

# BLACKTOWN CITY CULTURAL PLAN



***Cover Page:***

Members of the Simply Voices Choir performing *AURA* by Super Critical Mass as part of the 2012 Aurora Festival of Living Music at the Blacktown Arts Centre.

*Photograph by Alex Wisser*

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## MAYORAL FOREWORD

The support and development of culture is central to the business of Blacktown City Council.

Since the adoption of its first Cultural Plan in 2001, Council has invested heavily in the development of strategic arts and cultural programs, facilities and services to engage the communities of Blacktown, Western Sydney and beyond.

We are proud to be leading the development of arts and culture at the local level.

A Cultural Plan is an important statement of commitment to arts and cultural development, and the recognition of the right of all citizens to participate in a creative life and have access to arts and culture as a vital part of well-being.

Through our Cultural Plan we will support local arts and culture for residents in all stages of life, and provide opportunities for participation in local arts and culture.

A high priority is given to supporting the development of our professional artists in recognition of the contribution that they make to the development of our City's creative, economic, cultural and spiritual well-being.

In a City of this size and diversity it is important to provide services and programs to support cultural diversity in all representations and encourage participation in issues of community importance, including social justice and community building through artistic and innovative programs.

Our Cultural Plan supports and activates the essential role of creativity in building a united, dynamic and sustainable community.

We are committed to increasing access and participation in arts and cultural activity by all our residents and visitors from across the region.

Council is in the process of changing both the perception and reality of how culture is valued in this City and in demonstrating how our pursuit of cultural excellence is paying outstanding dividends to the community.

The new strategies for the Cultural Plan value Council's past achievements and provide the necessary framework to support our creative communities as part of the strategic directions of Blacktown City 2030 vision.

The plan seeks to have a whole of Council approach in empowering the people of Blacktown and enhancing Council's reputation as a leader in the provision of art and cultural services and facilities for our City.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Robinson', written in a cursive style.

**Councillor Len Robinson**  
*Mayor of Blacktown City*



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge Susan Conroy from Susan Conroy Cultural Planning Consultancy, for her invaluable contribution in undertaking major research and designing the consultation process and for facilitating the development of the Cultural Plan goals and strategies in collaboration with Susan Davis and Council's Cultural Planning Coordinator.

We acknowledge the contribution of the Arts and Cultural Development Team to the progress of the Cultural Plan vision, strategies and goals as well as our local artists and arts organisations, local residents, local schools, and community organisations, Council's Advisory Sub Committees, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Council staff and our Councillors.

We would like to particularly thank the following sections of Council for their feedback and contribution in the review and development of the plan:

Children's Services, Library Services, Community Development, Sports and Recreation Services, Environmental Services, Community Events, Executive Business, Contributions and Economic Development, Strategic and Precinct Planning, Development Services and Administration, Environmental Sustainability, Development Policy and Regulation, Corporate Planning and Development, Civil Open Space and Maintenance, Building Construction and Maintenance and Asset Design Services.

Lucy Simpson, *Flyway Hawaiiki's Story* (detail)  
2010 silk and ink, 150 x 120 cm (variable)  
Exhibited as part of Blacktown Arts Centre's *ex · o · dus* exhibition  
Courtesy and © the artist



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*garar (grass)* 2011  
Still image from video installation inspired by  
Aboriginal Weaving Workshops at Blacktown Arts Centre  
Artist: r e a



# ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Council acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians were the first people of this land and have strived to retain their culture and identity through the period of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander settlement, for more than two centuries.

Council acknowledges and respects the customs and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and their special relationship with the land. Council also recognises the valuable contribution to Blacktown City made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and will work towards a future of mutual respect and harmony.

“Cultural policy safeguards the cultural rights of the people, and places these rights on a par with political and social rights i.e. the right to engage with the intellectual and cultural heritage of people, to create a sense of wonder of our fellow citizens, to undertake a variety of approaches to develop our own forms of art and culture and to imaginatively engage in what is presented by others...”

*Donald Horne, 2002*



Participating students from Colyton Public School  
at the Launch of Crime Prevention through  
Environmental Design and the Mount Druitt Mosaic Mural.  
Project Artists Joanne Saad and Abbas Makrab.

