

Arts and Culture Plan

2024/25 – 2029/30





Bega Valley Shire Council acknowledges and pays
our respects to the traditional custodians
of the lands, waterways and
airspace of the shire.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Council works in partnership with the Bega, Eden and Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Councils.

The MOU aims to create a future where Aboriginal people living in the Bega Valley have social, economic, and cultural opportunities and where the cultural heritage and connection to country of Aboriginal people is recognised and respected.

Cover photo and contents page photo by David Rogers photography.



The Three Graces live streamed performance in the Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award exhibition at the Bega Valley Regional Gallery- ART Month Sapphire Coast closing event, 29 Aug 2020. Photo: David Rogers.

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Message from the Mayor

The Bega Valley Shire has a rich tradition of supporting our community's cultural and creative endeavours. We understand that arts and culture offer a variety of benefits—social, economic and health-related—to individuals and communities alike.

Local government plays a crucial role in enabling participation in arts and culture, and in the Bega Valley Shire there is a clear recognition of the importance of planning for and investing in these sectors.

Our Arts and Culture Plan 2024/25 - 2029/30 serves as our blueprint for shaping the future of arts and culture in the shire over the next four years.

It will guide our future ventures in cultural infrastructure, events and programs, and their integration with broader Council activities.

The plan builds on Council's history of supporting the arts, reaffirming our commitment to nurturing the creative sector. It serves as a roadmap, outlining our direction for cultural activities and arts practices and how we'll continue to cultivate an environment where creativity thrives.

The plan is guided by five key themes—facilities, participation and access, creative enterprise, communication and connection, and cultural leadership—each accompanied by a range of actions to enhance and strengthen arts and culture over the next five years.

Some of these actions are within Council's capacity now, while others will require investment from state and federal governments or partnerships with other organisations to bring them to fruition.

By embracing these themes, we aim to strengthen partnerships and work towards shared goals that celebrate our cultural identity.

Let's embark on this journey together, fuelled by creativity and a commitment to our arts and cultural life for the benefit of the whole community.

Russell Fitzpatrick
Mayor





SECCA from Littleton Gardens Nov 2023. Photo: David Rogers

Overview

The Bega Valley Shire is an inclusive and welcoming community that integrates quality of life, prosperity, sustainable development and conservation of the environment. The region’s natural beauty, rich culture, heritage and lifestyle are attracting more visitors and new residents to the area to explore fresh work and life opportunities.

Arts encounters that interpret these beloved aspects enhance and reinforce the existing offerings of the region. The Bega Valley Shire Council acknowledges that fostering and expanding the arts can enhance quality of life, allure and engage both visitors and locals, while also bolstering local employment and the economy.

This Arts and Culture Plan (the plan) provides direction for cultural activity and investment from Council for the period 2024/25 to 2029/30. The plan considers the current role of Council as well as opportunities for growth, taking into consideration the potential for future development. Five key theme areas are identified for action: cultural facilities, participation and access, creative enterprise, communication and connection, and cultural leadership.

The plan closely aligns with the objectives outlined in Council’s Integrated Planning and Reporting framework, which is headed by the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Towards 2042^[1]. The actions identified in these theme areas are consistent with the values expressed in the CSP and each of the key areas are linked to one or more CSP strategies. The plan also recognises strong linkages with other regional plans and strategies and with state and federal government cultural policies.

South East Arts, the regional arts development organisation for South East NSW, has played a key role in the development of this plan, drawing on state and federal cultural policies, regional studies and other relevant research. This input was gained through ongoing engagement with arts and culture practitioners and stakeholder groups.

The plan is informed by consultation with key stakeholders including Bega Valley Shire Council Councillors and staff, volunteers and committees, as well as feedback from the broader community. Consultation with the museums and historical associations was undertaken by Council’s museum advisor in 2023.

[1] Bega Valley Community Strategic Plan - Bega Valley Shire Council (nsw.gov.au)

Defining arts and culture

This plan is based on a broad definition of arts and culture activity in the Bega Valley.

Arts: The arts are a physical expression of the internal creative impulse.

Arts encompasses both traditional artforms such as:

- visual arts (e.g. painting, sculpture, photography etc)
- music (both recorded and performed)
- performing arts (e.g. dance, theatre)
- literature (books and other written works)
- craft and design

as well as creative industries such as:

- film, television and radio
- fashion design
- software development and interactive digital content
- architecture

Culture: Refers to the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, defined by everything from language, kinship and religion, to cuisine, social habits, traditions and arts. It can be seen as the growth of group identity fostered by social patterns unique to the group. Culture, therefore, also embraces heritage and heritage-related assets and activity.

This plan does not aim to cover all of the above aspects of culture but recognises that the arts represent a creative expression that is influenced by culture, which in turn, helps to shape culture.

Participation: 97% of Australians engage with the arts including theatre, dance, visual arts and craft, music, literature, First Nations arts, film/screen and multi-arts. Participation encompasses personal, community, amateur and professional engagement. It includes attending arts events and festivals, creating art, engaging online, listening to music and reading books.^[2]

The majority of individuals residing in the Bega Valley Shire engage in artistic and cultural activities in some way, including as audiences. This is evidenced by the numerous arts practitioners and cultural events held across the shire and their high attendance numbers.

[2]Creating Our Future: arts and creativity increasingly important to all Australians - Creative Australia

[3]Value: Results of the National Arts Participation Survey - Creative Australia



Arts and creativity connect us: to ideas, to each other, to new perspectives and to the world. Through engagement with arts, culture and creativity we can make sense of the world around us. They enable us to recognise our shared and distinct histories and imagine new futures as a nation. The arts inspire and ignite us, help us to build our collective identity and make us happier and healthier.^[3]

SECCA at night. Photo: David Rogers



Why an arts & culture plan?

Bega Valley Shire Council has an essential role to play in delivering, collaborating, and advocating for arts and cultural development. This plan aims to identify and guide Council's actions over a 5-year period (2024/25 to 2029/30) to support social and economic outcomes.

Social outcomes

The arts play a special role in relation to culture. Artistic expression and creativity are powerful ways in which we develop our cultural identities. Engagement in arts and culture has the power to change lives and improve community wellbeing. Music, film, visual art, performance and literature are an integral part of the lives of our communities.

Communities that embrace diversity, creative expression and cultural activity are richer, stronger, have greater cohesion and are better able to deal with social challenges. The Bega Valley community is proudly inclusive and celebrates our diverse cultural expression, ethnicity, identity race, sexuality, age, gender and local heritage through a range of creative activities. By supporting and nurturing cultural activities and arts practice, Council is seeking to improve the quality of life of its residents. Through the arts, when individuals unite, the chance to share experiences and expertise arise, fostering interactions and empowering the community to bolster its identity and capabilities.

