



**Holroyd City**  
*Build Around People*

# **A Cultural Plan for Holroyd**

**February 1996**

Prepared by Annie Pfingst

Information and Cultural Exchange Inc.

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ISBN 0 9586804 0X

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Holroyd Cultural Plan was developed by Holroyd City Council, with the assistance of the Community Cultural Development Program from Information & Cultural Exchange (ICE). It forms part of the Social Plan and was developed within a Social Planning framework.

In September 1993, Holroyd City Council resolved to undertake the development of a Social Plan for the Holroyd Local Government Area.

The Holroyd Social Plan represents a joint Community-Council endeavour aimed at providing a comprehensive study of the current and future needs of the Human Services environment within the Holroyd Local Government Area. This plan gives recommendations for maintenance, development and continuous improvement of the environment.

The Social Planning process has involved residents, community based and voluntary agencies, and the three levels of government in identifying local needs and developing strategies to meet them.

The Holroyd Cultural Plan has been developed as part of this process with a Cultural Plan Reference Group established to design and develop a framework within which issues can be identified, desired outcomes set, and strategies developed. This framework includes areas of cultural activity, public and community amenity and facilities.

The Cultural Plan has been prepared by Annie Pfingst (Information & Cultural Exchange) with the assistance of Council's Social Planner, George Hasham, and the support of the Cultural Plan Reference Group, which included - Jacqui Douglas, Liz Hale, Kerry Shelberg and Mahmoud Yekta. Many other organisations and individuals have contributed to this plan through various focus groups and consultations. Council is very grateful for their involvement in the development of this project.

It is envisaged that the Cultural Plan will be continuously updated and revised to meet the changing needs of the Holroyd Community.

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## **1. A FRAMEWORK FOR CULTURAL PLANNING FOR HOLROYD**

This report provides a framework for cultural planning within Holroyd. It offers an approach for considering the needs and opportunities for planning, for establishing infrastructure and support mechanisms and for creating programs and facilities to enhance and support the cultural life of the diverse communities of Holroyd. It forms part of the Social Plan and has been developed within the Social Planning process.

### **1.1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CULTURAL PLANNING**

Cultural development and planning within local government has broadened significantly in recent years, and consideration of culture is now recognised as affecting, influencing and encompassing many aspects of social, economic and physical planning.

Local government investment in culture and the arts has traditionally been focussed on constructing venues, organising major events, holding occasional concerts and festivals or in providing the services of community arts officers to work with communities. In recent years, the focus for Councils has broadened to include cultural planning, to considering the links between cultural resources and economic development, to supporting community cultural development work with and in communities, and to taking the lead in creating and enhancing cultural opportunities.

**The definition of culture** goes beyond the arts, to encompass all the aspects of daily life - the design of our cities, the values attached to land and natural environments, to trends in fashion and clothing, to language and customs, to heritage and ideas.

**It includes the cultural environment within which the tasks of daily life are conducted:**

- the design of the urban environment
- the events that draw and hold communities together
- the ways diverse communities are represented within the cultural life of the community
- the opportunities that exist for people to participate in and contribute to community life
- the sense of place, connection and identity that people and groups within the community have within a geographically defined area
- the quality of life that people and communities enjoy.

Cultural planning draws on the values people attach to each other and to the place they live, on the ways the community reflects itself, shares and celebrates, and on the sense of wellbeing and identity held by individuals and groups.

Urban life can be exciting, challenging, frightening or intimidating; a source of connection or isolation, of friendliness or caution, of celebration and companionship, or of dullness.

Community cultural development and cultural planning can influence the way we design our urban spaces; the places and opportunities people have to meet, to share their cultural knowledge, heritage and uniqueness, to participate freely; and the ease with which people can move around the community with enjoyment.

**The diversity of Holroyd manifests in a number of ways:**

- the range of cultural backgrounds represented within its population
- discrete neighbourhoods/suburbs that display unique histories, urban design, housing and architecture, and lifestyles
- a range of open spaces, local and regional parks
- a range of artists and community cultural activities
- signs and remnants of a history of development - from rural to market gardening, from agricultural industry to manufacturing industry, from small cottages to three story units, from corner shops and shopping along main connecting roads to shopping malls.

**A number of issues and problems confront these communities and the area as a whole:**

- the pressures on urban infrastructure, open space and resources from urban consolidation
- a lack of understanding and communication between older established communities and newly arrived, immigrant communities
- economic pressures and low incomes
- the threat of violence
- the lack of amenity of public spaces, including shopping centres, local parks and railway stations
- limited transport options
- limited access to venues and facilities for community activities
- few opportunities for cultural and arts activities or events.

**The cultural facilities and resources that Holroyd contains, include:**

- communities of diverse cultural backgrounds and cultural heritages
- traditional and contemporary cultural expressions and arts

- the everyday activities of people of different ages, cultures, lengths of residency
- parks, playgrounds, creeks and canals, stands of eucalypts and natural open spaces
- discrete identifiable communities, (Merrylands, Greystanes, Guildford, Mays Hill, Westmead, Wentworthville, Pendle Hill) with physical centres, local histories and landmarks
- clubs and social venues
- sporting facilities and clubs
- a range of community based organisations and groups
- a diverse and large artists community
- educational resources.

**Cultural planning and community cultural development provides the opportunity for:**

- maximising the wellbeing and quality of life of the community
- the creation of unique places within communities that reflect and enhance a sense of identity for that community
- creating a dynamic community life through participation in events, in community and public art which reflects the spirit, the history, the beliefs and the diversity of the community
- the amenity of local environments which identify and articulate the distinctiveness of local places and local communities
- addressing local issues and meeting local needs
- improving the amenity of local environments
- the design, use and location of facilities
- the development of cultural industries
- protecting and enhancing natural environments.

Arts and cultural programs can contribute to shaping the local community, to enabling participation and contribution from many groups across cultures, ages and interests, and in harnessing the broadest possible creative approaches to local community development.

*"By actually participating in a process that creatively explores an issue, the participants can become better informed about the issue itself.... "*

*"... the arts applied in a context of community cultural development are, for many Councils, proving to be a valuable aid in finding creative solutions to environmental dilemmas. "*

*"Those communities that are richest in their artistic traditions are also those that are most progressive in their economic performance and most resilient and secure in their economic structure. "* (John Kenneth Galbraith)

'Roads. Rates, Renaissance-Local Government in the Arts in the Nineties.' SA Community Arts Network.

