



WAVERLEY
COUNCIL



**WAVERLEY
ARTS AND CULTURE
PLAN 2021 – 2026**



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Waverley Council acknowledges the Bidjigal and Gadigal people who traditionally occupied the Sydney Coast and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

Council would like to acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, community members, and service providers who support our work in reconciliation.



OUR COMMUNITY VISION

Waverley: connecting the
city and the sea.

A welcoming and cohesive community that
celebrates and enhances our spectacular
coastline, vibrant places, and rich cultural
heritage.

- *Waverley Community Strategic Plan
2018-2029 (CSP)*



OUR VISION FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

By 2029, Waverley will be a community enriched by opportunities to celebrate and participate in art and culture.

– *Community Strategic Plan 2018-2029*



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Waverley Council has a proud history of supporting the cultural and creative life of our community. We recognise that arts and culture has, beyond its intrinsic value, a range of social, economic and health benefits for individuals and communities. Local government is central to enabling people to participate in arts and culture and there is a recognition in Waverley of the importance of planning for and investing in arts and culture to bring our community together, activate public spaces and drive local economies and cultural tourism. The Waverley Arts and Culture Plan 2021-2026 is our roadmap for the desired long-term future for arts and culture in Waverley.

This Plan reflects the community vision for the future of Waverley as a welcoming and cohesive community that celebrates and enhances our spectacular coastline, vibrant places and rich cultural heritage, as identified in our Waverley Community Strategic Plan 2018-2029. Our Arts and Culture Plan will help guide our future planning

for cultural infrastructure, events, programs and integrating this with the rest of Council's planning activities.

Waverley's cultural landscape is underpinned by the diverse stories of our unique people and location, and experienced in a range of places including our arts and cultural facilities and our public spaces. We recognise our Indigenous history, diverse society and surf culture and how opportunities for locals and visitors to learn, share and celebrate in our ongoing stories will foster a stronger sense of place and community inclusion and connection.

Listening to and engaging with our community members, artists and key stakeholders was integral to the development of this Plan, and I thank them for their invaluable insights. Together, we aim to create a long-term future for arts and culture in Waverley that is ambitious, collaborative, sustainable and responsive.

Paula Masselos
Mayor of Waverley



1. INTRODUCTION

The Waverley Local Government Area (LGA) is on the land of the Gadigal (Cadi-gal) people and the Bidjigal (Biddigal) people, representing the oldest continuous living culture in the world.

Waverley Council recognises the central role that arts and culture play in shaping and defining our community. The Waverley Arts and Culture Plan (the Plan) has been developed to guide Council's future planning for arts, cultural and creative infrastructure, events, programs and partnerships.

Waverley Council acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are, as sovereign custodians, the first people of this land. We commit to respecting and protecting Gadigal and Bidjigal sacred sites and special places, and to valuing and protecting our environment with respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' intrinsic relationship with the land and waters. We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been telling stories and creating art on this land for tens of thousands of years. The Plan aims to increase the recognition, visibility, celebration and sharing of Aboriginal stories, arts, culture and language.

Waverley Council encourages and promotes an open, tolerant and inclusive community where everyone thrives and has an opportunity to be heard. The Plan aims to increase opportunities for everyone in the community, including families, people of all ages, culturally diverse communities and people with disability to participate in arts and culture.

The Arts and Culture Plan sets the long term vision for arts and culture in the Waverley Local Government Area (Waverley) and provides a roadmap for Council, the community and partners to work together towards an exciting and engaging arts and cultural life for our area. Comprising 9km², Waverley is located in the heart of Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, about 7 kilometres east of the Sydney CBD. Along with our neighbours, Randwick and Woollahra council areas, Waverley takes in some of Sydney's most beautiful coastline, including the iconic Bondi Beach, and comprises a regional commercial and transport hub at Bondi Junction. Waverley has a population of around 74,000, making it one of the most densely populated LGAs in New South Wales.

The starting point for the Plan is our Community Strategic Plan 2018-2029 (CSP), which outlines the following community vision for the future of Waverley:

"Waverley: connecting the city and the sea. A welcoming and cohesive community that celebrates and enhances our spectacular coastline, vibrant places and rich cultural heritage."

The CSP identifies 'Arts and Culture' as a key theme to achieve this community vision, with the objective that:

"by 2029, Waverley will be a community enriched by opportunities to celebrate and participate in art and culture."

The arts and culture goals outlined in the CSP are to:

1. Facilitate opportunities that recognise Waverley's unique place in the Australian contemporary cultural landscape
2. Preserve and interpret the unique cultural heritage of Waverley

The development and implementation of an Arts and Culture Plan that delivers a wide range of integrated arts and culture activities is the first strategy outlined in the CSP.

From the CSP process we understand that Waverley's Library service is highly valued for its programs and for providing community connections. In addition, as articulated via the CSP, Council will:

- encourage Indigenous arts and culture and incorporate it into the landscape
- provide spaces for the performing arts
- encourage arts and cultural activities, including cross-cultural activities.

The CSP includes a focus on facilitating opportunities that recognise Waverley's unique place in the Australian contemporary arts and cultural landscape and in preserving and interpreting the unique cultural heritage of Waverley.

The community told us during consultation for the CSP that it is important to support arts and culture in Waverley.

Throughout our consultation with the community on the Plan, a number of themes emerged, which are expressed in this Plan as four key values.





OUR KEY VALUES FOR ARTS AND CULTURE IN WAVERLEY

1

Ambitious

A creatively ambitious approach that reflects our unique place in the Australian cultural landscape and imagination.

2

Collaborative

Arts and cultural outcomes driven by strong partnerships between and within Council, the community, and the creative sector.

3

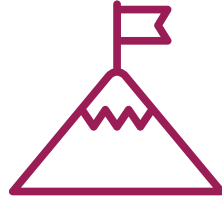
Sustainable

Strategic leadership and resourcing that recognises the value of arts and culture to Waverley and empowers our community and creative sector.

4

Responsive

Continually reviewing how we deliver on the goals of this Plan with our community and partners, and responding to new opportunities to enable a vibrant arts and cultural life.



OUR FIVE KEY GOALS

Guided by its values, this Arts and Culture Plan outlines a road map to achieve five interconnected goals that articulate the desired long-term future for arts and culture in Waverley, each supported by associated objectives and actions.

This strategic framework will drive the future work of Council, and guide how we work with partners and the wider Waverley community.

Goal 1

Our diverse and ongoing stories are shared and celebrated

Waverley's cultural landscape is underpinned by the rich heritage of its traditional owners, the Bidjigal and Gadigal people, and the diverse stories of our unique people and places. Opportunities for locals and visitors to learn, share and celebrate in our ongoing stories will foster a stronger sense of place, community inclusion and connection.

Goal 2

We have a vibrant network of spaces and places for arts and cultural participation, production and experience

Waverley has a range of spaces and places that facilitate our cultural landscape, including community facilities, public places, beaches and parks. A dedicated network of spaces and places that is fit-for-purpose and accessible will support local creative participation, production and presentation, and foster community connections.

Goal 3

Creative participation is flourishing and inclusive

Creative participation has a range of benefits for individual and community wellbeing. Supporting diverse and inclusive opportunities that respond to the needs and interests of our community will allow creative participation to flourish.

Goal 4

Showcasing and supporting our creative sector and community

Waverley is home to many creative and engaged individuals, groups, organisations and businesses. Showcasing and supporting this creative sector to thrive, collaborate and kickstart their initiatives will drive local arts and cultural outcomes.

Goal 5

Developing strong partnerships to facilitate growth for our cultural and creative sector

We will be a leading Council that puts our key values at the heart of decision-making in order to underpin strong and productive arts and cultural partnerships – locally, nationally and internationally. Strong cross-sector collaborations will increase awareness about the value of the arts and culture.



The objectives and actions that will be delivered throughout the duration of this Plan are detailed in section 5.



2. CONTEXT

2.1 How the Arts and Culture Plan was developed

Arts and cultural planning at the local government level is about identifying and leveraging a community's creative resources, strengthening the management of those resources, and integrating them with the rest of Council's planning activities.

Community engagement and endorsement is key to the success of arts and cultural planning.

The Waverley Arts and Culture Plan borrows from the Cultural Development Network Planning Framework (the Framework). This Framework recommends a planning process that is integrated with the rest of Council's planning activities. It is underpinned by the following six key principles informed by leading practices in public policy.