Economic outcomes

Arts and culture in the Bega Valley are important assets, providing connection between people, stimulating creativity, and contributing to the region's economy through creative industries and cultural tourism.

The creative industries sector consists of two groups:

Cultural production - activities include music, performing and visual arts, libraries, museums, print and other publishing, film and sound recording, media production and broadcasting.

Creative services - which deliver creative outputs to a mix of consumer and corporate clients, including internet and digital services, advertising services and design.

For regional NSW, cultural tourism represents a valuable opportunity. Cultural tourism can result in increased audiences at local events, additional visitors to local galleries and museums, and greater support for local arts practitioners. Cultural tourism can also attract broader economic benefits – for small businesses such as hospitality venues, accommodation providers, petrol stations and retail stores – through increased visitor numbers and longer visitor stays. Beyond the economic benefits, showcasing arts and culture can have a significant influence on building community, defining identity, and making people feel proud of their town or region.

Cultural tourism has grown by 23% over the past five years, compared to total global tourism growth of 19%^[4]

[4] LAUNCH - Cultural Tourism: Harnessing One of Australia's Fastest-Growing Tourism Segments - Cultural Attractions of Australia





For First Nations peoples, culture is more than just visual and performing arts, it includes language, stories, songlines, sacred sites and traditional knowledge. Culture is the sum of all things, the essence of our being. Connection to culture is integral for the health and wellbeing of First Nations peoples, to our sense of identity, and to maintaining the vitality and strength of our communities.

The Hon Linda Burney MP Minister for Indigenous Australians ^[5]

Nathan Lygon performing smoking ceremony, Regional and Public Galleries Conference 2023.
Photo: David Rogers

First Nations first

Arts and culture are intrinsically intertwined for Aboriginal people and communities. Culture is often expressed and taught through what non-Aboriginal people consider to be artistic practices such as painting, dance, music, craft, and storytelling.

Artistic or cultural expression is a key way for Aboriginal people to gain employment and assume roles as leaders and educators, facilitating connection between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Connection and employment are two themes identified in the Community Strategic Plan under the headings 'Our Community' and 'Our Economy'.

Council is committed to supporting Indigenous arts and cultural heritage in partnership with the Bega, Eden, and Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Councils through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) ^[6] which has been in place since 2001. The MOU aims to create a future where Aboriginal people living in the Bega Valley have social, economic, and cultural opportunities and where the cultural heritage and connection to country of Aboriginal people is recognised and respected. Council is also working with the Local Aboriginal Land Councils and other representatives to protect Aboriginal culture and intellectual property across its business.

The plan acknowledges the significance of arts and culture to the Aboriginal people living in the shire and strongly aligns with the Australian Government's Revive: National Cultural Policy ^[7].

The following actions from the National Cultural Plan's pillar of First Nations First are particularly relevant to the Bega Valley and to Council:

- Support the telling of First Nations histories and stories in Australia's galleries, libraries, archives and museums
- Promote best practice cultural protocols, the principle of self-determination and cultural safety training, in partnership with First Nations communities, across arts and culture organisations
- Support professional development and training for First Nations peoples to ensure that artists are treated ethically and receive a fair return for their work.

Many objectives and actions contained within the plan will apply to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists, organisations, and communities. However, given the higher level of economic and social disadvantage that many Aboriginal people face, Council will aim to reduce barriers to participation and engagement across all areas.

[5] Revive-plain-english-may2023.docx (live.com)

[6] Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people - Bega Valley Shire Council (nsw.gov.au)

[7] A new National Cultural Policy | Office for the Arts

The arts ecosystem in the Bega Valley Shire

Within the Bega Valley there are two main areas of arts activity which can be categorised in relation to the number of participants.

Community arts

The majority of people are engaged at the community arts level, driven largely by volunteers, amateur and hobby artists. This includes individuals and organisations (e.g. arts societies, museums, festival committees, community theatre groups, artist-run initiatives, community music groups) delivering a wide range of cultural activities such as exhibitions, workshops, festivals, events, performances, and screen production. School students at both primary and secondary school levels are included in the community arts, as they regularly engage in and present arts and cultural events.

While participants in the community arts sector benefit from additional support (financial and in-kind), advice, assistance, capacity building and reaching new audiences, they are generally not pursuing careers in the arts or looking to establish and run professional arts organisations. Funding support for this sector is most often project focused, smaller amounts and time specific.

Professional arts

A smaller number of people are engaged in the professional arts sector working either as individual creative practitioners, running small businesses, commercial venues (often live music and visual arts) and production companies. Individual creative practitioners in this sector are emerging or established, and while many aspire to be fully professional, they often need work outside of their creative practice to sustain regular income.

In addition to the arts professionals employed by Bega Valley Shire Council to run cultural facilities, the region has a number of professionally run, not-for-profit arts organisations such as Four Winds, Fling Physical Theatre, Stonewave Taiko and The Twyford. These organisations regularly secure funding from state and federal funding sources, earned income, philanthropy, and sponsorship, delivering annual programs, events and projects.

As an example of the direct economic impact of the arts ecosystem, in 2023 the combined revenue of Four Winds, Fling Physical Theatre and South East Arts was \$2.5 million. This income supported a diverse range of creative projects, programs and event, and directly employed artists, arts workers and technicians. Individual creative practitioners provide further economic benefit for the region, working across a variety of artforms and creative industries.

Professional artists, filmmakers, musicians and creative organisations are more likely to be strategically focused, outward looking and connected to the arts sector beyond the region. This sector can also be defined as being part of the broader creative industries.

Education can also be included in the professional arts sector, particularly teachers/tutors delivering lessons, music schools, high schools delivering arts-related courses and libraries, which have been identified as the highest investment in culture by local government.



Geoffrey Badger conducts the Bega Valley Male Voice Choir for Wanderer Festival 2022.



Candelo Community Hall. Photo: David Rogers Dec 2023

Interconnection

Like any ecosystem, the community and professional arts sectors are strongly interconnected. Community arts provides employment opportunities for many professional artists, partnerships often exist between community and professional arts organisations, and many individual artists work and volunteer in both areas. Many of the annual cultural festivals in the Bega Valley region are run by volunteer organisations such as Cobargo Folk Festival, Sculpture Bermagui, Eden Whale Festival, Candelo Village Festival and Merimbula Jazz Festival.

