

# POL 005 – Wagga Wagga Art Gallery Exhibition Policy

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<b>Reference number:</b>	POL 005
<b>Approval date:</b>	September 2000
<b>Policy owner:</b>	Manager Community Services
<b>Next review:</b>	September 2024

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery was first established in 1975 and is a cultural facility of Wagga Wagga City Council. Its programs are also supported by Create NSW, and other funding bodies. The Gallery's mission is to promote a rich and vibrant culture.

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery facilitates and promotes a thriving regional arts community through inspired programming, providing opportunities for a diverse range of creative expression, and maintaining cultural heritage in the Gallery's collections.

The Exhibitions Policy formalises the general principles under which the Gallery's annual schedule of exhibitions and public engagement programs is to be developed and delivered to the wider audiences of the Riverina region.

## Purpose

This policy determines the parameters and guidelines for the development and delivery of Wagga Wagga Art Gallery's annual schedule of exhibitions and public engagement programs.

## Scope

This policy applies only to the development and delivery of exhibitions for the exhibition spaces within Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, including the Main Gallery, Margaret Carnegie Gallery, National Art Glass Gallery, E3 art space; and to the development and delivery of public engagement programs associated with the exhibitions in these spaces.

## Policy Provisions

### 1.1 General Principles

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery is committed to presenting an integrated program of exhibitions, events and activities that expands audience engagement across diverse community sectors. The Gallery will maintain an exceptional standard of professionalism and expertise in the development and delivery of temporary collection and touring exhibitions that are developed by the Gallery or with key partner venues or touring bodies.

The Gallery's exhibition schedule will focus on five areas of primary strategic focus:

- **Glass:** Building on its status as home of Australia's largest collection of art glass, the Gallery will continue to curate and present exhibitions showcasing the country's most influential and innovative glass artists and promoting the unique capacities of the artform.
- **Print:** Developing the Gallery's print collection as a key resource, the Gallery will continue to curate and present exhibitions that promote printmaking and works on paper, exploring cross-disciplinary potential and showcasing emerging and established innovators.
- **Regional focus:** The Gallery has developed the Regional Artist Development Program, which provides opportunities for artists, curators, and groups to exhibit in the Gallery via a competitive application process. The program aims; to create awareness and appreciation of visual arts in the Riverina and assist regional artists to profile and explore new work and facilitate learning and discussion about issues relevant to the community and to display work in the city's most prominent exhibition venue.

The E3 art space provides opportunities for artists, educators, community groups curators and groups to book this multipurpose space to host a range of activities.

- **New Media Contemporary Australian Art:** Recognising the potential of new media and experimental artforms for the development of audiences across diverse community sectors.
- **Wiradjuri and First Nations arts and culture:** The Gallery will continue to develop its successful engagement with regional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artists and audiences, through the implementation of exhibitions and community and cultural development programs, working in collaboration with regional stakeholders to support the reclamation of Wiradjuri culture and heritage in the Riverina region
- **Artists and audiences with disability:** The Gallery will continue to develop and implement a unique program of exhibitions and professional development opportunities, in collaboration with regional community groups and stakeholders, to promote accessibility and engagement with visual arts and culture for regional artists and audiences with disability.

In conjunction with these areas of primary strategic focus, the Gallery will continue to develop and host exhibitions and programs that display local, regional and national practice across all areas and media of art and design, fostering wide-ranging conversations with contemporary culture in the local context.

## **1.2 Development of temporary, collection and touring exhibitions and the exhibition program**

The Gallery's exhibition program encompasses temporary and collection exhibitions at the Gallery site and touring exhibitions.

In developing and managing temporary, collection and touring exhibitions and the exhibition program, the Gallery will ensure the following principles are adopted:

- exhibitions will demonstrate curatorial scholarship, innovation, integrity that speak to our community
- temporary, collection and touring exhibitions and the exhibition program will be developed in accordance with international and national museum standards
- exhibitions and the exhibition program will reflect the Gallery's place within a regional and national context and perspective while fostering and strengthening partnerships, connections, and engagement across New South Wales, nationally and internationally.
- a high standard of exhibition design, display and presentation techniques will be demonstrated

### **1.2.1 Approval of exhibitions**

Temporary, collection and touring exhibition proposals are approved by the Art Gallery Director or delegate.

Preliminary exhibition proposals should outline the curatorial ambitions for the exhibition and provide indicative information about its scope and scale. Preliminary proposals are considered on their merit, considering the principles and terms of this policy.

A developed exhibition proposal will be prepared by the curator in consultation with the Art Gallery Director. Proposals are expected to reflect indicative information including a written curatorial proposal, list any proposed incoming loans; indicative list of works, draft programming, and public engagement strategies; outline of collateral material; and proposed budget and risk assessments.

### **1.2.2 Approval of the exhibition program**

The exhibition program is approved by the Art Gallery Director.

In general, the exhibition program is developed on an 18 month-2 year forward-planning basis. Due to the interdependent nature of exhibition development, planning and scheduling, elements of the exhibition program will alter over the projected period.