## **1.2. CULTURAL PLANNING AND INTEGRATED LOCAL AREA PLANNING**

Cultural planning ties in closely to integrated local area planning, where planning for quality of life can draw together urban design, physical and social planning, engineering, community development and service provision. It recognises and responds to the cultural values and cultural needs of the community. (see Better Places, Richer Communities: Local Government, Integrated Planning and Cultural Development; Sansom Praxis Research; Australia Council 1994)

The provision and development of cultural services to the community is less about an additional function or the provision of facilities, and more about considering cultural aspects within existing planning and service provision, one which links community development to cultural development to urban design and vice versa. Cultural planning offers ways of responding to community needs and services that are uniquely local, relevant, flexible and innovative, offering new solutions to existing problems.

The provision of cultural facilities, infrastructure and services recognises the economic benefits and opportunities derived from such investments. The economic benefit of investments in cultural programs and the arts is seen in direct benefits (increased visitors) and indirectly (less vandalism, a more dynamic and involved community caretaking its own environment).

*"Planning which seeks to develop cultural resources facilitates connections between various cultural sectors. It opens up meanings for culture and it encourages strategies which enhance the role of culture in quality of life and urban amenity, economic development and local diversity and identity"* Glenmore Park Cultural Plan - Penrith City Council/Marla Guppy & Ass. 1994.

**The following framework offers:**

- **an approach to cultural planning and the provision of cultural infrastructure for Holroyd, and**
- **specific recommendations where Council can intervene, plan, develop and support cultural development in the communities of Holroyd.**

## **2. BROAD ISSUES IDENTIFIED FOR CULTURAL PLANNING RESPONSES**

Issues identified through WSAAS consultations, through focus group discussions within the Social Plan and from consultations held for the Cultural Plan have informed the approach recommended for cultural planning in Holroyd.

### **Cultural Development, Cultural Programs and Community Arts**

- overall and general lack of cultural and arts activities
- need to establish cottage craft industries, training and self employment (especially for people from non-English speaking communities)
- need to increase cultural awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders by and within the broader community
- need to develop arts, cultural and recreational programs for the elderly and the frail aged need to develop options for older people retrenched or retired
- need to develop community activities to bring multicultural community together
- need to develop cultural/recreational programs, and access for people with disabilities need to plan and develop cultural programs, arts activities and opportunities
- lack of community cohesion and understanding
- conflicts and lack of knowledge about cultures and ways of living.

### **Artists and Artists Spaces**

- current lack of connection between artists and the community
- lack of information in the community on local artists and arts activities
- lack of gallery, workshop and exhibiting / performing space for local artists
- limited visibility of artists in the community.

### **Cultural Heritage/Cultural Value**

- need to determine a working definition of 'heritage' and its inclusions - identify Holroyd's rich cultural inheritance, cultural diversity and histories

- need to identify and recognise places holding cultural significance to the communities of Holroyd
- should Holroyd have a “museum” - what is appropriate for this area
- need for creation of historical and archival collections of photographs and oral histories

### **Urban Design, Open Space, the Built Environment and Public Art**

- experience of rapid change and pressure on the environment
- poor design and urban amenity
- lack of a focus in many communities
- unsafe, dark and depressed public environments
- few expressions of local histories, cultures and values visible in the shared public domain.

### **Facilities, Resources**

- lack of facilities for cultural programs, arts activities and recreation no exhibiting and performing space for artists
- limited access and use of existing facilities
- limited available information on existing groups and cultural, arts and community activities
- limited resources, equipment and funds for community initiatives
- lack of information on access and facilities in parks.
- making the link between the community and its artists
- need for opportunities to train and resource the community in arts activities and cultural programs.

### **Activities, Events, Festivals**

- need to develop and adequately accommodate existing and planned activities for all sections of the community
- lack of planning and resources for potential festival programs throughout the year
- development of recreation programs for 13-16 year olds

### **Recreation, Open Space and Parks**

- improved amenity, facilities, provision of appropriate equipment, access and maintenance of local parks
- consideration of safety in parks
- provision of bike tracks for young children
- better use of areas surrounding canals
- growth of more trees in Walpole St
- limited available open space in a very built up urban environment
- parks and open spaces not large enough to accommodate large gatherings/events
- improved maintenance of swimming pools
- creation of outdoor chess and games near shopping centres
- need for multipurpose indoor sports centre, sports facilities in parks

### **Information and Technology**

- need for greater distribution and access to information on groups, activities and opportunities
- need to understand and access new technologies.

### **3. COMMUNITY CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY ARTS**

*'Cultural development is development for quality of life, quality of amenity, physical attractiveness, and most important, for participation and celebration of a diversity of human creative and productive resources in local communities''* (A Cultural Development Strategy - Towards a Cultural Police for Brisbane.)

Planning for quality of life engages all levels of planning for local residents, visitors and communities, from the provision of basic services and the amenity of local environments, to the opportunities for communities to celebrate and gather together.

Community cultural development is a process of working with the community to create opportunities for cultural expression and for participating in and shaping local and national culture.

#### **Community cultural development can:**

contribute to integrated local area planning

make links between communities and planners, between physical and social planning and their cultural aspects

assist communities to explore solutions to local problems

encourage communities to find resolution to conflicts

facilitate communities to express their aspirations, values and interests

facilitate communities to communicate across their differences

encourage communities to actively participate in community events and activities

facilitate groups and individuals to pursue cultural and arts activities

facilitate communities and groups to participate in creating and caring for their environment

encourage and facilitate communities to contribute and participate in community arts and cultural activities

contribute an approach for non-arts organisations (including in health, community development, settlement and language services etc.) in working creatively with their client groups.

#### **Community cultural development and community arts are committed to:**

- recognition of indigenous culture

- the participation and contribution of communities from non-English speaking backgrounds
- access and participation for people with disabilities
- programs and planning for people isolated within the community
- specific activities for groups with different interests and of different ages
- the building of communication and cohesion within the community
- exciting and innovative approaches.

Community arts is the most visible manifestation of cultural development work with communities. There is a long history in Australia of communities producing written, visual, sculptural and performance works. It is often the first and most accessible point for people to begin an active involvement in the social, cultural and civic life of their communities.

Council's project to improve the amenity of Guildford Railway Underpass was a successful community arts project that created a central focus of imagination and colour, transformed a poor and troublesome environment and enabled a wide range of people to participate in the design and painting of the mural.

**Community arts projects can:**

- enable communities to contribute to their environment
- bring people together
- offer people and communities training, new skills and knowledge
- facilitate the contribution and visibility of culturally diverse groups in the community
- produce art works of local content and relevance
- provide an opportunity for local artists to work in and with their local communities
- draw on the artistic and cultural traditions of its diverse communities (in dance, theatre, in weaving and pottery, in language and calligraphy, in understanding and representing the natural environment, in painting and sculpture).

The ways of working with communities developed through community cultural development and community arts are being taken up by people working in health, community development, direct services and on the environment. Working creatively enables people to express themselves, gain information and begin to work towards change. Community arts approaches can work with the elderly, with young people, with people from non-English speaking backgrounds, with retirees and with families. Cultural programs can offer the framework for providing direct services and intervention in ways which are culturally appropriate and accessible.