These volunteer-run festivals provide employment for a diverse range of artists, musicians, performers, and others working in the creative industries. Collaborations and partnerships are key to the sustainability of the sector, an example being the recent establishment of the volunteer run Old Bega Hospital Regional Community Cultural Centre as a centre of community cultural activity and home to a growing number art groups.

The professional and community arts engage across a diverse reach of areas such as health, education, environment, tourism, and youth. They make a significant contribution to the economic growth and social cohesion of the region.

The professional arts sector delivers an array of services and projects for community arts engagement and participation, and most importantly has a strong audience base in this area. Activity from both sectors help to bring artists to the region and attract visitors through a cultural tourism focus. Audiences for arts events, festivals and exhibitions include both locals and visitors to the area. Community arts activities attract predominantly local audiences who are often motivated by personal and social connections. Audiences from outside the region are more likely to visit for large scale festivals, events and cultural venues that have effective marketing reach.



Eden Killer Whale Museum.

Museums

Bega Valley is home to a vibrant and diverse museum sector, with 12 museums, archives and historical organisations run almost entirely by volunteer community associations who play a critical role in managing and interpreting the shire’s collections. These span the breadth of the shire and include:

- Bega Pioneers’ Museum
- Ben Boyd History Centre
- Bermagui Museum
- Cobargo District Museum
- Mary MacKillop Hall Museum
- Merimbula Old Schoolhouse Museum
- Montreal Goldfield
- Pig and Whistle Museum, Tathra Wharf
- Bega Valley Genealogy Society
- Eden Killer Whale Museum
- Monaroo Bubberer Gudu Keeping Place
- South Coast History Society.

The museum sector holds multifaceted value; beyond preserving heritage, museums cultivate community bonds and pride, serving as hubs for community engagement. Cultural heritage assets managed and cared for by our local museums and archives organisations are not only valuable to our local community, but also include items that are of state, national or international significance. Council values the museum and archive sector and currently supports community-operated museums through the museum advisor service (co-funded by Museums and Galleries NSW) which offers expert guidance on matters of governance, museological practices and business growth, and by subsidising rent for Council managed facilities.

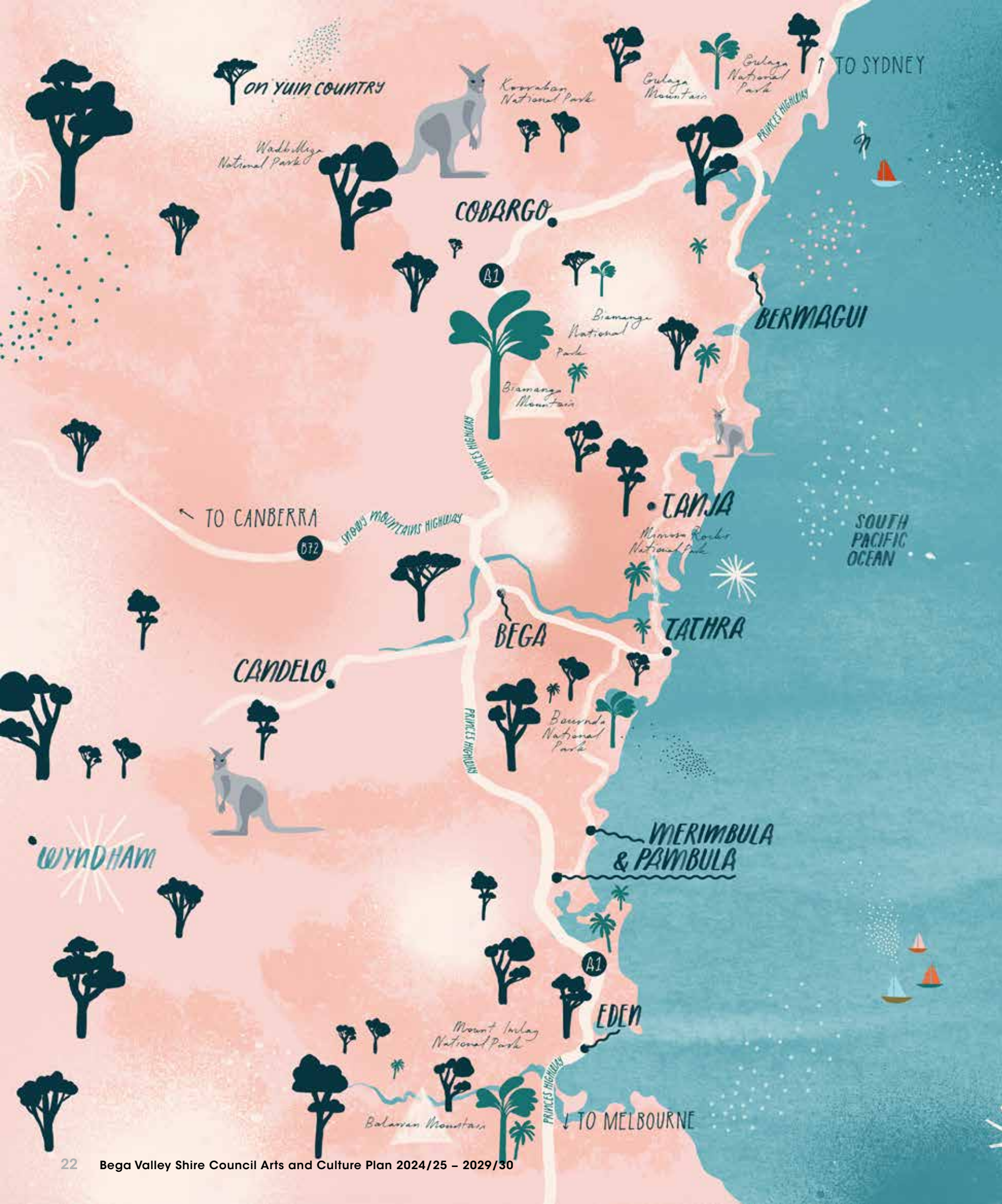
The museum sector serves as a pivotal catalyst for cultural tourism in the region attracting 57,000 visitors per year and directly contributing \$710,000 to the economy.

In 2023, as part of Council’s annual agreement with Museums and Galleries of NSW, Orion Wayfinding undertook consultation and provided advice on the sustainability of the museum sector in the shire. This identified that local museums and historical organisations face a number of challenges. These include:

- a critical shortage of volunteers (necessitating recruitment of younger volunteers) and training programs
- maintenance of current museum sites, which are becoming financially and logistically unsustainable
- shortages of volunteers and insufficient prioritization impede the digitisation of documentation and essential assessment processes
- financial constraints and a strong attachment to existing sites are impeding progress in enhancing collection storage facilities.