- Based on values
- Directed towards goals
- Focused on outcomes
- Informed by evidence
- Underpinned by a theory of change
- Respondent to evaluation

In summary, the Framework prioritises evidence-based planning that is responsive to evaluation and has measurable outcomes.

The methodology used to inform the development of the Arts and Culture Plan includes:

- Analysis of the community profile of the Waverley LGA and implications for cultural planning
- Auditing and mapping existing cultural assets
- Strategic context analysis and review of State, regional and local cultural planning policies and strategies
- Community and stakeholder engagement
- Analysis of local and international best practice case studies and trends.

The Arts and Culture Plan has been informed by extensive community consultation and research conducted over 2018-2020.

2.2 Defining arts and culture in Waverley

The definition of arts and culture has long been debated and the terms are used in a variety of ways. This Plan adopts a broad definition that aligns with the NSW Government's planning for a creative Sydney and considers:

- Our sense of place, our values, our diversity, our identity, and our digital and place-based communities
- The material products of creative and cultural processes including organic, formal, and informal processes
- Our engagement with, and participation in, creative and cultural process.

Culture is the way we live our lives – our knowledge, beliefs, behaviours, traditions, heritage and social character. It is about our ability to 'tell our story' – an essential and defining human characteristic.

Culture also encompasses the material ways in which we communicate our ideas and beliefs. This might include visual arts, craft and design, theatre, dance, music, writing, media and digital arts, community art and cultural development.

Culture in Waverley is experienced in a range of places including via our arts and cultural facilities, on the street, in parks, and even at the beach. Our community organisations also run programs that enrich our cultural experience.

The way that we make decisions is informed by our sense of place and values, generated through creative, collaborative and cultural processes, and impacting the way that Waverley is governed.

Through the CSP process, the Waverley community identified arts and culture as an area of

high priority. Highlighted was the importance of Council's continued support and provision of arts and cultural facilities, programs and events and vision to be a "community enriched by opportunities to celebrate in art and culture."

"Creativity belongs to the artist in each of us. To create means to relate. The root meaning of the word art is "to fit together" and we all do this every day. Not all of us are painters but we are all artists. Each time we fit things together we are creating – whether it is to make a loaf of bread, a child, a day."

*- Corita Kent (1918-1986)
artist, designer and educator*

14 2.3 The value of arts, culture and creative industries in Waverley

Beyond intrinsic value, arts and culture have a range of social, economic and health benefits for individuals and communities. In Waverley there is a recognition of the importance of planning for and investing in the arts, culture and creativity to bring our community together, activate public space and drive local economies and cultural tourism.

Research from the Australia Council for the Arts in 2020 indicates that 98% of Australian engage with the arts and the vast majority (84%) recognise the positive impacts the arts have on our daily lives and our communities, including our health and wellbeing, making our lives richer and more meaningful, and impacting our understanding of other people and cultures¹.

¹ Creating Our Future: Results of the National Arts Participation Survey, August 2020

RESEARCH



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Studies have found that people who participate in a creative or cultural activity are more likely to report good health compared to those who do not, and that participation in arts activities may increase cognitive abilities and may have a positive impact on specific health conditions such as dementia and depression.

A 2013 study in Scotland found that people who had participated in a creative or cultural activity were 38% more likely to report good health compared to those who did not; and for those who participated in dance, the figure rises to 62%



EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Participation in arts activities has been shown to improve educational outcomes. A 2019 study conducted in Houston (USA) showed that primary schools that integrate arts across the curriculum achieve higher average reading and mathematics scores compared to similar schools that did not.

In turn, we know that the 21st Century knowledge-based economy will increasingly require workers to have skills that are associated with artistic practices including creative thinking, self-discipline, collaboration and innovation.



COMMUNITY IDENTITY AND CONNECTION

Engagement in culture and creativity has been linked to an increased sense of community identity, cohesion and belonging, more inclusive communities and a reduction in social isolation.

Creative and cultural engagement may also increase participation in community life. A 2010 UK study found that students from low income families who engage in the arts at school are twice as likely to volunteer than those who don't engage in the arts and are 20% more likely to vote as young adults.



RESILIENT LOCAL ECONOMIES

Studies show that a vibrant cultural and creative ecosystem can help drive local economic prosperity and growth, including through attracting visitors, creating jobs, attracting and retaining businesses and revitalising places.



LIVEABILITY

Arts initiatives can transform public spaces that may have once been problematic or under-utilised into places that become meaningful and aesthetically pleasing to the communities that use them. Adopting art-based participation models can also be a powerful tool for engaging community debate on the use of public space. When a community becomes involved from the design to realisation phase of a project it can enhance their sense of belonging, encouraging them to become custodians of their social environment.

2.4 The role of Council, the community and partners

Local government is central to enabling people to participate in the arts, culture and creativity. In a climate of expanding global homogeneity, local production and participation in arts and culture is increasingly important and councils serve an important role to deliver, fund, host, support and promote arts and culture in local communities.

Waverley Council has a proud history of supporting the cultural and creative life of its community, dating as far back as the famous deck-chair concerts held in the early 1900's. Today, Waverley Council provides a range of direct and indirect cultural and creative services, facilities and programs to the community.

While Council plays a crucial role in fostering culture and creativity, the best outcomes are achieved through collaboration and partnership with community, business, government and key industry partners.

2.5 Strategic context

At the Federal and State government level, there is a focus on cultural infrastructure to support the production and showcasing of arts and culture; recognising, celebrating and supporting Indigenous arts and culture; supporting inclusive and diverse community participation; developing creative industries and fostering innovation; connecting to and learning from tangible and intangible cultural heritage; and creative approaches to place-making activities and the night-time economy.

Locally, the Arts and Culture Plan aligns with other key Council plans including the CSP, the Waverley Library Strategic Plan, Public Art Master Plan, Sustainable Visitation Strategy, Reconciliation Action Plan, Disability Inclusion Action Plan, Bondi Junction Evening Culture and Entertainment Strategy, Economic Development Strategy, Creative Lighting Strategy and the Waverley Village Centres Strategy amongst others.

The Arts and Culture Plan also responds to and provides direction for major ongoing projects from 2021-2026, including the Bondi Pavilion Restoration and Upgrade project, and the development of the Boot Factory Knowledge and Innovation Hub projects.







3. WHAT OUR COMMUNITY TOLD US ABOUT ARTS AND CULTURE IN WAVERLEY

Listening to and engaging with our community members, artists and key stakeholders was integral to the development of this Plan. From discussions with community through various engagement activities, the following key themes emerged:

Leveraging our unique place in the Australian arts and culture landscape and imagination to deliver creative and cultural outcomes

The Waverley LGA has a significant place in the Australian cultural landscape and imagination, and Bondi Beach is a national symbol of Australian life and a destination experience for Australian beach and surfing culture. Our community members highlighted the opportunities that come with this reputation as it means we have “something to build on.” Another theme raised by the community is the capacity for Waverley to continue to attract visitors from across Sydney and the world, which is an opportunity to deliver ambitious cultural and creative initiatives as well as a challenge to maintain a sense of community as pressure on our local spaces, places and services increases.

Developing an integrated and collaborative commitment to, and vision for, arts and culture in Waverley

The community wants the Arts and Culture Plan to champion the value of arts and culture, community participation and the creative sector and to outline a clear commitment to, and vision for, arts and culture that is integrated across Council’s planning. Participants emphasised a need for ongoing community involvement and collaboration in decision making. They also see opportunities for increased collaboration with other councils and cultural institutions.



Our beaches and natural environment shape and inspire Waverley's cultural identity

Waverley takes in some of Sydney's most beautiful coastline, and our famous beaches, cliffs and parks play an important role in shaping our cultural identity and inspiring creativity. Our community told us that going to the beach is one of the rituals of everyday life that shapes our local culture, and that our coastline is a hotspot for creative and cultural participation and community connection, with a large number of activities, events and festivals taking place here.

Recognising and learning from Aboriginal culture

The Waverley LGA has significant Bidjigal and Gadigal heritage sites and ongoing cultural presence. Our community indicated that

they would like Aboriginal culture, traditions, knowledge and stories to be acknowledged and more visible in their local area, including through events and activities, signage and interpretation, and public artworks incorporated into the landscape.