*Mount Druitt Swimming Centre February 2012*

# BLACKTOWN CITY COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO ARTS AND CULTURE

Blacktown City Council commenced its investment in arts and culture in 1978 with the establishment of the first Local Government Community Arts Officer position in Australia. Blacktown Council was at the forefront of the community arts movement in the 1980s with its implementation of the ground breaking *Mothers' Memories Others' Memories* project and support of the Garage Graphix community arts organisation - both of which are icons of community arts practice in Australia.

Council continued its commitment to arts and cultural development with the establishment of the festival now known as the Blacktown City Festival as well as the support of a number of arts related staff positions and projects during the 1990s.

In 1999, in another groundbreaking commitment to the arts in the city, Blacktown Council purchased the deconsecrated Anglican Church building adjacent to the Civic Centre, once destined to be a carpark, to develop as an Arts Centre. This was the beginning of a renewed commitment to arts and cultural development in Blacktown. Now approaching its tenth year of operation, the Blacktown Arts Centre has established itself as a key arts and cultural provider in New South Wales with a highly regarded program of community engaged contemporary arts in a range of artforms.

Blacktown City Council adopted its first Cultural Plan in 2001 (*Investing in Culture, Cultural Policy Framework and Plan*). This plan was reviewed in 2006, with a further review in 2011.

In 2005, Council adopted its Cultural and Public Art Policies. In June 2005, Council established a new Arts and Cultural Development Unit, with responsibility for cultural planning and arts and cultural development in the city, including through the Blacktown Arts Centre.

Blacktown is home to many distinguished artists, and Council has had a hand in the development of a number of artists now making names for themselves on the national arts scene. These include nationally recognized artists such as Jason Wing and Adam Hill; New South Wales Parliamentary Art Prize winners Danny Eastwood and Leanne Tobin; artists such as Marius Jastkowiak and Catherine O'Donnell, prize winners in the Blacktown City Art Prize, Fishers Ghost and Albury art prizes; Leading musicians Yama Sarshar and Asim Gorashi; theatre makers Karen Therese, Michal Lemelski, and Paschal Berry and local writers shortlisted for a NSW Premier's Literary Award, Yuol Yuol, Akoi Majak, Monica Kualba and John Garang. Many other artists reside in Blacktown, including sculptor Alex Kolozsy, have long standing professional practices.

Blacktown Arts Centre productions have featured in the Dreaming Festival, Melbourne's Midsumma Festival, and the Sydney Festival (with Urban Theatre Projects). The Blacktown Arts Centre has toured exhibitions nationally and internationally and our co-production with Urban Theatre Projects (UTP), *The Folding Wife* has toured five states.

Blacktown Arts Centre is currently supporting the development of two new works by playwrights Nakkiah Lui (inaugural winner of The Dreaming Award national arts prize), and Leanne Tobin.

Council has won NSW Local Government Cultural Awards for the theatre production *Back Home* in 2005. In 2006 it received the NSW Local Government Cultural Award as the best managed arts facility in the state and in 2007 received an additional Cultural Award for its commitment to Aboriginal cultural development. Council was highly commended in 2008 for the Bent Western Exhibition, and the *My Name is Sud* script was short listed for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards in

2011. Blacktown City Council was awarded a Local Government Cultural Award in 2012 for presenting the Black Arm Band performance and song writing workshops at Blacktown Arts Centre, under the category of Aboriginal Cultural Development.

## Whole of Council Approach

Blacktown City Council has a commitment to a whole of Council approach to arts and cultural development. In addition to the Arts and Cultural Development section, which has primary responsibility for this area, many other functional areas work with artists in the delivery of their services. Our Community Services, Sports and Recreation, Library Services, Civic and Open Space Maintenance, Transport and City Projects, Asset Design Services, Development Policy and Regulation, Environment Services and Strategic Planning sections each actively contribute to the cultural life of the area through specific services and projects.

Blacktown City Libraries are based at 5 locations. Libraries provide space for conversation, computer use, browsing, quiet reading and study, research, children's and adult programs and events and much more. The Max Webber Library has study and meeting rooms at the larger branches and function rooms for hire at Max Webber and Dennis Johnson libraries. The Libraries regularly host displays at each branch library and in 2012 hosted the *Salon des Refuses* exhibition from the Blacktown City Art Prize.

The Max Webber Library leads Council's commitment to bridge the digital divide and runs computer training courses for different levels of skill. All libraries have computers and Wi-Fi for free use within the library plus laptops for loan.

