



Somerset

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Policy Subject/Title: ARTS AND CULTURAL POLICY

Policy Number: C005

Responsible Officer: Executive Administrator - Community Services

Legislative or Regulatory Reference:

Related Policies / Procedures: N/A

Application: Somerset Regional Council

Authorised by: Somerset Regional Council

Considered at: Ordinary Council Meeting 11 March 2009

Authorised on: Ordinary Council Meeting

Implemented from: 25 March 2009

Last Reviewed: N/A

Review History: N/A

To be Reviewed on: 25 March 2010

1. OBJECTIVE

This policy sets out the circumstances under which the Regional Arts Development Fund Committee may make grants to support arts programmes, projects, facilities and events.

2. BACKGROUND

- A. *Arts Queensland provides funding to Queensland local government councils to administer the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Program in accordance with the RADF Guidelines.*
- B. *The Council has subsequently requested funding options from Arts Queensland.*
- C. *Arts Queensland has agreed to offer the funding outlined in this agreement to the Council subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.*

3. VISION STATEMENT

The Council through its RADF Committee is committed to promoting, fostering and developing the arts in the Region of Somerset.

It recognises:

- The Arts to be any form of artistic practice, demanding mind, imagination and skill and providing educational, recreational, philosophical and/or economic benefit;
- That the practice and enjoyment of such is the right of all people and is intrinsic to daily life;
- Its responsibility to encourage and accommodate the arts development and cultural enrichment in the community;
- The value of the arts as a medium for developing a culture unique to the Region of Somerset;
- The therapeutic value of the arts in the practice of both performance and appreciation; and
- The value of the arts as a means of uniting diverse members of the community in a fellowship of mutual respect, appreciation and enjoyment.

4. POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

It is the policy of Council through its RADF Committee to support arts programmes, projects, facilities, and events which:

- Enhance the quality of life of the whole community;
- Actively encourage growth of and participation in the arts;
- Provide the opportunity for both the individual and the collective practice and development of the arts in the community;
- Foster skills and increase confidence, resulting in individual growth and community development through the arts;
- Encourage the recognition of local people and arts groups as professional arts workers in the community;
- Facilitate the development of professional arts activities;
- Maximise the economic benefits to the community of a lively and diverse arts industry;
- Encourage arts activities and development, individual artists and collectively, that will attract visitors to the region; and
- Highlight the unique cultural and historical heritage of the region, with priority assistance being given to local professional artists, projects, and community arts groups involved in events which encourage local

participation and are attractive to visitors.

5. STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Identify local arts activities and promote them through local government publications, tourist brochures and community events;
- Encourage communication between local groups, individuals and organisations;
- Provide information on community arts activity and developments locally, state-wide and nationally;
- Train and encourage local individuals, groups and organisations to be self-determining in administering arts projects;
- Encourage state and federal arts subsidy to the community;
- Establish and encourage an environment in which there is innovation and on-going improvement and development in the standards of local arts practice and perception;
- Create opportunities for leisure, educational and alternative pursuits which encourage new and emerging arts product and practice in conjunction with the established and more recognised;
- Encourage individual artists and local art groups to attain professional status and self sufficiency; and
- Promote through the media and local government publications, the concept of developing a culture and arts practice unique to the region.

6. ART AND CULTURAL ACTIVITY ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT

- Individual professional artists including writers, composers, visual artists, craftspersons, designers and performing artists developing their art or promoting their products;
- Professional service assistance to community groups in the form of fees, travel allowances, accommodation for local or visiting artists to conduct or attend workshops, seminars and conferences, undertake tours, residencies, or provide services that may promote professional development within the community or region;
- Projects or events that will encourage local community participation and understanding of the arts;
- Assistance to community groups to encourage networks of support for artists and arts activities, dissemination of information, and promotion of professional practice within the community or region;
- Individual artists and arts groups working to evolve and develop an individual cultural and arts practice unique to the region; and
- Individual artists and arts groups involved in arts projects and programmes of therapeutic benefit to disadvantaged groups within the community.

7. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Identification with and greater use of local cultural facilities;
- Residencies of visiting professional artists or groups;
- The development of local professional artists and arts groups;
- Training and participatory arts projects for young people and those involved in therapeutic use of the arts;
- Greater appreciation, involvement and enjoyment of the arts generally in the community;
- Co-ordination and communication between local arts groups; and
- Staging of a full scale (possible week long) Festival of the Arts, involving every possible aspect of the arts, to be held annually in the Region of Somerset; providing a launching pad for emerging artists

and arts groups, and a showcase for visual and performing artists to attain recognition and gain experience and confidence; and a tourist attraction of significant importance to the Region of Somerset.

8. CONDITION OF FUNDING

The RADF Committee shall reserve the right to reject any application which, in its discretion, it considers may alienate, or jeopardise the goodwill of the community, or in any way be detrimental to public relations, and may reflect on participation and support of the R.ADF programme.

9. DATE OF RESOLUTION

This policy was approved by the Chief Executive Officer and adopted by Somerset Regional Council at the Ordinary Meeting of 11 March 2009.

Signed:

Date: