# Addendum 1 - Delivering Outcomes

STRATEGY FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS 2022 REPORT CARD



# Strategy for Culture and the Arts -**Delivering Outcomes**

# What we wanted to see by 2022, and what was achieved

#### **Preface**

The Strategy for Culture and the Arts 2022 established three key priorities.

Focusing effort on soft and hard infrastructure, celebrating and communicating Cairns' shared identity, and supporting economic sustainability enabled meaningful progress towards the desired goals.

This appendix to the Strategy for Culture and the Arts 2022 Report Card provides a comprehensive overview of the outcomes achieved, and how they align with the strategy's intended goals and measures for success.

# **KEY PRIORITIES**

#### **PRIORITY 1**

Infrastructure, resources and skills that support and stimulate the cultural and creative life of our community.

#### **PRIORITY 2**

Culture, heritage and place are valued, shared, celebrated and promoted.

#### PRIORITY 3

A robust cultural economy fuelled by an international reputation as a tropical, cultural and creative hub.

#### **OUTCOMES WE WANT TO SEE BY 2022**

World-class cultural facilities. including a master-planned arts precinct in the CBD.

Adequate space for cultural and creative sector operations, production and storage.

Platforms for collaboration, networking, resource-sharing, cross-promotion, knowledgesharing and professional development.

Annual grant programs that enable and support creative practice, and seed funding for testing ideas and new collaborations.

Opportunities for cross-cultural, cross-art form, intercultural and intergenerational creative expression for people of all ages. ethnicities and abilities.

Increased focus on young people and programs that deliver pathways for further education and employment in the arts.

#### **OUTCOMES WE WANT TO SEE BY 2022**

Preservation initiatives that protect and value the region's built and natural cultural heritage, as well as historic and contemporary collections.

Effective and collaborative procedures for programs concerning cultural knowledge and artistic expression of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Diverse place-making, public art and cultural tourism programs that add value to the city's growing portfolio.

Advocacy and promotion of local heritage assets and the diverse multicultural character of our community as a source of identity and belonging.

Network of regional organisations to drive cross-promotion, project development, shared resources and professional development.

Evidence-based research to support and guide future decisionmaking and investment in the preservation and promotion of our shared cultural heritage and regional identity.

#### **OUTCOMES WE WANT TO SEE BY 2022**

National and International reputation as a vibrant hub for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and creative expression.

Quality programs, events and activities that encourage visitation, maximise visitor experience and bring people to our region specifically for culture and the arts.

Strategic framework and audience development strategies to drive market exposure and income generation.

Creative and cultural industries network to drive coordinated and strategic industry development.

Focused investment in connecting and promoting our collective points of distinction and valuable cultural and creative offerings.

Evidence-based research to build a case for investment and maximise our global market opportunities.

What we wanted to see by 2022 World-class cultural facilities. including a master-planned arts precinct in the CBD

#### **Measures for Success**

#### Intrinsic Measures:

Community satisfaction and appreciation

#### Instrumental Measures:

Accessible and affordable facilities commensurate with the needs and expected growth of the Cairns community

#### Institutional Measures:

Increased investment and culture-driven vision in step with the infrastructure needs and aspirations of the Cairns

### **Key Achievements**

	Cairns Performing Arts Centre: The \$71 million CPAC co-funded by the Federal Government's National Stronger Regions Fund and Queensland Government's Arts Qld, opened in December 2018.	AUDIENCE NUMBERS (Dec 2018 - Jun 2023)	PARTICIPANTS (Dec 2018 - Jun 2023)	EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES (Dec 2018 - Jun 2023)
The venue offers a 941-seat main auditorium and 400- seat studio theatre equipped with high-quality technical equipment and support.		316,290	2,099	1,680 short term 19 longer term
	<b>Court House Gallery:</b> The \$8.28m refurbishment and adaptive reuse of the former Cairns Court House began in 2019 in step with the	AUDIENCE NUMBERS (Feb 2021 - Jun 2023)	PARTICIPANTS (Feb 2021 - Jun 2023)	EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES (Feb 2021 - Jun 2023)
building's significant heritage values along with broader CBD precinct development plans. Officially opened in February 2021, the Court House Gallery serves as a gathering place and a high-level art and cultural presentation space.		91,105	2,715	148 short term 3 longer term
	Munro Martin Parklands: Munro Martin Parklands has rapidly	AUDIENCE NUMBERS	DADTICIDANITO	51151 614151 T 655 655 H H H T 65
	gained popularity among locals since its redevelopment and re-opening in 2016. The parkland's green proscenium stage, the	(Dec 2017 - Jun 2023)	PARTICIPANTS (Feb 2021 - Jun 2023)	(Feb 2021 - Jun 2023)

Cairns Gallery Precinct: Supported by a \$10m Federal Government grant, Council's vision to transform three existing heritage-listed buildings within the Cairns city centre to create a dynamic and world class gallery precinct, is underway. In July 2022, expressions of interest were advertised in the search for innovative designs to master-plan a unique cultural destination.

# **Sector Insights**

Stakeholder perspectives on hard infrastructure indicate a continued acknowledgement of the level of investment by CRC in the development of arts venues in the CBD (SoARTS Report 2020)

The opening of the Court House Gallery in Abbott Street has been applauded by the sector and adds to the growth of infrastructure development that has transformed the city of Cairns into a hub of arts and creativity (SoARTS Report 2021)

SoARTS stakeholders expressed that the provision of cultural infrastructure is creating landmarks and a cultural identity for Cairns, noting the massive transformation of Cairns over the past 10-15 years (SoARTS Report 2021)

#### What we wanted to see by 2022

Adequate space for cultural and creative sector operations, production, and Storage

#### **Measures for Success**

#### Intrinsic Measures:

Community satisfaction and appreciation

#### Instrumental Measures:

Increased sector sustainability. capacity and capability

#### **Institutional Measures:**

Improved capacity, usage, and promotion of Council-owned and community-run cultural facilities. venues and spaces

### **Key Achievements**

Enhanced Public Awareness: Two new promotional campaigns showcasing the diversity of facilities and spaces on offer were developed to boost visibility and drive greater utilisation of the city's public and privately owned amenities.

- The Cairns Arts and Culture Map: Launched in 2018, the Arts and Culture Map is a one-stop shop for information on the city's arts and cultural offerings. The map's Facilities and Spaces page continues to be the third most popular and viewed category.
- Vibrance magazine: Launched in 2021, the magazine has combined the full range of Creative Life programs and resources in one single publication. Vibrance targets the promotion of Council-owned facilities for hire, ranging from galleries and halls to meeting rooms, stages and arts centres.

Community Activity Spaces Strategy: Endorsed by Council in 2022, the strategy provides a roadmap for decision making around the provision, design, and management of indoor community spaces. This forward-thinking strategy aims to encourage active and engaged communities across the Cairns region and meet the needs of community by ensuring equitable provision and effective utilisation of community spaces.

**Renew Cairns:** This milestone partnership between CRC, Renew Australia and local landlords was forged in 2021. Designed to activate and energise underutilised areas of the city, creative start-ups and projects can now access vacant CBD spaces to test and grow their business or idea in a commercial setting.

RENEW CAIRNS	RENEW CAIRNS	RENEW CAIRNS
SHOP VISITS	TENANTS	TENANTS
(2022-2023)	(2022-2023)	(2022-2023)
4,200	(13 tenants + 42 other makers) 54	Workshop Participants 249

# **Sector Insights**

Awareness of the Cairns Regional Council's contribution to capital infrastructure is high amongst the stakeholder group (SoARTS Report 2020)

Engagement with stakeholders suggested that the breadth and significance of arts, cultural and creative activity is in a sustained period of growth. Demand for development, production and presentation facilities remained high (SoARTS Report 2021)

There is a need for smaller arts spaces that allow different parts of the ecology to grow, including experimental, underground arts programming. The Council-initiated Renew Cairns program has contributed to the remedy of this issue (SoARTS Report 2021)

What we wanted to see by 2022	Key Achievements		
Platforms for collaboration, networking, resource-sharing, cross-promotion, knowledge-  Collaboration, Networking and Professional Development: Initiatives designed to inspire professional development, collaboration and residencies, mentorships, internship projects and forums. Examples include, but are by no means limited to inspire professional development, collaboration and residencies, mentorships, internship projects and forums. Examples include, but are by no means limited to inspire professional development.			
sharing and professional	Tanks Art Centre Multi-Artform Residency Program TANKS ARTS CENTRE		
development	caters to a range of arts practitioners including visual arts, music, writing, performance, multi-media and community cultural development.	RESIDENCY PROGRAM (Jul 2018 - Jun 2023) <b>31</b> Residencies	
Measures for Success	Court House Gallery Curators Symposium and	COURT HOUSE GALLERY	
Intrinsic Measures: Exposure to new knowledge, skills and experiences Instrumental Measures: Increased collaborations, partnerships and networking across the arts and cultural sector Institutional Measures:	a Taste of Culture Series offered workshops and opportunities for the arts community to come together, share ideas and discuss future projects.	CURATORS SYMPOSIUM (Mar 2023)  27 people International / National / local A TASTE OF CULTURE (Mar - Jun 2022)  145 people	
Effective frontline services that	The Understory Symposium is a vital component of the	UNDERSTORY SYMPOSIUMS & FORUMS	
focus on community engagement and communication with the cultural sector	Understory Film Festival designed to stimulate discussion, knowledge-sharing and cross-artform and cross-sector collaboration.	(Jul 2019 - Jun 2023) 350 people	
	The Creative Life Volunteer Program is a valuable	CREATIVE LIFE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM	
	and growing network of people in the community who contribute to the success of Council's galleries, festivals, and events.	(2019 - 2022) <b>1,586 people</b>	

### **Sector Insights**

There is evidence of low-level informal networks structured around specific disciplines and communities of practice. It is also evident, however, that high-level advocacy is critically needed to promote growth across the sector (SoARTS Report 2019)

Partnerships and collaborations build capacity and allow programs and projects to flourish at a scale that could not be achieved by individual entities (SoARTS Report 2019)

Stakeholder activity suggests strong and effective developmental support networks operate within sub-segments. However, peak strategic representation engaged in focused advocacy for the arts, cultural and creative industries as an aggregated sector is limited (SoARTS Report 2021)

What we wanted to see by 2022	Key Achievements			
Annual grant programs that enable and support creative practice, and seed funding	<b>Provision of Annual Grants:</b> The arts and cultural grants program has supported a multiviability and productivity of community-based organisations, and enhance the capacity are suite of grants have circulated around \$2.8m in funding across 340 projects	•	•	
for testing ideas and new collaborations	RADF July 2018 - June 2023 <b>\$1,063,479</b>	Audience (July 2018 - June 2023)	Participation (July 2018 - June 2023)	Short Term Employment (July 2018 - June 2023)
Measures for Success	ψ1,000, <del>4</del> 73			
Intrinsic Measures: Community satisfaction and appreciation	ARTS & CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE July 2018 - June 2023			
Instrumental Measures: Increased sector sustainability, capacity and capability	\$344,067			
Institutional Measures: Effective frontline services that focus on community engagement and communication with the cultural sector	COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS EVENTS (Producing Cultural & Creative Content) July 2018 - June 2023 \$1,252,188	663,294	10,650	915
	IN-KIND July 2018 - June 2023 <b>\$219,687</b>			