It is clear that the sustainability of museums and heritage organisations will depend on a securing a mixed model of commercial revenue streams and grant funding. To this end, the sector will benefit from enhanced marketing strategies, engagement with specialist contractors, narrative refocusing and updated business plans to ensure they continue to meet audience needs. Action is required to improve the visitor experience and to help support museum business models.

Council is a key stakeholder and partner in the cultural sector and has an established role in the conservation and protection of local history through its library and gallery collections. However, fiscal limitations and limited resources inhibit council’s capacity to respond to many challenges faced by museums in the Bega Valley. The plan identifies a range of actions for council focused on the long-term sustainability of the museum sector, including a commitment to the principle of collaborative strategic visioning with the museums. Council can play an important role in advocating for support from other levels of government as this will be critical to the long-term success of the sector.



Event Activation Strategy

In 2023, Council received funding from the NSW Government to deliver an Events Strategy and Prospectus for the shire. Consultation for the strategy included a community survey that aimed to identify the importance of events to residents, awareness of existing events and the role that Bega Valley Shire Council should play in this area. The final strategy was adopted by Bega Valley Shire Council in July 2024 and has been considered in the context of this Arts and Cultural Plan.

The survey provides insights into the significance of cultural festivals for the community and the importance of Bega Valley Shire Council attracting, investing in and providing services and support for events. The survey highlighted the positive impact of the large-scale, professionally run Wanderer Festival, the local pride and connection to long-running festivals Cobargo Folk and Sculpture Bermagui, and growth of loyal audiences for more recently established festivals including Giiyong, WinterSun and Headland Writers Festival.

Planning and policy context and linkages

The plan exists within the context of other plans at local, regional, state, and national levels. These relationships and the knowledge of relevant existing strategies and plans are important to avoid duplication of effort and to better understand areas of contention. They also highlight opportunities to build partnerships, enhance collaboration and ensure the best possible use of limited resources.

Bega Valley Shire Council plans and strategies

The plan has potential linkages with other Bega Valley Shire Council plans and strategies including:

- Community Strategic Plan Towards 2042
- Delivery Program 2020-2025
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021-2025
- Library Services Strategic Plan 2020-2025
- Economic Development Roadmap 2023 -2025
- Stage Three A: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study
- Cemetery Plan 2020-2030
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Bega, Eden, and Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Councils
- Bega Valley Community Roadmap (Investing in Rural Community Futures Program)
- Events Strategy 2024-2028

Links to these plans can be found on the resources page 65.



Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre. Photo: David Rogers



Headland Writers Festival 2023 Tathra Hall. Photo: Angi High

Regional plans and strategies

South East Arts

South East Arts (SEA) is part of a network of 15 Regional Arts Development Organisations (RADOs) throughout regional New South Wales and is the peak regional arts and cultural development organisation for the region covering Snowy Monaro, Bega Valley and Eurobodalla. SEA works with individuals, communities, organisations, government, and business to build capacity and create opportunities.

The South East Arts Strategic Plan 2022-2024 outlines a number of strategic objectives. Three specific goals distinctly correlate with this plan:

- Support regional artists and arts organisations in their creative practice
- Lead and partner in collaborative projects to enrich cultural life and artistic practice
- Increase cultural engagement and active participation in the arts.

SEA's current strategic priorities encompass Cultural Tourism and Aboriginal Arts and Culture. The plan also acknowledges the central role of partnerships to achieve its ambitions. SEA will be developing a new Strategic Plan in 2024 to cover the next period of multi-year support from Create NSW 2026-2029.

Destination Southern NSW

The Southern NSW Destination Management Plan 2022-2030 outlines the region's target markets, visitor profiles, research insights, strategic objectives, unique positioning, and is used to facilitate an increase in visitation and visitor spend. The plan highlights the opportunities and challenges in the region's development and the role that we, as industry stakeholders, can all play – individually and together – to ensure success.



Fling Physical Theatre performing at SECCA Community weekend Dec 2023. Photo: David Rogers

NSW Government Creative Communities

Creative Communities is the NSW Government's 10-year integrated policy for arts, culture, and the creative industries 2024-2033. Released in December 2023, the policy supports artists, creatives, and cultural organisations and for the first time, expands to include the rapidly growing creative industries. It considers culture a public good and the right to participate in arts, cultural and creative activities a fundamental human right.

The policy commits to a whole-of-government approach to advocate for, invest in and enable the creative and cultural ecosystem across the state to realise its potential. It complements Revive, the national cultural policy, and shares its commitment to prioritise First Nations culture and take our multi-faceted stories and creativity to the world.

Creative Communities is grounded in five guiding principles:

1. Prioritise First Nations culture
2. Embrace the arts, culture and creative industries
3. Advocate for the value of culture
4. Support sustainable growth
5. Take our creativity to the world and bring the world to our stories.

Built on the core objectives of people, infrastructure and audiences, the policy embeds arts, culture and creative industries in our communities and provides opportunities for all to thrive. The principles and key objectives are detailed in full in the policy^[6].

Of particular note in the policy is an undertaking to deliver a regional arts, culture and creative industries plan in late 2024. Given that local councils in regional NSW are the main providers of cultural infrastructure and facilities, it is anticipated that the plan can provide a framework for advocacy in the development of the regional plan.

[6] Creative Communities | NSW Government

National Cultural Policy

Clear connections can be found between the plan and the Australian Government’s National Cultural Policy Revive^[7]. Revive is a five-year plan to revive the arts in Australia and was launched in February 2023.

Revive is structured around five interconnected pillars which set out the strategic objectives:

1. First Nations First – Recognising and respecting the crucial place of First Nations stories at the centre of Australia’s arts and culture.
2. A Place for Every Story – Reflecting the breadth of our stories and the contribution of all Australians as the creators of culture.
3. Centrality of the Artist – Supporting the artist as worker and celebrating artists as creators.
4. Strong Cultural Infrastructure – Providing support across the spectrum of institutions which sustain our arts, culture and heritage.
5. Engaging the Audience – Making sure our stories connect with people at home and abroad.

Within each of the five pillars, Revive identifies a range of actions the Australian Government will take to implement the goals of the plan. Local government also has role to play in delivering some of these actions for the region or supporting the creative community in connecting with them. This will assist Council to collaborate and advocate to other levels of government and leverage support for arts and culture at the local level.



