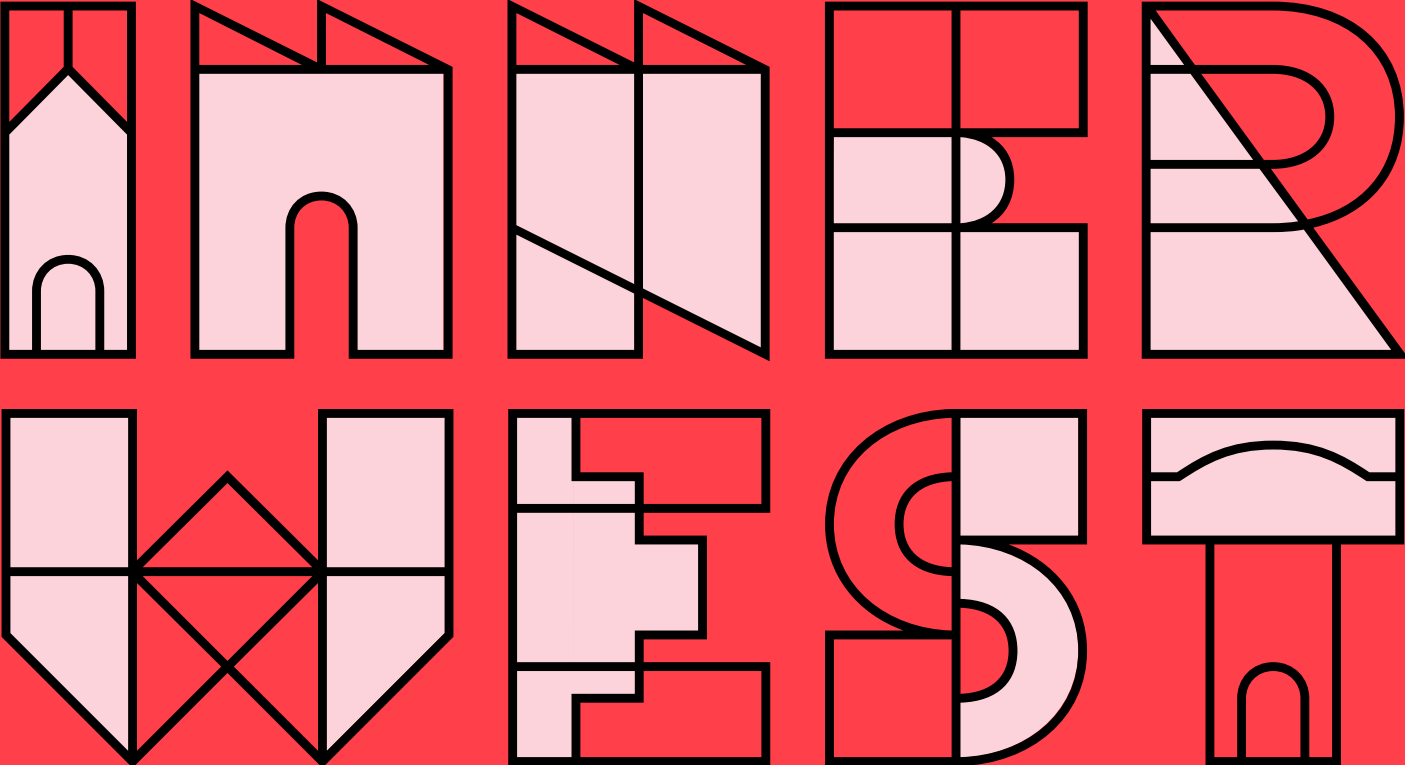


Arts and Music
Recovery Plan
2023



Council acknowledges the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora Nation, who are the traditional custodians of the lands in which the Inner West Local Government Area is situated.

We celebrate the survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, heritage, beliefs and their relationship with the land and water. We acknowledge the continuing importance of this relationship to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living today, despite the devastating impacts of European invasion. We express our sorrow for past injustices and support the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to self-determination.





Mayor's Message

As Mayor of the Creative powerhouse of the Inner West, I am pleased to present Inner West Council's Arts and Music Recovery Plan.

On 8 March 2022, Inner West Council resolved to convene an Inner West Arts and Music Crisis Summit, in partnership with the Sydney Fringe Festival, with the objective of mobilising local artists, creative businesses and supporters of the arts to resuscitate the sector. The Arts Summit was held at Marrickville Town Hall on 2 June 2022 and was attended by over 250 representatives of the Inner West arts and music sectors, including artists, peak organisations, creative businesses, live performance venue operators and academics.

The result of the Arts Summit is the enclosed Arts and Music Recovery Plan, Council's response to the sector and our agenda for creative communities.

