

BLACKTOWN CITY COUNCIL

CULTURAL PLAN 2007 – 2017



Foreword by Councillor Leo Kelly Mayor of Blacktown City



The support and development of culture is central to the business of this Council. Our overall vision is to be a vibrant and safe City – a City of excellence. In order to achieve this vision, Council is committed to becoming a place where culture and creativity enrich the lives of the whole community.

Past local and State planning has positioned Blacktown at the cutting edge of cultural change in Australia. Since the adoption of its first cultural plan in 2001, Council has invested heavily in the development of strategic arts and cultural facilities and services. The development of facilities such as the Blacktown Arts Centre and the new Max Webber Library and the refurbishment of key historical buildings such as the former Blacktown Public School clearly demonstrate to the community the importance of Council's investment in culture.

Council recognises the richness of the creativity and cultural diversity that defines Blacktown. Council is serious about changing both the perception and reality of how culture is valued in this City. Through our cultural planning Council aims to demonstrate how our pursuit of cultural excellence is paying outstanding dividends to the community.

The new cultural plan values Council's past achievements and provides the necessary framework to support our creative communities. With its strategic focus on development, the plan is designed to respond to the changing face of Blacktown, and support our artists and communities in their creative endeavours.

Blacktown's Cultural Plan complements a range of other Council planning processes and represents a commitment to a whole of council approach to cultural development.

Leo Kelly, OAM
Mayor

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BLACKTOWN CITY COUNCIL

CULTURAL PLAN 2007 – 2017

A living plan for arts and cultural development in Blacktown

Background

Blacktown City Council adopted its first Cultural Plan in 2001 (Investing in Culture, Cultural Policy Framework and Plan).

In 2005, Council adopted a Cultural Policy and Public Art Policy.

In June 2005, Council established a new Arts and Cultural Development Unit, with responsibility for cultural planning, within the Community Services Directorate.

In 2006, the Arts and Cultural Development Unit reviewed the Council's 2001 cultural plan.

Policy and legislative context Blacktown City Council

Blacktown City Council Cultural Policy (2005)

Blacktown City Council Public Art Policy (2005)

The Cultural Policy and Public Art Policy provide particular foci for arts and cultural development in Blacktown. They apply to all sections of Council involved in the delivery of services related to arts and cultural development in the city. These policies interact with a range of other Council policies and plans, including:

Management Plan

Social Plan

Landscape Strategy

Blacktown LEP (Local Environmental Plan)

Strategic Plan (Integrated Strategy for CBD)

Economic Development Plan

Heritage Today and Tomorrow

Blacktown City Centre Urban Design Master Plan

Blacktown Development Control Plan 2006

Clean Cities Strategy

The key strategies during each year of the life of the plan will be included in Council's Management Plan and achievement measured against established indicators.

NSW State Government

Local Government Act 1993

Local Government (General) Regulation 1999

The Social and Community Planning and Reporting Guidelines were developed by the Department of Local Government to assist councils to meet the requirement under the *Local Government (General) Regulation 1999* to produce a social or community plan. The Guidelines require councils, if they choose to develop a cultural plan, to consider developing the plan in conjunction with their social/community plan.

Local Government Amendment Act 2002

Amendments to the Act in 2002 provide for statements on cultural matters to be included in the management plans of councils. In support of this amendment, the then NSW Ministry for the Arts, in conjunction with the Department of Local Government, issued Cultural Planning Guidelines.

Cultural Planning Guidelines (Department of Local Government, Ministry for the Arts, 2004)

The Cultural Planning Guidelines released by the State Government in July 2004 aim to guide councils in developing their cultural planning and arts resource management. The Guidelines recognise that the delivery of cultural services by councils can be strengthened by integrating cultural strategies more closely with councils' broader priorities and objectives. In this way, cultural amenities can be seen not as something remote or apart from everyday life, but fundamental to people's needs and the business of local government. Cultural Plans will be considered by Arts NSW (formerly the NSW Ministry for the Arts) in applications by councils for funding.

Sydney Metropolitan Strategy NSW State Plan

The Sydney Metropolitan Strategy and NSW State Plan each provide for arts and cultural development matters to be included in the State's planning, and have an impact on cultural planning in local government.

Blacktown's arts and cultural development achievements since 2001.

- Development and implementation of the first Cultural Plan (Investing in Culture, Cultural Policy Framework and Plan 2001)
- Establishment of a separate Arts and Cultural Development Unit in the Community Services Directorate, comprising Manager, Cultural Planning Co-ordinator and Blacktown Arts Centre staff
- Expansion of the Blacktown Arts Centre through capital works program part-funded by Arts NSW
- Major expansion of Blacktown Arts Centre program and profile including:
 - development of a national touring exhibition, "Regarding Retro", with major Federal Government funding from the Visions Australia program
 - establishment of regular workshop programs for children, youth and adults
 - establishment of a residency program including the Australian Youth Orchestra, Papunya Tjupi (Central Australian Aboriginal Community) and individual artist residencies
 - annual Sydney Symphony concert event in Bowman Hall
 - establishment of partnerships with key cultural institutions including: Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), UNSW, UWS, UTS, Macquarie University, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Pacific Opera Company
 - significant development of the Blacktown City Art Exhibition including the securing of regular large sponsors, a large increase in the range and quality of work submitted, and a major increase in the number of Blacktown artists winning major prizes
 - regular exhibitions of Western Sydney artists (in particular Blacktown artists) as a major priority
 - inclusion in 2006 Sydney Biennale of Contemporary Art
 - inclusion in the 2006 Festival of Sydney with the world premiere production of Urban Theatre Projects' critically acclaimed *Back Home*
 - winner of the Local Government Cultural Award (2006) in the "managing cultural infrastructure/managing culture" category, for the overall programming and managing of the Arts Centre
 - winner of the local government award (2007) in the acknowledging culture - "Aboriginal Cultural Development" category for the development with Urban Theatre Project, of the theatrical work, "Back Home"

- appointment of Heritage Property Officer
- heritage Advisor and Museum Advisor role established and dedication of significant funds to preserve and adaptively reuse Council owned heritage as part of greater commitment to the preservation of the City's cultural heritage
- acquisition of key heritage sites for development for community cultural purposes and the conservation and restoration of others
- highly Commended Award in the Local Government category of the Australian Property Institute (NSW) Awards for the restoration and adaptive reuse of Alroy at Rooty Hill
- national Trust Award for the conservation of William Lawson's Vault at St Bartholomews Church
- the Local Government Association's 2003/2004 A.R Bluett Memorial Award with special mention of the focus on heritage initiatives and cultural planning
- the growing recognition of Blacktown as a cultural centre and the attraction of new employment and infrastructure to the city
- attracting substantial state and federal funding for local arts initiatives
- the completion of Heritage Today and Tomorrow, a feasibility study into possible cultural and community uses of Blacktown City Council's Heritage Properties
- opening of the Max Webber Library in Blacktown CBD
- establishment of a Public Art Inter Directorate Working Group to develop and implement a public art plan for the city

Cultural Plan review

The review of the cultural plan began in June 2006. The review involved a range of research and consultations in order to form the future framework and direction of cultural planning in the Blacktown LGA.

This included an analysis of Council policies, strategies and plans, and of external documents such as the NSW Government's Cultural Planning Guidelines and Strategy for the Arts in Western Sydney, WSROC's Regional Cultural Planning Strategy, cultural planning documents from other councils in Western Sydney, elsewhere in Australia and in the UK. These have been analysed for models of best practice that can be applied in Blacktown.

The data collected through Council's current social planning process has been utilised in identifying current needs and future priorities for cultural planning.

In reviewing the plan, internal consultations were undertaken in most areas of Council and consultation will continue with all relevant Council departments throughout the implementation phase.

Workshops and consultations were conducted externally with groups including the Migrant Resource Centre and Migrant Inter-Agency, artists, the Aboriginal community and youth groups. This process will be strengthened during the life of the plan.

These consultations, in addition to the intelligence gathered by Council staff since the implementation of the first plan, inform the recommended future directions.

Council's first cultural plan was analysed in detail and progress against all of the actions documented. Those actions which were not completed and are deemed still relevant following the review process, have been carried over into the updated cultural plan.

In order to keep the plan relevant and contemporary and to develop some of the specific strategies outlined in the plan, further consultations will be undertaken during the life of the plan.

Strong links between the cultural plan and most of Council's other planning processes have been identified and integration opportunities will be developed as part of the implementation of the plan.

Blacktown City Council Cultural Plan 2007 – 2017 future directions

Primary strategic directions

In the next stage of cultural planning for the city, Council aims to:

- improve how residents experience the city – their sense of place, identity and personal safety
- improve the readability of the city – signage, history, who lives here, how people relate to the natural and built environment.

The revised cultural plan will allow Council to:

- move beyond the Blacktown Arts Centre as the main source of arts development in the city, while improving and consolidating the programming for the expanded centre
- adopt a realistic strategic framework for moving forward on Aboriginal cultural development
- ensure a more creative, consultative approach to planning of parks, town centres, street beautification and new public spaces
- address social and cultural issues through artistic and creative processes which involve community cultural development methods of practice
- provide better professional opportunities for our existing and aspiring artists through improving economic and employment outcomes, supporting their training, as well as the manufacture, marketing and distribution of their product
- develop a cultural facilities plan for the city
- make the city a more attractive and inviting place for visitors, businesses and residents
- create opportunities for Blacktown people to tell their stories through cultural processes leading to a greater shared understanding of and respect for our diverse heritage, identity and cultures
- build on Blacktown's growing reputation as a centre of excellence for innovation in the arts.

The primary strategic directions for the plan have been developed out of the review process outlined above and through the identifications of some of Blacktown's cultural strengths as noted below.

Blacktown's cultural strengths

Blacktown City Council's direction for cultural development must respond to Blacktown's unique and distinctive cultural environment while acknowledging the activities and emphases of its neighbours.

Blacktown City Council has laid a solid foundation for cultural development. It has invested in the development of the Arts and Cultural Development Unit (including the Blacktown Arts Centre) and the development of a new central library. This commitment to arts and cultural development is also reflected in Council's master planning for the potential uses of the Blacktown Showground. The Blacktown Arts Centre is attracting national and international attention as an innovative and exciting space for developing and showcasing the artists of the region at a very high standard.

It is considered that the basis for Blacktown's point of strength can be found in its children and young people, in the rich cultural diversity of its established and newly arrived communities and in its significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

Blacktown also has a rich pool of talented artists (and potential artists), who continue to make a great contribution to cultural development in Blacktown.

The city's cultural planning aims to strike a balance between the needs of our own residents and the contribution that Blacktown makes to cultural development in greater Western Sydney and beyond.

The Western Region of Sydney has established a national reputation as a centre for innovation and cross-cultural expression in the arts. Blacktown is known as a significant contributor to this reputation.

Blacktown's neighbouring local government areas are establishing particular niches for themselves in relation to cultural development and this has been taken into account in establishing priorities for cultural planning in Blacktown.

Key delivery principles

Blacktown cultural plan will be implemented through:

- collaboration with all relevant sections of Council
- articulating active links between the cultural plan and other Council plans
- utilising State and Federal Government planning instruments and policies to advantage cultural development in Blacktown
- partnerships with community organisations such as youth and children's services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and migrant services, health services, and others, as well as educational institutions such as Blacktown TAFE and local schools
- partnerships with cultural organisations of regional, state, national and international significance
- the engagement of professional artists
- the engagement of our resident communities
- informing and guiding council's long-term city vision/planning
- broadening the scope of the existing Public Art Inter Directorate Working Party so it has oversight for cultural planning in Blacktown.

Blacktown City Council - Cultural Plan 2007 – 2017

A living plan for arts and cultural development in Blacktown

Blacktown City Council Cultural Vision

To be a City where culture and creativity enrich the lives of the whole community

Cultural Plan Vision

To have an active, living plan which is inclusive, engaging and Council and community friendly

Goals

- 1) *To encourage pride, cohesion and participation through cultural development.*
- 2) *To respect and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity, history and aspirations through the support and encouragement of the artistic expressions of these communities.*
- 3) *To provide citywide access to cultural development opportunities for all residents.*
- 4) *To animate the City through community and artist inclusion in public art and performance, cultural industries, urban and open space design.*
- 5) *To create a strong economic base for the arts in Blacktown.*
- 6) *To ensure the ongoing inclusion, consultation and participation of Council departments and communities in the plan's short, medium and long-term goals.*

Definitions (Blacktown City Council Cultural Policy 2005)

Art - the production or expression of what is beautiful, appealing, or of more than usual significance. Art is integral to the quality of life, offering engagement, enjoyment, celebration, challenge, introspection, troubling questions, human affirmation and spiritual nourishment. Art includes objects created by humans that have aesthetic value or express symbolic meaning.

Culture - includes artistic activities such as dance, theatre, music, literature, architecture, painting, sculpture, public art, film and photography. It also refers to clothing and hairstyles, food and its preparation, language, sport, religion, customs, law and politics, history and heritage, libraries, galleries and museums.

Heritage - culture, traditions and community assets preserved, celebrated and/or re-interpreted from one generation to another.

Community Cultural Development (CCD) - describes a process whereby communities work creatively on issues that are important to them. Often artists are employed to facilitate the creative process and to guide the communities. In Council terms, CCD is referred to as part of the community consultation or planning process.



Cathie Cox, *Lamina* 2007 (detail). Featured in 'Connection' exhibition 2007, Blacktown Arts Centre.



