

Arts and Cultural Development

Nillumbik Shire Art Collection Policy

2019-2022

1. Policy purpose

Nillumbik Shire Council values the interpretation of the Shire's local culture and heritage as expressed through the arts. As such, Council actively collects contemporary and modernist artworks of excellence that reflect our artistic heritage and local culture.

2. Policy scope

The Nillumbik Shire Art Collection is a tangible acknowledgement of Nillumbik's long tradition of artistic values and rich cultural heritage, and supports the development and growth of creative and cultural industries through:

- 2.1 The acquisition of indoor visual and outdoor public artworks of excellence, which foster the integrity of the collection;
- 2.2 Encouragement of donations and bequests of artworks to the collection via the Commonwealth Cultural Gifts Program;
- 2.3 The biennial acquisitive Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Art;
- 2.4 Acquisition of significant heritage items and civic objects that reflect Nillumbik's social and cultural history; and
- 2.5 Public access to collection via display, exhibitions and public programs so as to educate, challenge and engage the community.

3. Collection principles

The Nillumbik Shire Art Collection is a public collection, and a Council asset. As such there is an imperative to ensure return on investment to Council in its acquisitions. Accordingly, all items housed within the collection must meet strict selection criteria and acquisition process as set out in the *Nillumbik Shire Art Collection Curatorial Guidelines 2019-2022*, in accordance with best curatorial practice.

4. Strategic alignment

- 4.1 Strategic objective 2 of the Council Plan 2017-2021 provides for active lifestyles and artistic expression are fostered through participation and innovation. Priority Action 2.2.2 of the Council Plan provides for the review of this policy.

- 4.2 The Arts and Cultural Plan 2018-2022 provides opportunities for the Nillumbik community to foster active lifestyles and artistic expression through participation and innovation. Goal two of the Arts and Cultural Plan 2018-2022 provides for the development and growth of creative and cultural industries.

5. Inclusions

- 5.1 Visual art collection: two and three-dimensional contemporary (21st and late 20th century) and modernist (early to mid 20th century) visual artworks (including preparatory works if applicable) of excellence in traditional and non-traditional mediums by emerging, mid-career and established artists.
- 5.2 Public art collection: Permanent or temporary site-specific contemporary art integrated into public space, parks or public facilities designed to stimulate the community and enhance a sense of place. Public art can include such genres as:
- 5.2.1 permanent two or three-dimensional visual art, craft or design.
 - 5.2.2 new media such as projection and digital artworks.
 - 5.2.3 documentation of ephemeral (temporary) installations and artworks.
- 5.3 Civic collection: Objects of significance; including memorials and monuments specifically created as artworks, relating to the social and cultural history of Nillumbik.

6. Exclusions

- 6.1 Artworks not curatorially identified to fit the collection's acquisition criteria.
- 6.2 Generic, decorative civic features, community art installations, other visual or public artworks, craft and memorabilia commissioned or purchased outside the acquisition processes of the *Nillumbik Shire Art Collection Curatorial Guidelines 2019-2022*.
- 6.3 Objects of appreciation and memorabilia gifted from community to Council.
- 6.4 Street and office decorations.
- 6.5 Artworks will not be accepted from employees or Councillors of Nillumbik Shire Council, nor members of the Arts Advisory Committee.

7. Roles and responsibilities

- 7.1 The collection curated by the Curator & Creative Industries Officer ("the curator").
- 7.2 The Arts Advisory Committee provides a formal mechanism for Council to consult with key stakeholders and seek specialist advice in accordance with its Terms of Reference.
- 7.3 Assets and Property unit of Council will collaborate with Arts and Cultural Development in maintaining Council's asset register to include the collection and new acquisitions.

8. Policy implementation

In accordance with the *Nillumbik Shire Art Collection Curatorial Guidelines 2019-2022*:

- 8.1 The curator will act on an opportunity to acquire an exceptional work of art in consultation with the Arts Advisory Committee (via purchase, commission, donation).
- 8.2 The curator will curate a bi-annual collection exhibition to enable greater public access;
- 8.3 The curator will display the collection at publicly accessible spaces in Council buildings, the offices of councillors and management, and through loans with secure local commercial organisations such as banks, in accordance with curatorial and collection management requirements.
- 8.4 The curator will otherwise maintain, conserve and decommission the collection in accordance with curatorial and collection management requirements.

9. Related policies

- 9.1 Council Plan 2017-2021;
- 9.2 Nillumbik Shire Council Procurement Policy 2018-2019;
- 9.3 Arts and Cultural Plan 2018-2022;
- 9.4 Arts Advisory Committee Terms of Reference endorsed 30 October 2018;
- 9.5 Nillumbik Shire Art Collection Curatorial Guidelines 2019-2022;
- 9.6 Nillumbik Shire Public Art Policy and Implementation Guidelines 2019-2022.

10. Policy review

This policy should be reviewed by September 2022.

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