# **Sector Insights**

Stakeholder sentiment that the tacit and intangible benefits associated with culture and the arts are at risk of becoming undermined by explicitly economic imperatives, and that this may further inhibit a holistic value of the industry (SoARTS Report 2019)

The RADF program is acknowledged by stakeholders as a consistent enabler of activity across the disciplines of the sector and Council programs that provide in-kind access to facilities and soft infrastructure are critical to some (SoARTS Report 2020)

Stakeholders lamented limited philanthropic support for arts and culture activities however there is a sentiment that Council actively supports business and project development opportunity through its funding programs (SoARTS Report 2020)

What we wanted to see by 2022	Key Achievements			
Opportunities for cross-cultural,	Cross-cultural and cross-artform expression: A fusion of positive, cross-cultural,			Charle Tarre
cross-artform, intercultural and	cross-artform collaborations and a wide assortment of opportunities have encouraged	Audience	Participation	Short Term Employment
intergenewrational creative	community engagement, participation and creative expression. Examples include, but			Linployment
expression for people of all ages,				
ethnicities and abilities	Beginnings – A Musical Story of Cairns, Commonwealth Games Festival 2018: A large-			
	scale locally devised and produced musical theatre piece. Telling the unique Indigenous	(2018)	(2018)	
	and multicultural history of cairns, the program engaged over 300 performers from	3,500	343	
Measures for Success	diverse cultures and with mixed abilities.	·		
Intrinsic Measures:				
Exposure to new knowledge, skills	Cairns Children's Festival: An annual celebration for children aged 12 years and under,			
and experiences	showcasing a diverse, innovative and multi-arts program across two days and various arts	(2021, 2022, 2023)	(2021, 2022, 2023)	(2021, 2022, 2023)
Instrumental Measures:	precincts.	22,603	284	215
Increased collaborations,		,000		
partnerships and networking				
across the arts and cultural sector	Arts and Disability Strategy: Consultation and collaboration with the disability sector			
Institutional Measures:	to guide implementation of programs, projects and resources was facilitated by			
Effective frontline services that focus on community engagement	Queensland's peak arts and disability advocate Access Arts.		(Feb 2019 - Jul 2023)	(Feb 2019 - Jul 2023)
and communication with the			200	5
cultural sector				
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# **Sector Insights**

Inclusivity is a dominant theme that exists within the NFP arts and cultural sector/cities as highly desirable and beneficial to growth (SoARTS Report 2019)

The build-up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games in Queensland provides an opportunity for more cross-sector activity and partnerships (SoARTS Report 2021)

Beginnings: A Musical Story of Cairns at the 2018 Cairns Festival was held up as an example of multicultural visions done well (SoARTS Report 2021)

What we wanted to see by 2022
Increased focus on young people
and programs that deliver
pathways for further education
and employment in the arts

#### **Key Achievements**

**Strategy for Young Creatives:** Developed in partnership with Arts Queensland in 2018/19 and adopted by Council in 2020, the Strategy for Young Creatives steps out the trends, challenges and opportunities that influence young people's engagement in the arts here in Cairns, and guides five specific focus areas: Partnership and Collaboration; Funding; Professional Development; Programming; and Strategic Development.

February - September 2019 **Participants** 450

**Short Term Employment** 

### **Measures for Success**

#### Intrinsic Measures:

Community satisfaction and appreciation

#### Instrumental Measures:

Increased sector sustainability. capacity and capability

#### Institutional Measures:

Effective frontline services that focus on community engagement and communication with the cultural sector

Flame.Arts: Targeted investment in RADF-funded Flame.Arts and its specific career development and access programs has delivered significant professional development and strategic development outcomes. The recruitment of an Indigenous Project Officer in 2019 continues to support and guide the delivery of the program.

2021-2022 **Participants** 669 **Exhibition Attendance** 3.700

# **Sector Insights**

The Council's Strategy for Young Creatives provides exemplar youth-oriented programs that redress some of the decline in youth arts of previous decades (SoARTS Report 2021)

Across the sector, there remains a sense of losing a young generation, with limited youth-oriented organisations, few young people on boards or committees and diminishing pathways at tertiary education institutions (SoARTS Report 2021)

Stakeholders uniformly argued the need for good arts education from primary school to the tertiary level, otherwise it is difficult to get young people to continue with serious careers and for Cairns to have a young talent pool feeding its arts and culture scene (SoARTS Report 2021)

What we wanted to see by 2022	Key Achievements		
Evidence-based research to support and guide future decision making and investment	Research and Evaluation: Council has partnered in an outstanding range of research and evaluative projects that have provided crucial insights into Cairns' arts and cultural sector, economic output and future potential. This research includes:		
in hard and soft cultural infrastructure and resources  Measures for Success Intrinsic Measures:	SoARTS produced by JCU and CQU in 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2023	2019 - 2023 Advisory Panel 20 Sector Participants 27	
Sector confidence, resource- sharing, networking and connectivity  Instrumental Measures: Increased collaborations,	Cultural and Creative Activity in the Cairns Region (2019) and Cultural and Creative Business Survey (2019) produced by Cummings Economics	2019 Business Participants <b>112</b>	
partnerships and networking across the arts and cultural sector Institutional Measures: Increased investment and	A Population Hotspot Analysis (2019) produced by QUT	2019 Sector Participants 33	
culture-driven vision in step with the infrastructure needs and aspirations of the Cairns community	A series of 14 Key Performance Indicators surveys (2018 – 2022) designed to gauge audience and participant levels of satisfaction and enrichment.	2018 - 2022 Survey Participants <b>1,191</b>	