[7] A new National Cultural Policy | Office for the Arts





Giiyong Festival Audience 2023. Photo: Angi High

Following are a selection of actions from the five pillars in the Australian Government's National Cultural Policy, Revive, of relevance to the plan:

First Nations First

- Support the telling of First Nations histories and stories in Australia's galleries, libraries, archives and museums
- Promote best practice cultural protocols, the principle of self-determination and cultural safety training, in partnership with First Nations communities, across arts and cultural organisations
- Support professional development and training for First Nations peoples to ensure that artists are treated ethically and receive a fair return for their work.

A Place for Every Story

- Invest in local arts and cultural infrastructure across Australia
- Invest in a Local Multicultural Projects initiative, which includes support for local community artistic and cultural activities and celebrations
- Centrality of the Artist
- Endorse the voluntary Code of Practice for Visual Arts, Craft and Design^[8]
- Include Award coverage of the arts sector and minimum standards as part of the upcoming Review of Modern Awards.

Strong Cultural Infrastructure

- Establish a Centre for Arts and Entertainment Workplaces, within the newly established Creative Australia, to provide advice on issues of pay, safety and welfare in the arts and entertainment sector, refer matters to the relevant authorities and develop codes of conduct and resources for the sector
- Streamline programs that incentivise philanthropic support for the arts, such as the Register of Cultural Organisations, to assist cultural organisations to attract funding and cultural gifts from businesses and individuals
- Increase funding to the newly established Creative Australia to support more small and medium arts organisations and drive the development of new artistic works of scale.

Engaging the Audience

- Continue activities and programs that support live performance, festivals and touring, including in regional areas
- Continue collaboration with the arts and cultural sector to deliver on the national visitor economy plan, THRIVE 2030^[9], by supporting artistic and cultural events and incorporating cultural assets into destination marketing and campaigns.

[8] Introduction — NAVA Code of Practice (visualarts.net.au)

[9] THRIVE 2030 strategy growing Australia's visitor economy | Austrade

Bega Valley Shire Council's role

Bega Valley Shire Council plays an important role in developing and supporting arts and culture both within the shire and across the region through forms of action which include:

Provide:	Services, facilities, infrastructure, programs, planning and engagement
Collaborate:	Partner with the community, business and industry, other councils and other tiers of government
Advocate:	Amplify the voice of our community to get the best possible outcomes

Through this lens it is clear that many Bega Valley Shire Council programs have a significant level of engagement in and impact on the cultural life of the community. An obvious example of Council's role to Provide is the delivery and resourcing of cultural facilities such as libraries, the South East Centre for Contemporary Arts (SECCA) and the network of community halls in town and villages. However, arts and culture intersect with Council's roles in many areas including economic development, leisure and recreation, community development, communications, asset management, environment and planning, and procurement.

In partnership with organisations and our communities, we share the responsibility in providing access to and caring for our Aboriginal history, colonial and natural heritage, and cultural collections.

A local arts and cultural festival provides an excellent case study that demonstrates this broad connect. An event of this nature must typically engage with Bega Valley Shire Council on a range of regulatory matters and is impacted by Council processes and requirements around things such as:

- use of public land approvals
- development applications
- waste management
- food safety
- water management
- noise pollution.

The same festival may be supported through regular Bega Valley Shire Council functions including:

- maintenance of public spaces
- communication for marketing and promotion of the event
- tourism promotion in partnership with Sapphire Coast Destination marketing
- financial assistance through community grants (such as Waste Wise Events grant)
- sharing of relevant available data to support event planning, strategy and funding advocacy
- economic development programs that support investment in and development of cultural events
- community development programs which bolster community capacity, build partnerships and support community volunteering
- letters of support to bolster funding applications.



Visitors to the 2023 Archibald Prize Regional Tour at the newly launched South East Centre for Contemporary Art, Bega. Photo: David Rogers



Giiyong Festival 2023. Food Sovereignty Panel. Photo: David Rogers

Key themes

The plan identifies five (5) key strategic themes for Council to develop and support arts and culture into 2029. These themes encompass the range of services and programs relevant to arts and culture, delivered by various sections within Council.

1. Cultural facilities

- Creative arts infrastructure provided across the shire
- Spaces and facilities activated and used for creative endeavours

2. Participation and access

- Audience development
- Accessible venues and programs
- Inclusive and diverse arts and culture

3. Creative enterprise

- Creative industries and skilled practitioners
- Integrated creative industries
- Skills development and opportunities for creatives
- Encourage and support local community participation in the development and establishment of innovative social projects.

4. Communication and connection

- Engaged partnerships and networks
- Arts promotion
- Volunteer networks and community support

5. Cultural leadership

- Advocacy to industry, business and government
- Embedding arts and culture in council practice



Bega Mayor, Councillor Russell Fitzpatrick addressing attendees at the Regional Public Galleries Conference, hosted by the South East Centre for Contemporary Art (SECCA) March 2023. Photo: Iain Dawson

Actions

Each theme includes linkages with Bega Valley Shire Council’s Community Strategic Plan Towards 2043, the National Cultural Policy Revive and NSW Government’s Creative Communities^[10], demonstrating a strong alignment between all three levels of government towards arts and cultural development.

The following actions identify Council’s commitment against each of these theme areas from 2024 – 2029. As a small regional council with significant resourcing constraints, the plan aims to be clear on what actions are achievable with current resources, and what will require additional funding, so actions in all theme areas have been categorised accordingly:

- 1. Currently resourced actions – these are actions Council already undertakes and are proposed to continue over the life of the plan
- 2. New actions – these represent a refinement of current services or programs or a business improvement to current activity which should be achievable over the life of the plan based on existing resourcing
- 3. Funding dependent actions – these actions, while important, will only be achievable if additional funding is secured. These will form the basis of future advocacy and grant applications over the next five years.

[10] Creative Communities | NSW Government

Key theme

1.Cultural facilities

Communities need access to the facilities that support arts practice and presentation in order to find meaningful ways to express their values. These spaces offer residents opportunities to actively participate and engage in the arts, to make their own culture and share the culture of others.

Community Strategic Plan Link : Our Infrastructure

Our public and private infrastructure and community services meet community needs.

- D.1 Plan for community infrastructure and services that will meet current and future needs.
- D.2 Provide infrastructure and services to meet the needs of residents in our towns, villages and rural areas.

Key linkages with National Cultural Policy Revive

- Strong Cultural Infrastructure – Providing support across the spectrum of institutions which sustain our arts, culture and heritage.

Key linkages with NSW Creative Communities

- Embrace the arts, culture and creative industries
- Support sustainable growth.