The Library is responsible for maintaining an archive of Blacktown's documentary history and has an ongoing program to collect oral histories as well as photographs, maps and printed materials and make them accessible online for researchers. The Library manages the Mayoral History Prize.

There are a number of Historical Societies based in Blacktown including the Mount Druitt & District Historical Society, Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation, Toongabbie & District Historical Society, Blacktown & District Historical Society, Prospect Heritage Trust and Friends of Saint Bartholomew's.

The City contains a number of highly significant National, State and Local heritage items including large colonial homesteads, small farming communities, and urban development associated with the development of resources for the growing Sydney population throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Blacktown manages over 130 heritage items including 17 owned and operated by Blacktown City Council. In addition there are a number of significant Pre-European and Post-Contact Indigenous sites within the council area relating to the Darug Nation.

The growing expansion of residential development into the open and rural spaces as part of the North West Growth Centres project, and also an increasing recognition of the significance of Blacktown in Indigenous and migrant history, presents both challenges and opportunities in heritage management into the future.

Blacktown City Council supports a heritage advisory program and a Heritage Strategy was first adopted by Council in 2005-2006. The Heritage Strategy is reviewed annually to assist and guide future directions for heritage management in Blacktown.

# BLACKTOWN CITY COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO ARTS AND CULTURE

The Blacktown Visitor Information and Heritage Centre, is housed in the former Blacktown Public School, Blacktown's first ever public school, the only remaining historic building in the Blacktown CBD. Blacktown Visitor Information and Heritage Centre provides local and visitor information, tours for school students, souvenirs and historical exhibitions. The Blacktown and District Bicentennial Museum in Riverstone was opened in 1988. Originally the first public school to open in Riverstone in 1882, this museum now displays items from the historic meatworks, historical farm machinery, household furniture, sporting memorabilia, books, photos, military items and more.

## About Blacktown

Blacktown City is located in Sydney's western suburbs about 35 kilometres from the Sydney GPO and is bounded by Hawkesbury City in the north, The Hills Shire in the north-east, Parramatta City in the east, Holroyd and Fairfield Cities in the south and Penrith City in the west. The City of Blacktown LGA occupies 247 square kilometres and in the 2011 Census had a population of 301,099.

Blacktown City is a predominantly residential area, with significant rural areas in the north and substantial industrial and commercial land use. Major commercial centres are located at Blacktown and Mount Druitt.

Blacktown City is the most populous City in NSW, the third largest in Australia behind Brisbane City and the Gold Coast and the eighth fastest growing City in Australia. The population growth has been rapid with the population rising from 181,000 in 1981 to nearly 271,000 in 2006, and a further 10.8% to 301,999 in 2011. This growth

is expected to continue with an estimated population of 500,000 by 2025 which is expected to be in new housing estates in the current rural areas in the north of the LGA.

Blacktown City Council acknowledges the Darug as the first people of the Blacktown region. The Darug people have lived in the region for thousands of years. The Darug people have been joined in the western suburbs of Sydney by Torres Strait Islanders and by Aboriginal peoples from all over Australia, creating the largest concentration of Aboriginal peoples anywhere in New South Wales. The cultures are not only preserved, but are growing stronger. Local Aboriginal families have maintained aspects of their many cultures while having a lifestyle otherwise indistinguishable from any other Australian family in the community. Theirs is a story of resistance, survival and now reaffirmation.

Europeans on exploratory expeditions to the Hawkesbury and beyond traversed the area and the first European settlement occurred at the base of Prospect Hill in August 1791. Land was used mainly for grazing, farming and timber-getting. Growth was minimal until the 1850s and 1860s, aided by the construction of the railway line and the subdivision of original land grants. Gradual expansion continued in the 1880s and 1890s. The population continued to grow in the early 1900s, increasing from 6,000 in 1914 to 18,000 in 1947. The most significant residential and industrial development occurred during the post-war years, with the population increasing from 32,000 in 1954 to 160,000 in 1976. There has been growth in the commercial and industrial sector and this growth is anticipated to continue.

Blacktown's demographic is characterised by its high population of children and the increasing

size of its ageing community. Blacktown is a culturally and economically diverse community with the second highest proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Sydney and a significant proportion of people born overseas.