# **Sector Insights**

Council in-kind support to facilities and soft infrastructure is critical in allowing some viability for arts and culture activities. (SoARTS Report 2020)

A successive reduction in operational and project funding levels provided by State and Federal governments has negatively impacted the range of services available to the sector. The local council takes up gaps in advocacy and facilitation of services. (SoARTS Report 2019)

Stakeholder perspectives on hard infrastructure indicate a continued acknowledgement of the level of investment by CRC in the development of arts venues in the CBD. (SoARTS Report 2020)

What we wanted to see by 2022

Preservation initiatives that protect and value the region's built and natural cultural heritage, as well as historic and contemporary collections

#### **Key Achievements**

Court House and Mulgrave Shire Council Chambers Adaptive Re-use: The conceptual redevelopment and repurpose of these significant buildings has been underpinned by the preparation of Conservation and Interpretive Management Plans commissioned in 2018. Collaboration with National Arts Leaders representatives from Melbourne Museum, QUAGOMA, and QPAC; as well as local representation from First Nations stakeholders, arts and cultural organisations, designers and architects have guided the project.

Effective Preventative Maintenance: Ongoing preventative maintenance across the region's shared and significant cultural heritage and historical assets has been undertaken in accordance with conservation management plans. This includes the following heritage-listed assets:

#### **Measures for Success**

#### Intrinsic Measures:

Visible, engaging, accessible and vibrant spaces and places

#### Instrumental Measures:

Increased protection. conservation and promotion of the region's significant heritage assets and historical and contemporary collections

#### **Institutional Measures:**

Effective and best-practice preventative maintenance across Council's significant heritage assets

**COURT** HOUSE **GALLERY** 

SCHOOL OF **ARTS** (CAIRNS MUSEUM)

**CAIRNS** ART **GALLERY** 

> **CAIRNS** LIBRARY TRAIL

**TANKS** ARTS **CENTRE** 

**MCLEOD** STREET **PIONEER CEMETERY** 

**TOBRUK POOL ANZAC CENTENARY** SCUPTURE & **INTERPRETIVE** SIGNAGE

**MUNRO MARTIN PARKLANDS WORLD WAR II** COMMAND CENTRE

# **Sector Insights**

The idea of character precincts is important in terms of retaining a collection of vernacular architecture that represents different timeframes in the region's history. Council's purchase and restoration of the Court House is an exemplar project applauded by stakeholders (SoARTS Report 2021).

Stakeholders recognize that the region's collections are important for telling stories through curatorial practice and other creative production methods (SoARTS Report 2021)

The role of Cairns as a regional creative hub suggests that significant AAA grade storage facilities for both Indigenous and non-indigenous collections is an ongoing concern for the sector (SoARTS Report 2021)

#### What we wanted to see by 2022

Effective and collaborative procedures for programs concerning cultural knowledge and artistic expression of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

#### **Measures for Success**

#### Intrinsic Measures:

Appreciation of the region's Indigenous cultural heritage and shared multicultural history

#### Instrumental Measures:

Increase cross-cultural and crossartform exchange

#### **Institutional Measures:**

Improved collaboration and culture-led partnerships in place-making, urban planning, revitalisation, public art and interpretive projects

#### **Key Achievements**

**Specific and purpose-built roles within the Creative Life Team:** The recruitment of an Indigenous Project Officer in 2019 continues to support and guide the delivery of the Flame. Arts program. The recent recruitment of a First Nations Curator in February 2023 now provides overall supervision, co-ordination and management of the Creative Life First Nations Visual Arts Program.

**Collaboration and Partnerships:** High-level partnerships, collaboration, resource sharing and co-production have seeded the development of an impressive range of projects. Examples include, but are by no means limited to the following:

CIAF FASHION STORY
EXHIBITION
COURT HOUSE
GALLERY

A TASTE OF CULTURE
WORKSHOP SERIES
UMI ARTS
COURT HOUSE
GALLERY

MASTER PLANNING
CAIRNS GALLERY
PRECINCT
& COURT HOUSE
GALLERY

MIXED BLOOD EXHIBITION TANKS ARTS CENTRE

JINA'S JOURNEY MIRIKI PERFORMING ARTS CPAC

PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS SHIELDS STREET HEART WOVEN SOUNDS OF AUSTRANESIA CPAC PASSING THE TORCH GIRRINGUN ABORIGINAL ART CENTRE

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE EXHIBITION COURT HOUSE GALLERY

CREATIVE
DEVELOPMENT
CPAC

BILLUM STORIES EXHIBITION COURT HOUSE GALLERY COLOURFUL
COUNTRY
PORMPURAAW ART
AND CULTURE
CENTRE

# **Sector Insights**

Diversity is a highly valued aspect of the sector, with wide representation across age, gender, ethnic and cultural diversity as well as socio-economic status (with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders arts practice as an important leitmotif) (SoARTS Report 2019)

Indigenous arts and cultural organisations within the stakeholder group recognize a positive relationship with Council that is genuine and generally described as non-tokenistic. However, there is a need for more Indigenous people with decision-making clout and in positions of responsibility to effect capacity building and engagement within the sector (Soarts Report 2021)

What we wanted to see by 2022 Diverse place-making, public art and cultural tourism programs that add value to the city's growing portfolio