Visitor at the Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award exhibition 2020 at the Bega Valley Regional Gallery. Photo: David Rogers

Key theme: 1. Cultural facilities

Objective 1

Provide facilities to encourage and support arts and cultural activities

Currently resourced actions	Responsible area
Deliver library services and public programs as identified in the Bega Valley Shire Library Strategic Plan 2020-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Develop Library Strategic Plan for 2026-2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Deliver an annual program of exhibitions and associated activities for the South East Centre for Contemporary Arts (SECCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Manage the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre (BVCCC) including programming touring shows/events and providing for community and commercial hiring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Property and Legal Services
Develop a Strategic Plan for the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Property and Legal Services
Support events and festivals through processing applications for Public Use of Lands and Development Applications, preparing council sites, and monitoring food safety requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leisure and RecreationCorporate Planning and ImprovementPlanningCertification and Compliance
Manage and maintain community halls and cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural ServicesWorks and AssetsProject Services
New actions	Responsible area
Improve the integration of Bega Valley Shire Council cultural facilities for a more coordinated approach to programming, promotion and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Update the listing/details of community halls on Bega Valley Shire Council's website including accessibility, capacity, equipment, other information and booking details	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Undertake condition assessments reports and management plans that incorporate Council halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Update management procedures for SECCA's collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services

Funding dependent actions	Responsible area
Share local stories of our Bega Valley Shire Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communications and EngagementCommunity and Cultural Services
Explore the potential of a cultural precinct in the shire and seek funding to activate the CBD and build on the synergies between public and private sectors through programming, promotion and improved wayfinding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate Planning and ImprovementCommunity and Cultural Services
Develop management plan for Montreal Goldfields to cover physical and environmental assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Develop storage solutions and processes to ensure SECCA and library collection management meet industry standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Undertake a feasibility study for a shared collection facility for community and Bega Valley Shire Council held local history/museum collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Investigate the option of an online platform to capture, promote and champion cultural activities in the Bega Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Media and CommunicationsCommunity and Cultural Services
Upgrade and enhance the theatre lighting and raked seating in the BVCCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Property and Legal Services
Improve the accessibility of community halls and libraries for people with disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural ServicesAssets and Operations
Expand arts and cultural activities at BVCCC by implementing a comprehensive annual artistic program that includes local performances, projects and touring showcases. Additionally, seek external funding from Create NSW or Creative Australia to support the annual artistic program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Property and Legal Services

Key theme: 1 Cultural facilities

Objective 2

Collaborate with arts organisations, community groups, government agencies and businesses to support the growth and use of arts and cultural facilities.

Currently resourced actions	Responsible area
Continue to partner with Museums and Galleries of NSW to extend the Museum Advisor Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Identify and promote existing non-Council facilities that host arts and cultural activities including galleries, live music venues and workshop spaces through the BVSC events calendar, social media, library noticeboards and website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communication and EngagementCommunity and Cultural Services
Provide advice and information to organisations and businesses that are planning to establish arts and cultural facilities on request	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate Planning and ImprovementPlanning
Provide hall users and committee members with advice and information on holding events in community facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Provide rental subsidies for cultural groups and organisations based on relevant policies and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Property and Legal Services

New actions	Responsible area
Activate and hire SECCA project space and the Bermagui library creative space to a range of local creators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Review internal processes to best support events and festivals including event support, application processes, Use of Public Land processes, fees and charges, templated documentation and aim to provide multi-year approvals wherever possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PlanningLeisure and RecreationCorporate Planning and Improvement
Explore the provision of in-kind support and collaboration with museums on things such as storage space, display of artefacts in libraries, shaping of the Council-funded tourism marketing contract to include cultural tourism as a key pillar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services

Funding dependent actions	Responsible area
Support community hall committees to undertake dynamic programming of arts and cultural activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Work with committees and tenants, including halls and museums, to upgrade and improve facilities in line with relevant asset management plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Property and Legal ServicesCommunity and Cultural ServicesWorks and AssetsProject Services
Undertake facility management planning for Council facilities currently tenanted by museums, and work with the museum and archive sector to explore opportunities to consolidate and enhance facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Works and AssetsCommunity and Cultural Services

2. Participation and access

Participation in the arts encourages wellbeing, creativity, diversity and innovation in the community. Experiencing the arts connects us with ideas, emotions and stories, and sparks pleasure, meaning, imagination and empathy.

Community Strategic Plan Link: Our Community

We are a vibrant, respectful, inclusive and connected community that enjoys a culturally rich community life.

- A.1. Collaborate with partners to provide and support opportunities for social interaction, activities and events.
- A.2. Respect and promote our cultural heritage and diversity and partner with and acknowledge Traditional Owners and First Nations people.

We are a resilient and caring community that supports the health and wellbeing of our residents.

- A.3. Collaborate with partners to provide and support aged, disability and community services that enhance people's quality of life.

Key linkages with National Cultural Policy Revive

- First Nations First – Recognising and respecting the crucial place of First Nations stories at the centre of Australia's arts and culture.
- A Place for Every Story – Reflecting the breadth of our stories and the contribution of all Australians as the creators of culture.
- Engaging the Audience – Making sure our stories connect with people at home and abroad.

Key linkages with NSW Creative Communities

- Prioritise First Nations culture
- Embrace the arts, culture and creative industries
- Support sustainable growth.



Visitors to the 2023 Archibald Prize Regional Tour at the newly launched South East Centre for Contemporary Art, Bega. Photo: David Rogers

Key theme: 2. Participation and access

Objective 1

Support participation in the arts that builds cultural identity across the community.