While from time to time Council can initiate and support projects such as the Underpass Mural, there is currently no structure for policy and planning for community arts, community cultural development and cultural planning for Holroyd. Yet there is a strong and dynamic interest and commitment from community groups and local artists to community arts and cultural programs. The opportunities to create a dynamic cultural environment for Holroyd has enormous potential. Many proposals currently flounder or struggle for lack of support and a context. Major opportunities for communities to contribute to the environment being created in new housing developments, in their local parks and in community events are being missed. Partnerships between Council, the local community, local artists and cultural workers would offer enormous potential if Council had a formal commitment to community cultural development and cultural planning.

**Recommendation:**

- **That Council establish the position of Cultural Planner.**
- **That Council seek opportunities for community arts projects.**
- **That Council support community initiatives in community arts and cultural development.**
- **That Council support training in community cultural development and community arts for community and youth workers, artists and community groups.**
- **That Council seek partnerships with local and regional community cultural development and arts organisations for its involvement in community cultural development.**

#### **4. CULTURAL HERITAGE - CULTURAL VALUE - CULTURAL LANDSCAPE**

Cultural values are found in a variety of forms within any community - the landscape, the sites important to indigenous people, the cultural icons of settlement, the influences and contributions of different migrations, and the places that reflect the cultural memory and history of diverse groups within the community.

As we move through the 1990's into the next century, current discussion throughout Australia considers the kind of community we are culturally, what kind of story we might weave out of the diversity of our experiences - reconciliation and recognition of indigenous culture at a national and local level is important, as is the creation and recognition of diverse identities. There is a broad discussion of our histories, national and local, and the ways we represent them. These constitute our cultural heritage.

This report establishes an approach to cultural heritage that goes beyond the listing of significant buildings, to identifying the icons, places, stories and structures that hold value, significance and importance to diverse groups within the community. This approach values the living culture of the community, and attempts to create an active engagement with its content.

We can distinguish between heritage sites and things that hold cultural significance and value –

- built structures (regardless of their age), bridges, cottages, factories, pipelines
- natural environments and landmarks
- oral and local histories - spoken, written, visual
- the material culture of diverse communities (collections of crafts and tools; items of industrial manufacturing and agricultural practices; visual expression)
- people - identified elders and holders of cultural knowledge, stories and memories.

The items, places and stories of the diverse communities of Holroyd offer a rich matrix of cultural heritage. A recognition, valuing and sharing of this rich inheritance facilitates mutual recognition, respect and participation in cultural life.

Places and stories of cultural value and significance can be identified and made visible through a number of ways:

- gathering local histories and sharing those through publications, public readings and storytelling events, and holding them in the local archive
- public art which acts to mark a particular place or a particular history (e.g. a crossroads, the site of a former stand of trees, a place of value to the Aboriginal community, a market garden, an immigrant hostel or meeting place)

- community events such as performances can bring peoples attention to a particular place, or an important time in the year e.g. NAIDOC, refugee week, Carnivale
- educational programs in schools with elders from diverse communities.

**Recommendation:**

- **That Council adopt a broad approach to the cultural landscape, and, in consultation with the community, establish a register of places and items of cultural significance.**
- **That Council recognise the value of the stories and knowledges existing within the community and create an archive out of oral, visual and written collections.**
- **That Council promote the rich diversity of Holroyd's cultural landscape and people.**

**4.1. A MAP OF PLACES OF CULTURAL VALUE AND SIGNIFICANCE FOR HOLROYD**

The cultural heritage of Holroyd is diverse - from indigenous cultural history, to the early European settlement, the different periods of migration and settlements and the range of cultures and their influences and experiences, the use of land, the building of the railway and the pipeline, the different industries and the experiences of the working community. From these experiences particular places within the area that hold importance can be identified as places of cultural value and significance as can the older people who are the storytellers. In a matrix of places and people, a living museum program and cultural map can be developed.

The 'map of significant places' identifies those things that people value. It links together significant landmarks and places, buildings and structures, and natural features, that signify and represent the diverse cultural histories in Holroyd.

**The map of significant places would:**

- consist of a series of identified places of significance throughout the Holroyd area (it might include the pipeline, the aqueduct and water canal in Greystanes and the stand of trees along it, the cottage in Lane St, the youth centre in Greystanes and the milking bails, the brickworks at Goodlet and Smith St)
- offer the opportunity for the community to be involved in identifying, discussing and talking about places of cultural value to them
- form the basis for a plan for cultural tourism within Holroyd
- link together disparate places and elements throughout the municipality
- provide the basis for a 'living museum' program of collecting local histories (including the histories of working communities, immigrant communities, agricultural and manufacturing communities) and developing an educational and community program around them,

- link together built structures and the natural environment, providing opportunities for environmental and regenerative projects;
- involve people with knowledge and stories about the identified places, valuing them as part of the cultural heritage.

**Recommendation:**

- That Council initiate the development of a 'cultural map of significant places' within and throughout Holroyd.
- That Council seek to identify items for inclusion on the map through a research and community consultation process.
- That Council establish periodic reviews and additions to the 'cultural map of significant places'.
- That Council act to protect places identified by the community to be included in the 'cultural map of significant places'.

**4.2. AN HISTORICAL AND ARCHIVAL RECORD OF HOLROYD**

Adding to existing collections of oral histories held within the library, historical and archival material relating to the diverse cultures and histories represented within the Holroyd area would contribute significantly to an understanding of the richness of Holroyd's history and current cultural environment.

Material relating to the following would form an interesting starting point for such research and collection:

- a recording of indigenous history and the land prior to and within the early white settlement
- a recording of the changes in land use and practices from wood to market gardening to industrial
- oral histories of the agricultural and manufacturing industries
- a record of the architectural design of the domestic house in Holroyd
- a record of garden design and domestic land use of immigrant communities
- a record of the visual material of value within culturally diverse communities (dresses, ornamentation, jewellery, carpets and weaving, mats and carvings).

Projects to collect and create an archive involves the community actively participating in defining and sharing its own rich history. Public involvement and access to an archive is integral to supporting local cultural life. An archive could take a number of different forms including audio collections, slides and photographs and written material. A program of readings, exhibitions and displays would make the material available to the community.

**Recommendation:**

- **That Council support the development of an historical and cultural archive.**

**4.3. LOCAL ARTISTS A RESOURCE FOR HERITAGE RESTORATION WORK.**

While details of Council support for local artists and involvement of artists in public art is detailed in section 5/6, an approach for involving artists in heritage work is included here. Local artists are keen to contribute to the maintenance, preservation and restoration of heritage buildings and places of cultural significance. Having local knowledge and a close connection to the culture of their local areas, local artists are well placed to contribute their skills, imagination and knowledge.