#### **Measures for Success**

#### Intrinsic Measures:

Visible, engaging, accessible and vibrant spaces and places

#### Instrumental Measures:

Re-invigorated culture-led revitalisation of urban spaces and places

#### **Institutional Measures:**

Improved collaboration and culture-led partnerships in place-making, urban planning, revitalisation, public art and interpretive projects

### **Key Achievements**

Revitalisation, Urban Vitality and Public Art: Cultural and creative-led revitalisation, cultural tourism and public art projects have been brought to life by strategic planning frameworks that aspire to drive visitation and create a vibrant, connected and liveable city:

- Cairns City Centre Master Plan adopted by Council in 2019 as a design and planning framework to guide the evolution of this important public
- Streetscape Master Plan for Palm Cove endorsed by Council in 2022 to guide renewal and development of the foreshore, including opportunities for creative placemaking and public art.
- Cairns & Great Barrier Reef Event Strategy 2025 updated and endorsed by Council in 2022 to deliver strong collaboration between Council, Tourism Tropical North Queensland and Tourism and Events Queensland
- Strategy for Public Art and Placemaking adopted by Council in 2020 to promote the integration of public art and creative processes into Council's urban design and renewal projects

Public Art and Creative Placemaking Strategy		
<b>New Works</b> (2018 - 2023)	Public Programs (2018 - 2023)	Collection Management (2018 - 2023)
10 New Works Created 39 Employment Opportunities	66 Murals, Digital & Ephemeral Artworks Created  72 Employment Opportunities  43,104 Audience  386 Participants	9 Restoration & Repairs 16 Employment Opportunities

# **Sector Insights**

Shields Street is mentioned as a precinct where the integration of public art and public amenity has created a destination attracting people-oriented activity, including two university campuses (SoARTS Report 2019)

The development of the Cairns Esplanade, with Robinson's iconic Woven Fish, is also highlighted because of the proliferation of public art. Public Art is an under-appreciated art form that enhances a connection between the local community and visitors (SoARTS Report 2019)

A public art walking trail could be combined with a masterclass developed in collaboration with James Cook University and key stakeholders as part of the process of progressing and promoting a trail (SoARTS Report 2020)

#### What we wanted to see by 2022

Advocacy and promotion of local heritage assets and the diverse multicultural character of our community as a source of identity and belonging

### **Key Achievements**

Presentation and Promotion: Creative projects designed to promote and communicate the value of the city's rich heritage, character and diversity have included, but are by no means limited to the following:

- Flame. Design: Designed to engage young people from across the region to identify iconic historical buildings in their towns and replicate them on a digital platform.
- Cairns Arts and Culture Map: Presenting the collective appeal of the region's valuable assets via self-guided heritage walks and historic interpretive trails.
- Shadows of the Past: Cairns District Family History Society's annual theatrical tours of the McLeod Street Pioneer Cemetery.

### **Measures for Success**

#### Intrinsic Measures:

Connection to place and strong cultural identity

#### Instrumental Measures:

Re-invigorated culture-led revitalisation of urban spaces and places

#### Institutional Measures:

Improved participatory process and decision-making for promotion and interpretation

Interpretive Media: The development of interpretive media has been imbedded into a range of cultural infrastructure development and urban revitalisation projects. Examples include, but are by no means limited to the following:

# **EMBRACING OUR STORIES CAIRNS INDIGENOUS** INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE TRAIL

Exploring the themes of traditional culture and extending a message of welcome to visitors.

# TANKS ARTS CENTRE TANKS HISTORY PANELS

Telling the story of Tanks Arts Centre and the significance of the concrete fuel tanks to naval operations in the Pacific during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

# **COURT HOUSE GALLERY** INTERPRETIVE MEDIA

Providing the historical background of the building and the assortment of archaeological finds on display, along with First Peoples interaction with the building during its time as a Court House from 1920.

# **Sector Insights**

The council-supported promenade theatre production Shadows from the Past, presented in local cemeteries, is an innovative approach to historical storytelling. It provides a production model with high potential for popularity, outreach and engagement (SoARTS Report 2021)

Through its collections, the Cairns Museum is a key repository, resource for research and dissemination point for contemporary and historical storytelling related to the social life of Cairns and the region. There are significant opportunities for the digitisation and deployment of the Cairns Museum's holdings (SoARTS Report 2021)

#### What we wanted to see by 2022

Network of regional organisations to drive cross-promotion, project development, shared resources and professional development

#### **Measures for Success**

#### Intrinsic Measures:

Sector confidence, resourcesharing, networking and connectivity

#### Instrumental Measures:

Increase cross-cultural, and cross art form exchange

#### **Institutional Measures:**

Improved participatory process and decision-making for promotion and interpretation

### **Kev Achievements**

Building Capacity: Sustained, outcome-focused and highly-beneficial partnerships have been forged to promote and celebrate shared identity and cultural heritage. Alliances include, but are by no means limited to:

- Cairns Art Gallery, Cairns Museum and Cairns Indigenous Art Fair have supported a shared vision for the preservation and presentation of the region's cultural heritage and valuable historical and contemporary collec-
- Queensland Museum Regional Museum Development Program has enabled and supported a strong and collaborative network across the region's museum and collecting groups. A key focus of the program has been best-practice collections management as well as building the capacity and capability of the sector.