Currently resourced actions	Responsible area
Maintain arts and cultural elements in library programming including collaborations with SECCA and other community arts and cultural bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Improve accessibility through digitisation of core historical collections held by the Library and SECCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Support the growth of an annual artistic program that includes third party delivered performances and events (BVCCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Property and Legal Services
Support SECCA to deliver destination programming to build cultural tourism audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Ensure inclusive practices are considered in cultural programs to include diverse audiences particularly priority areas identified by the NSW and Australian Governments, people with disability, young people, first nations participants and people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural ServicesProperty and Legal Services
Integrate arts and culture into Recovery and Resilience planning and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Support the activation of halls, museums and cemeteries through increased volunteer engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Support Aboriginal arts and culture through sharing knowledge and information and advocating alongside Local Aboriginal Land Councils and, where resources allow, co-design initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Various
Ensure that Aboriginal culture and heritage are considered as part of Development Applications and civil works assessment/planning, giving effect to relevant statutory and legislative requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PlanningWorks and Assets

New actions	Responsible area
Develop online booking systems for all Council venues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural ServicesProperty and Legal ServicesLeisure and RecreationInformation Technology
Review Council’s Use of Public Land Policy and event related fees and charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Planning
Update BVSC’s Events Management Guideline and provide templates to support organisers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate Planning and Improvement
Identify opportunities to activate Council owned spaces for cultural purposes by incorporating design elements and public art in new builds, upgrades and redevelopments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Works and AssetsLeisure and RecreationProperty and Legal Services
Provide information and training on Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property protocols for staff engaging with Aboriginal artists and cultural leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Procurement and Contract Services
Finalise cemetery mapping project enabling community access to historical records	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural ServicesInformation Technology

Funding dependent actions	Responsible area
Engage an Arts and Cultural Development Officer to develop and implement additional arts and cultural programs, projects and strategies which will foster active participation in the broader community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Support increased digitisation of local history collections across the shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services

Key theme: 2. Participation and access

Objective 2

Collaborate with relevant organisations to support the arts community and cultural initiatives.

Currently resourced actions	Area
Collaborate with arts and cultural organisations to plan and develop cultural events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Various
Maintain agreement with South East Arts to develop supportive networks, enabling skills development and capacity building for individual artists and arts organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community and Cultural Services
Connect volunteers working with arts organisations and cultural areas, including museums with training and development opportunities as opportunities arise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community and Cultural Services
Support Aboriginal cultural initiatives through actions identified in the MOU with Bega, Eden and Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Various
Support cultural understanding and promote celebrations including Reconciliation and NAIDOC Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication and Engagement• Community and Cultural Services



Performance by Fling Physical Theatre as part of the South East Centre for Contemporary Art (SECCA) Community Open Weekend 8/9 Dec 2023. Photo: David Rogers



Whiskey Dram live performance as part of the South East Centre for Contemporary Art (SECCA) Community Open Weekend 8/9 Dec 2023. Photo: David Rogers

Key theme

3. Creative enterprise

The arts contribute to the economic prosperity of the region through creative industries and cultural tourism opportunities.

Community Strategic Plan Link: Our Economy

Our economy is prosperous, diverse and supported by innovative and creative businesses.

- B.2. Collaborate with relevant parties and industry to promote and support opportunities to diversify and grow our economy and provide local jobs.

Our key industries are resilient and strong.

- B.6. Explore with partners the potential for industry diversification and expansion including agritourism, cultural tourism, adventure and eco-tourism, manufacturing, agroforestry, agriculture, aquaculture, value-added food and timber processing, and First Nations' enterprises.

Key linkages with National Cultural Policy Revive

- Centrality of the Artist – Supporting the artist as worker and celebrating artists as creators.
- Engaging the Audience – Making sure our stories connect with people at home and abroad.

Key link with NSW Creative Communities

- Embrace the arts, culture and creative industries
- Support sustainable growth
- Take our creativity to the world and bring the world to our stories

Key theme: 3. Creative enterprise

Objective

Position arts and culture as an important element in the region’s economy and cultural tourism.

Currently resourced actions	Responsible area
Seek opportunities to develop strategic partnerships and collaborations with Local Aboriginal Land Councils and NPWS to support arts and cultural initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Culture Services
Include cultural industries in programs targeted at small business, industry development, innovation and tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate Planning and ImprovementCommunity and Cultural ServicesCommunication and Engagement
Work with external tourism peak bodies to promote cultural tourism as a pillar of Bega Valley Shire’s destination brand and visitor experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate Planning and ImprovementCommunity and Cultural ServicesBVCCC
Support the activation of halls through volunteering engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Advocate to Destination NSW and/or other relevant state bodies to undertake research into the scale and value of cultural tourism in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate Planning and Improvement
Request Council's contracted tourism service provider to intergrate cultural tourism and provide the function of a cultural tourism plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate Planning and Improvement

New actions	Responsible area
Work with Bega, Eden and Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Councils to advocate for funding to support First Nations tourism initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate Planning and Improvement
Collaborate with the Bega Valley Business Forum and Chambers of Commerce to identify opportunities for cross promotion, joint initiatives and representation of creative industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate Planning and Improvement
Review and update Public Art Policy and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services

Funding dependent actions	Responsible area
Seek grant funding to build community capacity and support community driven events and programs with cultural elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Deliver Council’s Events Strategy 2024-2028 to support existing and new events to drive increased visitation and build community cohesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate Planning and ImprovementVarious
Develop public art management plan and explore opportunities to develop public art in the shire, including through collaboration with Sculpture Bermagui	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural ServicesWorks and Assets
Undertake cultural tourism visitor research in collaboration with South East Arts, key stakeholders and professional arts organisations currently delivering events that engage this audience segment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate Planning and Improvement
Commission additional research into the scale and value of existing and potential cultural tourism in the Bega Valley Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate Planning and ImprovementCommunity and Cultural Services



Visitors to the 2023 Archibald Prize Regional Tour at the newly launched South East Centre for Contemporary Art, Bega. Photo: David Rogers

Key theme

4. Communication and connection

Effective communication is essential to encourage local knowledge and input, to build community ownership in cultural projects and to improve engagement and participation.

Community Strategic Plan Link

Our Community

We are a vibrant, respectful, inclusive and connected community that enjoys a culturally rich community life.

- A.1. Collaborate with partners to provide and support opportunities for social interaction, activities and events.

Our Civic Leadership

We are an informed and engaged community with a transparent, consultative and responsive Council.

- E.2. Ensure the community has opportunities to actively engage and contribute in a timely manner to the things that affect their daily lives using relevant and varied communication channels.

Key linkages with National Cultural Policy Revive

- A Place for Every Story – Reflecting the breadth of our stories and the contribution of all Australians as the creators of culture.
- Engaging the Audience – Making sure our stories connect with people at home and abroad.

Key link with NSW Creative Communities

- Advocate for the value of culture
- Support sustainable growth
- Take our creativity to the world and bring the world to our stories

Key theme: 4. Communication and connection

Objective

Support arts and cultural activity and practice through communication and promotion of the arts.