Artists can also make interpretive works for places of cultural significance, including the design of sculptural markers, signage, plaques and panels, designed covers for leaflets, collections of oral histories and so on.

**Recommendation:**

- **That Council develop a policy to engage local artists with the appropriate skills to contribute to heritage planning, restoration, landscape design and public art for places of cultural value.**
- **That Council develop a policy for engaging artists to contribute to the design of publications, exhibitions and recordings from oral histories, archival collections and research.**

## **5. NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS, URBAN DESIGN AND PUBLIC ART**

The quality of life residents enjoy within their own communities is affected by the quality of the environment - the aesthetics of its design; the extent to which it reflects their sensibility or cultural identity; the sense of comfort and safety they experience moving around and through it; the ease with which they can conduct their daily chores, meet socially, interact with each other and the rest of the community; and the degree to which it embraces their sense of belonging.

The urban environment is a cultural environment - it comprises public and domestic places, the interface between the public and the private, places for communication, involvement, work, play and civic activities. The cultural environment is as much defined by the history, experiences and expressions of its communities as it is by buildings, streets and open spaces. People's memories of change, their experience of events as historical occurrences, their witnessing of construction of public utilities and buildings, and their use of open spaces and public amenities all go towards their sense of their community, their sense of civic identity and pride, and their sense of acceptance.

Integrated local area planning offers the opportunity to link cultural dimensions into the planning of the urban infrastructure. Cultural planning, cultural development and community arts offer a range of approaches that directly intervene, explore, research and respond to the problems, needs and aspirations of urban living.

Holroyd has experienced enormous change historically, and more recently through urban consolidation. The settlement of people from non-English-speaking-backgrounds, the shift from rural to manufacturing industry, the move from individual houses to blocks of units, from corner shops to large shopping malls, the construction of major transport systems, have all contributed to an experience of change and shifts in values.

### **Holroyd's urban environment is characterised by:**

- a series of strip planned shopping and civic centres -with clearly defined histories, identifiable characteristics, and identities, some fulfilling neighbourhood role(Pendle Hill), others playing a significantly more regional role (Merrylands)
- specific if inadequate transport systems (the railway line, the motorway, private bus links, community transport)
- house design covering many different styles and periods
- some unique buildings and urban design
- the impact of rapid change with streets of blocks of units
- a set of local parks and open spaces, and identified regional parks and open spaces in varying degree of development and with varying degrees of amenity

- limited public facilities or limited access to existing facilities
- an interesting industrial and manufacturing history with existing factories and businesses (Bonds, the brick works, the Wool Stores, the agricultural stores)

**Cultural planning offers a number of approaches to tackling the improvement, enhancement and quality of the urban environment:**

- community consultation and involvement in exploring and describing what is important to the community and how the community, and sectors within it, use the environment, determines a set of values that are local and specific that can inform design alternatives
- as the community becomes involved in exploring and describing the environment as it experiences it, planning solutions to problems become visible and practicable
- a community involved in planning becomes the caretaker of its own environment
- the simplest most practical solutions to design and planning issues can like building blocks to transform the environment
- small scale projects manageable for planners and communities to work on collaboratively can shift the relationship between the community and the Council, and draw on the imagination, practicality and interest of the community.

**Cultural planning can intervene in and facilitate the creation of**

- civic pride
- community identity
- community cohesion and communication
- an articulation of the uniqueness and distinctiveness of each community
- safe, aesthetically pleasing and enjoyable public places
- public places that reflect the cultural history and many experiences of the community
- environments that link domestic, civic and public uses, and make the movement between them enjoyable and rich interactions.

**Through arts and cultural programs, urban design can resolve problems facing many urban environments in a local and unique way - it can:**

- change the environment of existing dark, unsafe and displeasing pedestrian movement corridors, underpasses, lanes and walkways through lighting, designed pavements, mosaics and murals
- provide havens for people in busy shopping areas (carefully designed mosaic or painted seating, shelters, bus stops, buffers to traffic)
- provide safe walkways beside canals, roads or railway lines with imaginative fencing, planting and sculpture
- provide unique and distinctive signage to identify locations and mark places of local importance
- create a 'heart' in the community through a sculpture or image that reflects the imagination, history and values of the community
- provide interest and excitement through a set of small, almost incidental pieces of art in the environment (plaques in the pavement, sculptures at street corners, images etched in glass doors or porticos of public buildings, mosaic seats and garden edging, sculpted wooden bridges, tiled walkways and so on)
- create surfaces of interest and in a variety of materials to add change and movement into the environment
- change the visual environment and prevent graffiti
- create civic and cultural environments for people through main street projects
- create points for people to gather comfortably in public environments, lessening isolation and the separation between domestic and public life
- design unique places within new housing developments, which both provide resolutions to design problems and offer residents a distinctive environment they can identify with, feel proud in and take care of.

**Recommendation:**

- Council include cultural planning approaches, skills and forms in its planning and urban design function.
- Council look to cultural planning, public art and placemaking for solutions and approaches to urban design and amenity.

## **5.1. DISTINCTIVENESS - PLACEMAKING**

Local environments are the landscapes of our everyday experiences and interactions. This is where our sense of place, our identity and our belonging is most intimately experienced and expressed culturally and personally. Placemaking creates vibrant, relevant, dynamic public places in partnerships between communities, planners, designers and artists.

Placemaking projects around Australia are regenerating urban spaces, introducing public art into parks and open space environments, and expressing each community's unique identity and sense of place.

A strong sense of community and identity can be enhanced, created, supported and facilitated through placemaking projects in each of the distinct suburbs of Holroyd, drawing on their unique histories, cultural mix and physical environment.

The physical and cultural distinctiveness of the suburbs within Holroyd offers a unique and exciting opportunity to develop a placemaking project across the municipality, drawing on the particular characteristics of each area, and linking projects together through commonalities and shared histories.

### **A placemaking project that was part of the local area planning for each suburb could creatively address itself to:**

- creating sculpted identifying markers for each suburb, articulating its particular identity
- providing creative design solutions to improve the environment of shopping centres and public spaces by working on signage, seating, bus shelters, and public amenities
- revitalising depressed areas in partnership with the business community (shopfronts, mosaic pavement markers for shops and businesses, creative lighting solutions to lanes, painted surfaces to combat graffiti)
- turning pedestrian walkways and underpasses throughout the area into bright, well lit, interesting and safe environments through art projects that reflect and take advantage of people's daily use of these spaces
- creating points of focus and use for community events/activities in local parks and civic spaces (seating, sculptures, sculpted play equipment, waterworks, sculpted fencing)
- creating markers for identifying and interpreting selected sites of cultural significance.