### **1.2.3 Accountability**

#### **Temporary exhibition listings**

The Art Gallery Director will ensure that a schedule of all collection, temporary and touring exhibitions is maintained.

#### **Staff obligations**

Staff will maintain records for each exhibition and the exhibition program, documenting relevant information and decision making.

Staff involved in determining the content, development and management of exhibitions must declare any conflict of interest including in the selection of works, touring venues, contractors, or suppliers. The staff member must exclude themselves from any discussion or decision in relation to matters in which they have a declared interest, and their absence will be minuted.

Gallery staff involved in the assessment, approval, and administration of temporary, collection and touring exhibitions and the exhibition program are bound by Wagga Wagga City Council's Code of Conduct and other relevant gallery policies.

### **1.3 Education and Public Programs**

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery is committed to making its permanent collections and temporary and travelling exhibitions accessible to a wide range of audiences. The Gallery will maintain an interesting and diverse range of education and public programs, to promote and develop communication between the Gallery and its audiences.

- Wagga Wagga Art Gallery will provide education and public programs including but not limited to the following: public lectures, seminars and exhibition tours by artists, curators and writers in the field of visual and creative arts, designed to add value to exhibitions and audience experience
- workshops exploring visual arts activities for education and community groups led by artists and trained staff, designed to develop and maintain engagement with culture and creative practice
- public workshops exploring visual arts activities for children, young people and adults led by artists and trained staff, designed to develop and maintain engagement with culture and creative practice
- tours of exhibitions and the Gallery' for education and community groups, guided by trained staff and volunteers upon request

### **1.4 Fees and Charges**

#### **1.4.1 Entry**

In accordance with the Wagga Wagga City Council Revenue and Pricing Policy, no fees will be charged by Wagga Wagga Art Gallery for entry to any of the Gallery's exhibitions or exhibition spaces. Exhibitors will not be permitted to charge an entrance fee to exhibitions held at the Gallery.

Visitors to any of the Gallery's exhibitions or exhibition spaces are encouraged to contribute to ongoing maintenance and development of the Gallery's collections through voluntary donations. Boxes for the secure deposit of such donations are located at the main Gallery entrances, and all income generated in this way supports the Gallery's acquisition of artworks. The Gallery is endorsed by the Australian Tax Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient: accordingly, any donation of \$2.00 or more may be claimed as a tax deduction.

#### **1.4.2 Program Fees, Hire Fees and Commission**

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery will charge fees for the provision of some education and public programs and for commercial hire of our spaces in accordance with the Wagga Wagga City Council Revenue and Pricing Policy.

Artists exhibiting selected for the Regional Artist Development Program and E3 art space programs may choose to have some or all works on display available for sale, or none. In accordance with the Wagga Wagga City Council Revenue and Pricing Policy, the Gallery will charge a commission on the retail value of all artworks sold during the period of their being displayed in any of the exhibition spaces, with the exception from the following organisations that successfully apply for the Regional Artist Development Program and E3 Exhibition programs:

- Riverina-based tertiary institutions and community education providers; and
- Riverina-based incorporated bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

## Legislative Context

- NSW Local Government Act 1993
- Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
- Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000

## Related Documents

- Council's Collection Management Policy (POL 005)
- Council's Community Strategic Plan
- Council's Code of Conduct
- Council's Cultural Plan 2020-2030
- Council's Combined Delivery Program and Operational Plan
- Council's Fees and Charges
- Museums Australia Code of Ethics 1999 (under review)

## Definitions

Term	Definition
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander art	Means artwork by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artist or containing Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander themes or content.
Art Gallery Director	Means the Art Gallery Director employed by Wagga Wagga City Council.,
Council	Wagga Wagga City Council
E3 art space	This term refers to the community gallery exhibition space located at the north-east corner of the Civic Centre building. This space is focused on presenting exhibitions, educational programs, and workshops.
Education Program	Education programs are targeted programs designed specifically for audiences from education institutions, including primary, secondary and tertiary education.
Exhibition	This term refers to the professionally curated display of artworks within a dedicated gallery space.
Main Gallery	This term refers to the ground floor exhibition space of Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, located within the Civic Centre building
Margaret Carnegie Gallery	This term refers to the first-floor exhibition space of Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, located within the Civic Centre building.
National Art Glass Gallery	This term refers to the entirety of the stand-alone two-storey building of this designation located within the Civic Centre

Term	Definition
	precinct, adjacent to the main building of the Civic Centre and to the Civic Theatre.
Public Program	Public programs are the main ways in which museums and galleries communicate with their public. Public programs include exhibitions; interpretive activities such as tours, talks, workshops or demonstrations; education programs; outreach and community programs; open days; performances and theatre; conferences and seminars.

## Revision History

Revision number	Council resolution	Council meeting date
1	Res No: 00/1155	25 September 2000
2	Res No: 03/238	24 March 2003
3	Res No: 04/243	23 August 2004
4	Res No: 09/077	27 July 2009
5	E – Team	11 December 2012
6	Res No: 12/224.1	26 August 2013
7	E Team	19 January 2016
8	Res No: 17/279	28 August 2017
9	General Manager approval under delegated authority	July 2021