We've already announced some pretty exciting initiatives – The Enmore Special Entertainment Precinct is now permanent, and we are currently creating three more precincts in Marrickville Rd, Norton St Leichhardt and Darling St, Balmain. We've grown the Perfect Match

program, cementing the Inner West as the street art capital of Australia. We are creating an Aboriginal Survival Memorial in Yeo Park, celebrating the survival of the oldest continuous human culture on earth. All eight of our town halls are being enlivened as arts and cultural venues. This Plan sets out the next stage of our creative roadmap to strengthen our cultural economy and creative outcomes for Community.

Inner West is the cultural capital of NSW, boasting the highest population of residents working in cultural industries and home to more independently owned venues and creative businesses than any other local government area in NSW. Council envisions this plan as an opportunity to create a partnership with State and Federal governments to help facilitate a bright future for the creative community of the Inner West and NSW.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darcy Byrne". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Darcy Byrne,
Inner West Mayor



Anni Payne – Milk & Honey Photography

Issue Identified by the Summit	Action	Responsibility	Comment	Alignment with Cultural Strategy 2022–2025
1. Events delivered by Council should prioritise engagement of local creatives to support the creative economy and community wellbeing.	Council has reviewed booking and procurement processes for events. Local creatives are prioritised where they can provide the required services.	Inner West Council (IWC)	New initiative in response to Arts Summit. Commenced with Marrickville Music Festival in November 2022 and relevant operational plans now have a KPI requiring 80% local content at events.	3.3.1. Evaluate and redesign Council events/activations programming, using place-based community capacity building.
2. Council should increase funding for the Perfect Match Street Art Program to support the creative economy and lead community creativity.	Funding for Perfect Match increased by 20% for 2023/24 budget. An additional \$100K was secured in grant funding from NSW Government in January 2023.	IWC	In 2020/21 Council increased funding for Perfect Match. The further increase for 23/24 is in response to the Arts Summit. Increased funding and successful grant will deliver approximately 50 more artworks (to be commissioned). This is double the previous number.	3.3.6. Support Inner West street art programs to grow cultural tourism and identity.
	Council will initiate audio descriptions of Perfect Match artworks and commence with a roll out of twenty artworks.	IWC	New initiative.	2.2.3. Support inclusive cultural programming for people with a disability and provide leadership in accessible arts.

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<p>3. Creative spaces are limited, and commercial rent can be prohibitive. Council has a role in providing access to affordable spaces.</p>	<p>Expressions of Interest (EOI) opened December 2022 for creative activation of all 8 Town Halls owned and operated by Council.</p>	<p>IWC</p>	<p>Activation of Town Halls is a new initiative in response to the Arts Summit. A pilot will commence with Marrickville Town Hall by June 2023.</p> <p>Open days for all eight town halls will be held by June 2023. Initial EOIs to be trialled at Marrickville Town Hall and then extended to all eight town halls by December 2023.</p>	<p>4.4.1 Develop a Cultural Assets Plan for the optimal use of Council's existing cultural assets, including artists residencies, town halls and libraries.</p> <p>4.4.2 Evaluate the existing use of Council assets for creative spaces, including Artist Residencies and Chrissie Cotter Gallery, and propose a redeveloped program to Council to maximise community benefit.</p>
	<p>Council has commissioned an independent review of Council owned premises and spaces for creative use. This includes a survey of 50 current creative users to identify opportunities to enhance and increase use by local creatives and experiences for community.</p>	<p>IWC</p>	<p>Council will action recommendations to support affordable short, medium and longer term rental agreements and enhance access to creative practitioners and local communities across the LGA. New initiative in response to Arts Summit.</p>	<p>4.4.4 Enable rehearsal and performance opportunities for the creative sector in Council owned venues.</p>
	<p>Pilot project to be established – working title “Perfect Space”, based on the Perfect Match model. Council will pilot a “concierge service” to match creatives with appropriate Council sites for, artistic development, practice and community performance.</p> <p>Creative Place Guidelines: Public art and Creative Spaces in Development to be integrated into the new draft of the Inner West Development Control Plan. This will be accompanied by an online web resource hub.</p>	<p>IWC</p>	<p>This will involve an audit of current Town Hall availability and will also investigate the possibility of using one of the Town Halls as a “testing ground” a place where creatives can literally test their ideas. A trial of this program will be underway by September 2023.</p>	

