

# Arts Merri-bek Strategy

2023

2030



Brunswick Music Festival / Image credit: Simon Fazio

Vision:

**Merri-bek –  
where creativity  
and culture thrive.**



**ARTS**  
**MERRI-BEK**

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, LGBTIQ+ 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



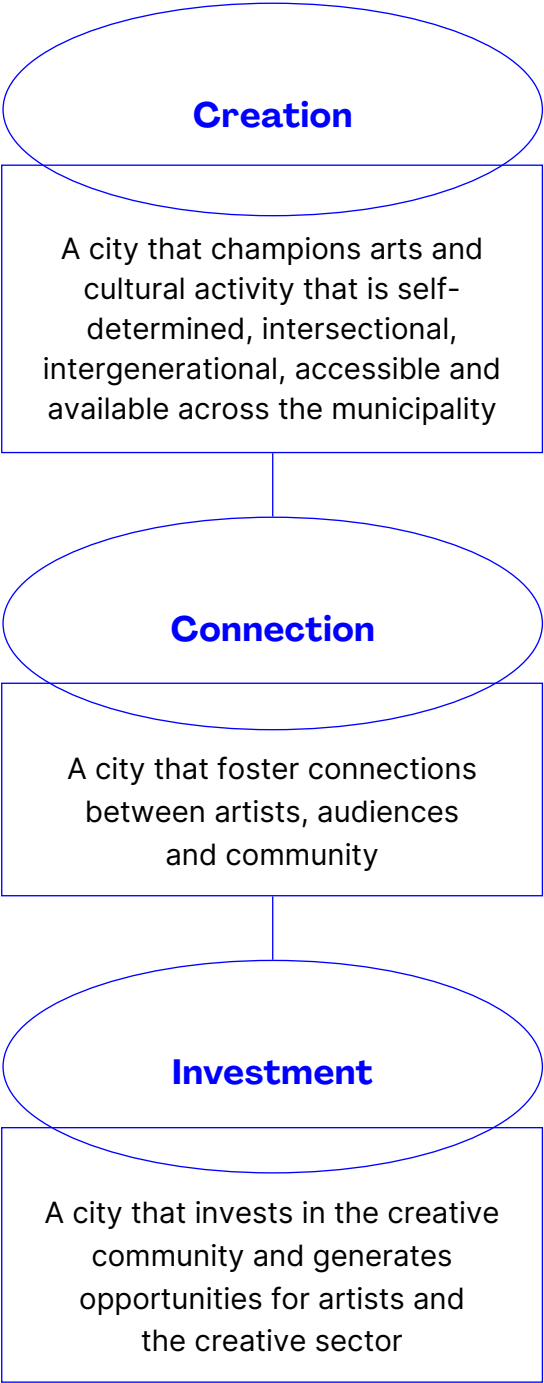
Merri-bek City Council  
arts and culture program:

- 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:



- 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.**