### **Recommendation:**

- **Council seek opportunities to initiate placemaking projects as part of its area planning for each suburb.**
- **Council initiate a placemaking project to create a public art work in each suburb to reflect and identify its character and distinctiveness.**

- **Council contract artists and designers to work within Council on placemaking projects.**
- **Council investigate the design alternatives for public art interpretation and placemaking projects identifying sites of cultural significance throughout the municipality.**
- **Council support community arts initiatives in placemaking within communities.**

## **5.2. PUBLIC ART**

Public art offers a way of inserting emblems, images, texture, colour and different materials into the every day environment. Public art can be both large and small scale, transitory (chalk art) or permanent (mosaics); it can be made up of sculptures, designed paving, mosaic seating, play sculptures, unique fencing, fountains and waterworks; and it can be freestanding or integrated into the architectural fabric of buildings, amenities, pavements, sources of lighting, underpasses and bridges.

Public art can be commissioned, created through community arts projects, or be designed and made through placemaking projects. Public art can fulfil a myriad of functions in the public domain:

- act as a signature for local identity, history and contemporary value
- reflect the values and aspirations of the local community
- act as a focal point for cultural activities, tourism and community development
- be a planning component in revitalisation of the urban environment
- add interest and aesthetic elements to public parks and civic places

### **Recommendation:**

- **Council seek opportunities to initiate public art in new housing developments, within revitalisation projects, and as placemaking projects within distinctive suburban environments.**
- **Council support community initiatives in public art.**
- **Council seek expressions of interest from a register of local artists for public art projects.**

## **5.3. OPEN SPACE, PARKS, CULTURAL PLANNING, DESIGN AND PUBLIC ART**

Parks and open space offer a unique opportunity to plan aesthetic, cultural environments. Parks and open space are highly valued, not only for their natural aspects, but also for their rarity. While Holroyd has some well developed parks, such as Central Gardens, in others public enjoyment and use would be enhanced through greater amenity and a created focus.

Lytton St Park in Wentworthville is an example where there has been planning and development, where community expectations and needs for amenities are clearly identified, and where greater use and enjoyment of the park would occur with provision of amenities, and design of features giving users a greater sense of safety, comfort and enjoyment.

Cultural planning, placemaking and public art can transform both the smallest pocket of open space from a littered empty corner, or a large park from a vast and intimidating space, into exciting, welcoming places. Careful planning, design and placement of seating, pathways, lighting, sculptures, playspaces, planting, shade structures, areas for games, places for performances and community gatherings and events, can bring life and enjoyment into urban open spaces. Recreation and recreational programs interact with a planned environment. An exciting, well lit, designed and articulated place enhances enjoyment and participation in recreational activities.

Opportunities exist even within the design and treatment of basic amenities - picnic tables and shelters, toilets, fencing, lighting, footpaths and cycleways.

**Recommendation:**

- **Council undertake a cultural plan for its open spaces and parks, including opportunities for public art.**
- **Council undertake a pilot cultural planning project in Lytton St Park, Wentworthville.**
- **Council integrate cultural and recreation planning of its public parks.**

**5.4. CREATING A CULTURAL PRECINCT**

The opportunity exists in the planning of the Walpole St park and in the determination of the use of the brickworks to create a unique cultural environment that draws on a number of distinctive elements- the brickworks, a large open space, the Children's Museum and its programs, housing, and the largest and main shopping centre for Holroyd.

A cultural precinct within this site could act as a focus for Holroyd and a venue for larger cultural events. Development of the site should consider including public art, sculpted pathways, designed and sculpted large scale games (chess sets), places for traditional games and sports (bocce), gardens and shade planting, a sculpted place for community events and performances, cafes and restaurants, together with a cultural use of the brickworks themselves.

**Recommendation:**

- **Council identify the Walpole St Park, the brickworks, the Children's Museum and the open space a cultural precinct.**
- **Council develop a cultural plan for the design and development of the Walpole St site.**

## **5.5. MERRYLANDS - A MAIN STREET PROJECT**

Merrylands is the largest and most important shopping centre, and contains most of the businesses and services of the City. It is recognised as such by the community and the local neighbourhoods. The points of access and use within Merrylands are fragmented - links across from one recognisable place to another - from the railway station to the mall, back to the main street, to the park, to the youth centre, to the Council building, the post office or Community Health - are interrupted by roads and heavy traffic.

The potential for Merrylands to be an exciting, bustling culturally active centre is enormous - it is the focus for the City, has the best transport network, and large open spaces with potential for creative change. This can be made possible through

- a section of Merrylands Road set aside as a pedestrian mall
- involving the business community, artists and the general community in creating a designed environment
- undertaking a public art project at the railway station
- locating a cultural/arts centre in the precinct (see section 7.0)
- developing a public performance program

### **Recommendation:**

- **Council undertake a Main Street Project for Merrylands.**
- **Council involve the business, the arts and broader community in developing a cultural plan for Merrylands.**
- **Council consider a section of Merrylands Road between Pitt St and Memorial Ave. set aside as a mall.**

## **6. ARTISTS AND ARTISTS SPACES**

The arts community and the contribution artists make to the cultural fabric of our communities has been more strongly recognised in the past few years. There has been a recognition of the value and contribution of the arts to national identity, to the vibrancy of national cultural life, and there are structures of support and recognition at national and state levels through arts funding programs.

Within Western Sydney a number of initiatives with artists as the creators and designers of both public and civic spaces have offered models for the inclusion of artists in planning and design teams, in community consultations and participation, and in commissioned public art (for example the inclusion of art and creative design in the new Children's Hospital Westmead, the regeneration of natural environments, the design of main street projects, the creation of focal points in civic spaces).

Holroyd boasts a particularly large number of artists - the membership of Artfusion, an network of contemporary artists in Holroyd and Parramatta, counts 40 artists from a diversity of arts and crafts practices (including painters, sculptors, graphic artists, film and video makers, computer artists, ceramicists, and community artists). In addition, the arts and crafts and musical societies have a large and regular membership. There are a number of writers and performers in the area and a growing number of young people involved and interested in the arts.

For many years artists have felt that the recognition of them and the potential of their contribution to the community has gone unsupported and unrecognised. Many artists have felt the need to leave the area in order to support their arts practice, to have venues to exhibit or perform their work, and to be part of an artistic and creative community. That has started to change in the past 2-3 years as artists meet and work together locally.

Artists offer a great deal to the community - they contribute ideas and innovative approaches and offer ways of expressing and sharing values and experiences.

Local government's role in supporting the local arts community can vary widely - from the provision of galleries and performing arts venues, to the active organisation of arts events, with arts prizes, festivals and competitions.