The most significant countries of origin in 2011 were the Philippines, India, New Zealand, Fiji and England. The main non-English languages spoken at home in 2011 were Tagalog, Hindi, Arabic, Punjabi and Filipino.

## The Future of Cultural Planning in Blacktown

Council has achieved much in the last 10 years and our arts and cultural program had evolved substantially in that time with a positive outcome being the way residents perceive themselves and their communities.

One of the critical aspects of planning for arts and cultural services delivery in Blacktown is the complex nature of the urban environment. As well as being the most populous local government area in NSW, Blacktown represents cultural diversity, growth and significant variations in socio-economic distribution. These variations differ across and within the local government area and influence a tailored approach to planning.

Council's new Cultural Plan establishes a more flexible framework for its delivery, bringing it into line with the City Vision adopted in 2008 and articulating better integration with the Department of Local Government (DLG) Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

Council recognises that culture influences our way of life and can lead to improvements in self esteem, positive energy and a successful achieving community.



Village Green Public Art  
A section of the sand blasted wall  
Artist: Nerine Martini  
Photograph by Jenny Pollak



# VISION

Our arts and culture inspires, extends, connects and is a source of pride, identity and well-being for the diverse cultures and communities of Blacktown now and into the future.

r e a, *garaarr* (*grass*)  
(detail) baskets made by participants  
during *Weaving Circle* workshops.  
Courtesy and © the artists  
Photograph by Shay Tobin

# Cultural Plan Values and Commitments

## **Our arts and cultural programs, facilities and services:**

- Acknowledge, respect and include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.
- Enable participation, exchange and links between and within the arts, cultures and communities.
- Are inclusive, welcoming, adaptive and open.
- Honour our diverse histories, cultures and heritage.
- Are dedicated to excellence and professionalism in the arts and value artistic expression across emerging and established art forms and cultural practices.
- Are a catalyst for a sustainable and dynamic arts and cultural future.
- Develop, support and showcase contemporary art and artistic innovation.
- Are committed to empowerment of the Blacktown and Western Sydney community.

## **Principles**

### **A number of principles underpin community cultural development including:**

- A commitment to fundamental human rights and social justice.
- Recognition that communities are dynamic and unique.
- Appreciation and celebration of diversity.
- Participation and partnership.
- Access and equity.
- The past and present is acknowledged in moving to the future.
- Creativity, originality and relevance.

# Definitions

## Cultural Planning

Cultural planning is a strategic planning process which recognises that our culture is an integral part of the social and economic life of our communities. Cultural planning undertakes an analysis of social and cultural activities and resources, identifies issues and opportunities and makes links to economic and employment activity to develop strategies for implementation.

## Cultural Democracy

Cultural democracy is about the importance of equity in the transmission of ideas, values and aspirations. It is concerned with enabling different points of view to exist and to be communicated within a society. It acknowledges that some groups in society have greater access to resources, education and political processes, than do others. As a consequence, these groups also have greater power to project their values and systems of organisation and affect a 'dominant' value system that often precludes and oppresses other groups.

## Culture

Culture is defined as the social landscape in which we live, work and play. It shapes and is shaped by our values, myths, attitudes and customs, geography, climate and location. Culture gives meaning to our cultural and ethnic backgrounds, our way of life, economic and political relationships. Tangible features of our culture include celebrations, the arts, language, architecture, history and heritage. Further to this, our culture encompasses our spiritual and religious beliefs, our values and attitudes.

## The Arts

The arts are commonly recognised as the tools through which each culture transmits meaning, belief, attitudes and identity. Through artists and artisans or through collective participation, the arts give form to our imagination, aspirations, dreams and potential. The arts include literature, performing arts (dance, music, theatre, opera), visual arts (painting, sculpture, craft, design), digital arts, film, photography and architecture.

## Community Cultural Development

Community Cultural Development (CCD) is a unique practice that involves artists and/or cultural workers and communities creatively working on their own ground, on their own issues, through arts and cultural practice to determine and deliver positive change. The principles that underpin CCD are cultural democracy, self-determination, collaboration and social justice.

## Sport and Recreation

Our culture gives shape to our social, political and economic institutions and inspires our approaches to other aspects of community life including sport and recreation. Sport provides opportunities through games and competition to gain experiences that contribute to identity, collaboration, community pride, health and wellbeing and the development of social capital.