Mark Hooper, *Childhood* 2007 (detail). Featured in 'Connection' exhibition 2007, Blacktown Arts Centre.

Goal 1

To encourage pride, cohesion and participation through cultural development.

Strategies

The Council will:

- continue its commitment to the Blacktown Arts Centre as a business unit of the Arts and Cultural Development Section and will continue to support the vision of the Arts Centre — “To support the growth of professional arts practice in Western Sydney and local cultures through the presentation of contemporary cross-art programs and to provide and to promote a positive cultural image of Blacktown”. The Arts Centre will develop its annual program of exhibitions, performances, workshops and other events and activities in accordance with all the goals of the cultural plan
- facilitate integrated projects in partnership with community organisations, community members and schools to promote community harmony, inclusion and cohesion
- provide opportunities for the development of projects that can bridge the gaps between generations
- ensure consultation with children in creative and artistic ways in developing programs which enhance a child friendly city.

Actions	Time frame	Section responsible	Funding strategy
1.1 Include, as a high priority, opportunities for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islander artists to develop and show their work through the Arts Centre program.	Commence 2007	Arts and Cultural Development	Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.
1.2 The Arts Centre will maintain a 5-year business plan which is updated annually with Council's corporate planning.	2007-2012	Arts and Cultural Development	Within existing resources.
1.3 The Arts Centre will develop its annual program of exhibitions, performances, workshops and other events and activities in accordance with the goals of the cultural plan.	2007-2012	Arts and Cultural Development	Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.
1.4 Develop partnerships with Children's Services and other child support organisations in developing art programs with outcomes that involve children and young people in decision-making.	Commence 2007	Arts and Cultural Development Children's Services	Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.



Blacktown Arts Centre Community Open Day, April 2007. Featuring 'Parks of the Future' exhibition, an initiative of the Office of the Minister for Western Sydney.



Urban Theatre Project, *The Folding Wife* 2007.

<p>1.5 Develop mechanisms for involving residents, especially youth and children, in the design and planning processes for community facilities (such as new halls, parks or town centres) in order to create a sense of pride and ownership and to ensure appropriate designs.</p>	<p>Progress report mid 2008</p>	<p>Arts and Cultural Development Community Development Open Space and Recreation Planning Finance and Corporate Strategy Property Services Transport Management</p>	<p>Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>1.6 Develop cross-cultural art projects to encourage empathy and understanding between communities/cultures.</p>	<p>Commence 2007 and report annually</p>	<p>Arts and Cultural Development Community Development</p>	<p>Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>1.7 Collaborate with local aged groups, organisations and networks including the Older Women's Network, in developing arts projects with young people and the aged.</p>	<p>Commence 2007 and report annually</p>	<p>Arts and Cultural Development Community Development Open Space and Recreation Planning</p>	<p>Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>1.8 Develop partnerships with youth organisations to produce arts projects which assist young people to integrate better in the wider community, and have more positive relations with the police and private security providers.</p>	<p>Commence 2007 and report annually</p>	<p>Arts and Cultural Development Community Development Open Space and Recreation Planning</p>	<p>Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>1.9 Develop an oral history and creative writing program which engages Blacktown's diverse communities and makes links with the historical societies.</p>	<p>Commence 2008</p>	<p>Arts and Cultural Development Community Development Open Space and Recreation Planning Library Services</p>	<p>Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.</p>



Maylene Marshall, *Untitled 2006*, etching
Featured in 'Crossing Cultures' exhibition, Blacktown Arts Centre 2007.
In conjunction with the College of Fine Arts (UNSW), Corroboree Arts and Crafts Co-op and Papunya Tjupi.

1.10 Develop arts projects with schools and Children's Services to validate and highlight children's identity and aspirations in the city of Blacktown.	Commence 2008	Arts and Cultural Development Community Development Children's Services	Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.
1.11 Introduce Aboriginal storytelling at Council's childcare centres to familiarise children with Aboriginal Culture.	Commence 2007	Arts and Cultural Development Community Development Children's Services	Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.

Goal 2

To respect and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity, history and aspirations through the support and encouragement of the artistic expressions of these communities.

Strategies

The Council will:

- improve communication between Council and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- assist with the locating of venues for Aboriginal community's gatherings
- implement an Aboriginal Arts Development Strategy to enhance the professional, economic and cultural development opportunities for Blacktown Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their artists
- continue to identify locations of Aboriginal cultural significance in Blacktown.

Actions	Time frame	Section responsible	Funding strategy
2.1 Employ an Aboriginal Cultural Development Officer to lead the further development and implementation of this goal.	2007	Arts and Cultural Development	External funds obtained. Matching funds from Council required
2.2 Undertake a program of regular consultations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait artists and communities in the Blacktown LGA and beyond to further develop the strategies. Develop best practice model for consulting with the whole Aboriginal community within the City of Blacktown.	Commence 2007 and report annually	Arts and Cultural Development Community Development	Within existing resources.