Consultations with artists over the past few years undertaken by the Community Cultural Development Program of the Information and Cultural Exchange Inc. and held within the Cultural Plan, have identified the issues for artists and arts practice within Holroyd as being:

- the lack of appropriate places within which to exhibit
- limited or no access to equipment and resources to support their practices (e.g. access to kilns)
- a lack of recognition and support by the local community of artists and their efforts and contribution
- few opportunities to contribute to activities and cultural life within Holroyd
- limited financial support for community arts /activities initiated by local artists

- limited information about and between cultural groups and to the community of arts activities, events, and resources.

**Holroyd has a particularly large and diverse arts community. Policy and action to support the potential contribution of this arts community should:**

- take advantage of the opportunities that the large number of artists living in the area offer
- enable artists to make their contribution to the local community
- encourage recognition by the larger community of their presence and contribution.
- look for and support the inclusion of artists and arts activities within community cultural programs and events (such as exhibitions within festivals, artist run community activities, artist's contribution to research and documentation of local histories etc. ).

**The policy areas recommended for Council support of the arts within Holroyd are based on:**

- maximising the potential contribution of artists
- creating a dynamic cultural environment within which communities and artists can meet
- ensuring the creative energy and innovative thinking of local artists is available to both the local community and to Council's planning.

**The directions Council can take in supporting the arts community focuses on establishing a relationship between artists, the Council and the community in ways which:**

- increase the visibility of artists
- take advantage of their skills and knowledge
- are flexible in application
- can respond to specific and changing needs
- establish a relationship between artists and communities
- establish a relationship between artists and other disciplines (e.g. earth sciences, information technologies, community development programs, environmental regeneration)
- enable artists of a variety of disciplines to be involved
- recognise, encourage and support artists and arts activities from diverse cultural backgrounds

- recognise and support both the professional and non-professional artist and crafts person
- support and encourage independence through access to information and training.

**Recommendations:**

- **Council initiate a feasibility study on the location, design and management of a gallery/cultural centre for Holroyd (see Section 7.0)**
- **Council establish an artist in residence program**
- **Council establish and support an annual Artsweek for Holroyd**
- **Council contribute to the setting up of an artists data base of visual artists, writers, performers and community artists within Holroyd**
- **Council develop a policy for engaging local artists (through employment or contract) to work on public art, community arts projects and commissioned works.**
- **Together with artists, arts and cultural groups and community organisations, Council support the planning and establishment of an annual cultural calendar.**
- **Council establish and facilitate an annual consultation with local artists, arts groups and organisations to discuss and plan cultural activities and to ensure artists contribution to Council planning.**

## **7. FACILITIES AND RESOURCES**

The cultural facilities and resources within the area are many and varied, and include specific cultural facilities, facilities used by the community for cultural activities, places and landmarks that have cultural meaning and/or significance, and the human, artistic and cultural resources of the community.

While a detailed audit of cultural resources has not been undertaken, the facilities and resources that Holroyd can draw on for cultural planning include:

- facilities within local neighbourhoods and communities, including neighbourhood/ community centres, local, scout, sports and church halls
- the facilities of clubs and commercial venues
- parks and open spaces
- playgrounds
- school facilities and grounds
- specific cultural facilities (e.g. the Children's Museum, meeting rooms of cultural organisations, swimming pools, sports facilities)
- artists and arts groups
- equipment held by various groups
- heritage buildings
- places of cultural significance
- communities of diverse cultural backgrounds
- older people with knowledge and skills.

**There are significant difficulties, gaps and problems of access that limit the current planning and development of cultural activities, and inhibit the initiatives of local groups, communities and artists.**

**The focus of the Cultural Plan to these limitations is on developing:**

- a facility within a central location in Holroyd that can easily and regularly house cultural activities, visual arts exhibitions and performance

- a central focus within Holroyd that can draw together a diverse community
- the creation of a centre in Holroyd where groups become visible to each other, and meet the potential interactions offered by the rich diversity of cultures and artists, creative approaches and arts practices
- creative management and access policies for cultural use of Council managed buildings within neighbourhoods and local communities
- shared and flexible use and access to equipment and resources
- establishing local facilities
- access and equity policies.

### **7.1. CREATING A HEART FOR CULTURE IN HOLROYD**

The potential sharing between cultural groups, communities, arts groups and artists is limited by the lack of both a point of focus and an adequate facility. The creation of a cultural facility that can combine the exhibition of visual arts, with performance, cultural events and community cultural activities would form a 'heart' around which cultural programs could be developed.

A central location of such a venue in Merrylands could provide:

- the opportunity to pull together groups and cultural activities from across the municipality, thereby facilitating communication and cultural sharing between diverse community groups
- offer neighbourhood programs a point of contact with other communities in Holroyd
- establish a point of visibility and connection for Holroyd cultural activities to the surrounding areas (to Parramatta, Fairfield and Liverpool) and to Western Sydney
- a point of reference, encouragement, and contact for community initiatives
- a location from which municipal wide cultural development activities can be supported and linked together
- enable partnership programs with Western Sydney cultural development and arts initiatives to be more easily and visibly located in Holroyd (e.g. with Casula Powerhouse, with Creative Cultures)
- offer a venue to local artists and arts groups to exhibit within their own community
- provide a place for artist run workshops and arts training to the public and to community groups.

Council's role in development, management and financial support of such a facility requires a feasibility study and detailed planning. Consideration should be given to the possibilities of establishing shared management through an artist run space in partnership with Council, the renovation of an existing building, and securing financial support from State and Federal government.

## **7.2. LOCAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR CULTURAL AND ARTS ACTIVITIES**

While the proposal above for a central facility is focused on bringing the community together across its diverse activity, local facilities provide for the everyday nature of community involvement in cultural and arts activities - the weekly dance and drama group, the language class, the theatre project with young people, the writing and oral history project with older people. Some neighbourhoods in Holroyd have existing facilities where the problem is one of arranging access. Some communities have few facilities and the ones that do exist are inadequate to the needs of cultural programs.

An audit of cultural resources would more accurately identify the possibilities and the gaps. In broad terms, every suburb should have access to a facility that can house cultural and arts activities of a regular nature, as well as special annual events. These may be a different type of facility in each community according to the specific needs and natures of the population.

In some communities, such as Guildford, where there are large numbers of artists, and community arts initiatives, the potential of a local cultural centre that can respond to the many initiatives of that community would greatly benefit both that community and the surrounding area.

Council has been rehabilitating and bringing into use a number of cottages around the City. Located in neighbourhoods, of heritage and cultural value, the cottages offer a unique and major contribution to the provision of places for community activities. Where cultural programs can offer a framework for developing contact and services to the community, and a context for direct services and information, then the location of the cottages (for example in Lane St, Wentworthville) are a significant asset. Maximising the effective use and location of the cottages relies on developing policies for their use and management, including consideration of their impact on the local community, access, changes in use and function, and the need or otherwise of income from them.

Consideration of access, financial support and existing and potential use of facilities such as Linnwood Hall and the School of Arts in Guildford is required.