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<p>4. Focus on development and practice of Aboriginal artists and creatives.</p>	<p>Council's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) includes a range of initiatives, which will be led by Aboriginal community including Aboriginal Survival Memorials in three sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yeo Park – Djarrawunang • Illoura Reserve – Baludarri • Kendrick Park – Midjuburi. 	IWC	First memorial to be installed in Yeo Park by December 2023.	<p>1.3.1 Create opportunities to connect to and celebrate diverse Aboriginal arts and cultural practice.</p> <p>1.3.2 Build upon Gadigal Wangal Wayfinding with Aboriginal-led tours and digital storytelling.</p>
	<p>Council continues to work with and commission original artwork from Aboriginal people as part of its signage and way-finding projects.</p>	IWC	Ongoing. Each of the Inner West's five Council Wards has a visual emblem commissioned from Aboriginal artists.	
	<p>Council will work with Boomalli arts cooperative to mentor two arts workers to gain the necessary practical skills for large scale arts delivery, ensuring a gateway to their practice.</p>	IWC	New initiative in response to Arts Summit.	
	<p>Council is creating a new Aboriginal Walking Trail to join the three Survival memorials and the Aboriginal Community Hub</p> <p>The proposed trail will join Ashfield Station, through Pratten Park, the new Lewis Herman Reserve and then onto Yeo Park.</p>	IWC	New initiative.	
	<p>Council has identified a potential location for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Hub: the former Tempe Bowling Club building in Tempe Reserve.</p> <p>Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee supports this potential location, noting that the site would create a resonant relationship and anchoring in Country.</p> <p>Council will now undertake due diligence on building condition and any planning issues.</p>	IWC	New initiative for scoping in 2023 and potential delivery 2024/25.	

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5. Create networking, mentoring and economic development opportunities for creatives.	During 2022, Council worked closely with community through its Arts Advisory Committee to provide seed funding and a start-up grant to establish the Inner West Creative Network; a network convened by creatives for creatives to focus on economic development and mentoring for the sector in the Inner West.	Inner West Creative Network with IWC	<p>Network officially launched September 2022. Initiative in support of sector and issues raised at Arts Summit. Council will continue to support the network and initiatives for members “in kind” and through future potential grant opportunities.</p> <p>Council will trial creative “hot office” space at an appropriate site such as St Peter’s or Annandale Town Hall, to enable creatives to undertake administration and training opportunities at minimal cost.</p>	<p>3.5.1. Support the establishment of an Inner West Creative Industries Network.</p> <p>3.5.3. Provide support for creative entrepreneurs and emerging artists through networks, professional development and Council’s Women in Business mentorships.</p>



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<p>6. Many young people don't see the arts as a recreational activity or career and may not be able to access opportunities.</p> <p>Enhance mentoring, career pathway and creative Opportunities within the arts sector for young people in the Inner West.</p>	<p>Council will trial a 'creative in residence' program in one of its early learning or outside school hours care services during 2023 to enhance the participation of children in the arts and create more opportunities for local creatives.</p>	<p>IWC</p>	<p>New initiative in response to Arts Summit.</p>	<p>5.3.2. Increase opportunities for children and young people to engage in Council's cultural programs, including expanding Young Creative of the Year.</p> <p>5.3.3. Support creative education and career pathways in collaboration with local schools, including trialling an Artist in Residence program in schools.</p>
	<p>Scoping is currently underway with the Department of Education for an artist in residence pilot in an Inner West secondary school.</p>	<p>IWC</p>	<p>New initiative for 2024.</p>	
	<p>A project is being developed to explore artist talks in schools in the same vein as sports people as part of a career pathways program.</p>	<p>IWC</p>	<p>New initiative in response to Arts Summit.</p>	
	<p>A pilot program will be developed to engage young people 12 to 18 years in co-design and delivery of a Perfect Match street art project with an established artist during 2023.</p>	<p>IWC</p>	<p>A new Film category will be added to the Young Creatives program for the first time in 2023. The competition is open to entries across three age categories (12-15 yrs, 16-18 yrs and 19-25 years).</p>	
	<p>Council's annual Young Creative Awards program provides opportunities across a range of art forms for young people who study, work of live in the Inner West to hone their creative skills in a competitive environment and have their work seen and published.</p>	<p>IWC</p>	<p>The winners will be engaged to deliver or contribute to youth programming across the library service in 2024 and will work with the library programming team to serve as advisory panel/content producers for the "Young Creatives Takeover" of youth programming across the library service in the July 2024 school holidays.</p> <p>Libraries recently partnered with Create NSW to offer a two hour session on small project grants. This was the first of a new "How to Adult" youth targeted program series and was scheduled as a crossover with the Young Creatives program. The session was designed for young people to bring along their "big idea" for an opportunity to consult with staff from Create NSW to advise and provide info on support services available.</p>	