## Arts Practitioners

Arts practitioners cover a spectrum of expertise, interest and capability which ranges from professional to amateur and hobbyist. Professional artists are generally defined by completion of a university or college arts education, derive income from their arts practice or regard their arts practice as an essential part of their life. An amateur artist or hobbyist engages in arts practice as a pastime rather than a profession although they may find their hobbies an essential part of their life.

## **Cultural Mapping and Assessment**

Effective cultural mapping and assessment is a process of gathering a diverse range of quantitative and qualitative information about a place and the community in order to build up a picture or character map. It can involve listing of facilities, services and activities and the range and types of arts practice occurring with an area. This information can then be used for an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats brought to bear on a place's cultural identity and cultural development potential. It can also involve engaging artists and using the arts and creativity to gather social and cultural values and aspirations. Community consultation is a part of that process, and is generally a vehicle for gathering qualitative information.

## **Cultural Resources and Infrastructure**

Cultural resources and infrastructure are the materials, institutions, and services which facilitate arts and cultural activity and production. Examples include galleries, libraries, theatres, studios, workshops, community centres and museums, light, sound and recording equipment, art materials, cameras, the collections in museums and galleries.

## **Cultural Industries**

Cultural industries are defined as the elements within an economy which are engaged in the production and/or sale of arts and cultural products and services. Cultural industries contribute over \$30 billion to Australia's gross domestic product.



# A CREATIVE, FRIENDLY AND INCLUSIVE CITY

Karifi and the African Union Dancers performing as part of *Rhythm Rituals*, part of Blacktown Arts Centre's Echo Music Series.

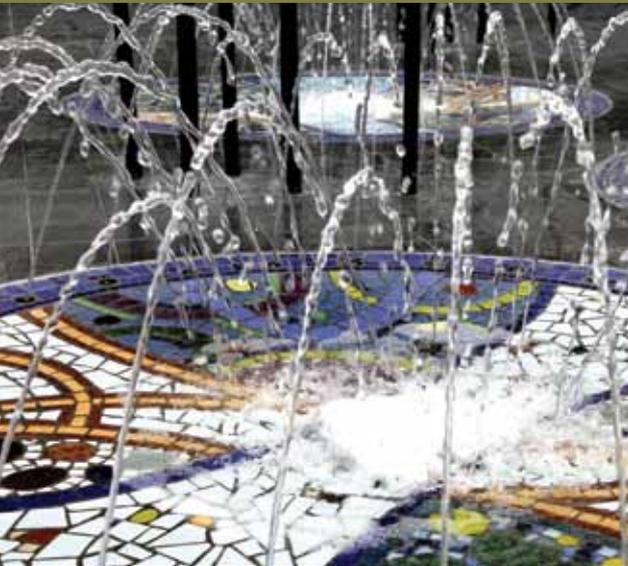
# GOALS

- A. To celebrate creative excellence and capitalise opportunities for artistic expression through the provision of resources, programs and services.
  - B. To recognise that cultural rights are integral to individual rights.
  - C. To encourage and communicate inclusiveness and inter-cultural connections through arts and cultural activities.
- 6. Development of a process that clarifies the conditions for programming of Blacktown Arts Centre. Information regarding the use and programming of the Arts Centre will be available for the Blacktown LGA.
  - 7. Support of effective partnerships with relevant community and neighbourhood facilities, groups and organisations to utilise space for the development and production of artistic and cultural endeavours by local artists and community members.

# STRATEGY

**Council works within and across its Units and Directorates to develop initiatives, which may include but are not limited to:**

- 1. Engagement and production of high quality artistic outcomes through the commissioning of public art and arts projects across all of Council's programs.
- 2. Development of the Blacktown Creative Arts Fund – a grants scheme to support the development of original artistic expression across all art forms, which contributes to the creative and cultural development of Blacktown.
- 3. Employment and appropriate remuneration of local and regional artists and cultural workers to develop create and perform works to enhance events, festivals and other activities in Council's programs.
- 4. Adherence to artists' legal and moral rights under Australian and NSW law.
- 5. Establishment of an accessible and comprehensive list of appropriate facilities for use by the community for arts and cultural activities.
- 8. Effective promotion and marketing of arts and cultural programs, facilities and services to increase knowledge and generate greater participation by the arts community, local residents and visitors.
- 9. Arts and cultural projects underpinned by cultural partnerships, which are representative of the diverse cultures and communities in Blacktown.
- 10. Partnerships with community leaders from diverse cultures, services clubs, religious and spiritual organisations to support arts and cultural programs.
- 11. Building on local community gatherings such as NAIDOC, Refugee Week, Harmony Day, Blacktown City Festival, Christmas, Anzac Day, Australia Day and international cultural days and festivals to provide continuing opportunities for cultural exchange and expression.