### **Recommendation**

- **Council conduct an audit of cultural and arts resources in each suburb.**
- **Council develop a policy on the development of cultural /arts centres in identified local communities in response to community and arts community initiatives, including Council's role/partnership with artists and community groups in artist run spaces.**
- **Council develop a policy on community use of Council owned facilities, including the cottages, giving consideration to community management, financial support, range of uses and impact on local communities.**

### **7.3. ACCESS TO EXISTING COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

Developing cultural activities in local communities requires securing access to existing community facilities, including neighbourhood and community centres, schools, local and church halls and sports grounds. Currently access to these is arranged by community groups in an ad hoc way. The greatest difficulty experienced by community groups, artists and arts groups is in knowing what halls in the community exist and how to arrange use of them, and in accessing school facilities out of hours.

**Council can play a major role in facilitating greater access and use of these community facilities through:**

- **collecting and providing information to the community on available spaces, points of contact and conditions of use**
- **acting as the catalyst in a discussion within the community of available facilities and establishing a register**
- **entering into discussions with the Education Department and developing a local policy on community access to specified school facilities.**

#### **Recommendations**

- **Council establish a register of community facilities available for cultural and arts use.**
- **Council enter into discussions with the Education Department to develop a local policy on use of school facilities for community cultural and arts programs.**

### **7.4. MATERIALS, MONEY AND RESOURCES FOR CULTURAL AND ARTS PROGRAMS**

Community initiatives in arts and cultural activities are reliant on accessing equipment, materials, and money for artists and tutors to adequately establish an activity or program. While grants from State and Federal Governments are available for some major projects, the everyday cultural and arts activity that runs in the community is dependent on securing support from local government.

The investment of small amounts of money to support arts and cultural activities has enormous benefits. Without support, many such activities never get off the ground. From small beginnings major activities emerge that involve and affect large numbers of people either directly as participants or as recipients/audience of culture made within their own community. The long term financial benefits and income generation of cultural and arts activities has been well documented. Local initiatives can generate pride, participation, contribution and involvement of many people within the community in their community.

A culturally active community is dynamic and involved. Communities that are actively supported to be engaged in their own small cultural and arts activities are better placed to participate in larger and more broadly based activities (such as festivals, regional arts events, oral history projects, public art, environmental projects) when they occur.

**Local government has a role to play in supporting local cultural and arts activities which enable:**

- people to explore and contribute their vision and skills to the community
- groups to express their experiences, values and cultures and to share these with the rest of their community
- artists to create images of the community
- people to learn new skills and gain new knowledge

**As part of Council's role in community cultural development, a defined program of financial and material support to community cultural and arts activities would assist the community to plan, develop and maintain cultural and arts activities.**

**Recommendation:**

- **Council establish an annual budget for allocation to community based cultural and arts activities within the Holroyd Local Government Area.**
- **Council establish a pool of equipment within the library for loan for community use in cultural and arts activities.**

**7.5. ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES FOR ALL**

The way a program is designed, the physical access to a building, the resources available to support an activity for an isolated group within the community, the participation of newly emerging and other isolated groups in community events affect the quality of people's participation in cultural activities, and the potential loss of their contribution to the community at large. Access policy needs to address:

- the physical access to facilities and programs of people with disabilities
- that the design of cultural programs makes them available and accessible to people with disabilities, to women, to people with languages other than English, to the elderly and to isolated members of the community
- integration of people with disabilities and people isolated within the community into community arts and cultural programs.

**Recommendation:**

- **That Council develop a policy on equity and access to cultural and arts programs that are Council run, and/or funded and supported through a Council program.**
- **That Council promote such a policy to the community.**

## **8. ENTERTAINMENT, RECREATION, EVENTS AND FESTIVALS**

Culture as defined within this plan, encompasses the recreational and leisure activities people participate in on a daily and regular level, as well as the occasional, annual festivals and community gatherings organised by both communities and Council. The corner shop with the pin ball machine, the tai-chi class on Saturday mornings, the weekly church choir, the pottery class and the band at the local club all contribute to the cultural environment.

Information and understanding of the way people use and move around these activities, their aspirations and interests, where people travel to for entertainment and leisure and how they see their local resources and those in Western Sydney, in Parramatta and Liverpool or the City contributes to a cultural map of the area which in turn identifies both the areas for development and the support necessary for existing activities.

Recreation, sport and 'games' take up a large part of people's leisure activity. Sport is not often identified as a cultural activity, but the potential to link sport with arts, to see sport as a community event and to consider the range of sporting and games activities that might be part of a culturally diverse heritage offers an interesting and challenging departure in cultural planning and arts activities. Together with opportunities for people to walk, to picnic, to sit near the water, to have calm time out, planning for this mix of recreational activity should give consideration to

- multicultural festivals of games and traditional sports
- design and installation of giant games boards in public places, as public art (chess, backgammon, majong)
- annual multicultural event around games expo
- inclusion of games and sports in multicultural arts festivals
- designed environments for passive recreation.

Festivals and expos are opportunities to bring a culturally diverse community together, and offer communities the opportunity to share their knowledge, experiences and cultural expression. Festivals and events range in scale, and include local events in suburbs, major festivals across the municipality, regional activities (the Festival of Many Arts and Cultures, Carnivale), or to mark particular days in the annual calendar (NAIDOC, refugee week, senior citizens week, Youth Week, Moon festival etc.). Such events might be marked by exhibitions by local artists, street festivals, a day of performances, art and craft displays, community arts activities, sports carnivals etc.

### **Recommendations:**

- That Council establish a policy for the support of community events and festivals.
- That Council, in consultation with the community, plan and support an annual calendar of events and festivals.

- That Council take up opportunities to participate in Western Sydney region wide festivals
- That Council provide financial and organisational support to community initiatives in local events and festivals.
- That Council work actively with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the communities of non-English Speaking backgrounds to create events, recreational programs and festivals that include and reflect cultural diversity.
- That Council ensure community events and festivals are culturally inclusive.
- That Council undertake landscape design of recreation spaces, and look to creating sculpted board games in public places as part of placemaking or public art projects.

## **9. INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

information and technology is increasingly impacting in new ways and offering new opportunities both for communication and for the production of art. National cultural policy has made major commitments to multimedia development.

At a local level, the need for information about community activities, groups and resources has been highlighted throughout the consultations. The Social Plan is addressing information development in more detail. In order to support community participation in cultural activities, information is important to

- ensure that information about activities and programs reaches a wide cross section of the community, including people whose first language is not English
- enable groups to make contact with each other
- facilitate the community in participating in the planning and development of cultural activities
- enable community based groups to make contact with local artists.

Through programs such as the Internet, technology can offer wide access to material from across the world. The library is best suited for making such access available to the community. At the same time, local artists are working in computer generated visual arts, in desk top publishing and in CD ROM, all of which can be made available to the community through workshops and exhibitions of artists work.