Top to bottom

Jake Soewardie, *Thank you, Come Again* 2006, linocut

J. W. Eastwood, *Fish out of Water* 2006, relief etching

Featured in 'Crossing Cultures' exhibition, Blacktown Arts Centre 2007. In conjunction with the College of Fine Arts (UNSW), Corroboree Arts and Crafts Co-op and Papunya Tjupi.

2.3 Undertake a review of the 1986 study of Aboriginal archaeological sites and extend to include the identification of a broader range of Aboriginal heritage sites in Council and private ownership.	2007-2008	Arts and Cultural Development Planning Policy and Strategy Library Services	Within existing resources. Additional funds from Council required.
2.4 Review the participation of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists in the Blacktown City Festival, NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week celebrations.	2007	Arts and Cultural Development Civic Events Community Development	Within existing resources.
2.5 Support, resource and encourage the Corroborree Western Sydney Aboriginal Artists Co-op to secure its base in the Blacktown LGA through the establishment and housing of the Co-op, including providing temporary premises in Shop 1 Donnellan Place and developing Neoblie House for their long-term use.	2007	Arts and Cultural Development Property Services	Within existing resources. Support from Council through rent waiver.
2.6 Develop projects which illuminate and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity, heritage and presence in the LGA including public art projects, cultural projects enabling communities to tell their stories and the engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists in the design of signage, urban and open spaces and public art.	2007-2012	Arts and Cultural Development Open Space Planning Policy and Strategy	Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.
2.7 Identify neighbourhood centres and other Council properties to house programs and activities for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.	Commence 2007	Arts and Cultural Development Community Development Property Services	Within existing resources.
2.8 Identify a Council property for the dedicated use of the Darug people and negotiate terms for the management and use of the property.	Commence 2007	Arts and Cultural Development Community Development Property Services	Rent waiver or reduction.
2.9 Continue dialogue with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities regarding the establishment of an Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Blacktown.	2007 onwards	Arts and Cultural Development Community Development	Within existing resources.



Blacktown Arts Centre Community Open Day, April 2007. Featuring Children's Visual Art workshops.

2.10 Continue to work with Landcom and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities on future proposals for the Native Institute site.	2007	Arts and Cultural Development Community Development Open Space	Within existing resources.
2.11 Develop new terms of reference to provide for greater communication between the Aboriginal Advisory Sub Committee (AASC) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.	2007	Community Development	Within existing resources.
2.12 Develop internal mechanisms to enhance Council's ability to work effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a set of protocols for staff, in dealing with Aboriginal communities and artists an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy for Council cultural awareness training for Council staff and Councillors. 	2007-2012	Arts and Cultural Development Community Development Corporate Industrial Relations and Employment Services	Within existing resources with some additional funds possibly required for external trainers.

Goal 3

To provide citywide access to cultural development opportunities for all residents.

Strategies

The Council will:

- develop opportunities for children and young people to participate at all levels in arts and cultural development
- develop and implement a cultural facilities plan which responds to needs across the City, and builds on the cultural strengths and interests of our communities
- ensure access for people with disabilities to arts and cultural experiences.

Actions	Time frame	Section responsible	Funding strategy
3.1 Investigate the presentation of films in languages other than English on a regular basis at a range of sites throughout the city.	Commence in 2007	Arts and Cultural Development Civic Events	Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.
3.2 Identify community facilities in strategic locations where cultural programs can be introduced in stages.	Commence in 2007	Arts and Cultural Development Community Development	Within existing resources. Property Services



Deniz and Huseyin Simsek. local Musicians



Daniel Okoduwa, Local R&B artist. Blacktown Arts Centre 2006



Phreaze from Urban Prophetz. Zones of Rhyme. Blacktown Arts Centre 2006



Blacktown Arts Centre Community Open day. John May: Hands Heart + Feet. Drumming Workshop 2007.