### **Queensland Museum Regional Museum Development Program** (2018 - 2023)

**Audience** 176

**Engagement & Participation** 2,367

Site Visits Undertaken 154

Public Talks & Training Sessions provided 33

# **Sector Insights**

There is evidence of low-level informal networks structured around specific disciplines and communities of practice. It is also evident, however, that high-level advocacy is critically needed to promote growth across the sector (SoARTS Report 2019)

The stakeholders in general feel isolated from national industry networks but form local partnerships, groups and consortiums. These groups share current developments and cost share opportunities that might allow more viability (SoARTS Report 2020)

Stakeholder activity suggests strong and effective developmental support networks operate within sub-segments. However, peak strategic representation engaged in focused advocacy for the arts, cultural and creative industries as an aggregated sector is limited (SoARTS Report 2021)

What we wanted to see by 2022	Key Achievements			
Evidence-based research to support and guide future decision-making and investment	<b>Research and Evaluation:</b> Council has partnered in an outstanding range of research and evaluative projects that have provided crucial insights into Cairns' arts and cultural sector, economic output and future potential. This research includes:			
in the preservation and promotion of our shared cultural heritage and regional identity	SoARTS produced by JCU and CQU in 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2023	SoARTS (2019-2023)  Advisory Panel 20  Sector Participants 27		
Measures for Success	Cultural and Creative Activity in the Cairns Region (2019) and Cultural and Creative Business Survey (2019) produced by Cummings Economics	Cultural and Creative Business Survey (2019)  Business Participants 112		
Intrinsic Measures: Appreciation of the region's Indigenous cultural heritage and shared multicultural history	A Population and Hotspot Analysis (2019) produced by QUT	A Population and Hotspot Analysis (2019)  Sector Participants 33		
Instrumental Measures: Increase cross-cultural and cross-artform exchange	A series of 14 Key Performance Indicators surveys (2018-2022) designed to gauge audience and participant levels of satisfaction and enrichment.	Key Performance Indicators Survey (2018-2022)  Survey Participants 1,191		
Institutional Measures: Improved collaboration and culture-led partnerships in place-making, urban planning, revitalisation, public art and interpretive projects	Studies emphasise the distinct cultural identity of Cairns, shaped by the local Indi importance of the region's historical and contemporary collections in communic			

# Sector Insights

Cairns lies at the heart of an active, creative region. It is a critical business and operational hub servicing the rich and diverse expressions of a uniquely tropical Australian culture with intrinsic regional cultural, artistic and creative values (SoARTS Report 2023)

As a city with a strong tropical identity, there is potential to specialise in the cultural influences and practices that abound in the region. This includes Indigenous, Melanesian, Pacifica, migrant and settler heritages. Focusing on these unique values will attract national and international attention, augmenting the reef and rainforest spectacle for which the region is currently promoted through tourism channels (SoARTS Report 2023)

### What we wanted to see by 2022

National and international reputation as a vibrant hub for Indigenous culture and creative expression

# Measures for Success

### Intrinsic Measures:

Creative excellence, innovation and enrichment

#### Instrumental Measures:

Increased demand for creative product unique to Cairns

#### **Institutional Measures:**

Increased cross-departmental and cross-government, corporate and business sector partnerships and collaboration

#### **Key Achievements**

Nurturing the Profile and Reputation of Indigenous Creativity and Cultural Engagement: Efforts to support and promote Cairns as a leading centre for Indigenous culture and creative expression on both the national and international stage has included the following initiatives:

- Purpose-built Gallery: Stage 4 and 5 of the Cairns Gallery Precinct includes development of the master plan to connect Cairns Art Gallery, the Court House Gallery and the Mulgrave Gallery. Central to the design is the additional inclusion of a purpose-built gallery that will act as a destination point for First Peoples artists and Arts Centres throughout the Cape and to expose authentic Indigenous art to a national and international audience.
- Advocacy and Collaboration: Council has played a solid support and advocacy role in the development of the State Government's Bulmba-ja Arts Centre, and Creative Life has continued to support and collaborate with its resident companies.
- Outcome-focused Partnerships: Supporting First Nations creative industries has been realised across Council's flagship venues. The Court House Gallery, CPAC, MMP and the Tanks Art Centre have each seeded the development, presentation and promotion of a diverse range of exhibitions, public art, theatre, fashion, festivals, artist talks and workshops.
- Supporting Signature Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Festivals and Celebrations: The ongoing provision of grants and resources has supported a vibrant calendar of First Nations festivals and celebrations that have added value to the city's Indigenous arts and cultural experiences. These include but are by no means limited to:

**NAIDOC WEEK** 

**CAIRNS INDIGENOUS** ART FAIR

**BIG TALK ONE FIRE UMLARTS** 

MARO DAY **CELEBRATIONS** 

SHINE ON **GIMUY** SHINF ON **PRODUCTIONS** 

# **Sector Insights**

Despite there being no significant cultural and arts education pathways for Indigenous practitioners, there are exceptions - Indigenous production in the form of fashion, filmmaking, music and visual arts is associated with some of the success stories from the region (SoARTS Report 2020)

Overall, the results indicate that Indigenous arts/cultural activities were more popular than other arts/cultural events. This may reflect the commercial nature of the Indigenous arts/cultural activities (SoARTS Report 2021)

Prioritising certificates of authenticity and Indigenous-led suppliers is going to strengthen the local industry and provide a more conducive and satisfying experience for the tourism market (SoARTS Report 2021)

What we wanted to see by 2022

Quality programs, events and activities that encourage visitation, maximise visitor experience and bring people to our region specifically for culture and the arts

### **Measures for Success**

#### Intrinsic Measures:

Growing appetite and expectation for quality contemporary works, programs and products

#### **Instrumental Measures:**

Increased profile as a city of the arts, growth in audience numbers, and employment opportunities for local artists and cultural industry sector

#### Institutional Measures:

Programming that attracts new audiences and brings people to our region specifically for the arts and culture

