Arts Merri-bek Strategy

2023



Brunswick Music Festival / Image credit: Simon Fazio

Vision:

Merri-bek – where creativity and culture thrive.





We prioritise:



First Nations artists and audiences, in line with our Statement of Commitment



Opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, migrant and refugee communities, people living with disability, women, LGBTIQA+ people, young people and older people



Collaboration with the community and across Council

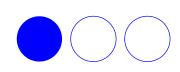


Advocacy for artists as workers

Arts engagement

98% of Australians engage with arts and culture every day

82.4% of Australians attend cultural venues and events



1/3
of Australians
create or produce
art themselves

IMAGE CREDITS

Future River Exhibition / Image: Simon Fazio Fawkner Festa / Image: Jacinta Keefe Making it in Merri-bek / Image: Wild Haart

Making Space / Artist: Emma Ritches / Image: Madeline Bishop

Our Creative Community:

Merri-bek is renowned for its thriving arts sector and creative industries. They attract residents and visitors, and play a significant part in Merri-bek's economy.

Merri-bek Creative Industries

Contributing

\$935 million to local output

to local outpu

Generating

\$423 million

in the region

Supporting 4,340 jobs

(10.1%)

Over

9,300

residents
worked in the sector

(11.4%)

 \wedge

Well above the Melbourne average of

9.7%

Merri-bek City Council arts and culture program:

Festivals

Counihan Gallery in Brunswick

Public art

Professional development for artists

Arts grants

Commitments:

01

Increased employment for First Nations artists

02

Increased arts and cultural programming and creative spaces in the North of the municipality

03

A refreshed festival program that is flexible, innovative, and more accessible across the municipality

Priorities:

Creation

A city that champions arts and cultural activity that is selfdetermined, intersectional, intergenerational, accessible and available across the municipality

Connection

A city that foster connections between artists, audiences and community

Investment

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

04

Increased access to spaces and funding for artists and creatives to make, collaborate and present work

05

Public art to be built into Council capital works, urban design and open space projects

These priorities and commitments will be delivered through annual action plans.