<p>3.3 Work with city planners to ensure disability access in new public arts facilities.</p>	<p>Commence in 2007</p>	<p>Arts and Cultural Development</p>	<p>To be funded within project budgets.</p>
<p>3.4 Support Accessible Arts with the establishment of two part-time art and disability positions for the western Sydney region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Council's cultural development projects, cultural networks and events are inclusive of people with a disability, including provision of accessible information and marketing practices such as use of Accessible Arts Newsletter and provision of access information. • Utilise existing and emerging partnerships, inclusive practices and disability awareness in order to include people with a disability in cultural projects. • Enhance attitudinal access through the delivery of disability awareness training to cultural staff and managers. • Provide art exhibitions at Blacktown Art Centre by and for people with a disability. 	<p>2007-2010</p>	<p>Arts and Cultural Development</p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>
<p>3.5 Develop projects to engage young people and children in cultural development activities, in particular supporting the establishment of a centre for young people and children's literature in Blacktown.</p>	<p>2007 onwards</p>	<p>Arts and Cultural Development</p>	<p>Arts NSW funding secured. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>3.6 Ensure the Showground Cultural precinct proposal is closely informed by the cultural plan.</p>	<p>2007-2017</p>	<p>Arts and Cultural Development Transport and City Projects</p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>
<p>3.7 Expose children and their parents to art and culture by organising excursions to arts venues.</p>	<p>Commence 2007</p>	<p>Arts and Cultural Development Children's Services</p>	<p>Within existing resources.</p>



Vijaygiri Gauswami, *Pride* 2006. Featured in 'Transient Visions' exhibition 2006, Blacktown Arts Centre.

3.8 Promote children's art works through exhibitions at the Blacktown Arts Centre, libraries and other council facilities.	2008-2012	Arts and Cultural Development Library Services Children's Services	Within existing resources.
3.9 Develop a feasibility study for the transformation of the Rooty Hill School of Arts into a community art development space which supports communities' aspirations on a grassroots level.	end 2008	Arts and Cultural Development Property Services	Within existing resources.
3.10 Subject to Council approval, establish a small grant program for individual artists and arts projects, which can facilitate opportunities for communities to work with artists.	2008-2009	Arts and Cultural Development	Will require funding allocation from Council.
3.11 Work closely with Council's Children's Services Section in developing art programs for children at Council-owned childcare centres, including artists in residence projects.	Commence in 2007	Arts and Cultural Development Children's Services	Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.
3.12 Provide increased opportunities for artists, especially from CALD communities, to showcase their work at the Blacktown Arts Centre and in appropriate venues throughout the city.	2007-2012	Arts and Cultural Development	Within existing resources.

Goal 4

To animate the City through community and artist inclusion in public art and performance, cultural industries, urban and open space design.

Strategies

The Council will:

- integrate and reflect cultural identity in design principles by working closely with the communities' ideas and aspirations in developing new parks, public space and urban design
- acknowledge and celebrate the City's diverse Heritage
- enliven urban centres through performance, public art and the strategic location of arts production and distribution sites.



Public Art Works by Local Artists Danny Eastwood and Franco Colussi 2007. Round-about at Carlisle Avenue.

Actions	Time frame	Section responsible	Funding strategy
4.1 Schedule a program of performances in public places throughout the city aimed at breaking down cultural barriers among community groups.	2007-2012	Arts and Cultural Development Community Development	Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.
4.2 Involve residents, particularly young people and CALD communities, in the planning and designs of public / open spaces (community gardens, place making).	2007-2012	Arts and Cultural Development Community Development Environment	Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case by case basis.
4.3 Adopt and implement the City Wide Public Art Plan, prioritising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public art education and awareness within Council. The identification of a range of sites in the LGA for public art development. The development of a suite of public art and signage works around the CBD to improve the amenity and legibility of the city centre. The development of demonstration public art projects which engage artists and communities in the design and enhancement of public spaces and urban amenity. 	To be adopted in 2007	Arts and Cultural Development Public Art Inter Directorate Working Party	Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis. Developer funding.
4.4 Develop a proposal for an integrated approach to heritage conservation and interpretation across the city, which includes Council's role in managing Blacktown's archaeological, built, environment, moveable, cultural and intangible heritage.	End 2008	Arts and Cultural Development Property Services Planning Policy and Strategy Library Services	Within existing resources plus additional funding from Council and external sources.

Goal 5

To create a strong economic base for the arts in Blacktown.

