

Central Coast Council

Public Art Policy

Date Adopted: 09/12/2025
Revision: 1



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1. Policy Objectives

- 1.1.** Central Coast Council (Council) supports the provision of Public Art across the Local Government Area (LGA). The objectives of this Policy are to:
 - 1.1.1. Provide a framework for the accession, implementation, maintenance and deaccession of public art within Council-owned or managed assets.
 - 1.1.2. Enrich and enliven public spaces through public art that reflects our local identity, culture and place-making.
 - 1.1.3. Provide opportunities to develop locally relevant works and support a thriving creative economy.
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2. Policy Scope

- 2.1.** This Policy applies to the commission, acquisition, installation, maintenance, and/or deaccession of public art within the LGA, where the artwork is:
 - 2.1.1. Located on Council-owned or managed land in the public realm.
 - 2.1.2. Funded or supported by Council directly, including through operational or capital expenditure, grants, developer contributions, and/or delivered in partnership with community, private, or government stakeholders.
 - 2.1.3. Initiated by developers or third parties where public art is a planning requirement or condition of development consent.
 - 2.2.** This Policy applies to the following persons involved in the process of acquiring public art, either through commission, direct purchase or donation, or engaged in the ongoing management and maintenance of Council's Public Art Collection:
 - 2.2.1. Council Officials.
 - 2.2.2. Organisations, consultants, contractors, or contingent labour engaged by, or associated with Council who are involved in any procurement or contracting activity, or part thereof, on behalf of, or as agents for, Council.
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3. Policy Statement

- 3.1.** Public art is an important contributor to place-making, local identity and community participation across the Central Coast region.
- 3.2.** Council recognises the value of public art in shaping vibrant, inclusive and culturally rich communities and is committed to supporting quality and culturally relevant public art outcomes for the LGA.

- 3.3.** Council is committed to integrating public art in the urban and natural environment to create places that inspire, reflect local identity and stimulate dialogue. Public art engages communities, tells stories, evokes conversation and creates a sense of place.
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4. Public Art Collection

- 4.1.** Public art is the creative work of visual artists, craftspeople, designers, makers, artists working with community members, or performance artists, which exists in the public domain and is freely accessible. It may be installed within the LGA on public or private land, indoors or outside in the elements.
- 4.2.** Public art may take the form of sculptures, murals, temporary or ephemeral installations, integrated architectural or landscape elements, digital or lighting where an artist has been engaged, but excludes forms of unauthorised graffiti; monuments and memorials.
- 4.3.** As the Central Coast continues to grow, public art plays an important role in shaping the area's identity, enhancing the public realm, and supporting the region's cultural and creative economy.
- 4.4.** Council supports public art that:
- 4.4.1. Acts as an important contributor to place-making, local identity, and opportunities for community participation.
 - 4.4.2. Respects and promotes local Aboriginal cultural heritage, practices, and knowledge.
 - 4.4.3. Demonstrates social, cultural and/or economic benefit to the Central Coast community.
 - 4.4.4. Demonstrates a commitment to best practice through consultation and engagement.
 - 4.4.5. Ensures relevant training, guidelines, protocols, templates or resources are provided to effectively manage public art commissions, maintenance and deaccessions.
 - 4.4.6. Supports stakeholders working collaboratively to support works quality, innovation and artistic merit.
- 4.5.** Council may produce additional guidelines, protocols, procedures or forms consistent with the objectives of this Policy.
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5. Procurement, Acquisition and Accession

- 5.1.** Acquisition of new public art commissions or infrastructure on Council-owned land or assets will be through a mutually agreed and contracted arrangement between asset owner and commissioner and/or artist/s. It must outline the estimated agreed upon lifespan of the work.

- 5.2. Donations and bequests as a method of acquiring public art works may be accepted at the discretion of Council and only once an assessment has been undertaken.
 - 5.3. Assessments must be applied in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and where relevant internal protocols such as the Art Collection Protocol. They will be assessed on artistic merit, innovation, materials, suitability of location and cost considerations, including staff resourcing, installation and ongoing maintenance.
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6. Relocation, Removal or Decommission

- 6.1. Consideration of valid reasons for the relocation, removal or decommission of public art include:
 - 6.1.1. The building or physical space on which the artwork resides has been demolished or altered such that the work cannot remain.
 - 6.1.2. The artwork has been vandalised or deteriorated to a point that it cannot be restored due to physical, financial or human capital reasons.
 - 6.1.3. The artwork poses an unacceptable safety risk.
 - 6.1.4. The nature of the public space the artwork occupies has changed such that the artwork is incongruous with the space.
 - 6.1.5. The stated life span outlined in agreement has expired.
 - 6.1.6. The artwork is a duplicate.
 - 6.2. Relocation, removal or decommission of any artwork is the responsibility of the commissioner and/or asset owner and must be carried out in accordance with relevant Council procedures. The artist must be notified and, where appropriate, consulted prior to any action taken. Conservation or valuation may be required to support accurate decision making.
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7. Funding

- 7.1. All public art projects commissioned, funded or managed by Council will be resourced through one or more of the following funding sources:
 - 7.1.1. Capital Expenditure (Capex)
 - 7.1.2. Operational Expenditure (Opex)
 - 7.1.3. Developer Contributions i.e., Section 7.11 and Section 7.12 of *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)*
 - 7.1.4. State and Federal Government funding and grants
 - 7.1.5. Private sector support (e.g. philanthropy, sponsorship, donations and partnerships).

