

# Arts and Cultural Development

## **Nillumbik Shire Public Art Policy**

### **2019-2022**

#### **1. Policy purpose**

Investment in public art is tangible acknowledgement of Nillumbik's long tradition of artistic values and rich cultural heritage supports the development and growth of creative and cultural industries and enables community engagement with the arts as an everyday experience. As such, Nillumbik Shire Council actively commissions permanent and ephemeral (temporary) contemporary public artworks that reflect its culture.

#### **2. Policy scope**

As the asset-owner of open space, built infrastructure and public facilities, Council has an opportunity to utilise such public spaces for creative expression, but also has the responsibility to manage such sites, which includes the installation of public artworks.

The accompanying *Nillumbik Shire Public Art Implementation Guidelines 2019-2022* provides the framework for:

- 2.1 The commissioning of public art, ranging from ephemeral (temporary) public art to major public artworks (including sculpture);
- 2.2 An assessment criteria and approval process for private and community initiated public art proposals;
- 2.3 A commitment to allocate 1% of Council's capital works budgets exceeding \$2 million project value towards public art; and
- 2.4 A negotiated private developer contribution to include an allocation of 1% of the total project budget exceeding \$2 million towards public art.

#### **3. Rule of best practice**

Public art should reflect the nuances of local identity, rather than replicate the culture of other communities. Successful public art is intrinsically linked to community, and is specific to the immediate environment in which it is located.

Whether the public art is ephemeral or permanent, community engagement and support from the outset of the project is vital.

#### **4. Inclusions**

Not all public infrastructure or creative activity is considered public art. The scope of activities that are defined as public art for the purpose of the policy include:

- 4.1 Permanent or ephemeral (temporary) specific contemporary art integrated into public spaces, parks or public facilities, created by professional public artists, and designed to stimulate the community and enhance a sense of place.
- 4.2 Operational programs, capital works, streetscaping and major commissions.
- 4.3 Private and community-driven projects that seek planning permits and/or funding from Council.

#### **5. Exclusions**

The scope of activities that are not considered public art for the purpose of the policy include:

- 5.1 Interpretative signage and wayfinding;
- 5.2 Civic architectural design installations and township decorations;
- 5.3 Memorials and monuments, unless, the installation is predominantly an artwork, whereby a professional artist or artists has/have been commissioned and an artistic process has formed the context and development of the installation; and
- 5.4 Advertising

#### **6. Roles and responsibilities**

- 6.1 The Public Art Officer is responsible for public art initiatives (including commissioning, maintenance and decommissioning) on behalf of Council. This includes capital works programs, streetscape works, and major public commissions. This also includes acting as the interface for Council for private and community-driven initiatives.
- 6.2 Other service areas of Council with a remit for public art as part of community projects and capital works should incorporate the Public Art

Officer into the project working group from the earliest stage of project planning.

- 6.3 A qualified practicing public artist is commissioned to undertake the public artwork according to Council's procurement framework.
- 6.4 The Arts Advisory Committee is responsible for making recommendations in relation to public art in accordance with its Terms of Reference.
- 6.5 The Curator & Creative Industries Officer is responsible for ongoing maintenance, conservation and decommissioning of those public artworks housed within the Nillumbik Shire Art Collection.

## **7. Policy implementation**

In accordance with the Public Art Implementation Guidelines 2019-2022:

- 7.1 The equivalent of 1 percent of the total budget for publicly accessible capital works projects valued in excess of \$2 million, be allocated to incorporate a public artwork as an integral feature.
- 7.2 A negotiated developer contribution for publically accessible developments with a total value in excess of \$2 million require 1 percent of the total budget cost be allocated to the commissioning of public artwork as a key element of the development.
- 7.3 That a negotiated developer contribution be triggered through the planning permit process, and specify that qualified public artists be commissioned to develop works congruent with the Nillumbik Shire Art Collection.
- 7.4 An innovative ephemeral public art program be developed to meet the goals of the Arts and Cultural Plan 2018-2022 and available resources.
- 7.5 Private and community-driven initiatives be assessed in accordance with criteria illustrated in the implementation guidelines.

## **8. Related policies**

- 8.1 Council Plan 2017-2021;
- 8.2 Nillumbik Shire Council Procurement Policy 2018-2019;
- 8.3 Arts and Cultural Plan 2018-2022;
- 8.4 Arts Advisory Committee Terms of Reference endorsed 30 October 2018;
- 8.5 Nillumbik Shire Public Art Implementation Guidelines 2019-2022;

8.6 Nillumbik Shire Art Collection Policy 2019-2022;

8.7 Nillumbik Shire Art Collection Curatorial Guidelines 2019-2022;

**9. Policy review**

This policy should be reviewed in September 2022.

**10. Endorsed by Future Nillumbik Committee (acting under delegation from Council) on 15 October 2019**