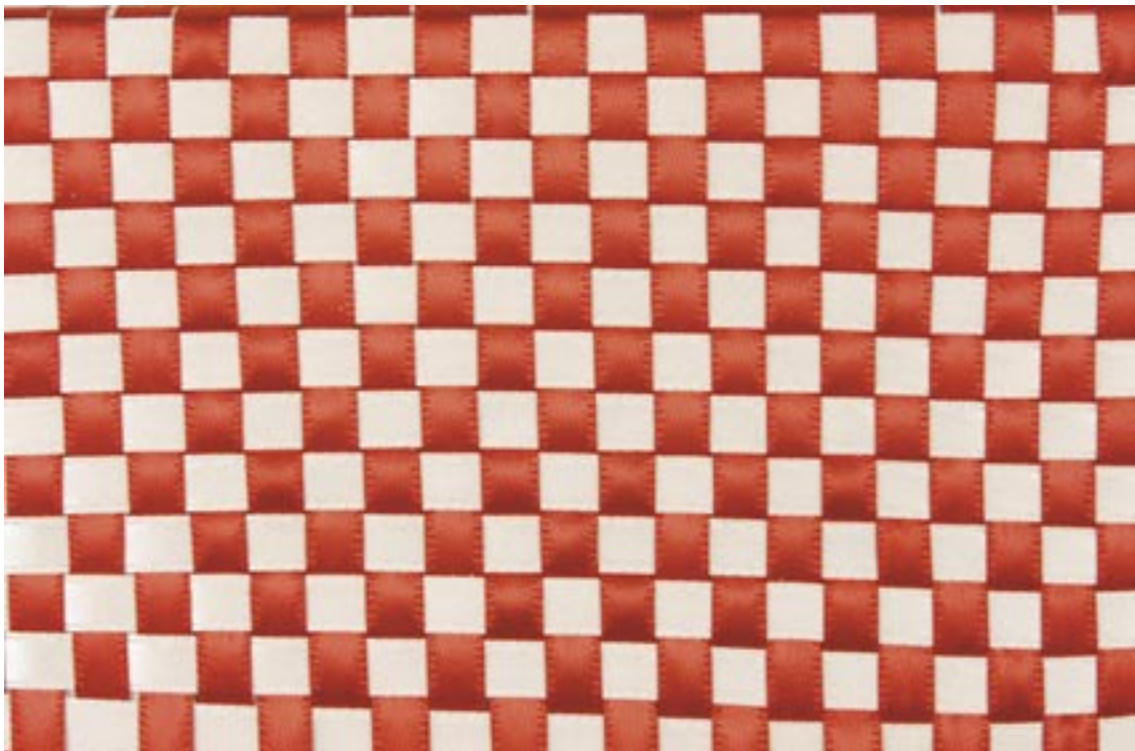
Strategies

The Council will:

- ensure that arts and cultural development are integrated into City's economic development initiatives
- research and develop opportunities for innovative arts industries and professional development for Blacktown artists.



Vandana Ram, *Sari & Choli* (series of 4). Featured in 'Indigo: new work by Vandana Ram in collaboration with women from South Asia living in Western Sydney' exhibition, Blacktown Arts Centre 2006.



Fiona Davies, *Memorial/Handmade Dress*, 2007 (detail). Featured in 'Memorial/When I was Younger: new work by Fiona Davies' exhibition, Blacktown Arts Centre 2006.

Actions	Time frame	Section responsible	Funding strategy
5.1 Regular consultations with Blacktown City Council's Economic Development Personnel.	2007-2012	Arts and Cultural Development	Within existing resources.
5.2 Empower and encourage community members to conserve natural resources through art and cultural initiatives.	End 2008	Arts and Cultural Development Environmental Services	Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.
5.3 Investigate the provision of artists' studios and rehearsal spaces in council properties.	2007-2012	Arts and Cultural Development Community Development Property Services	Within existing resources.
5.4 Investigate the feasibility of establishing a regular arts and craft market in the city.	2007	Arts and Cultural Development Economic Development	Within existing resources.
5.6 Provide development, training and career opportunities for Blacktown's emerging artists, including a music development centre at the Rooty Hill School of Arts.	end 2008	Arts and Cultural Development	Within existing resources. Additional funds for projects from Council and external funding sources on a case-by-case basis.
5.7 Investigate the potential for the establishment of an artist-run space in the city.	Commence early 2008	Arts and Cultural Development	Within existing resources.
5.8 Provide training for CALD artists in public art and community cultural development.	Commence mid 2008	Arts and Cultural Development	Within existing resources.
5.9 Identify and develop key areas for cultural industries development, prioritising support for Aboriginal artists.	2007-2012	Arts and Cultural Development Community Development	External funding sources on a case-by-case basis.
5.10 Continue support for the Blacktown Artists Network in partnership with Blacktown Migrant Resource Centre.	2007	Arts and Cultural Development	Within existing resources.
5.11 Investigate opportunities which create employment for artists in public art and community cultural development	2007-2012	Arts and Cultural Development	Within existing resources from Arts and Cultural Development.



2006 Blacktown City Art Exhibition. Prize winners Paul Garcia JR, Mazin Ahmad, Isabella MacKay, Luis Martinez and Nafisa Bilal.



