunities
- More performance events to attend, including touring events, festivals, theatre, performing arts, dance.
- More support for community events and festivals
- Leveraging local events for tourism
- Volunteering
- Environment and sustainability
- Events and art celebrating heritage and regional identity
- First nations arts and cultural events
- More masterclasses, mentoring, and open studio opportunities.
- The use of public art and events to reflect regional identities.

Survey responses -Multiple Choice Selections

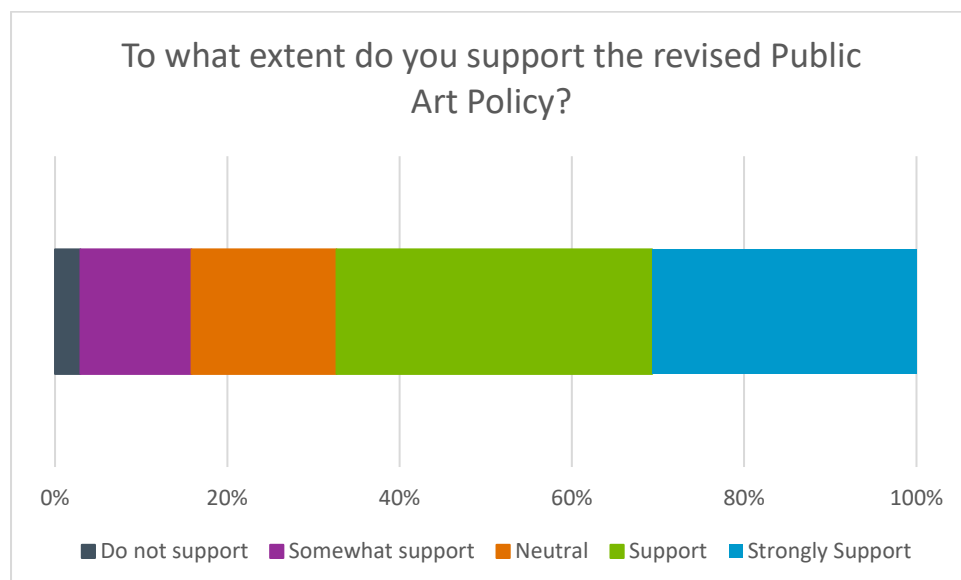
In addition to open-ended responses, survey respondents were given a list of 15 actions and requested to select their top five or more. In total, 623 selections were made.

The top five actions selected in priority order were:

- 1) Opportunities for local artists to present new work and collaborate (61)
- 2) Regional arts and cultural festivals (54)
- 3) Creative opportunities for young people (49)
- 4) Public art (48)
- 5) More accessible and diverse arts and cultural activities; Marketing of arts and cultural events (both 44)



2.2.5. Public Art Policy 2023



The final questions in the Arts and Culture community survey sought feedback on the revised Public Art Policy 2023. Responses to the question “To what extent do you support the revised Public Art Policy?” indicated the following levels of support.

30.76% Strongly Support
 37.17% Support
 16.66% Neutral
 12.82% Somewhat support
 2.56% Do not support.

Responses to the open-ended question “Provide any feedback or suggestions about the revised policy” show the following key concerns:

- The need to include outlying areas beyond the city.
- The need, and opportunity, to improve Gympie’s image, both its reputation and aesthetics, and beautify the area.
- The importance of public art in the cultural fabric.
- The importance of genuine community consultation and communication when implementing public art.
- Local artist opportunities.
- The use of public art to reflect regional character and identity.

3. Key Recommendations

Based on consultation feedback and further officer analysis, the following key recommendations are proposed to the strategy:

- A rewritten cultural vision: more creative, more active, and more stimulating, utilising creative imagery and emphasising collaboration, connection, and acknowledgement of place.
- Outcomes and priorities for the creative sector to be expanded to include both the creative and cultural sector.
- Outcomes and priorities for the wider community to be rewritten to be more inclusive, less passive and to recognise more active and dynamic roles.
- Outcomes and priorities for heritage and identity to be rewritten to recognise the natural and built environment, the diversity of community identities, and the need to acknowledge, rather than honour, our history.
- First Nations outcomes and priorities to be rewritten to be more collaborative.
- Priorities for the creative sector to be rewritten with a professional lens: recognising the need for professional development, earnings, and sustainable creative careers.
- Priorities for the creative and cultural sector to be rewritten to emphasise mentoring, training, and networking.
- New priority recommended, recognising the need to lead education on the value of arts and artists.
- New priority recommended, targeting the removal of barriers and improvement of communication and connection between Council, venues, communities of practice, and the wider community,
- Priorities to be generally rewritten for greater inclusion, access, and collaboration.
- New priority recommended, facilitating and supporting the empowerment of community as active citizens, volunteers, participants, creators, and investors.
- Priority 4.2 revised to explore funding to deliver a best-practice Gympie Library.
- New action or priority recommended to review and define improved management of venues and assets and reviewing of fee structures and support offered to provide greater access and support.
- Priorities and actions recommended to take a decentralised approach.
- Priorities and actions recommended for the support of community cultural organisations.
- Priorities and actions to be rewritten to prioritise the improvement of marketing and communication, and diversification of media.
- Priorities and actions recommended to find, develop, and broker partnerships with more small performance venues.
- Priorities and actions to be reviewed to ensure community and participative arts are supported within the strategy.
- Priorities and actions to be reviewed to ensure the performing arts are supported within the strategy.
- Priorities and actions to be rewritten to include more youth activity and career development.
- Priorities and actions recommended supporting the development of more public art and public performances.
- Priorities and actions recommended supporting more performance and touring opportunities.
- Priorities and actions recommended targeting the reopening of the Civic Centre.
- Actions recommended to continue regular and direct community feedback and inclusion.
- Actions recommended specifically supporting local artists and creatives.
- Specific actions proposed by the community and sector recommended to be included in action plans wherever possible.

4. Evaluation of the Consultation Process

Feedback forms were offered at all drop-in sessions, and an event-specific feedback form was provided at the Arts and Cultural Forum. Participants were also given the opportunity to share their feedback in discussion during the Arts and Cultural Forum and drop-in sessions.

4.1.1. Feedback by Source

Feedback on the consultation process was received from three key sources.

- Direct input from feedback forms received from the Arts and Cultural Forum
- Direct verbal input received during face-to-face drop-in sessions.
- Written responses received through other submissions during the community consultation period.

4.1.2. The Arts and Cultural Forum: Feedback Form Results

Feedback forms were collected from participants following the Arts and Cultural Forum. Participants were asked to rank their agreement with a series of statements on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 was the highest. Six responses were received and revealed the following results.

- 100 percent of respondents agreed with the statement "The purpose of the community consultation was clear", ranking their agreement between 4 and 5, with 67 percent of respondents selecting the top-box.
- 100 percent of respondents agreed with the statement "I felt that I was able to make a valued contribution", ranking their agreement between 4 and 5, with 67 percent of respondents selecting the top-box.
- 83 percent of respondents agreed with the statement "Staff were knowledgeable and thorough", ranking their agreement between 4 and 5, with 50 percent of respondents selecting the top-box. A further 17 percent selected 3, or neutral.
- 100 percent of respondents agreed with the statement "Facilitation of the session was efficient and effective", ranking their agreement between 4 and 5, with 50 percent of respondents selecting the top-box.
- 66 percent of respondents agreed with the statement "I was given access to all the information I needed", ranking their agreement between 4 and 5, with 33 percent of respondents selecting the top-box. A further 33 percent selected 3, or neutral.
- 83 percent of respondents agreed with the statement "Materials provided were appropriate and easy to understand", ranking their agreement between 4 and 5, with 50 percent of respondents selecting the top-box. A further 17 percent selected 3, or neutral.
- 66 percent of respondents agreed with the statement "The format and duration of the session were appropriate", ranking their agreement between 4 and 5, with 33 percent of respondents selecting the top-box. A further 33 percent selected 3, or neutral.
- Open-text responses, in addition to responses from other sources, indicate that a longer session would have been welcomed.
- 83 percent of respondents agreed with the statement "The venue was suitable and comfortable", ranking their agreement between 4 and 5, with 50 percent of respondents selecting the top-box. A further 17 percent selected 3, or neutral.
Responses from other sources indicate that legacy issues, and issues with audio equipment during the event may have impacted this response.
- Responses to the question "Have you attended a Council Community Consultation before" received a negative response from 50% of respondents.

Four responses were received to the open-ended question “How did you find out about the forum?”

- *Looked up on Council Facebook*
- *Gympie Art Gallery*
- *Emails, social media*
- *Gallery newsletter*

In addition, open text responses to the question “Overall comments and suggestions for improvement” included the following:

- *I think we have some great key staff in Arts & Culture/Comm Dev. Team. We are heading in a great positive direction and just need to continue community consultation and communication.*
- *I thought it was quite productive and that these things can be advertised more, for more public involvement.*
- *Could have been longer to cover more discussion.*
- *Always, not enough time to go through the issues, but appreciated the positive responses given by staff.*

4.1.3. Drop-In Sessions: Other responses

Specific feedback on the consultation process was received in the two sessions held at Kandanga, specifically regarding the communication of the consultation process.

The first session for the Kandanga community was held at Kandanga Farm Store on 21 June 2023, from 10am to 12pm. The session was attended by 1 person; however, this person was a key stakeholder in Kandanga’s community organisations and music industry.

Consultation Feedback at the first Kandanga session largely focussed on:

- Anger at Council consultation and communication methods – mention of a recent consultation session with several high-powered “suits”.
- Anger at why he hadn't heard about the session, followed by discussion on how we could improve communications.
- The need to contact community organisations and stakeholders directly.

Following feedback received in session one regarding the need to utilise the community hall, and contact community organisations first, the second session for the Kandanga and Imbil community was planned in consultation with Hall management and timed according to her advice. The session was consequently held at Kandanga Hall on 25 July 2023, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

The session was attended by 5 people, representing community event organisers, the organisers of Mad Mary’s Cabaret, and community stakeholders, including a key stakeholder in Kandanga’s community organisations.

Consultation feedback at the second Kandanga session largely focussed on

- The lack of awareness of the drop-in session – one participant noted he didn’t know the session was on until the sign went up that morning.
- The importance of improved communications and marketing, including noticeboards and posters, as well as sharing community events on social media.

Note: During sessions, and planning for the sessions, conversations with stakeholders identified perceived issues with Council's consultation approach; community consultation fatigue, and a "tick and flick" approach to community consultation with no results or feedback for the community.

4.1.4. Community Consultation: Other written responses

Indirect feedback on the breadth of the consultation process was received from written responses submitted via email.

Sample Statement: *"I want to briefly mention that the previous evaluation of an Arts and Culture plan (by -*) did not consult widely enough and concluded that all the energy should go towards Country Music as we have such a big attendance at the Country Music Muster. [They] didn't speak with any drama clubs (you may have noticed they were a bit cranky at the Pavilion Meeting) and only a few members of the visual arts community, and I think this did a disservice to all the dedicated artists who have played such a big role in the region's cultural life and also took an active part in environmental campaigns that have ensured that we still have a legacy of biodiversity worth celebrating."*

*For privacy reasons the name of this person has been removed.

5. Next Steps

This Consultation Report will be uploaded to Council's website with broad communication to consultation participants to advise of the consultation outcomes.

The information in this report, together with proposed revisions to the Strategy, was presented to Councillors on 11 October 2023 at Council Workshop.

The final draft of the Arts and Cultural Strategy 2023-2028 and Public Art Policy was endorsed by Council on 25 October 2023.

For the next two years, priority actions identified through the consultation process will:

- Inform the allocation of council funding and resources for arts and cultural activities
- Focus partnership activity
- Give direction to the type of external funding that is sought