### **Key Achievements**

Enhanced Visitor Experience: A rich variety of high-quality programs, events, and activities have been developed to increase engagement, participation and visitor experience. Examples include:

		Participants	Audience	Employment
e	Commonwealth Games Festival 2018: The State Government granted Council \$1,400,000 to design, manage, secure, market and deliver the Event City Festival in Cairns in accordance with a range of creative principles. The 12-day Arts and Cultural Festival was designed to create a positive, long-lasting legacy and build the region's reputation as a hot spot for the arts.	600	74,700	100
n	<b>Cairns Festival:</b> Continued investment in Cairns Festival via innovative and contemporary programming, and development of partnerships that attract new work provided opportunities for creative exchange and fusion of local, national and international influences.	2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 <b>7,423</b>	2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 <b>337,050</b>	2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 <b>842</b>
5,	<b>Understory Film Festival:</b> The annual film event for North Queensland filmmakers has grown from strength to strength and celebrated 10 years in 2023. Understory receives films created by emerging and established filmmakers of all ages, coming from as far south as Townsville and reaching north to the Torres Strait.	2020, 2022, 2023 <b>671</b>	2020, 2022, 2023 <b>3,331</b>	2020, 2022, 2023 46
5	Cairns Summer Sounds: Council's partnership with Tourism Events Queensland and Tropical Tourism North Queensland was initiated in 2020 to stimulate visitation. The 2020 and 2023 series brought some of the biggest names of the Australian music scene to Cairns and promoted the city nationally and internationally as a destination for the arts and entertainment. Around 25 percent of ticket holders were visitors from outside the region.		2020 & 2023 9,600	

# **Sector Insights**

International tourists visit Cairns for its natural attractions but their relatively short visits limit opportunities for engagement in cultural experiences. Domestic tourists are often repeat tourists and while they too visit the reef and rainforest, their length of stay provides more opportunities for cultural experiences (SoARTS Report 2019)

Claiming the title of the arts and culture capital of Northern Australia is the Cairns Regional Council's call to action and signals the importance of the sector to establishing a unique regional identity (SoARTS Report 2019)

The Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair stands out as an event that has the support of tourism organisations such as Events Queensland and Tourism Tropical North Queensland (SoARTS Report 2021)

#### What we wanted to see by 2022

Strategic framework and audience development strategies to drive market exposure and income generation

#### **Measures for Success**

#### Intrinsic Measures:

Growing appetite and expectation for quality contemporary works, programs and products

#### Instrumental Measures:

Increased demand for creative product unique to Cairns

#### **Institutional Measures:**

Strategies and resources in place to guide economic development and diversification opportunities

#### **Key Achievements**

Strategic Frameworks in Place: Championing and prioritising the growth of the region's diverse arts, cultural and events sector is now central to Council's broad corporate objectives.

- COVID-19 Cairns Local Recovery Plan 2020 V2: The Cairns Local Recovery Plan was designed to meet short-medium term needs both acute and developmental - while informing longer-term recovery and resilience. Actions to re-open facilities, restart events, and foster the development of new cultural product and infrastructure were central to the broader recovery objectives.
- Cairns Regional Council Corporate Plan 2021-2026: Endorsed in July 2021 to guide Council's decision-making, the five strategic goals of the Plan emphasise the region's economic resilience and liveability. Optimising visitation and tourism opportunities and promoting Cairns as the arts and culture capital of Northern Australia is targeted as a key strategy to drive and nurture community wellbeing.
- Economic Development Strategy 2022-2026: Endorsed in November 2021, key focus areas of the strategy include opportunities in Indigenous arts and culture, as well as in film and the performing arts. Major and economic events are also a key focus of the strategy, where Council aims to work with key stakeholders towards a diverse portfolio of events that will elevate the profile and economic sustainability of the Cairns and Great Barrier Reef region.

# **Sector Insights**

Much optimism is evident within the Cairns cultural, arts and creative Industries. This confidence is evidenced by a heightened awareness of the sector's economic impact and indications of the sector's growth (SoARTS Report 2019)

Strong links outside the Cairns local government area indicate that the sector thinks globally and acts locally in what can be considered a hub and spoke network model or ecology (SoARTS Report 2019)

Cairns is well placed to consider the economic impact of the culture, arts and creative industries and to promote the sector as an essential contributor to the region's economic outputs (SoARTS Report 2019)

The key to leveraging tourism support for the arts and cultural sector is suggested to be an investment in strategic planning that incorporates cultural tourism goals and indicators (SoARTS Report 2021)

what we wanted to see by 2022
Creative and cultural industries
network to drive co-ordinated
and strategic industry
development

#### **Key Achievements**

Creative Networks: Council's targeted investment and involvement in networks that facilitate and promote the sustainable growth of regional arts has included:

<b>Regional Arts Network (RASN)</b> is a region-led network initiated by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland
in 2018. Cairns is part of Regional Arts Network Tropical North consortium of local authorities, which prioritises employment
pathways that build the capacity and capabilities of creative practitioners in the region.

# Network Representation 20 Regions/LGA's

### **Measures for Success**

### Intrinsic Measures:

Ability to project our arts and cultural brand nationally and internationally

#### **Instrumental Measures:**

Increased profile as a city of the arts, growth in audience numbers, and employment opportunities for local artists and cultural industry sector

#### Institutional Measures:

Increased cross-departmental and cross-government, corporate and business sector partnerships and collaboration **SoARTS** is guided by an Advisory Group and a representative Stakeholder Group comprising around 26 representatives of Indigenous visual arts, dance, arts services, writing, recreational arts, contemporary arts, galleries, museums, art fairs, music, inclusive arts, arts education, Indigenous design, landscape design, architecture, publishing, theatre and education.

