

## Burnie Arts Exhibition Policy

Approved By: **Council**  
Doc Controller: **Director Corporate and  
Commercial Services**  
File: 4/14/2

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Next Review Date: **27 May 2029**

### 1 PURPOSE

This policy sets out the principles to be adhered to with respect to the Art Gallery and Museum exhibition programs.

### 2 OBJECTIVES

- a) To define the principles and procedures governing the selection and management of exhibitions and their professional display in the Gallery and Museum, and associated exhibition spaces, within appropriate and best practice guidelines.
- b) To develop, maintain and exhibit the City's permanent art and heritage collections, and other exhibitions deemed appropriate, within the exhibition and public programs.
- c) To recognise artistic excellence and integrity, audience development targets, and to support community aspirations and characteristics in regard to arts, heritage and culture.
- d) To contribute to the local, regional and national conversation of the cultural industry.

### 3 SCOPE

The policy refers to any exhibition displayed within the Gallery and Museum's exhibition spaces or any exhibition produced and toured by the Gallery and Museum to other spaces within Tasmania or interstate.

### 4 DEFINITIONS

Exhibition spaces – may be any fixed location such as within buildings owned by the Council, or a temporary 'pop up' space under the auspice of the Council.

### 5 POLICY

The Gallery and Museum senior staff will be guided by the Exhibition Policy when appraising exhibition proposals and when determining the rationales, themes, goals and target audiences for short, mid and long term exhibitions. Exhibition programs will include and support key exhibits, public programs and promotional and commercial opportunities. Where possible, exhibitions will further the Gallery's and Museum's reputation for innovative exhibition practice and enhance their importance and relevance as cultural institutions in the Tasmanian North West. Gallery and Museum exhibitions should be considered as resources for cultural development and regional tourism.

#### 4.1 Guiding Principles

The Gallery and Museum will present a dynamic program of exhibitions, which may include displays of visual art, craft, design, social history and related areas of interest, including both historical and contemporary material. The range of exhibitions will reflect a commitment to

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presenting a diversity of heritage objects and materials and a range of artistic media. Exhibitions will actively explore a broad range of social, historical, artistic and cultural themes. The themes chosen for exhibitions will reflect a commitment to educating and informing the community. The exhibition program will comprise exhibitions that are curated by senior staff, developed in partnership with independent curators, groups and the community, or on loan from other institutions, subject to financial considerations. Where appropriate, exhibitions will be developed to complement activities and events of local, national or international significance.

### 4.2 Selection and Display of Exhibitions

- 4.2.1 As part of exhibition programming, the Gallery and Museum will encourage exhibitions with well-developed heritage or artistic focus and/or curatorial content.
- 4.2.2 The Gallery and Museum will aim to curate a minimum of one major exhibition each year from the permanent collections and the maintenance of various semi-permanent or temporary displays located throughout the building(s).
- 4.2.3 The Gallery will support quality exhibitions that profile Tasmanian artists and by this means endeavour to encourage their artistic and economic development.
- 4.2.4 Subject to financial consideration, the Gallery and Museum will endeavour to attract and support quality touring exhibitions in order to contextualise the North West experience and provide access for the community to a range of quality arts and heritage experiences.
- 4.2.5 The Gallery and Museum will not exercise censorship in the selection of exhibitions. Artworks that have not been subject to Federal or State prohibition should not be excluded from a public gallery on moral, political, racial, religious, sexist, language or other sensitive grounds alone. Nor should artworks be included on these grounds alone, whatever pressure is brought to bear by groups or individuals.
- 4.2.6 As members of the national Australian Museum and Art Gallery Association (AMaGA) and signatories of the *Indigenous Roadmap* (2019), the Gallery and Museum will support, through exhibition planning and delivery, the first of the Roadmap's five key elements in reimagining representation and encouraging Indigenous communities and curators to tell their own stories. That is, the Gallery and Museum will provide relevant programming that:
  - a) informs about the past and the continuing impact of European colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
  - b) reflects the diversity of Indigenous peoples, cultures, language, belief and histories;
  - c) promotes the importance of Indigenous experiences, stories, knowledge and sciences to Australian heritage and industry;
  - d) provides Indigenous people's perspectives on issues that affect them.

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4.2.7 The Gallery and Museum, in endeavouring to maintain close relations with the community, may co-develop exhibitions in consultation with community representatives or with specific groups (ie people who share a particular history, place, culture or interest). In doing so the Gallery and Museum exhibition program can:

- a) assist the community to preserve and explore its heritage
- b) creatively tell stories that define the community's shared identity and unique experiences
- c) provide opportunities for community reflection, conversation and debate on identity and cultural life
- d) encourage visitors from outside the region to understand and relate to the North West Coast community.

4.2.8 While the Gallery and Museum are public facilities, they occupy a unique position in a region where there is limited opportunity for artists to sell their work. Therefore, at the discretion of the Director, subject to strict conditions as agreed in the Temporary Loan Agreement and through discussion with Arts Tasmania, the Gallery will make allowance for selling exhibitions per calendar year subject to the following conditions:

- a) Work in the proposed exhibition will be of a high quality and will meet the Gallery's standards.
- b) Groups and their members will have the ability to develop, promote and install the exhibition in consultation with professional gallery staff. The groups will be responsible for the management of the space during the exhibition in regards to providing visitor information and selling the work.
- c) The Gallery exhibition spaces will only be available for groups who have the required level of Public Liability cover required by the Council.
- d) Hire charges may apply and these charges will be subject to review biennially and negotiated at time of negotiating the Temporary Loan Agreement.
- e) The Director reserves the right to refuse an exhibition or artwork where gallery standards are not met.

### 4.3 Measurement of Success

The outcomes of this policy can be measured by:

- a) The Gallery and Museum maintaining a consistent high standard of display in the presentation and interpretation of exhibitions in accordance with current museological standards and practices.
- b) Exhibitions that are supported by explanatory and interpretive information that assists visitors' access to and understanding of the displays.
- c) The level and extent of community engagement in the Gallery and Museum.

- d) The elevated opinion of community acceptance and appreciation of arts and heritage displays.
- e) Consistent and/or developing audience engagement - local, intrastate, schools, colleges
- f) The recognition of Burnie and the region as a centre of excellence in exhibition delivery.
- g) Consistency of State and Federal funding, reflecting regional importance.

## 6 LEGISLATION

Copyright Act 1968  
Copyright Act Amendment (Moral Rights) 2000  
Workplace Health and Safety Standards  
Australian Standards  
Disability Discrimination Act

## 7 RELATED DOCUMENTS

Strategic Plan Making a Better Burnie 2044  
Collection Management Policy CP-CCS-CG-072

## 8 OTHER REFERENCES

Policy Endorsement	
Responsibility:	The General Manager has overarching responsibility for this policy. It is the responsibility of the Director Corporate and Commercial Services to administer and review this policy as required. It is the responsibility of the Corporate Governance Unit to maintain this policy within the Corporate Document Framework.
Minute Reference:	Item AO079-25
Council Meeting Date:	27 May 2025
Strategic Plan Reference:	Strategy 7.1.1 Formulate policy that is equitable, inclusive and responsive to current needs, and ensure decision-making is informed and accountable.
Previous Policies Replaced:	This policy replaces the previous policy titled Exhibition Policy v2.0 dated 22 February 2022 (Item AO029-22).
Date of Commencement:	28 May 2025
Publication of policy:	Members of the public may inspect this policy at the City Offices, or access it on Council's website ( <a href="http://www.burnie.net">www.burnie.net</a> )