Sharing our intertwined and ongoing stories

Our community said they would like to see more opportunities to share and reflect on Waverley's unique cultural heritage and our ongoing local stories, including Aboriginal culture, beach and surf lifesaving culture, and the waves of immigration that continue to shape our culturally diverse community. The residents of the community appreciate living in a diverse community and want this diversity to be welcomed, celebrated and reflected in local cultural and creative opportunities and activities.

Desire for more opportunities to participate in arts and culture in Waverley – for all residents

There is a strong desire in our community for more opportunities to engage with arts and culture in Waverley. About half of survey respondents (51%) are of the view that there are not enough cultural and creative events and programs in Waverley. In our discussions with the community, a range of ideas to improve cultural and creative participation were suggested, including a focus on:

- inclusive and affordable opportunities for
 - children and families
 - young people
 - people with disability
- activities for working adults at night and on the weekends.

There was also a desire for more equitable distribution of activities and facilities across Waverley's suburbs and more programs in the winter season.

Supporting and empowering our creative sector and community to collaborate and drive arts and creative outcomes

Waverley is home to many established and emerging artists and creatives. Our community has highlighted the need to support creatives to live and work in the area as the cost of living across Sydney continues to rise. Ideas to do so include the provision of affordable housing and workspaces, opportunities for networking and collaboration, and programs including grants, prizes and artist residencies.

Better promotion of what's already happening in the area

Improving promotion and marketing of existing cultural and creative facilities and activities was a theme throughout the consultation. Strategic promotion and branding via online channels was seen to be a priority to engage with young people, local community and visitors to Waverley. Signage in public spaces was also identified as a key opportunity. Suggestions included developing a website and social media presence specifically for the Bondi Pavilion as the centre's upgrade is completed.

Resourcing and activating cultural infrastructure

The existing community and cultural spaces in Waverley, including the much-loved Bondi Pavilion, Waverley Library and Waverley Woollahra Art School are highly valued by our community. The importance of these spaces in supporting local talent, creative participation and social connections was a consistent discussion point throughout the community engagement process.

Our community identified the opportunity for existing spaces to be better utilised, highlighting a need for cultural infrastructure to receive sufficient operating budget to ensure appropriate maintenance, promotion, staffing and programming. Some respondents identified venue hire requirements, processes and cost as barriers to further community use and access.

A high proportion of participants maintain that there are not enough cultural facilities and spaces in Waverley. They would like to have access to more spaces for creative production (e.g. affordable studios and rehearsal spaces), creative showcasing (e.g. gallery, performance) and to temporary pop-up spaces in vacant buildings and the public domain. The Boot Factory redevelopment was seen as an opportunity to deliver some of these types of spaces.

Culture and creativity in the public domain

The community would like increased activation of streets, footpaths and urban plazas to support local cultural opportunities and community connections. They would like to participate in the development of:

- appealing and inviting urban design produced in collaboration with local creatives and the community
- comfortable staying places for people to sit and meet
- opportunities for busking and live music in public places
- event-ready spaces.

This was identified as a priority for Bondi Junction in particular.

Opportunities for the night time economy and live music

Participants saw opportunity to further develop Waverley's night-time economy and to support live music. Ideas included providing and promoting smaller live music venues and facilities that encourage

live music. This was identified as a particular opportunity for Bondi Junction and Bondi Pavilion.

Creative participation, production and management at Bondi Pavilion

Throughout, there was a strong emphasis on challenges and opportunities to further support community and cultural uses at Bondi Pavilion, including a need for:

- Vision and planning informed by community engagement
- Enhanced operational resourcing and staffing
- Dynamic marketing and promotion
- Improved maintenance
- Expanded programming
- Reducing regulations and hire costs to encourage cultural and creative uses.

For a more in depth understanding of community and stakeholder perspectives on Bondi Pavilion, see findings from *Community and Cultural Use Impact Assessment (2019)* and engagement reports at www.waverley.nsw.gov.au.

Supporting our unique local villages

While Bondi is known as a hotspot for cultural and creative spaces, programs and events, community engagement participants identified opportunities to enliven our other centres and suburbs through an increased creative and cultural presence, with a strong focus on further activating Bondi Junction and Charing Cross. Local businesses were identified as prospective partners that could play an important role in facilitating creative and community connections.



4. WAVERLEY'S ARTS AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

4.1. Our people and creative participation

Waverley is home to a highly engaged and creative community, with a high proportion of cultural and creative workers (2.7% in our LGA compared to 1.8% in Greater Sydney), and high levels of participation in and appreciation of culture and creativity. As such, there are opportunities to further support and collaborate with established and emerging creative and cultural workers and industries in Waverley.

When creating this Arts and Culture Plan, we have focused on leveraging the strengths, and responding to the diverse needs, of the unique places and people that underpin our rich cultural ecosystem. In doing so, we remain mindful that cultural planning is an ongoing exercise that must respond to the changing needs of its community.

Our community today

The main demographic in the Waverley LGA is working-aged adults aged 25 to 49 years, indicating a need for cultural spaces, programs and events that are available at night and on weekends to cater to the working population.

While Waverley LGA has a lower proportion of households with children compared to Greater Sydney, in recent years there has been a significant increase of 21% in primary school aged children (5 to 11 years) and an increase of 11% in secondary school aged children (12 to 17 years), indicating a need for activities for children and young people that are available after school, on weekends and during school holidays.

Waverley's residents are from many different cultural backgrounds, which suggests there could be more cross-cultural activity to bring the community together.

Council's arts and cultural facilities, programming and events need to be accessible and welcoming to support participation by people with disability.

With a high proportion of residents in Waverley living in medium or high density housing, there is a need for spaces outside the home for the community to engage with arts and culture and participate in creative expression.

While the average household income in the Waverley LGA is significantly higher than Greater Sydney, 11% of households are low income households earning less than \$650 a week, indicating that there is a need for arts and cultural spaces, programs and events that are affordable to residents from a range of socio-economic levels.

Our response to COVID-19

Australia's arts and culture sector has been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and faces a long road to recovery. There has been a significant loss of opportunities for freelance artists and arts workers, and cultural organisations of all sizes face ongoing challenges to their financial viability. The community's confidence to engage safely with arts and culture needs to be rebuilt.

Waverley Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is multi-focused. We have supported the most vulnerable in our community: older people, those at risk of homelessness, and early education and family day care users. We have maintained essential services, kept the community safe and continued to support local service providers and community organisations. Our business support package has assisted the Waverley business community through financial assistance, advice, and easily accessed information.

Goals, actions and measures in the Plan have been reviewed to meet, where possible, the ongoing needs of the arts and culture community in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to community feedback on the Plan, the timing of some actions has been adjusted to address concerns more immediately.

Despite its challenges, COVID-19 was the catalyst for significant innovation in the digital delivery of arts and culture programs, enabling a wider reach and to new audiences. The Plan seeks to build on those positive outcomes, further enabling digital capability for creative participation, while at the same time reinforcing the focused support and facilitation of live performance and engagement. The Plan consequently exploits both traditional and innovative channels to promote the widest possible participation in arts and culture in Waverley.