Advisory Group and Industry Stakeholders 45

Screen Queensland, Screenworks and local screen industry have supported the development of a film-making hub in our region to grow our local industry and attract the attention of national and international industry professionals.

> Network Representation 110 Advisory Panel and Industry Śtakeholders

# **Sector Insights**

A survey of cultural, arts and creative industry business in 2019 suggests they anticipate an average growth of 7% over the next five years (SoARTS Report 2019)

A final geography of culture and the arts in Cairns is provided through our SoARTS interviews. The baseline data collected reveals that 25 of the 26 stakeholders divided their customers/clients between local, national and international markets (SoARTS Report 2019)

Both Sector and Commercial Stakeholders suggested a co-ordinated approach to the 'image of Cairns' by sector leaders could elevate culture and the arts 'place' in the region (SoARTS Report 2020)

An arts leaders group would strengthen the cohesiveness and confidence of the sector in terms of cross-sector and cross-industry outcomes (SoARTS Report 2021)

# What we wanted to see by 2022

Focused investment in connecting and promoting our collective points of distinction and valuable cultural and creative offerings.

#### **Measures for Success**

#### Intrinsic Measures:

Ability to project our arts and cultural brand nationally and internationally

#### **Instrumental Measures:**

Increased profile as a city of the arts, growth in audience numbers, and employment opportunities for local artists and cultural industry sector

#### Institutional Measures:

Strategies and resources in place to guide economic development and diversification opportunities

### **Key Achievements**

Solid and Strategic Promotion: To strengthen awareness of the region's broad and diverse cultural and creative assets, two new promotional platforms have been initiated.

<b>The Cairns Arts and Culture Map:</b> Launched in 2018, the Arts and Culture Map is a one-
stop shop for information on the city's arts and cultural offerings. Launched in 2018, the
Cairns Arts and Culture Map is as a one-stop-shop for information on the city's arts and
cultural offerings. Council-owned and privately-owned art and cultural facilities
are listed, including venues for hire, historic sites, information about festivals and cultural
organisations. Creative businesses and individual artists create their own entry and can use
the site to promote their practice and find like-minded people to network and collaborate
with.

<b>Vibrance magazine:</b> Launched in 2021, the publication is a comprehensive resource that
showcases the arts and cultural programs produced by Cairns Regional Council. Since its
launch, this bi-monthly magazine has established itself as a go-to guide for all the exciting
happenings at CPAC, Munro Martin Parklands, the Court House, and Tanks Arts Centre.
Moreover, it provides valuable insights into grants, spaces for hire, creative developments,
festivals, outcomes of artists-in-residence programs, and the latest public art installations.

Listings	Page Views
(March 2018 - June 2023)	(March 2018 - June 2023

83,502 1,291

Distribution (February 2021 - June 2023)

Copies (February 2021 - June 2023)

110 locations 113,000

# **Sector Insights**

The unique cultural makeup of the region is considered to positively shape innovation. Some suggest the potential for innovation is more evident in cultural and the arts services than creative practice and presentation (SoARTS Report 2020)

Commercial stakeholders have identified the potential of a 'brand Cairns' project. Reflecting the image of Cairns could be a motivating idea that interests stakeholders within the sector (SoARTS Report 2020)

The stakeholders believe that culture and the arts can be engaged to build those experiences which will enhance the liveability of the city and region (SoARTS Report 2020)

There is potential to strategically enhance the capacity of the sector leading into the rollout of the Gallery Precinct and towards cultural events associated with the Brisbane 2032 Olympics (SoARTS Report 2021)

Evidence-based research to ouild a case for investment and naximise our global market	Research and Evaluation: Council has partnered in an outstanding range of research and evaluative projects that have provided crucial insights into Cairrand cultural sector, economic output and future potential. This research includes:		
opportunities	SoARTS produced by JCU and CQU in 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2023	SoARTS (2019-2023) Advisory Panel 20 Sector Participants 27	
deasures for Success	Cultural and Creative Activity in the Cairns Region (2019) and Cultural and Creative Business Survey (2019) produced by Cummings Economics	Cultural and Creative Business Survey (2019) Business Participants <b>112</b>	
ntrinsic Measures: Creative excellence, innovation and enrichment	A Population and Hotspot Analysis (2019) produced by QUT	A Population and Hotspot Analysis (2019)  Sector Participants 33	
nstrumental Measures: ncreased profile as a city of the arts, growth in audience numbers and employment opportunities astitutional Measures:	A series of 14 Key Performance Indicators surveys (2018-2022) designed to gauge audience and participant levels of satisfaction and enrichment.	Key Performance Indicators Survey (2018-2022) Survey Participants <b>1,191</b>	
Strategies and resources in place o guide economic development	Research emphasises Cairns as a prominent economic centre for the cultural and cree economic opportunities.	ses Cairns as a prominent economic centre for the cultural and creative industry and is in a favourable position to capitalise on future nities.	

### Sector insignts

There is a sense that Cairns is an important hub for Northern Queensland and should aim to be part of a strong network across northern Australia with links to the Pacific and South East Asia (SoARTS Report 2021)

Stakeholders engaged in the film industry suggest that there will be a significant impact on filmmakers, and the benefits will extend to many areas of the sector, particularly the acting and visual arts disciplines (SoARTS Report 2023)

The interview responses show that the culture and arts activity field is diverse and thriving, with clear subsectors operating in determined priority and protocol settings (SoARTS Report 2023)

The non-profit small to medium arts organisations have grown to new levels of success and exposure with renewed public investment (SoARTS Report 2023)