

Arts and Culture Strategy Action Plan



Counihan Gallery / Artist: Peta Clancy as part of Future River / Image: Simon Fazio

Year 3
2025/26

Arts and Culture Strategy Action Plan 2025/2026

Creation

A city that champions arts and cultural activity that is self-determined, intersectional, intergenerational, accessible and available across the municipality.

Ref.	Key Actions	Delivery	\$	Partners
1.1	Planning for staged delivery of updated festival program that is flexible, innovative, more accessible across the municipality, economically accessible and responsive to the challenges of climate change through a variety of initiatives.	2025/26	✓	Arts Advisory Committee, First Nations Creative Consultation group, Sustainable Built Environment and Sustainable Communities Units
1.2	Increase self-determined programming and participation opportunities for First Peoples, LGBTIQ+ communities and children and young people in Council arts and cultural programs.	Ongoing	✓	First Nations Creative Consultation Group, First Nations Advisory Committee, Wurundjeri Council, Community Development and Social Policy Unit, LGBTIQ+ Reference Group, Schools, Children's Services and Youth Services Units, Children's Reference Group, Youth Ambassadors
1.3	Deliver Arts Merri-bek Disability Access and Inclusion Plan actions.	Ongoing	✓	Arts Advisory Committee, Disability Reference Group
1.4	First People's Arts Officer role commences to assist to increase First Peoples programming and increase self-determination in that programming, nurture relationships with Traditional Owners, First Peoples artists and organisations and create pathways for First Peoples artists.	Ongoing	✓	First Nations Creative Consultation group

Key

- ✓ Within current resources
- ⊕ Additional resources required

Connection

A city that connects artists, audiences and participants.

Ref.	Key Actions	Delivery	\$	Partners
2.1	Continue to build sustained and long-lasting relationships with organisations and communities in the North of the municipality across the arts and culture program.	2025/26	✓	Community Development and Social Policy, Aged and Community Services and Youth Services Units, Glenroy Community Hub, Libraries, Neighbourhood Houses, Arts Advisory Committee, First Nations Advisory Committee (Ballert Mooroop)
2.2	Deliver Arts Merri-bek Disability Access and Inclusion Plan actions.	Ongoing	✓	Arts Advisory Committee, Disability Reference Group
2.3	Strengthen connections between artists and audiences through the delivery of a series of outdoor moving image works presented across Counihan Gallery's Winter Night Screen, Michelle Guglielmo Park projection screen, and screening programs at local partner arts organisations including Blak Dot Gallery and Next Wave.	2025/2026	✓	Place Activation, Balam Balam Place, Next Wave, Blak Dot Gallery

Investment

A city that invests in the creative community and creates opportunities for artists and the creative sector.

Ref.	Key Actions	Delivery	\$	Partners
3.1	Report back to Council on potential creation of a tribute to Destiny Deacon, which may include an artists' residency, art prize, creation of First Nations Fellowship/grant or other recommendation	2025/26	⊕	First Nations Creative Consultation group, First Nations Advisory Committee, Wurundjeri Council.

Key

- ✓ Within current resources
- ⊕ Additional resources required

3.2	Increase the profile of public art across the municipality through mapping and online access to the public art and Merri-bek Art collections.	2025/2026	✓	
3.3	Development of new Public Art Policy from 2026/27 and process for increasing maintenance and commissioning budget.	2025/26	✓ ⊕	Capital Works, Open Space, Urban Design and Place Revitalisation Units, Project Management Office.
3.4	Begin redesign and staged roll out of more impactful and accessible arts grant program with increased budget to increase support for First Nations artists, address community-identified needs and to attract/retain arts organisations in Merri-bek.	2025/26	⊕ ✓	Arts Advisory Committee, First Nations Creative Consultation group.
3.5	Continue planning for an arts centre in the North of the municipality.	2025/26	✓	Libraries, Capital Works and Community Development and Social Policy Units, Arts Advisory Committee, First Nations Advisory Committee (Ballert Mooroop).
3.7	Deliver Arts Merri-bek Disability Access and Inclusion Plan actions.	Ongoing	✓	Disability Reference Group, Arts Advisory Committee.
3.8	Deliver a streamlined Making it in Merri-bek series of high-impact workshops and programs, staged across the year and designed to respond to the evolving needs of our arts and creative sector across the municipality.	2025/2026	✓	Glenroy Community Hub, Libraries, Balam Balam Place, local arts organisations and artists.

Key

- ✓ Within current resources
- ⊕ Additional resources required

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CONTACT

Email
arts@merrri-bek.gov.au

Phone
(03) 9240 1111

Address
90 Bell St, Coburg VIC 3058



Kaiit / Brunswick Music Festival / Image credit: Simon Fazio