Currently resourced actions	Responsible area
Revise the Arts and Culture section of the Council website to provide a broader and more comprehensive coverage of arts and culture, incorporating a distinct value statement that underscores the significance of arts and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural ServicesCommunication and Engagement
Continue to provide an online events calendar and promote external events through newsletters and social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communication and Engagement
Enhance awareness of the shire’s cultural offerings through cross-promotion and strengthening connections with customer service channels, staff newsletters and BVCCC/ SECCA/Library communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Various
Identify and promote programming synergies between SECCA, Library and BVCCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural ServicesProperty and Legal Services
Include South East Arts’ monthly e-newsletter and the creative south website through Bega Valley Shire Council digital communication channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communication and Engagement

New actions	Responsible area
Develop online register of Council owned public art	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Works and AssetsCommunity and Cultural Services
Encourage and promote listing of arts and cultural organisations, festivals, galleries, markets and museums on the Bega Valley Community Directory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Promote volunteering in the cultural sector including museums, festivals and galleries through the Community Directory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural Services
Advocate for the value of Arts and Culture, including museums, to be included in state policies and strategies (REDS, South East and Tablelands Regional Plan) and through the Canberra Regional Joint Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate Planning and Improvement
Refine the maintenance and communication protocols concerning museums renting buildings owned by Bega Valley Shire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Property and Legal ServicesWorks and Assets Community and Cultural Services
Evaluate the existing promotional methods for programs and activities across all cultural facilities under Bega Valley Shire Council’s jurisdiction to ensure a cohesive and integrated approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community and Cultural ServicesCommunications and Engagement



Eden Killer Whale Museum

Key theme

5. Cultural leadership

Leadership in the artistic sense means demonstrating a commitment to valuing our artists and championing our creative culture.

Community Strategic Plan Link: Our Civic Leadership

We are an informed and engaged community with a transparent, consultative and responsive Council.

- E. 3. Councillors, council staff and the community work in partnership to identify and deliver community aspirations.

Council has strong organisational practices to ensure a viable organisation that delivers services and facilities to meet community needs.

- E.7. Council builds strong relationships with other organisations and levels of government to advocate for our communities.

Key links with National Cultural Policy Revive

- Strong Cultural Infrastructure – Providing support across the spectrum of institutions which sustain our arts, culture and heritage.
- Engaging the Audience – Making sure our stories connect with people at home and abroad.

Key links with NSW Creative Communities

- Advocate for the value of culture
- Support sustainable growth

Key theme: 5. Cultural leadership

Objective

Demonstrate recognition of the vibrant arts and cultural sector that contributes to the social and economic life of the Bega Valley Shire

Currently resourced actions	Responsible area
Update the Community Engagement Plan and toolkit to ensure the cultural sector is engaged in community consultation regarding town centre and master planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication and Engagement• Planning
Promote external grants and capacity building opportunities to the broader arts and heritage sector through South East Arts and the Museum Advisor programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community and Cultural Services
Update public art procedures and processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community and Cultural Services• Planning
Advocate to the state and Commonwealth governments for sustainable funding for regional arts and culture, including the museum and archive sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community and Cultural Services Corporate Planning and Improvement• Executive team
Maintain an MOU with the Bega, Eden and Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Councils which recognises the importance of the cultural heritage of the shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community, Environment and Planning
Undertake cultural awareness activities for elected representatives and Bega Valley Shire Council staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Governance
Advocate for training and development of volunteers both within Council and for those working for arts and cultural industries to support their sustainability and succession planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community and Cultural Services
Support community arts, cultural initiatives and museums with in-kind assistance, compatible programming and publicity where resources allows	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community and Cultural Services

New actions	Responsible area
Review procurement systems to support best practice engagement of artists, including emerging artists, film and screen professionals and other cultural providers including First Nations arts and culture contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Property and Legal Services
Explore the development of contract templates tailored for the arts sector including for public art commissions and acquisitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Property and Legal Services
Integrate public art and cultural considerations into project planning for relevant council capital works and master plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Services• Leisure and Recreation, Planning
Investigate opportunities to collaborate with Local Aboriginal Land Councils and cultural leaders on the inclusion of cultural elements when planning upgrades to Council assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Services• Leisure and Recreation
Employ best practice approaches to cultural protocols, the principle of self-determination and cultural safety in any council initiatives that include First Nations cultural elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community and Cultural Services• Property and Legal Services

Funding dependent actions	Responsible area
Develop a tool to guide public art in the shire which includes consideration of cultural symbols and use of local Aboriginal languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community and Cultural Services• Leisure and Recreation
Support the museum sector to seek funding for a whole of Bega Valley Shire significance assessment to determine what collection items should be the priority for preservation and promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community and Cultural Services
Undertake a collaborative visioning process for the future of museums in the Bega Valley including, but not limited to, asset management and collection management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community and Cultural Services• Leisure and Recreation• Project Services
Provide access to training to develop leadership and business skills for emerging artists to support them to grow and remain viable in the sector including through support of South East Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Planning and Improvement• Community and Cultural Services



Resources

Local strategies and plans

- Bega Valley Community Strategic Plan Towards 2042
<https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/council/bega-valley-community-strategic-plan>
- Bega Valley Shire Council Delivery Program 2022-2025
<https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/council/delivery-program-and-operational-plan>
- Bega Valley Shire Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021-2025
<https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/council/disability-inclusion-action-plan>
- Bega Valley Shire Library Services Strategic Plan 2020-2025
<https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-KDY-82-76-57>
- Bega Valley Shire Council Economic Development Roadmap 2023 -2025
<https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-YQJ-17-02-73>
- Stage Three A- [HE1] [DI2] Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study 2010
<https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-FGL-50-44-25>
- Bega Valley Community Roadmap (Investing in Rural Community Futures Program)
Investing in Rural Community Futures | Bega Valley IRCF Journey (frrr.org.au)
- Bega Valley Shire Council Cemetery Plan 2020-2030
<https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-HLF-31-25-06>
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Bega, Eden and Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Councils
<https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-WSP-66-51-32>
- Events Strategy 2024-2028
<https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-KEY-62-56-37>

State/regional strategies and plans

- The Value of the Arts and Cultural Sectors to the Visitor Economy of South East NSW, June 2021
<https://www.southeastarts.org.au/opportunities/cultural-tourism>
- NSW Creative Communities Policy
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/arts-and-culture/engage-nsw-arts-and-culture/resource-hub/creative-communities>
- Southern NSW Destination Management Plan 2022-2030
<https://dsnsw.com.au/resources/>

National strategies and plans

- National Cultural Policy Revive revive-plain-english-may2023.docx
<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.arts.gov.au%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fdocuments%2Frevive-plain-english-may2023.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>
- Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights(ICIP) Chapter 11 - Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights – Parliament of Australia (aph.gov.au)
https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Completed_inquiries/2004-07/indigenoustarts/report/c11



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