



HINCHINBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL



**CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY 2003**



Introduction

“Every man's ability may be strengthened or increased by culture.”

John Abbott

The Hinchinbrook Shire Council recognises the importance of arts and cultural development within the community and will work to provide facilities and to implement policy and planning that address the needs and aspirations of the people of Hinchinbrook Shire.



Council sees the role of providing cultural opportunities as part of an integrated planning and service delivery approach within its area of responsibility. Although Council may take a lead role in planning and coordination, the outcomes must be a partnership of shared responsibilities across the community.

The development of this Policy has been based on the notion that 'culture' encompasses the definition and expression of identity, and the culture of a locality comprises elements of common identity and lifestyle.

Hinchinbrook Shire contains several diverse elements, and Council seeks to acknowledge and encompass diversity within the Shire rather than adopt only the values and assumptions of dominant cultural elements or influences.

The various communities that make up the Shire have a diverse range of histories and cultures. Our aim is to work with community groups to build on and enrich our local culture and identity.

Council recognises culture encompasses and daily life, arts, history, language and education, which people use to express their fundamental character and aspirations.

Vision Statement

“Our future depends on our combining our passions with our best interests.”

Anonymous

Hinchinbrook Shire is to be a culturally dynamic place, rich in diversity and experiences – where ideas and talent are supported; where artistic and

cultural pursuits are encouraged; and where the economy is enhanced by excellence in creative innovation.

The Hinchinbrook Shire culture will embrace:

- A high quality rural and coastal environment that provides the backdrop for many different lifestyle opportunities.
- Vibrant, local neighbourhoods that share a sense of community and celebrate their diversity.
- A people who are proud of their local heritage.

Mission Statement

“That is true culture which helps us to work for the social betterment of all.”

Henry Ward Beecher

To work in partnership with local arts, cultural and other community groups in promoting, facilitating and developing as broad a range of cultural activities as possible.



Definitions

“We use the word culture in these two senses: to mean a whole way of life--the common meanings; to mean the arts and learning--the special processes of discovery and creative effort.”

Raymond Williams

Culture:

- Is the way in which a society perceives and upholds its most intrinsic values. It is a common heritage of beliefs, values and aspirations. It determines the identity and quality of life for individuals and for the community as a whole.
- Is the underlying framework that shapes the way in which we function and communicate
- Determines the way that we present, maintain and develop the places in which we live and work. It is what makes our Shire and its towns attractive and exciting to us and to visitors.

Arts:

- Are forms developed for the communication, celebration and development of the diverse elements of our culture. They include painting, sculpture, dance, drama, music, literature, crafts, domestic arts, photography, architecture and design.

Statement of Principles

“No man has the right to dictate what other men should perceive, create or produce, but all should be encouraged to reveal themselves, their perceptions and emotions, and to build confidence in the creative spirit.”

Ansel Adams

Hinchinbrook Shire Council’s involvement in cultural development is based upon the following principles:

- Council recognises that the culture of the Shire is expressed and reflected in many ways as part of the lifestyles of the people in the community.
- The cultural values and practices of the residents of the Shire are diverse and Council seeks to embrace and celebrate this diversity.
- All residents should have the opportunity to take an active role in the cultural life of their community.
- An integrated approach to planning is required to reflect the cultural values and priorities of the community across all areas of Council activity.
- Council acknowledges the importance of working in partnership with the community and local business to achieve its cultural objectives.
- Council recognises the important contribution of cultural opportunities and activities to the economic vitality of the Shire.
- Council acknowledges that quality of life in communities can be improved through integrated cultural planning and development
- Council recognises that access to cultural experiences should not be impeded by geographical location or on the basis of gender, marital status, sexuality, language, culture, race, religion, disability, status or age, and that those groups at the margins of society require special assistance to prevent their further disenfranchisement
- Council recognises indigenous Australians are the custodians of their cultures, and as such, only they have the right to make decisions about



the use and reproduction of their cultures and such decisions should occur with the full and informed consent of the relevant custodians, and where appropriate, be informed by customary law and traditional practice.

Council's Role

“Culture is like the sum of special knowledge that accumulates in any large united family and is the common property of all its members.”

Aldous Huxley

Hinchinbrook Shire Council recognises the importance of cultural development and environmental design in building creative, innovative and livable communities, as well as in fostering local identity.

Council considers its role in cultural development and planning to be as follows:

- Undertaking planning and research in order to respond to community needs and 'best practice' approaches to cultural development.
- Facilitation and brokerage of new initiatives and partnerships in the development of cultural opportunities.
- Providing high quality, accessible information and promoting cultural activities to the community.
- Supporting community education and community cultural development processes.
- Acting as a catalyst for cultural activity and inspiring creativity by example.
- Taking a custodial role in partnership with the community to enhance ownership and appreciation of the Shire's heritage assets.
- Building effective partnerships with other stakeholders in local cultural development.
- Providing and managing cultural infrastructure to support community-based activity.
- Fostering local economic development by promoting the community's cultural strengths and uniqueness.



- Identifying, providing or facilitating the provision of facilities, services and programs that meet the cultural needs of all communities within the Shire.

Aims

“No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive.”

Mahatma Gandhi



The main aims to be addressed within the Hinchinbrook Shire Council Cultural Development Plan are:

- Integrating cultural development into all aspects of Council planning
 - Creating opportunities for all Shire residents to participate in a wide range of cultural activities
- Identifying partnership and funding opportunities through which Council resources can be leveraged to maximum effect
 - Creating the most appropriate internal infrastructure to support Council’s Cultural Development Plan
 - Implementing strategies for the following key policy areas:
 - Recognising various individual and group involvements in cultural activities and continuing to support such established involvement
 - Further identifying and implementing ways in which locally initiated arts and cultural activity can contribute to the Hinchinbrook Shire community.
 - Maximising the benefits that arts and cultural activities can bring to the Shire’s economic and tourism initiatives.
 - Recognising the significance of the Shire’s special communities with respect to cultural background or locality.



Strategies – Cultural Development Plan

Hinchinbrook Shire Council is supporting the preparation of a Cultural Development Plan to implement the policies and aims outlined in its Cultural Development Policy 2003.

The Cultural Development Plan will include, along with other relevant information:

- Key strategies
- Priorities
- Specific objectives
- Outcomes to be achieved
- Tactics to achieve the objectives
- Detailed action plan including resources allocated, specified outcomes and deadlines for completion of each action.



“The subject matter of art is life, life as it actually is, but the function of art is to make life better.”

Anonymous