- 7.2. Council official/s (commissioner and/or asset owner) are responsible for assessing resourcing or monetary commitment as a result of the implementation of this Policy.

8. Copyright and Moral Rights

- 8.1. Council will comply with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth) and uphold best practice standards in the management of commissioned works to ensure that it does not infringe on commissioned artists' copyright and moral rights. Council recognises and respects the copyright and moral rights of artists, which include:
- 8.1.1. **Right of Attribution:** Council will ensure that all artworks on public display are appropriately labelled, and that authorship is not falsely attributed.
 - 8.1.2. **Right of Integrity:** Council will ensure that the integrity of works on public display is upheld and not subjected to distortion, destruction or inappropriate alteration. Works in a degraded state will be removed from public display.
 - 8.1.3. **Artist Consent for Reproduction:** Council will seek explicit, informed consent from the artist before reproducing, publishing, or communicating their work in any format, including digital, promotional, or educational materials.
 - 8.1.4. **Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP):** Where artworks involve First Nations artists or cultural material, Council will adhere to protocols for ICIP, ensuring cultural custodianship is respected and permissions are obtained through culturally appropriate processes

9. Responsibilities

- 9.1. Responsibilities for the implementation of this Policy are as follows:

Position	Responsibility
Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the community in their understanding of and compliance with this Policy. • Comply with this Policy.
Executive Leadership Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate, implement and comply with this Policy.
Unit Manager Community and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorised to approve minor administrative changes to policy and associated documents provided they remain consistent with principles.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidance to the Executive Leadership Team and other Council staff as required as to the content and implementation of this Policy. • Ensure the timely review of this Policy.
Council staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with this Policy. • Where required, seek clarification and guidance from the Unit Manager, Community and Culture in relation to compliance with this Policy. • An officer that commissions and deaccessions the artwork.

Records management

- 9.2.** Staff must maintain all records relevant to administering this Policy in accordance with Council's Information and Records Management Policy and the *State Records Act 1998* (NSW).
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10. Policy Definitions

Accession	means the accepting and registering a new acquisition into the collection and its inventory.
Acquisition	means an item that is part of the collection or being considered for the collection.
Art Collection	means the Central Coast Council Art Collection.
Commission	means the creation of an artwork based on a specifically developed brief.
Council	means Central Coast Council.
Documentation	means the evidence of an object and can be in the form of photographs of the object, and its related archival documents.
Deaccession	means the lawful process of removing an object from the collection.
Disposal	means transferring legal ownership and physical removal of the object from the organisation's holdings.
Loans	means the collection items that have been transferred temporarily into or out of the collection.
Objects	means the artworks, artefacts or other items of cultural value considered in relation to this policy. An object may have multiple parts.
Permanent	means the intended stay in position for long periods.
Public Art	means the is artwork that is positioned in, or viewable from, the public domain and may be temporal or permanent. It is an original creative work which is created by artists, craftspeople, designer/makers, artists working with community members, and performance artists.
Public Realm	means the an area open to be accessible and used by anyone. Regarding this policy it refers to all public spaces where all people are able to move about freely as opposed to private property which has specific restrictions.
Registration	means the official recording of a new item into the collection catalogue.
Relocation	means the movement of a public art from one location to another.

Site-specific	means the original work that is developed specifically in response to, and intended to be placed in, a location. Site-specific work is designed for a specific site and loses its meaning and integrity if relocated to another site.
Temporary	means to occupy a place and/or have a presence in the public realm for a limited period of time.

11. Policy Administration

Business Group	Community and Recreation Services
Responsible Officer	Unit Manager Community and Culture
Policy Review Date	December 2029
File Number / Document Number	D17104978
Relevant Legislation	Copyright Act 1968 (Commonwealth)
Link to Community Strategic Plan	<p>Theme: Our People</p> <p>Strategy PE1.2: Foster creative and performing arts through theatres, galleries and creative spaces.</p>
Related Policies / Protocols / Procedures / Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Central Coast Council Youth Strategy ▪ Central Coast Development Control Plan 2022 ▪ Central Coast Local Environmental Plan 2022 ▪ Code of Conduct ▪ Cultural Plan ▪ Information and Records Management Policy ▪ Open Space Strategy ▪ Public Art Plan

12. Policy Authorisations

No.	Authorised Function	Authorised Business Unit / Role(s)
N/A	N/A	N/A

13. Policy History

Revision	Date Approved / Authority	Description Of Changes
1	Community and Culture Committee adoption: 11 November 2025 Council Meeting adoption: 9 December 2025 Minute No: CC-25/32	Policy created.