



Policy: Council

BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE EXHIBITIONS POLICY



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Policy Statement

To ensure a suitable and appropriate framework is in place for the resourcing, selection, scope and display of visual art exhibitions within the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.

Policy Ref. No:	276	PCT Endorsement Date:	20 January 2016
TRIM Record No:	16/130145	ELT Meeting Date:	23/03/2016
Distribution:	Public	Public Exhibition Details:	Exhibited from 27/4/16 – 26/5/16
Status:	Adopted	Council Meeting Date:	28/6/16
Scope:	Artists and arts organisations wishing to exhibit at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre	Council Minute No:	185
Lifespan:	10 years	Responsible Directorate/Group:	Blue Mountains Cultural Centre – C&CS
Next review:	June 2026	Contact Position:	Director – Blue Mountains Cultural Centre

Version History

Version	Adoption Date	Reason for Change
2016	28 June 2016 (minute No. 185)	Periodic update.
2012	5 June 2012 (minute No. 10)	New policy.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Artist	A professional, amateur or student practitioner in the visual arts, craft or design
Audience	All or a specially identified segment of the Cultural Centre's constituency
Curator	A professional arts practitioner who does one or all of the following: -Develops an exhibition concept -Researches contextual histories, objects and images and writes interpretive and descriptive text -Presents a public exhibition
Environment	An art gallery's environment includes exhibition spaces, climate control, specialist lighting, security, storage, event spaces and loading dock. Provision of these to appropriate industry standards is critical in securing loan of artwork and insurance
Exhibitions	Displays of social histories and/or visual art disciplines including new media, craft and design that have been developed around a curatorial rationale
Cultural Centre	Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
Touring Agent	Any organisation or individual responsible for developing and delivering touring exhibitions of Australian and International visual arts and cultural heritage material

Related Documents

This document should be read in conjunction with:

- International Council of Museums (ICOM) *Code of Professional Ethics* – www.icom.museum
- American Association of Museums (AAM) *Code of Ethics* – www.aam-us.org
- National Association for the Visual Arts Ltd (NAVA) Australia – www.visualarts.net.au
- Regional and Public Galleries NSW (RPGNSW) – www.rpg.nsw.gov.au
- Museums and Galleries NSW (MGNSW) – www.mgnsw.org.au
- Museums Australia (MA) - www.museumsaustralia.org.au

Policy details and information

Background

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre is an entity of Blue Mountains City Council and exists and operates in conjunction with its peer industries, other sectors and wider communities. It willingly exchanges activity and information with arts bodies, commercial, tourist and leisure organisations, social welfare and community development organisations, educational institutions and government sectors.

As the largest visual art display space in the Blue Mountains region, the Cultural Centre plays a pivotal role in promoting the work of artists of the region and providing access to arts and cultural services.

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre is a recognised professional exhibition space within Australia's gallery and museum industry. The Centre's ability to meet international standards of preservation, climate control and security, enables major national and international travelling exhibitions to be displayed within the Centre. The Exhibition Program of the Centre is a dynamic, changing program comprised of the following exhibition categories;

In-house curated	Exhibitions of regional, national and international significance developed by Cultural Centre exhibitions staff
Travelling	Exhibitions curated and provided by national and international public institutions and/or freelance curators.
Exposé Program	Solo and group exhibitions selected annually through an application process open to artists, arts collectives, and community groups of the Blue Mountains region.

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre actively participates in a global culture, and promotes the sharing of information and ideas locally, nationally and internationally.

Policy Statement

Through the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre Exhibitions Policy the Cultural Centre will select and exhibit a high calibre annual program of exhibitions that supports the vision and mission of the Cultural Centre, establishes and maintains the Cultural Centre's professional standing within the Australian museum industry and benefits all stakeholders.

Our Vision

We are valued and respected by our community and acknowledged nationally and internationally as the pre-eminent arts and cultural institution of the Blue Mountains region.

Our Mission

We are committed to promoting our unique contemporary culture, World Heritage environment and history within an Australian and international context by supporting and showcasing regional artistic and cultural activity. In doing so, we will stimulate the social, economic and cultural vitality of the region.

Through delivering a dynamic, educational and inspiring program of activities, we will achieve recognition as a unique, vibrant cultural facility and destination for the local community and visitors.

Key Policy Principles

- 1.1. Like any responsible and responsive public institution, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre maintains an ethical framework for its programs and operations. The Cultural Centre:
 - 1.1.1. values the responsibilities of its public trust and acts cooperatively, not independently.
 - 1.1.2. values active involvement by all sectors of the community in all of its programs
 - 1.1.3. values independence and will not enter into any business relationship that puts it under any obligation to deal exclusively with any particular person or concern, but rather, will base its business dealings on quality of goods, promptness of service and fairness of price
 - 1.1.4. values its exhibition programs for the creation and dissemination of new ideas and seeks to ensure that information it imparts is honest and objective and does not perpetuate stereotypes or prejudices.
 - 1.1.5. values integrity and objectivity in its professional conduct and strives to maintain high standards of service to the community
 - 1.1.6. values cooperation and sharing of knowledge and experience with peers and clients and renders professional services fairly and efficiently
 - 1.1.7. values confidentiality and respects the rights of creators and owners of artistic material
 - 1.1.8. values the principles of reconciliation and respect pluralistic values, traditions and concerns
 - 1.1.9. values innovation and change and is positive, flexible and adaptive

