
COMMUNITY POLICIES

Public Art



Policy Number:	C6
Relevant Delegation:	Not Applicable
Adoption Details:	27 April 2021
Last Review Details:	27 April 2021

POLICY OBJECTIVE:

This policy aims to:

- Encourage contemporary, quality and professionally significant artwork in the public realm.
- Create a sense of place through public art, building capacity and economic opportunity for the community.
- Contribute to the amenity of places through a diverse and vibrant public art program, engaging artists' creative ideas to celebrate the identity of the town and Shire.
- Celebrate and reflect the unique character, cultures, heritage, future aspirations and diversity of the town and Shire, enhancing engagement with and understanding of place.
- Integrate qualities of diversity, vibrancy, character, creativity and imagination into the fabric of daily life.
- Contribute to art and cultural development for the region, by integrating public art into planning, development and built infrastructure as well as festivals, events and celebrations.
- Maximise the potential for high quality public art to contribute to intrastate, interstate and international cultural tourism.
- Encourage public and private sector partnerships in the arts.

POLICY SCOPE:

The purpose of this Policy is to provide information on the public art application and approval process for artworks that may be considered for siting in the public realm within the Shire of York.

The Public Art Policy provides guidance to Elected Members, staff, artists, the community, consultants and contractors.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Art plays an important role in connecting people to place and providing a reflection and interpretation of the uniqueness of their culture and history. It can be a positive visual reminder of the sense of shared community and may also enhance the attractiveness and cultural significance of a place, encouraging further investment in the local economy. York has an abundance of heritage buildings, including 32 places on the State Heritage register, a unique CBD historic streetscape, the Avon River flowing through the town's heart, numerous parks and public open spaces within the township. It is bordered by Wongborel-Mt Brown and Walwalying-Mt Bakewell, which provide current and possible future access to natural bush landscapes. These natural landscape features have social and spiritual significance to the local Ballardong Noongar people and there are several registered Aboriginal Heritage sites within the Shire.

This Policy defines a set of shared principles and priorities that inform all levels of decision-making related to public art, which in turn helps to guide resources and funding towards relevant public art projects that will encourage a more vibrant and creative cultural landscape; one that is cohesive, cutting-edge and demonstrates contemporary best practice.

This policy enables the Shire of York to take the next step into the facilitation of public art.

INTRODUCTION

The Public Art Policy supports the visions identified in the Strategic Community Plan (2020-2030) a ten-year guiding document that determines the Shire's vision and strategies outlined to deliver social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits for the community. Its implementation is set out in the Corporate Business Plan (2020-2024) a four-year rolling plan updated annually.

Other supporting documents include:

- Shire of York Cultural Heritage Interpretation Master Plan 2015
- Shire of York Access & Inclusion plan 2018 – 2023
- NAVA best practices for commissioning art in public space 2019 guidelines
- Shire of York internal administrative guidelines – Public Art Key Terms and Definitions
- The Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016

The Shire is currently working on a Reconciliation Action Plan; once completed and adopted by Council, it is anticipated that this will also become a supporting document to this Policy.

Other policies that should be considered in conjunction when implementing this Policy are:

- P6 Local Planning Policy – Heritage Conservation and Development Part 7 Public Murals
- C5 Public Events in York Policy
- F2 Procurement Policy
- O5 Asset Management Policy

PRINCIPLES

- (a) That there is a clear, equitable and transparent process for assessing Public Art proposals.
- (b) That such proposals are assessed against established national standards of best practice.

PROVISIONS

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Public Art Application submissions are required for any proposed public artwork. Submissions should provide details that enable an independent selection committee to assess the quality and suitability of the proposal against the NAVA BEST PRACTICES FOR COMMISSIONING ART IN PUBLIC SPACE 2019 guidelines, or as updated by NAVA during the life of this Policy. A Report to Council is then generated by Shire staff incorporating the selection committee's findings.

1. All proposals for siting of artworks in the public realm shall be put forward as a Report to Council, whether generated as:

- 1.1 Internal - Shire of York project.
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- 1.2 External - Request from an external artwork organiser.
 - 1.3 Exceptions may be made for small-scale, ephemeral artworks lasting a maximum of four weeks or less, which may be assessed for suitability by Shire of York administration.
 - 1.4 Shire officers are responsible for the operational aspects for delivery of Shire of York public art projects and for compliance with this Policy and NAVA guidelines by external parties or organisations.

2. Specific Location Requirements

- 2.1 Any proposal for artwork (permanent or ephemeral) to be sited in high-profile locations must be approved by Council.
- 2.2 Any proposal for artwork to be sited on or impacting upon vistas of State Heritage Registered Places must be referred to the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage.
- 2.3 Any proposal for artwork to be sited on or impacting land identified under the Shire of York Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement must be referred to the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and any future RAP Working Group.

3. Public Performance Artworks

- 3.1 If a Public Performance Artwork requires one (1) or more approvals from criteria defined in Shire of York Policy C5 Public Events in York, then it is deemed to be an event and the artwork organiser is required to submit an Event Application and to obtain the relevant approvals from the Shire.

PENALTIES:

Not applicable.

KEY TERMS/DEFINITIONS:

Not applicable.

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Contact Officer:	Arts and Cultural Heritage Officer
Relevant Legislation:	Not applicable
Related Documents:	Shire of York Cultural Heritage Interpretation Master Plan 2015 Shire of York Access & Inclusion plan 2018 – 2023 NAVA best practices for commissioning art in public space 2019 guidelines Shire of York internal administrative guidelines – Public Art Key Terms and Definitions The Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016 P6 Local Planning Policy – Heritage Conservation and Development Part 7 Public Murals C5 Public Events in York Policy F2 Procurement Policy O5 Asset Management Policy

Review History:

Date Review Adopted:	Resolution Number
Adpoted – 27 April 2021	070421
Former Policy No:	New