### **Recommendations:**

- **Council contribute to the setting up of an artists' data base of visual artists, writers, performers and community artists within Holroyd. (see section 6)**
- **Council support the development of information to the community on funding opportunities for cultural programs and the arts.**
- **Council create an annual calendar of cultural events and activities for the community in multiple languages. (see section 8)**
- **Council investigate the potential of community access through computer programs located in the library.**

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Section 3.0 Community Cultural Development and Community Arts**

- 3.1. That Council establish the position of Cultural Planner.**
- 3.2 That Council seek opportunities for community arts projects.**
- 3.3 That Council support community initiatives in community arts and cultural development.**
- 3.4 That Council support training in community cultural development and community arts for community and youth workers, artists and community groups.**
- 3.5 That Council seek partnerships with local and regional community cultural development and arts organisations for its involvement in community cultural development.**

### **Section 4.0 Cultural Heritage - Cultural Value - Cultural Landscape**

- 4.1. That Council adopt a broad approach to the cultural landscape, and, in consultation with the community, establish a register of places and items of cultural significance.**
- 4.2 That Council recognise the value of the stories and knowledges existing within the community and create an archive out of oral, visual and written collections.**
- 4.3 That Council promote the rich diversity of Holroyd's cultural landscape and people.**
- 4.4 That Council initiate the development of a 'cultural map of significant places' within and throughout Holroyd.**
- 4.5 That Council seek to identify items for inclusion on the map through a research and community consultation process.**
- 4.6 That Council establish periodic reviews and additions to the 'cultural map of significant places'.**
- 4.7 That Council act to protect places identified by the community to be included in the 'map of significant places'.**
- 4.8 That Council support the development of an historical and cultural archive.**
- 4.9 That Council develop a policy to engage local artists with the appropriate skills to contribute to heritage planning, restoration, landscape design and public art for places of cultural value.**

- 4.10 That Council develop a policy for engaging artists to contribute to the design of publications, exhibitions and recordings from oral histories, archival collections and research.**

## **Section 5.0 Natural and Built Environments, Urban Design and Public Art**

- 5.1 Council include cultural planning approaches, skills and forms in its planning and urban design function.**
- 5.2 Council look to cultural planning, public art and placemaking for solutions and approaches to urban design and amenity.**
- 5.3 Council seek opportunities to initiate placemaking projects as part of its area planning for each suburb.**
- 5.4 Council initiate a placemaking project to create a public art work in each suburb to reflect and identify its character and distinctiveness.**
- 5.5 Council contract artists and designers to work within Council on placemaking projects.**
- 5.6 Council investigate the design alternatives for public art interpretation and placemaking projects identifying sites of cultural significance throughout the municipality.**
- 5.7 Council support community arts initiatives in placemaking within communities.**
- 5.8 Council seek opportunities to initiate public art in new housing developments, within revitalisation projects, and as placemaking projects within distinctive suburban environments.**
- 5.9 Council support community initiatives in public art.**
- 5.10 Council seek expressions of interest from a register of local artists for public art projects.**
- 5.11 Council undertake a cultural plan for its open spaces and parks, including opportunities for public art.**
- 5.12 Council undertake a pilot cultural planning project in Lytton St Park, Wentworthville.**
- 5.13 Council integrate cultural and recreation planning of its public parks.**
- 5.14 Council identify the Walpole St Park, the brickworks, the Children's Museum and the open space a cultural precinct.**

**5.15 Council develop a cultural plan for the design and development of the Walpole St site.**

**5.16 Council undertake a Main Street Project for Merrylands.**

**5.17 Council involve the business, the arts and the broader community in developing a cultural plan for Merrylands**

**5.18 Council consider a section of Merrylands Road between Pitt St and Memorial Ave. set aside a pedestrian mall.**

## **6.0 Artists and Artists' Spaces**

**6.1 Council initiate a feasibility study on the location, design and management of a gallery/cultural centre for Holroyd (see Section 7.0)**

**6.2 Council establish an artist in residence program.**

**6.3 Council establish and support an annual Artsweek for Holroyd.**

**6.4 Council contribute to the setting up of an artists data base of visual artists, writers, performers and community artists within Holroyd.**

**6.5 Council develop a policy for engaging local artists (through employment or contract) to work on public art, community arts projects and commissioned works.**

**6.6 Together with artists, arts and cultural groups and community organisations, Council support the planning and establishment of an annual cultural calendar.**

**6.7 Council establish and facilitate an annual consultation with local artists, arts groups and organisations to discuss and plan cultural activities and to ensure artists contribution to Council planning.**

## **7.0 Facilities and Resources**

**7.1 Council conduct an audit of cultural and arts resources in each suburb.**

**7.2 Council develop a policy on the development of cultural /arts centres in identified local communities in response to community and arts community initiatives, including Council's role/partnership with artists and community groups in artist run spaces.**

**7.3 Council develop a policy on community use of Council owned facilities, including the cottages, giving consideration to community management, financial support, range of uses and impact on local communities.**

- 7.4 Council establish a register of community facilities available for cultural and arts use.**
- 7.5 Council enter into discussions with the Education Department to develop a local policy on use of school facilities for community cultural and arts programs.**
- 7.6 Council establish an annual budget for allocation to community based cultural and arts activities within the Holroyd Local Government Area.**
- 7.7 Council establish a pool of equipment within the library for loan for community use in cultural and arts activities.**
- 7.8 That Council develop a policy on equity and access to cultural and arts programs that are Council run, and/or funded and supported through a Council program.**
- 7.9 That Council promote such a policy to the community.**

## **8.0 Entertainment, Recreation, Events and Festivals**

- 8.1 That Council establish a policy for the support of community events and festivals.**
- 8.2 That Council, in consultation with the community, plan and support an annual calendar of events and festivals.**
- 8.3 That Council take up opportunities to participate in Western Sydney region wide festivals.**
- 8.4 That Council provide financial and organisational support to community initiatives in local events and festivals.**
- 8.5 That Council work actively with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the communities of non-English Speaking backgrounds to create events, recreational programs and festivals that include and reflect cultural diversity.**
- 8.6 That Council ensure community events and festivals are culturally inclusive.**
- 8.7 That Council undertake landscape design of recreation spaces, and look to creating sculpted board games in public places as part of placemaking or public art projects.**

## **9.0 Information and Technology**

- 9.1 Council contribute to the setting up of an artists' data base of visual artists, writers, performers and community artists within Holroyd. (see section 6)**
- 9.2 Council support the development of information to the community on funding opportunities for cultural programs and the arts.**

- 9.3 Council create an annual calendar of cultural events and activities for the community in multiple languages. (see section 8)**
  
- 9.4 Council investigate the potential of community access through computer programs located in the library.**