Luis Martinez, Bungaribee Creek Reserve 2006, Featured in 'West: new landscape works by Luis Martinez' exhibition, Blacktown Arts Centre

Goal 6

To ensure the ongoing inclusion, consultation and participation of the council departments and communities in the plan's short, medium and long-term strategies.

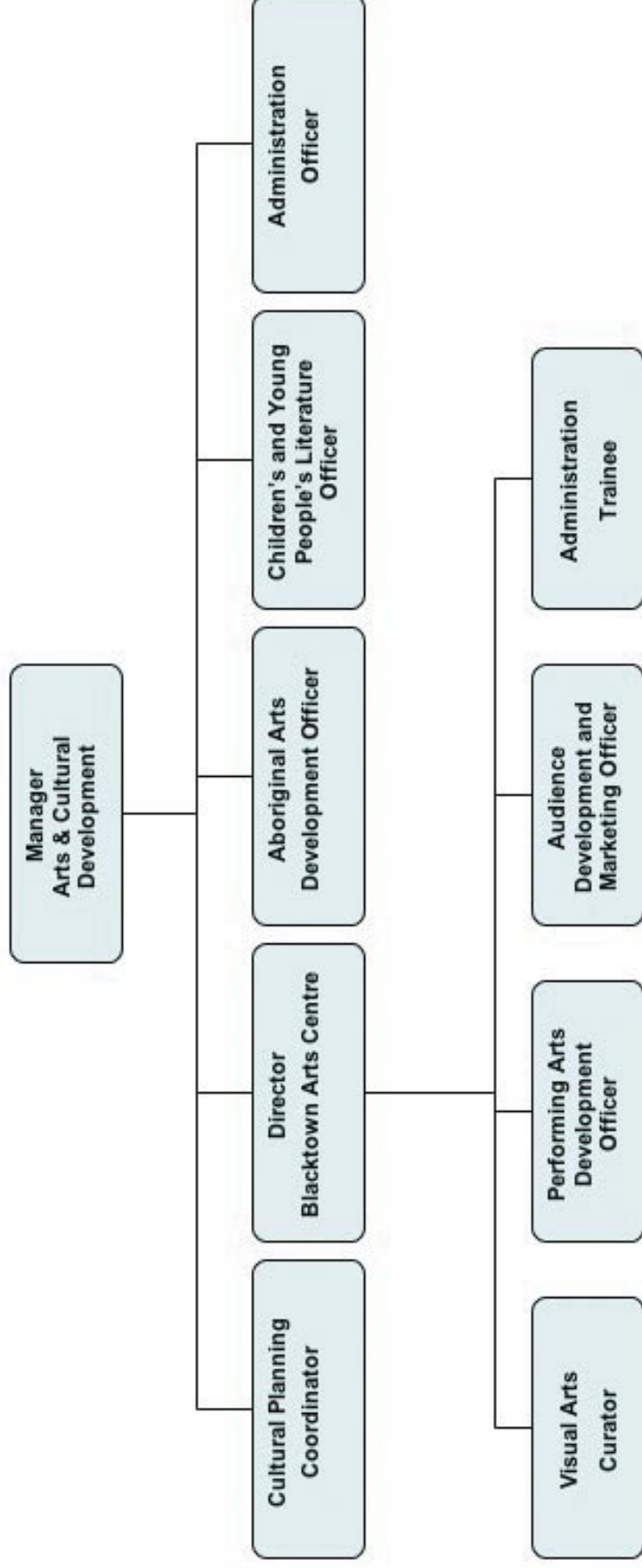
Strategies

The Council will:

- continue to support and operate an Arts and Cultural Development Team, which will provide leadership in developing an integrated approach with other Council sections to local cultural and social needs
- promote cultural development within Council and in communities
- ensure that the principle of consultation is an integrated part of the city's cultural development activities undertaken by council.

Actions	Time frame	Section responsible	Funding strategy
6.1 Cultural activities in Blacktown to be the theme of a future calendar, with input for images from the Cultural Development team.	2008-2009	Arts and Cultural Development Civic Events	Within existing resources.
6.2 Undertake a regular program of consultation with Blacktown communities and community organisations.	2007-2017	Arts and Cultural Development	Within existing resources.
6.3 Review and evaluate the plan every two years through community consultations.	Every two years	Arts and Cultural Development	Within existing resources.

ARTS & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONAL CHART





Above and front:
Abdul Karim Rahimi, *Self Portrait and Memories* 2006 (detail). Featured in 'Transient Visions' exhibition 2006, Blacktown Arts Centre.

For any information on the Cultural Plan contact Monir Rowshan on (02) 9839 6281

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