From American Association of Museums Code of Ethics for Museums and International Council of Museums Code of Professional Ethics

The Policy

- 2.1 The Exhibition Program of the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre will;
 - 2.1.1 Provide a cultural, educational and recreational resource for local residents and visitors
 - 2.1.2 Present the visual arts of and to the highest international standards of display
 - 2.1.3 Embrace the philosophy of access for all and provide engaging, diverse and inspirational learning and recreational opportunities
 - 2.1.4 Recognise the diversity of opinion and beliefs within the community
 - 2.1.5 Encourage participation, enquiry and aspiration in regard to the visual arts
 - 2.1.6 Seek to challenge, query and explore human activity, values, morals and systems within a non-judgemental context, while recognising public standards and expectations
 - 2.1.7 Bring new opportunities to the region from national and international sources
 - 2.1.8 Support professional artists in their pursuit to become recognised in their field both at a local, national and international level
 - 2.1.9 foster the professional development of local artists through engagement with exhibition and public program opportunities
 - 2.1.10 Promote the region as a place of creative endeavour and inspiration with a diverse culture and heritage
 - 2.1.11 Remain apolitical

Procedures

- 3.1.1 The content and program will be devised by the Cultural Centre's Exhibitions Panel, consisting of:
 - a) The Director
 - b) The Exhibitions Manager
 - c) A member of the Cultural Centre's Establishment Committee as nominated by said committee
 - d) Additional members may be asked to participate in selections from time to time at the discretion of the panel.

- 3.2 The Exhibitions Panel will meet as necessary to assess applications from artists, curators and Touring Agents for the future exhibitions program.
- 3.3 The Exhibition Program will be planned at least 2 years in advance.
- 3.4 In-house curated exhibition concepts will be devised by the Exhibitions Panel in accordance with Cultural Centre Exhibition Policy.
- 3.5 Exposé Program exhibitions will be selected in line with Exposé Program protocols and programmed by the Exhibitions Panel.
- 3.6 The Exhibitions Panel will consider exhibition proposals that meet the definition of an 'exhibition' as stated in – **definitions**.
- 3.7 Exhibitions will be selected from exhibition proposals submitted by a variety of sources including artists, curators and Touring Agents. Exhibitions will be evaluated according to the following selection criteria:
 - 3.7.1 Clarity – Ability to interpret the exhibition proposal and ascertain the feasibility of the proposal – articulation, legibility.
 - 3.7.2 Quality – Standard of work and concept appropriate to the nature of the proposed exhibition and that meet the standards of a professional public exhibition space.
 - 3.7.3 Artistic integrity – The success of upholding elements of artistic expression; e.g. innovation, uniqueness, creativity, skill, value.
 - 3.7.4 Audience appeal – Relevance and interest to a stated audience. We are a venue utilised by a varied demographic and must therefore be accessible and relevant to the general public.
 - 3.7.5 Cost to the venue – Potential cost implications to the venue: e.g. additional insurance, hire fees, transport costs.
 - 3.7.6 Practicalities – Consideration of any practical difficulties in hosting exhibitions: access and installation, public safety, size and weight of work.
 - 3.7.7 Source – reputation of the artist, curator or Touring Agent to develop and deliver exhibitions of a high standard
 - 3.7.8 Resources – Additional resources such as education kits, catalogues, interpretive information that enables audiences to better understand and appreciate artworks on display.

- 3.7.9 Program – The relationship of exhibition content and concept to the overall program schedule.
- 3.7.10 Environment – Consideration of the proposal in relation to the exhibition environment including security, climate control, sound and lighting.
- 3.7.11 Links – any Blue Mountains regional links. Possible educational potential from workshops, seminars, artist talks.
- 3.7.12 Cultural Sensitivity – exhibition content and concepts that fall within ICOM (International Council of Museums) guidelines relating to social and cultural interpretation.
- 3.8 The Exhibitions Panel may invite artists or guest curators to apply to complement or complete the exhibition program.
- 3.9 The Exhibitions Panel may approach organisations and collecting institutions to form partnerships and develop exhibitions to complement or complete the exhibition program.
- 3.10 Whilst the Exhibitions Panel will not shy away from exhibiting works of a contentious nature, we reserve the right to exercise our discretion when choosing exhibits that will be displayed in a public gallery. The Exhibitions Panel may cancel or demount an exhibition or parts of an exhibition at any time if the exhibition is found to cause public complaint deemed to be at a level detrimental to the reputation of the Cultural Centre.
- 3.11 The Exhibitions Panel will evaluate the success of the Exhibition Program, using standard evaluative tools to assess factors such as: visitor numbers and visitor experience; number, source, content and audience focus of exhibitions programmed; staff resources used to deliver programs; media coverage; cost etc.
- 4 The decision of the Exhibitions Panel is final.
