Arts & Culture
Strategic Plan 2025 - 2030

OUR COMMON PURPOSE

This Arts and Culture Strategy reflects the vision for our shire as a place where people, lifestyle, business and the natural environment flourish.

OUR VALUES

This Arts and Culture Strategy reflects our values: Diversity, Creativity, Simplicity and Social Inclusion.

OUR PEOPLE

Our priorities are our people. Our children's future. The wellbeing and growth of our communities.

OUR PLACES

Our priorities are the uniqueness of our shire, the individuality of our towns, our cultural, social, and natural assets and our history.

OUR PROCESS

Our priorities will be grounded in meaningful community engagement, with the Barcoo Shire Council Arts and Culture Advisory Committee taking the lead in identifying and facilitating arts and culture initiatives in line with their Terms of Reference.

STRATEGIC GOALS – OUR PEOPLE

1.1 We will develop and implement a range of community capacity building initiatives for Arts and Culture experiences and skills, and for management of Arts and Culture projects.
1.2 We will effectively engage and communicate with our community in relation to the delivery of our Arts and Culture initiatives.
1.3 We will identify and source local talent, assets and service providers where applicable.
1.4 We will design Arts and Culture activities that engage the community; strengthen relationships between community groups; and enhance community health and wellbeing in all age groups.
1.5 We will design Arts and Culture activities that create a personal and communal sense of ownership, joy, pride, self-esteem and confidence.
1.6 We will run Arts and Culture activities that are family-friendly, and which develop social cohesion and reflect diversity.
1.7 We will enable direct and indirect employment outcomes through initiatives such as artist residency programs, income-generating workshops and product sales.

STRATEGIC GOALS – OUR PLACES

2.1 We will identify and maximise how Arts and Culture activities link with and enhance the attractiveness of the Barcoo as a visitor destination.

2.2 We will utilise existing infrastructure to enable greater fit for purpose use, access and ease of delivery.

2.3 We will engage in Arts and Culture activities that improve the aesthetic appeal of the towns and create a sense of ownership, vibrancy, and joy.

2.4 We will implement Arts and Culture activities to promote and enhance use of public facilities such as libraries, town halls and public parks.

STRATEGIC GOALS – OUR PROCESS

3.1 We will consult the community to identify local priorities and interests in Arts and Culture according to different age groups.
3.2 We will ensure the creation and operation of an Arts and Culture Action Plan to enact the Arts and Culture Strategy (through internal and/ or external expertise).
3.3 We will identify ways to use Arts and Culture to unify the three towns and surrounds, including running events in an equitable distribution.
3.4 We will engage specialists from further afield when needed.
3.5 We will offer Arts and Culture opportunities for all, by being inclusive and accessible, including to temporary residents and tourists.
3.6 We will deliver a balanced program including but not limited to shows and workshops, to reach a range of tastes and interests and which include new and innovative experiences.
3.7 We will collaborate, co-operate, support and communicate with other Western Queensland Councils and services to keep abreast of best practices and opportunities.

Arts and Culture activities include visual and performing arts, celebration, music, museums and galleries, history and heritage including the natural environment, Indigenous culture, crafts, libraries, literature, publishing, digital and new media, audio-visual and interactive media, books and press, design and creative services, architecture, food, film, fashion, television and radio. (Based on UNESCO's Framework for Cultural Statistics 2009).