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT OF WAVERLEY



OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:

9.2km²

OUR SUBURBS:

Bondi Beach, Bondi Junction, North Bondi, Bronte, Dover Heights, Queens Park, Rose Bay, Tamarama, Vaucluse and Waverley



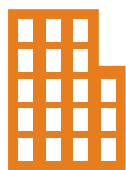
OVERSEAS BORN RESIDENTS TOP COUNTRIES:

United Kingdom, South Africa, New Zealand, Brazil and Ireland

OUR DWELLINGS AND BUSINESSES:



30,496
dwellings



34,000
registered businesses

POPULATION



TOTAL POPULATION

72,106

MEDIAN AGE

35 years

- 16 per cent of our residents are 0–14 years old
- 8.9 per cent are 15–24 years old
- 33.4 per cent are 25–39 years old
- 28.7 per cent are 40–64 years old
- 12.7 per cent are more than 65 years old

PROJECTED POPULATION 2031

80,100

DENSELY POPULATED AREA

OVERSEAS BORN RESIDENTS

38.4%

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

274



LANGUAGES

68.8 per cent of us speak English at home while 25.7 per cent speak a language other than English

Russian is spoken by 2.2 per cent of our residents, 2.1 per cent speak Spanish, 1.9 per cent Portuguese, 1.8 per cent French and 1.7 per cent Italian



JEWISH COMMUNITY

Waverley's Jewish community of

10,076

residents makes up 15.1 percent of our total population

HOUSING

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE



2.3
people

RENTING HOUSEHOLDS

43%

MEDIAN WEEKLY RENT

\$620

SINGLE PERSON HOUSEHOLDS

27.7%

COUPLES WITH CHILDREN

23.8%

EDUCATION

17 NUMBER OF SCHOOLS
(including both primary and secondary)

39.5 per cent of our residents aged over 15 years have a Bachelor or higher degree compared to 24.1 per cent for Greater Sydney

20 per cent of young people aged 15–24 years attended an educational institution including high school and/or a higher education facility, such as TAFE or university

DISABILITY

3% of the population reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to health and disability

ECONOMY



\$4.36 billion
gross regional product

More than
27,546
jobs in Waverley

MEDIAN TOTAL INCOME/WEEK

for Waverley households in 2016 was

\$2,300 compared to **\$1,683**
for Greater Sydney

HIGH EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

Retail trade, Healthcare and Social Assistance, Accommodation and Food Services, Education and Training, and Professional Scientific and Technical Services

79.9% of Waverley properties are connected to the internet

4.2 Our arts and cultural places, spaces and programs

Waverley takes in some of Sydney's most beautiful coastline, and our natural environment, coastal walks, beaches and parks are some of our area's greatest assets.

Waverley is also one of the most densely populated LGAs in Australia. Residents are attracted to its diversity and value it as a friendly place to live.

High levels of visitation bring both opportunities and challenges for arts and cultural planning in Waverley. There is a need to sustainably balance the needs of local residents while enhancing and leveraging Waverley's position as a national and international tourism destination.



4.2.1 Waverley's places, villages and neighbourhoods

Bondi Beach has long been a symbol of the Australian lifestyle and a destination for those seeking to experience our beach culture. The precinct is an important gathering point for residents and visitors and has a long history as the stage for arts and cultural events and activities.

The Bondi Pavilion, historic local surf lifesaving clubs and Waverley Cemetery are highly valued by residents and attract local and international visitors.

Council's challenge is to preserve, respect and protect the heritage of its natural and built coastal environment so that it remains safe, accessible and enjoyable for everyone. There is opportunity for further celebration of these unique aspects of our local area, building on Waverley's strong public art program which includes a significant number and variety of both permanent and temporary public artworks.

Our villages and neighbourhood centres create a web of individual but connected focal points for our community. Each local place has its own character, community profile and identity. This strong identification with place is meaningful to residents and provides opportunities for arts and cultural activities to celebrate their specific local character.

There is an acknowledged demand in our community for more things to do in the evening. In particular, there is a demand for activities that attract families and offer alternatives to traditional alcohol-based evening culture and entertainment options. Bondi Junction plays a significant role in the local and Sydney metropolitan economy, and activating a night-time economy is a crucial component of ensuring Bondi Junction is a safe, productive and well-loved place.



4.2.2 Waverley's arts and cultural facilities and spaces

There are 18 separate community and cultural facilities in the Waverley LGA, 10 of which are Council owned.

Bondi Pavilion: a central part of life for residents and visitors to Bondi Beach for over 90 years, Bondi Pavilion is currently being renewed for future generations through a major conservation and restoration project running throughout 2020-2021, designed by architects Tonkin Zulaikha Greer. As well as upgrades to all the existing cultural spaces in the Pavilion, new spaces including Bondi Story Room, a community radio station and a new flexible cultural space are being added.

Key spaces in the Pavilion:

Bondi Pavilion Theatre: is a 229-seat venue that hosts a variety of theatre and music, film screenings, talks, festivals and events throughout the year. The theatre is used for events and performances that Council produces, such as the annual Jazz at the Pav, as well as by many external hirers and partners including Flickerfest, Sydney Comedy Festival, Sydney Fringe Festival and Sydney Jewish Writers Festival.

Bondi Pavilion Gallery: has free admission and hosts a combination of Council curated and community exhibitions each year. Over 41,000 people attended the gallery in 2019.

Bondi Pavilion Music Studios: are available for regular hires, casual bookings and Council produced programs. The studios support the delivery of annual music programming including Sunshine Singers and the Bondi Wave Youth Music Program.



Bondi Pavilion Pottery Studios: run workshops and classes throughout the year, catering for a diverse range of participants including people with disability, school children, adults and seniors.

Bondi Story Room: this new space will house an innovative, interactive digital exhibition that captures the notable people, places and events of Bondi's past. Bondi Story Room is being created with significant community input and will grow and evolve over time as new stories are added.

Waverley Library: is a bustling and lively community space that is highly valued by over 500,000 visitors each year. The Library has a strong reputation for providing community events and learning opportunities as well as traditional library services, and aspires to be a leading cultural and learning institution in the region.

Waverley Library Galleries: occupy the ground floor and upstairs foyer areas of Waverley Library. Community submissions, which make up the majority of gallery exhibitions, are invited annually and are panel assessed. The Waverley Youth Art Prize and Waverley Council's Design and Heritage Awards are also held here.

Waverley Artist Studios at Waverley Woollahra Art School: are offered in year-long residencies with artists delivering exhibitions, workshops, public programs and developing new contemporary art. Waverley Artist Studio residencies are highly competitive and held in high regard. The studios are allocated through a peer reviewed Expression of Interest and Council approval.

Bondi Beach Sea Wall: has been in operation since the late 1970s and features a mix of street and contemporary art with strong social and political messages from some of the world's best-known street artists. Through an application process, each panel is allocated for a six-month period.

Mill Hill Community Centre: is the venue for the Waverley Community and Seniors Centre. It offers a range of programming across wellness, information and events, and arts and craft activities. The centre is closing in 2021 for renovations aligned to the Boot Factory development.

The Boot Factory: is a former shoemaking factory at the rear of Norman Lee Place in Bondi Junction which was completed in 1892 by William Sidaway and Son. The Boot Factory is being redeveloped into a knowledge and innovation hub with works commencing in 2021.

4.2.3 Arts and cultural programs

Waverley Council aims to build community and connection, support creativity and strive for excellence by delivering and supporting programs in the visual arts, music, theatre and performance spheres, makers and technology, talks and ideas, and cross-artform programming. Council also supports social inclusion through the provision of programs that encourage and support creative participation by diverse audiences including people with disability, young people and older people.

Waverley's School Holiday program caters for an array of interests and ages, providing free and paid activities. These activities are facilitated by a combination of Waverley Council specialist staff, artists, industry professionals and partner organisations. The programs are usually run from the Waverley Library, Bondi Pavilion and the Margaret Whitlam Recreation Centre.

Makers and Design programs are conducted at various venues in the Bondi Pavilion and Waverley Library and include the popular pottery program and various other craft-based workshops and learning opportunities.

Activities for older people in our community include Council's monthly Seniors Concerts and weekly Sunshine Singers, which attracts 30-40 regular members each week.

The Bondi Wave Youth Music program targets high school musicians in our area, teaming them up with music industry mentors to write and record original music. The bands graduating from this program perform at Carols by the Sea or in a special performance in the Bondi Pavilion Theatre.

4.2.4 Festivals and events

WAVERLEY COUNCIL EVENTS



Bondi Festival: is a new family and fringe festival held in the winter school holidays, replacing the popular Bondi Feast and Bondi Winter Magic Festivals. Waverley Council works closely with the Bondi and Districts Chamber of Commerce to involve and promote local businesses in the Festival. The program includes theatre, comedy, cabaret, circus, pop-up food stalls, ice rink and ferris wheel, and attracts visitors annually to Bondi in winter.

Festival of the Winds: is a kite festival that includes kite flying demonstrations, world music, food and entertainment. Held at Bondi Beach, Bondi Park and Bondi Pavilion, it typically attracts up to 80,000 people.

Global Table: is an annual community celebration of cultural diversity and food. Food stalls representing numerous countries and cultures sit alongside a free day-long program of dancing, music and children's activities.



International Women's Day: delivered by Waverley Council, often takes the form of an 'in conversation' event featuring prominent guests discussing their lives and careers in response to a theme.