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

## GOALS

- D. To support Council's goals for environmental sustainability through arts and cultural initiatives.
- E. To foster appreciation and build knowledge and responsibility for our environment through the use of artistic and cultural practices.

## STRATEGY

**Council works within and across its Units and Directorates to develop initiatives, which may include but are not limited to:**

- 12. Arts and cultural programs which highlight environmental issues and interests.
- 13. Collaboration with Aboriginal communities to ensure that their knowledge of the local environment strengthens environmental sustainability outcomes.
- 14. Visual representation and information on local flora and fauna in signage, public art, street furniture, etc.
- 15. A collaborative approach in the planning and design of environmental projects which includes the engagement of cultural planners to ensure that social and cultural values and community aspirations are included.
- 16. Ensuring culturally diverse communities are informed about environmental issues through the production of accessible and multi-lingual fact sheets.

## GOALS

- F. To ensure land use and master planning initiatives for the Blacktown Business District (CBD), and local centres are informed by strategic integration of economic, social and cultural planning processes.
- G. To create an environment of prosperous, viable commercial centres, each expressing its unique identity and character and forming the stage for vibrant, social and cultural interactions.

## STRATEGY

**Council works within and across its Units and Directorates to develop initiatives, which may include but are not limited to:**

- 17. Social and cultural impact assessment studies incorporated into Council's land use and master planning projects which integrate the public and private realms to achieve vibrant and diverse urban places, spaces, neighbourhoods and commercial centres.
- 18. Initiating satellite arts and cultural programs, festivals and events in partnership with the community and retail sectors which contribute to the life, character and experience of commercial hubs across the LGA.



## VIBRANT COMMERCIAL CENTRES

Village Green Public Art  
Water Feature  
Artists: Nerine Martini, Tracie Bertram and  
Robyn Caughlan  
Photograph by Jenny Pollak



# SMART ECONOMY

A woven basket by Sudanese basket weaver  
Artist: Judith Nathan  
Photograph by M. Olmo

# GOALS

- H. To recognise culture as a factor in the creation of wealth and economic development.
- I. To attract and support creative industries in strengthening the prosperity and viability of commercial and industrial areas while enriching and contributing to their character.
- 25. Through partnerships with the business community such as Business Enterprise Centre and Chamber of Commerce, provide opportunities for education and building knowledge of the value of the creative industry sector for a robust, diverse and smart economy.

# STRATEGY

**Council works within and across its Units and Directorates to develop initiatives, which may include but are not limited to:**

- 19. A creative industries and artists mentoring scheme and business development project established in partnership with industry and government to assist with developing new markets and accessing resources.
- 20. Supporting the emergence of new business and markets by capitalising on the rich cultural traditions of the diverse communities of Blacktown.
- 21. Review of local tourist and business directories to accommodate the inclusion of artists, creative businesses and arts organisations.
- 22. The sourcing of funding to undertake an audit of creative business and industries in Blacktown to provide an understanding of the economic contribution of creative industries through the collection of baseline data.
- 23. Identification of vacant commercial and residential buildings for short and long-term affordable use by artists and cultural workers.
- 24. Development of a strategy to attract arts organisations and cultural industries to Blacktown.
- 26. Establishment of a register of artist and artisan made local products including items and products suitable for corporate gifts.
- 27. Establishment of an Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Centre which provides a place for the creative expression of diverse Aboriginal communities in Blacktown and provides employment and business opportunities for members of the Aboriginal community.



# URBAN LIVING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

*Within & Without* installation view, 2011  
Performance by Paschal Daantos Berry  
and Deborah Pollard in collaboration  
with Valerie Berry and Anino Shadowplay  
Collective Presented by Performance  
Space and Blacktown Arts Centre

## GOALS

- J. To ensure urban infrastructure is welcoming, safe and inclusive and reflects the history, community and the richness of the many people and cultures of Blacktown.
- K. To enhance civic pride and community identity through arts and cultural programs including public art.