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7. Make it easier to navigate planning systems for creatives to perform and exhibit in new ways.	Council will implement the suggestion of Arts Advisory Committee to introduce “speed dating” where local business and performers/ exhibitors can meet local businesses to pitch ideas and get planning and regulatory advice from Council officers in real time.	IWC	New initiative. Additionally, officers will explore a “one stop” event licence to further cut red tape.	3.2.1 Investigate alternative approval pathways for small scale arts and cultural activities within existing commercial and industrial buildings. 3.2.2. Provide specialist advice and information to support creatives to navigate Council planning and regulatory frameworks.
	Council will develop a user guide for local groups holding events in venues, public spaces and parks, which includes clear information about how to create and deliver an event and what (if any) approvals are required from Council or other government agencies.	IWC	New initiative proposed by Arts Advisory Committee in response to Arts Summit. Council officers will work with the committee to develop, trial and evaluate user guide during 2023/24 in consultation with local creatives.	
	Amend local planning controls to enable cultural activations in existing premises.	IWC	NSW Government recently made changes to State-wide legislation enabling what Council had proposed in the Inner West open and Creative Planning proposal. This includes permitting cultural activations without a DA in existing premises.	
8. Entertainment venues are finding it difficult to operate due to amenity conflicts with residents.	Enmore Road to be designated as a Special Entertainment precinct	IWC	Enmore Road proposal endorsed by Council on 14 March 2023. Working with State Government to finalise precinct.	3.4.4 Implement a Special Entertainment Precinct Pilot in Enmore Rd and investigate other Inner West locations for entertainment precincts.
	Future locations under investigation for Special Entertainment precincts	IWC	Investigations commencing for further entertainment precinct locations.	

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<p>9. Council's grant process for creative arts should be less bureaucratic and include opportunities for face to face presentation.</p>	<p>Council grants funding application processes have been reviewed and streamlined in 2022.</p>	<p>IWC</p>	<p>Improvement initiative proposed by Arts Advisory Committee in response to Arts Summit.</p>	
	<p>The 2023 cultural grants round will include opportunities for short face to face or online "pitches" to support applications.</p>	<p>IWC</p>	<p>Creatives interested in applying for cultural grants will be allocated a "go to" person on Council staff to discuss their proposal with. Additionally, the concierge pilot will help match grant applicants with appropriate Council spaces.</p> <p>It should be noted that all LGA grants processes require paper and electronic records due to procurement legislation.</p>	
<p>10. Regular street closures should be implemented by Council to encourage creative use of public space for activations.</p>	<p>Council's Main Streets Policy includes the use of street closures for festivals and activations.</p>	<p>IWC</p>	<p>Council is currently in the process of developing town centre master plans for Rozelle, Newtown, Marrickville and Dulwich Hill, which will identify opportunities for street closures.</p> <p>Council is currently undertaking engagement and approval requirements for selected streets in Enmore and Rozelle.</p>	<p>3.3.7. Activate main streets with culture in partnership with local business.</p>



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<p>11. The Covid pandemic had a near catastrophic impact on the arts sector nationally. The creative arts should be central to government policy and funding at all levels – including a Living wage for artists</p>	<p>Council's commitments in the Arts Recovery Plan and its Creative Inner West Cultural Strategy 2022-2025 provide a comprehensive commitment to the sector's social, cultural and economic viability and impact on the wellbeing of communities.</p>	IWC	<p>The drivers for funding and arts policy sit mainly within the jurisdiction of State and Commonwealth Government's. Council will continue to advocate for the sector through a wide range of policy platforms.</p>	<p>3.5.2. Advocate to State and Federal governments on the significance of the Inner West's creative sector and the need for a Federal arts and culture policy and plan.</p>
	<p>Council's submission to the National Cultural Policy in November 2022 highlighted the recommendations of the Arts Summit, including a living wage.</p>	IWC	<p>In October 2022 Council wrote to the relevant State and Federal Ministers to advocate for national and state arts policies on behalf of the Arts Summit and will continue to advocate for initiatives such as vouchers for creative use.</p> <p>The new Australian Cultural Policy, Revive, was launched on 30 January 2023. It includes appropriate structures for creatives. Many of the policy directions and specific initiatives are consistent with Council's advocacy work and response to the Arts Summit. In September 2022 Council resolved to identify opportunities for further advocacy work to shape State and Federal arts policy and will continue to do so.</p>	

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<p>12. Council should have a dedicated channel to promote our thriving sector to local audiences and as a destination for Greater Sydney and beyond. These new platforms will ensure our community have a space to tell their stories.</p>	<p>Council will explore opportunities to extend marketing/communications channels for creative outgoings. This could include potential working partnerships with local arts organisations and State government agencies such as Create NSW.</p> <p>Council will also identify training opportunities for Council staff to ensure inclusive communication.</p>	IWC	New initiative in response to Arts Summit.	2.1.2. Provide training to Council staff to support inclusive communication, engagement and project delivery, including cultural awareness.
<p>13. Lack of employment and visibility at a local level for artists.</p>	<p>Council will scope opportunities to employ artists as part of engagement for masterplans and other public space design work.</p> <p>Council will develop a trial of “residencies in parks” for artists during 2023/2024</p>	IWC	New initiative	5.2.1. Provide opportunities for local creatives and cultural leaders to facilitate inclusive co-design of open space and infrastructure.