Carols by the Sea: is a Christmas celebration featuring performances from local community groups and professional musicians. The popular event offers an opportunity for the community to come together to sing carols.

New Year's Eve: is a ticketed family-friendly event held at Dudley Page Reserve in Dover Heights. The event takes advantage of the spectacular views across Sydney Harbour and includes an entertainment program.

4.2.5 Grants and Awards

Council awards a number of small grants annually to individuals, community groups and small businesses that contribute to Waverley's community. Within this pool, arts and culture grants are awarded to proposals that deliver identifiable cultural, social and recreational benefits to the Waverley community.

Council also provides community services grants to support services for the local community. In the past these have been awarded to various cultural initiatives including the Beaches Outreach project, the Bondi Toy Library, Sculpture by the Sea, the Waverley Bondi Beach Band and the Waverley Randwick Philharmonic Society.

Council also delivers three significant competitions each year:

The Nib Literary Award: established in 2002, recognises excellence in research and writing. It is the only major national literary award of its kind presented by a local council. Supported by Principal Sponsors Mark and Evette Moran, the Nib Award offers a \$20,000 major prize.

Waverley Art Prize: established in 1986, is open to painting, drawing, print and mixed media and is delivered in partnership with Waverley Woollahra Art School. Aimed at early to mid-career artists and celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2021, the competition offers a \$15,000 first prize.

Waverley Youth Art Prize: established in 1987, encourages creativity in young artists aged from nine to 18 years from the Eastern suburbs area. It is an open prize and all entrants' work is displayed.

PARTNER AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sculpture by the Sea: is the internationally renowned outdoor art exhibition located along the coastal walk between Bondi and Tamarama beach, attracting approximately half a million visitors annually.

Flickerfest: is Australia's leading short film festival and is held in the Bondi Pavilion amphitheatre and theatre. It attracts around 5,000 people annually.

Open Air Cinema: provides movie-goers with the opportunity to experience an outdoor cinema by the beach. Annually, this event attracts approximately 17,000 people over the summer months.

Ocean Lovers Festival: aims to increase awareness of environmental issues and sustainable living. The festival takes place in multiple locations in Bondi, including the Bondi Pavilion.

Bondi Latin American Festival: is an opportunity to share and celebrate Latin culture. This festival is delivered by Bondi Association of Arts and Music.

Bondi Blitz: is a youth music event held as a part of Youth Week. Delivered by Waverley Youth Action Services, it attracts approximately 1,000 young people.



City2Surf: from the inaugural event held in 1970, it has developed into one of the world's largest fun runs, attracting over 80,000 people annually. Starting in the city and ending at Bondi Beach, the event has raised tens of millions of dollars for charity. Council also runs a Marquee Program for organisations to provide post-run hospitality.

Bondi to Bronte Swim: attracts over 2,000 participants annually and is delivered by Bronte SLSC.

International skateboard competition: at Bondi Skate Park, attracting approximately 3,500 attendees.

CIVIC EVENTS

Waverley hosts a number of civic and seasonal events including:

Dawn Service on ANZAC Day: is held at the war memorial outside North Bondi RSL, attracting approximately 10,000 people to pay their respects.

Citizenship Ceremonies: are hosted monthly for residents who have been approved to become Australian citizens.

Russia Victory Day: is celebrated annually on 9 May to commemorate victory in WWII.



5. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

The five goals and associated objectives and actions outlined in this Plan provide a road map to guide future decision making around arts and culture in Waverley for Council, partners and the wider community. This strategic framework has been developed based on community engagement, research and other local data.

Each action outlines Council's role as well as the role of possible partners in delivery. As such, Council's role may be to 'review' relevant next steps to achieve an action, or to 'support' external partners in the delivery of an action, rather than realising the action in isolation. In addition, each action has been allocated a timeframe for delivery that gives an indication of priority.

Definitions to assist with reading section 5 of this Plan:

- **Goals:** Long term future outcomes for arts and culture in Waverley.
- **Objectives:** Measurable changes we want to see to achieve our goals. (e.g. 'Increased community connection').
- **Why is this important:** Evidence base including findings from community engagement and/or other research data.
- **Priority needs:** Key considerations to support the completion of action/s including capabilities, resources, assets and opportunities.
- **Actions:** Specific steps that will be taken in order to achieve the objectives.
- **Council's role:** Function Council will undertake to achieve an action.
- **Partnerships:** Waverley Council will need to work collaboratively with a broad range of stakeholders to the Plan.
- **Timeframe:** Timeframe within which the action/s will be completed.



GOAL 1: OUR DIVERSE AND ONGOING STORIES ARE SHARED AND CELEBRATED

Waverley's cultural landscape is underpinned by the rich heritage of its traditional owners, the Bidjigal and Gadigal people, and the diverse stories of our unique people and places. Opportunities for locals and visitors to learn, share and celebrate in our ongoing stories will foster a stronger sense of place, community inclusion and connection.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 Increased recognition, visibility, celebration and sharing of Aboriginal stories, arts, culture and language.
- 1.2 Increased opportunities for locals and visitors to engage with Waverley's diverse stories, history and heritage.
- 1.3 Increased awareness of Waverley's unique place in the Australian contemporary cultural landscape.
- 1.4 Increased opportunities for community connection through arts and culture, including cross-cultural and intergenerational experiences.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- The Waverley LGA has significant Aboriginal heritage sites and ongoing Aboriginal cultural presence. Our community would like Aboriginal culture, traditions, knowledge and stories acknowledged and more visible, including through events and activities, signage and interpretation, and public artworks incorporated into the landscape (1.1, 1.2).
- Our community would like there to be more opportunities to share and reflect on Waverley's unique cultural heritage and our ongoing local stories, including Aboriginal culture, beach and surf lifesaving culture and the waves of immigration that continue to shape our culturally diverse community.
- Waverley's diverse community should be welcomed, celebrated and reflected through local cultural and creative opportunities and activities.
- The Waverley area has a significant place in the Australian cultural landscape and imagination, with community engagement participants highlighting Bondi Beach in particular as being an iconic symbol and destination for Australian beach and surfing culture. Community engagement participants highlighted the opportunities that come with this reputation as it means we have "something to build on." (1.3, 1.4).

PRIORITY NEEDS

- Increased local opportunities to learn from and share Aboriginal arts and culture, including working with local Aboriginal elders and community to:
 - Increase visibility of Aboriginal arts and culture in the public domain and social infrastructure, including through public art, signage and performance.
 - Increase Aboriginal language, culture and storytelling programs and activities.
- Opportunities for increased cultural and/or heritage interpretation in public domain, open space and along the coastline.
- Continued provision of and support for programs and activities with a focus on local storytelling and sharing, including intergenerational and intercultural, to support strong community connections.

GOAL 1: OUR DIVERSE AND ONGOING STORIES ARE SHARED AND CELEBRATED

Objectives / Actions	Council's role	Partnerships	Timeframe	How will we measure success?
Objective 1.1: Increased recognition, visibility, celebration and sharing of Aboriginal stories, arts, culture and language				
Work with local Aboriginal elders and community to investigate and implement opportunities to incorporate Aboriginal cultural heritage/ interpretation of significance into our public spaces where appropriate	Implement	Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and Community members, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, and Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Advisory Committee	2021-2022	Options scoped in partnership with community in accordance with Reconciliation Action Plan deliverables and the Bondi Pavilion Conservation and Restoration Project
Deliver actions identified in Waverley Council Reconciliation Action Plan	Implement	Indigenous Community and stakeholders	2021–2022	RAP actions delivered
Objective 1.2: Increased opportunities for locals and visitors to engage with Waverley's diverse stories, history and heritage				
Incorporate Bondi Story Room within Bondi Pavilion and engage with community and local creatives to share diverse stories of Bondi, with an opportunity to include First Nations, beach and surf history, music and ongoing waves of immigration to the area	Implement	Local community, Waverley Library Local History, Knowledge holders	2021-2022: Planning and co-design with community 2022-2026: Ongoing programming	Over 200 diverse local stories included, gathered from community contributions and local research
Identify sites and/or locations for increased or improved cultural and heritage signage in outdoor spaces to increase visitor and community engagement with local culture and history	Implement	Knowledge holders, Waverley Library	2021-2026	Directions identified in Open Space and Recreation Strategy completed, ensuring the design of spaces tells the story of place and local culture
Continue implementation of Public Art Master Plan, commissioning new work in the Waverley area with consideration to context including place-making, artistic excellence, sustainability and local culture and heritage	Implement	Local and National Artists, Local Community	Ongoing	At least 1 public artwork commissioned every 2 years
Objective 1.3: Increased awareness of Waverley's unique place in the Australian contemporary cultural landscape				
Develop a Digital Marketing and Communications Strategy to ensure digital platforms are effectively utilised to build digital engagement and encourage new audiences, including in relation to the Bondi Pavilion	Implement	Digital innovators and digital agencies	2021–2026	Contemporary digital tools and techniques implemented for ongoing arts and culture presentation, promotion and engagement
Ensure Council art and culture promotional strategies aim to increase access and participation from diverse communities	Implement	Media, Social Media, website	2021	Disability Inclusion Action Plan communications goals, Cultural Diversity Strategy and RAP actions achieved
Create an awareness program that raises the profile of Waverley's cultural offering	Implement	Communications channels, Media partners, influencers	2022–2025	Baseline level of awareness of Cultural offering determined and improved in subsequent years
Objective 1.4: Increased opportunities for community connection through arts and culture, including cross-cultural and intergenerational experiences				
Leverage identified Committees with relevant cultural agenda items to build transparency and increase participation in arts and cultural opportunities	Implement	Local Cultural Leaders	2021-2026	Committee members provided with relevant messaging and awareness of participation opportunities for the wider community
Implement engagement strategies for the Arts and Culture program that responds to identified community needs and supports the aim of increasing access, diversity and participation levels	Implement	Users and potential users of cultural facilities	2022-2026	Participation baseline determined. Participation increased by 20%
Partner with local community and cultural organisations to deliver cultural and creative programs that provide opportunities for crosscultural learning and exchange	Implement	Local community and cultural organisations	2021-2026	3 partnerships facilitated annually

GOAL 2: WE HAVE A VIBRANT NETWORK OF SPACES AND PLACES FOR CULTURAL PARTICIPATION, PRODUCTION AND EXPERIENCE

Waverley has a range of spaces and places that facilitate our arts and cultural landscape, including community facilities, public places, beaches and parks. A dedicated network of spaces and places that is fit-for-purpose and accessible will support local cultural and creative participation, production and presentation, and foster community connections.

OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 A network of affordable, fit-for-purpose, cultural and arts facilities that support cultural and creative participation, production and presentation.
- 2.2 Increased cultural and creative participation through the provision of new and improved spaces.
- 2.3 Our public domain, beaches and parks are platforms for creativity and cultural expression.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Community engagement participants highly valued existing community and cultural spaces in Waverley, including the Bondi Pavilion, Waverley Library and Waverley Woollahra Art School. People highlighted the importance of these spaces in supporting local talent, creative participation, and social connections (2.1, 2.2).
- Community engagement participants are of the view that there is opportunity for existing spaces to be better utilised, highlighting a need for cultural infrastructure to receive sufficient operating budget to ensure appropriate maintenance, promotion, staffing and programming. Participants indicated that regulations, processes and cost are barriers to community access (2.1, 2.2).
- The majority of survey respondents indicated that there are not enough arts and cultural facilities and spaces in Waverley. Participants expressed a desire for more spaces for creative production (e.g. affordable studios and rehearsal spaces), creative showcasing (e.g. gallery, performance) and for temporary pop-up spaces in vacant buildings and in the public domain. The Boot Factory redevelopment was identified as an opportunity to increase the amount of cultural space in Waverley (2.1, 2.2, 2.3).
- Engagement respondents highlighted opportunities for increased activation of streets, footpaths and urban plazas to support local cultural opportunities and community connections. People would like to see more appealing and inviting urban design in collaboration with local creatives and community; comfortable staying places for people to sit and meet; opportunities for busking and live music in public places; and event-ready spaces. Bondi Junction in particular was identified as a priority location (2.3).
- There was a strong focus on challenges and opportunities to further support community and cultural uses at Bondi Pavilion, including a need for:
 - Vision and planning informed by community engagement;
 - Enhanced operational resourcing and staffing;
 - Dynamic marketing and promotion;
 - Expanded programming;
 - Improved maintenance;
 - Reduced regulations and costs to encourage cultural and creative uses (2.1, 2.2, 2.3).

PRIORITY NEEDS

- Resources, people and budget to make Bondi Pavilion the cultural hub for the area with branding, programming, marketing, and advertising.
- Explore the potential for live music to be enhanced in the local area.
- Reduce the barriers to applying to use spaces owned or managed by Waverley Council by simplifying processes.
- Consider greater opportunities for partnerships between community organisations and Council.
- Identify Council owned spaces and assets and convert those which are underutilised.

GOAL 2: WE HAVE A VIBRANT NETWORK OF SPACES AND PLACES FOR CULTURAL PARTICIPATION, PRODUCTION AND EXPERIENCE

Objectives / Actions	Council's role	Partnerships	Timeframe	How will we measure success?
Objective 2.1: A network of affordable, fit-for-purpose, cultural and arts facilities that support cultural and creative participation, production and presentation				
Review creative programs run in Council owned venues to assess demand, trends, programming mix and operational models to implement increased opportunities for increased participation, creative learning and skill development	Review and Implement	Similar facilities	2021-2022	Review completed and recommendations aiming for increase in cultural use of Council owned facilities formulated
Review the operating/management models of all existing Council-owned cultural venues and develop and implement a plan for increasing the scope of use for cultural purposes, where applicable. Review to consider hiring policies, insurances and liquor licencing, suitability for live music rehearsal and performance and modifications or improvements to facilities	Review and Implement	Benchmark from similar facilities Existing and potential venue hirers and users, Local creative community	2021–2022 Bondi Pavilion 2022–2023 other facilities	Review completed and recommendations implemented
Implement and promote revised grants and funding framework to facilitate local cultural and creative enterprises and community organisations	Implement	Local artists and arts organisations	2022	Assessment undertaken of Small Grant funded projects and funding guidelines and process reviewed
Objective 2.2: Increased cultural and creative participation through the provision of new and improved spaces				
Utilise Boot Factory program to encourage production of new media artforms, as well as innovative use of traditional or existing platforms	Implement/ Support	Local creative community	2022-2026	Options for Boot Factory programming developed with digital culture, new media artforms, innovation and collaboration in mind
Investigate opportunities to utilise existing Council community assets for expanded arts activities	Implement	Local creative and business community, Waverley Library	2021-2022	Opportunities identified and recommendations formulated
Determine an operating model for the Boot Factory and Bondi Pavilion to determine their future use and deliver on the goals and strategies in this plan	Decision	Local creative and business community, Boot Factory Steering Group	2021	Operating model options developed and considered by Council
Further investigate the existing provision of, demand for and opportunity to increase cultural production and maker spaces in the Waverley LGA, and regionally	Review and seek out pilot opportunities	Local creative and business community, Neighbouring regional Councils	2022-2026	Opportunities identified and recommendations formulated
Objective 2.3: Our public domain, beaches and parks are platforms for creativity and cultural expression				
Investigate opportunities for an activation program in Bondi Junction designed to promote creative uses of space to benefit the creative community and local economy	Implement	Local businesses, Creative community	2021-2026	Review findings implemented
Review the current Street Performers Policy to support a greater variety of busking and buskers in more locations across Waverley, including at the Bondi Pavilion forecourt	Review	Musicians, Local Businesses	2021	Review completed and recommendations formulated, and incorporated into new policy
Increase opportunities for street art and temporary murals on walls in partnership with the community and business, and in accord with revisions to the Waverley Public Art Policy	Implement/ Support	Landlords and business owners	2021-2026	Public art policy reviewed, updated and considered by Council
Provide opportunities for artists and designers to create artwork or heritage interpretations for temporary protective structures and hoardings at construction sites	Implement	Council constructions and maintenance projects	2022-2026	Policy and guidelines for artists and developers prepared for the consideration of the Public Art Committee and Council
Dedicate specific funding priorities in the Small Grants Program for activating the public realm with temporary creative initiatives that are co-designed with the community and contribute to the character of neighbourhoods and support precinct vitality	Implement	Council grants program, Neighbourhoods	2022-2026	Options prepared for consideration by Council in 2022-23 budget
Create a prioritised list of culturally relevant projects which could be funded through developer contributions	Implement	Local community, Developers	2021-2026	List created and considered for approval by Council

GOAL 3: ARTS AND CULTURAL PARTICIPATION IS FLOURISHING AND INCLUSIVE

Arts and cultural participation has a range of benefits for individual and community wellbeing. Supporting diverse and inclusive opportunities that respond to the needs and interests of our community will allow arts and cultural participation to flourish.

OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 Ensure arts and cultural participation is accessible for everyone in our community – all ages, cultures, genders, incomes and abilities.
- 3.2 Encourage diverse cultural offering and experience, including day and night and out-of-season activities.
- 3.3 Maximise use of external opportunities to further Waverley's arts and cultural activities.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Across community engagement activities, a strong desire for more opportunities to engage with arts and culture in Waverley was expressed. Less than half (45%) of survey respondents think there are enough opportunities to participate in arts and culture, and the majority (51%) believe there are not enough cultural and creative events and programs in Waverley (3.1, 3.2, 3.3).
- Participants suggested a range of ideas to improve cultural participation, including a focus on inclusive and affordable opportunities for children and families, young people, people with disability and activities for working adults at night and on the weekends. There was a desire for more equitable distribution of activities and facilities across Waverley's suburbs and more programs in the winter season (3.1, 3.3).

PRIORITY NEEDS

Empowering the community to put on their own community-led events and opportunities – and supporting local organisations to provide their experiences (3.3) – was identified as a priority during community engagement.

GOAL 3: ARTS AND CULTURAL PARTICIPATION IS FLOURISHING AND INCLUSIVE

Objectives / Actions	Council's role	Partnerships	Timeframe	How will we measure success?
Objective 3.1: Ensure arts and cultural participation is accessible for everyone in our community – all ages, cultures, genders, incomes and abilities				
Utilise digital platforms to deliver accessible cultural programs and activities to a wider audience, including families, people of all ages, culturally diverse communities, and people with disability	Implement	Local service providers	2021	COVID-related programming initiatives developed into a program of accessible online events, learning experiences, performances and talks delivered annually
Stipulate conditions for grants to major festivals and events to ensure they include appropriate, targeted activities and opportunities for families, people of all ages, culturally diverse communities, and people with disability	Implement	Festival Producers	2021	All significant grant funded festivals include activities suitable for families, people of all ages, culturally diverse communities, and people with disability
Utilise insights gained from evaluations to improve program creation, promotion and participation	Implement	All project partners	2021-2026	Evaluation framework established and implemented to provide evidence base to better inform decision making
Objective 3.2: Encourage diverse arts and cultural offering and experience, including day and night and out-of-season activities				
Investigate and implement opportunities to support the night-time economy and activation through culture and creativity, in particular at Bondi Junction and Bondi Beach in alignment with Council's Sustainable Visitation Strategy and the Bondi Junction Night Time Economy Strategy	Implement / Support	Bondi Junction and Bondi Beach residents and businesses	2021–2022	Goals established in Evening, Culture and Entertainment Strategy and Sustainable Visitation Strategy achieved, including through the Bondi Festival and Bondi Pavilion Programming
Support new evening activities that provide opportunities for public participation in culture and help local businesses, community and cultural organisations to increase engagement	Implement/ Support	Bondi Junction businesses, community and cultural organisations	2021-2026	One activity facilitated annually with review undertaken at its conclusion
Partner with local cultural and creative businesses, organisations and individuals to enhance existing festivals, events and activities, and increase audiences and participants	Support	Local cultural organisations and businesses, individuals, and existing events and festivals	2021	Model established for partnerships with local businesses, organisations and individuals
Continue to work collaboratively with neighbouring and regional councils to promote creative and cultural offerings in the region that can draw diverse audiences for daytime and night time experiences, and align planning priorities	Collaborate	Neighbouring and regional councils	2021	Discussion initiated on local-regional arts and culture issues with neighbouring and regional councils, and interest determined in regular ongoing collaboration
Objective 3.3: Maximise use of external opportunities to further Waverley's arts and culture activities				
Build relationships with State and Federal bodies such as Create NSW, Australia Council for the Arts, Destination NSW and Tourism Australia to leverage additional resources to support Waverley's arts and culture activities	Collaborate	State and Federal Departments and agencies	2021-2026	Contacts in relevant agencies established and fostered and opportunities identified for funding applications to support Council activities

GOAL 4: SHOWCASING AND SUPPORTING OUR CREATIVE SECTOR AND COMMUNITY

Waverley is home to many creative and engaged individuals, groups, organisations and businesses. Showcasing and supporting this creative sector to thrive, collaborate and kickstart their initiatives will drive local cultural outcomes.

OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 Support collaboration and networking between local creatives and organisations.
- 4.2 Promote and showcase local artists, makers and creators.
- 4.3 Harness the knowledge, skills and ideas of local creative community.
- 4.4 Support our creative community to kickstart their own ideas, projects and initiatives.
- 4.5 Support for young and emerging artists.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Waverley is home to many established and emerging artists and creatives. Community engagement participants highlighted a need to support creatives (artists, writers, performers) to live and work in the area as the cost of living across Sydney continues to rise. Ideas to do so include the provision of affordable housing and workspaces; opportunities for networking and collaboration and programs including grants, prizes and artist residencies. (4.1, 4.4)
- There are many people, groups and businesses in the Waverley community with skills and great ideas to further develop our area's cultural offering. Participants identified opportunities for Council to further support community, artists and cultural groups to deliver their ideas, including through grants, capacity building, partnerships and by reviewing planning regulations and barriers to community initiatives. (4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5)

PRIORITY NEEDS

- Building capacity of our creative and cultural sector to increase their skills to build sustainable businesses and environments for them to continue to create, produce, make and present.
- Creating opportunities for our creative and cultural sector to come together, to collaborate and connect.
- Support creatives and cultural practitioners, particularly emerging artists, to live and work in our area and share their creativity with the wider community.

GOAL 4: SHOWCASING AND SUPPORTING OUR CREATIVE SECTOR AND COMMUNITY

Objectives / Actions	Council's role	Partnerships	Timeframe	How will we measure success?
Objective 4.1: Support collaboration and networking between local creatives and organisations				
Facilitate networking opportunities that are aligned to building cultural capacity with local creatives, arts organisations and institutions	Implement/ Support / Collaborate	Local creative community, Nearby institutions	2021-2026	Minimum of 1 annual networking event designed and delivered
Host professional development workshops for local creatives of all ages	Implement / Support	Local creative community	2022-2026	Annual professional development opportunity provided
Objective 4.2: Promote and showcase local artists, makers and creators				
Devise an awareness campaign using media, advertising, signage and digital media channels	Implement	Various	2021–2022	Media campaign and ongoing digital presence aligned to re-launch of the Bondi Pavilion and launch of the Boot Factory program developed and delivered
Generate positive media stories using external and internal communication channels	Implement	Media Agencies	2021-2026	At least 12 media releases prepared annually on significant arts and cultural activities within the Waverley Council area
Investigate opportunities to enhance the use of Council's current publications and digital platforms to raise the profile of local creative practitioners	Implement	Local creative community	2021-2026	Options investigated to devise a social media campaign to highlight key creatives in the community
Objective 4.3: Harness the knowledge, skills and ideas of local creative community				
Investigate opportunities for the local creative community to provide input into future cultural planning opportunities	Implement	Local creative community	2021-2026	Options for Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, Indigenous Advisory Committee and art form or issue specific task force groups developed to present Council for consideration
Objective 4.4: Support our creative community to kickstart their own ideas, projects and initiatives				
Provide a platform for the local creative and innovation communities to build resources, output and audiences	Implement	Local creative community	2022-2026	Boot Factory operating model established to support local creative and innovation community ambitions Opportunities sought with appropriate community parties to partner on arts and cultural projects
Objective 4.5: Support for young and emerging artists				
Encourage young and emerging creatives to develop skills applicable to the creative sector	Implement	Young, local creatives	2021-2026	Appropriate volunteering or paid work experience opportunities provided within Council's Community, Cultural and Events programs
Identify local schools that could be encouraged to participate in arts and culture programs	Implement	Schools	2021–2022	Opportunities identified and coordinated through schools for students to be involved in arts and culture programs
Support and facilitate mentoring between established and emerging artists	Support	Emerging and Established artists	2022-2026	Annual mentorship activities facilitated

GOAL 5: DEVELOPING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS TO FACILITATE GROWTH FOR OUR CULTURAL AND CREATIVE SECTOR

We will be a leading Council that puts our key values at the heart of decision-making in order to underpin strong and productive cultural partnerships – locally, nationally and internationally. Strong cross-sector collaborations will increase awareness about the value of the arts and culture.

OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 Foster strong and productive cultural partnerships, locally, regionally, across Sydney, nationally and internationally
- 5.2 Increase awareness of the value of the arts within Council and the broader community
- 5.3 Broker cross-sector collaboration (community, business, education and developers) to deliver cultural development initiatives.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

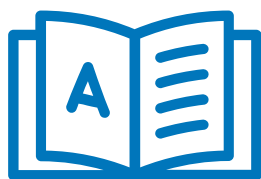
- Community engagement participants informed us that they want the Waverley Arts and Culture Plan to recognise the value of arts and culture, community participation and the creative sector, and to outline a clear commitment to, and vision for, arts and culture that is integrated across Council's planning. (5.1, 5.2, 5.3)
- Participants emphasised a need for ongoing inclusive community involvement and collaboration in decision making. They also see opportunities for increased collaboration with other councils and cultural institutions. (5.1, 5.2, 5.3)

PRIORITY NEEDS

- To provide more opportunities for our creative sector to collaborate and to build their capacity.
- To ensure that Council strengthens the management of its arts and cultural resources, and integrates them with the rest of Council's planning activities.
- For Council to foster leadership within the Waverley area through partnerships.

GOAL 5: DEVELOPING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS TO FACILITATE GROWTH FOR OUR ARTS AND CULTURE SECTOR

Objectives / Actions	Council's role	Partnerships	Timeframe	How will we measure success?
Objective 5.1 Foster strong and productive cultural partnerships, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally				
Establish an Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, to help inform and guide collaborative arts and cultural processes and projects across Council. Committee members and terms of reference to represent a variety of interests and the diversity of our community within the Waverley LGA	Implement	Local Creatives	2020–2021	Arts and Culture Advisory Committee established
Continue to review and where appropriate, implement best practice management of cultural partnerships, venues and programming	Review and implement where appropriate	Leading Local Government Areas, Cultural Institutions	2021-2026	Cultural Plans and policies from other LGAs reviewed annually
Create opportunities for the involvement of the community in designing, promoting and delivering local cultural and creative programming, festivals and events	Implement	Local Creatives	2022-2026	2 opportunities identified annually
Objective 5.2 Increase awareness of the value of arts and culture within Council and the broader community				
Tap into established local, regional, national and international networks to share cultural events and products by our local creators, makers and cultural producers and practitioners	Implement	Cultural Sector Partnerships	2022-2026	Key sector practitioners across the creative sector invited to key events
Working with all departments across Council, consider opportunities to further embed the Plan's goals and objectives in decision-making	Implement	Council	2021-2026	Arts and Culture Plan considered in the development of annual budgets in Integrated Planning and Reporting and other strategic planning processes
Objective 5.3 Broker cross-sector collaboration (community, business, education, developers) to deliver cultural development initiatives				
Promote inter-agency collaboration with relevant state government departments on key creative sector issues, and promote complementary programs that tackle specific sector needs with the combined value of all agencies	Collaborate	State and Federal Government	2021–2025	Council Officers attend and participate in sector based working groups, forums and discussions
Seek to ensure local planning controls provide support for quality, relevant and appropriate creative workspaces and presentation facilities in new developments	Advocate	Council, Developers	2021	Document outlining requirements for creative workspaces developed and tested against appropriate controls
Work within the existing planning framework to increase the participation of the creative sector in the development process	Advocate	Developers	2023–2025	At least 1 opportunity created for the creative community to become engaged in considerations related to planning process
Consider the engagement of local creatives and communities in the design of planning policy and public places	Implement	Local artists and community	2021-2023	Frameworks and options for community engagement developed and piloted



GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Term	Definition as used in the Plan
Arts and Culture	<p>The arts can be categorised into three main forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing arts: including music, dance, comedy, circus, puppetry and drama. • Literary arts: including creative writing, poetry, play and script writing. • Visual arts: including painting, drawing, pottery, sculpture, film-making and digital arts. <p>Many artists combine several artforms or media in their work, which is sometimes known as multi-disciplinary art.</p> <p>Through the arts we express ourselves and manifest our culture.¹</p>
Co-design	<p>Also known as participatory design, co-design is the act of creating with stakeholders (organisations, businesses, individual practitioners, or audiences), specifically within the design development process, to ensure results meet stakeholder needs and are usable.²</p>
Community organisation	<p>A not for profit organisation that works with any part of the Waverley community.</p>
Creative business/organisation	<p>Both for profit and not for profit arts-based entities in industries whose output results from the creation and circulation of intellectual capital.³</p> <p>This encompasses but is not limited to: visual arts, advertising, architecture, design, media, music, publishing, screen production, broadcasting, and games and leisure software, as well as cultural organisations such as theatres, museums, galleries, and libraries.</p>
Creative sector	<p>A broad, complex, and evolving mix of industries that ranges from the performing and visual arts to magazine publishing, digital media and design.⁴</p> <p>The term “sector” often encompasses the notion of an interconnected ecology of large and small organisations – not for profit and commercial, individual artists and practitioners, peak bodies and funders.</p>

Term	Definition as used in the Plan
Creative participation	<p>Creative participation can take several forms including participants involved in the creative process in interpretive, curatorial or inventive roles, but also the engagement of those who have not necessarily formed an intention to participate, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accidental or ambient participation – such as coming across a street performance or public art in a public area; those who have not made a deliberate decision to participate but have been engaged by walking past or into a cultural experience, such as music playing in a cafe, or public art on the street. • receptive participants (audiences) – attendees at cultural activities such as performances, exhibitions, talks, exhibitions, workshops, book readers. • active participants (enablers) – people involved in support roles outside a directly creative role. This includes roles such as organiser, facilitator, teacher, tutor, guide, board member, arts administrator and others that enable cultural activity.⁵ <p>This includes participation at all levels of expertise, from those who are participating creatively for the first time to those who identify as highly skilled artists.</p>

¹ “Planning terms used in our Frameworks”, Cultural Development Network

² “Co-design: A Powerful Force for Creativity and Collaboration”, Stratos Innovation Group

³ Hardy, J. “Defining the Creative Business of the 21st Century”, Business 2 Community

⁴ “Defining the Creative and Cultural Sector”, Artscape DIY

⁵ “Planning terms used in our Frameworks”, Cultural Development Network



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Coverpage patchwork of images

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Various artworks, The Enchanted Garden, 2019, Bondi Pavilion Gallery

Artist: Trevor Smith

Image courtesy Silversalt Photography

Row 2, image 3

Tender Young Creatures, The House that Dan Built, Bondi Pavilion Gallery, 2018

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We, the People who Live for the Beautiful, Bondi Pavilion Gallery, 2018

Artist: Gerwyn Davies

Image courtesy Silversalt Photography

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The Enchanted Garden 2019, Bondi Pavilion Gallery, 2019

Artists: David Lawrey & Jaki Middleton

Image courtesy Silversalt Photography

Row 4, image 3

pH! (People Here!), 2017, Gould and Roscoe Street, Bondi Beach

Artist: Graham Ghalcroft

Image courtesy Silversalt Photography

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A View of the Pavilion of Clear Memory When Scene from Waverley, Bondi Pavilion Gallery, 2019

Artists: Gary Carsley and Renjie Teoh

Image courtesy Silversalt Photography

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Various artworks, The Enchanted Garden, Bondi Pavilion Gallery, 2019

Artist: Trevor Smith

Image courtesy Silversalt Photography

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Juliet Holmes à Court, Celebrating the Library, 1999

Row 7, image 5

Image courtesy Silversalt Photography

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The bear that wasn't (2013), kinetic sculpture.

The Enchanted Garden, Bondi Pavilion Gallery, 2019

Artists: David Lawrey & Jaki Middleton Image courtesy Silversalt Photography

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Zhana Yusseff, Waverley Art Prize Mayor's Prize and Drawing Prize winner, 2018

Image courtesy Rafaela Pandolfini



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