## STRATEGY

**Council works within and across its Units and Directorates to develop initiatives, which may include but are not limited to:**

- 28. Social and cultural impact assessment studies integrated into urban design, land use planning and master planning.
- 29. Provision of diverse opportunities for meeting, gathering and reflection across all ages and cultures in existing and future urban development through the hierarchy and design of public spaces.
- 30. Arts and cultural programs which celebrate the values, history, heritage, character and identity of Blacktown's urban life.
- 31. Systemic incorporation of public art into Council and commercial planning and development.
- 32. The integration of urban design and cultural planning principles to achieve vibrant, diverse urban spaces.

# GOALS

- L. To create public spaces that are safe and beautiful places for the pleasure and enjoyment of all members of the community and a focus for artistic expression.
- M. To celebrate public and private gardens and green spaces as contributors to the cultural fabric of the City.

# STRATEGY

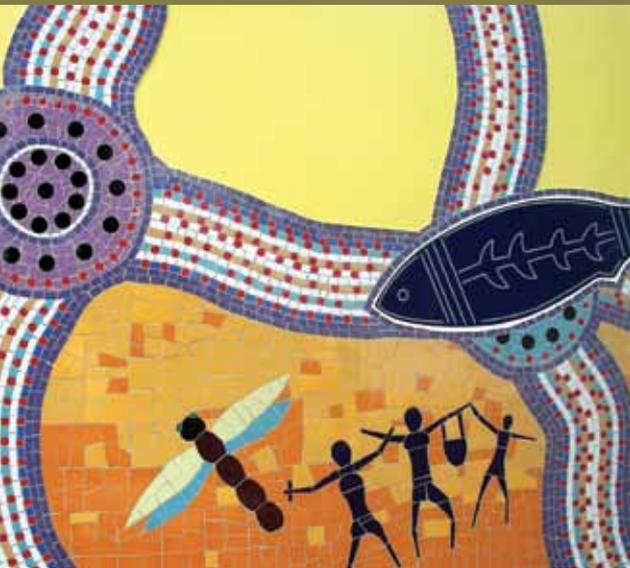
**Council works within and across its Units and Directorates to develop initiatives, which may include but are not limited to:**

- 33. Public spaces, street furniture and infrastructure projects which employ the skills of artists and artisans to highlight aspects of Blacktown's history, environment, development and cultural distinctiveness.
- 34. Utilising public places and spaces for cultural exchange and expression through community gatherings such as NAIDOC, Refugee Week, Harmony Day, Blacktown City Festival, Christmas, Anzac Day, Australia Day and international cultural days and festivals.
- 35. Developing, encouraging and funding environmental art projects that promote environmental sustainability and preservation.
- 36. Place naming projects which acknowledge Aboriginal history and migrant heritage.



# CLEAN GREEN SPACES AND PLACES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art  
painted on sleepers  
Stanhope Garden Library and Leisure Centre  
Artist: Danny Eastwood



## GETTING AROUND

### 'Wianamatta'

A section of mosaic mural at Mount Druitt Swimming Centre, designed by Leanne Tobin based on stories surrounding the South Creek.

Artists: Joanne Saad and Abbas Makrab

Photograph by Clair Wieland

## GOALS

- N. To facilitate access to employment, business and the social and cultural life in and between town centres and neighbourhoods through functional and inter-connected road networks and infrastructure.

## STRATEGY

**Council works within and across its Units and Directorates to develop initiatives, which may include but are not limited to:**

37. Social and cultural planning integrated with new estate planning to ensure effective linkages between public transport, pedestrian and cycle movement and primary destinations.
38. A schools program in conjunction with Council's Road Safety Officer using theatre, music, visual arts and writing to promote and encourage road safety and use of public transport.
39. Ensuring culturally diverse communities are informed about road safety issues through the production of accessible and multi-lingual fact sheets.
40. Artist designed posters, banners, blogs and signage to enhance way-finding and raise awareness of transport programs and resources.
41. Partnerships with service and commercial clubs, community and private transport operators to provide transport to festivals, events, exhibitions and Blacktown City arts and cultural programs.

## GOALS

- O. To shape and inspire our approach to all aspects of community life including sport and recreation through arts and culture.
- P. To contribute to our identity, community pride, health and wellbeing through arts, culture and sporting achievements.

## STRATEGY

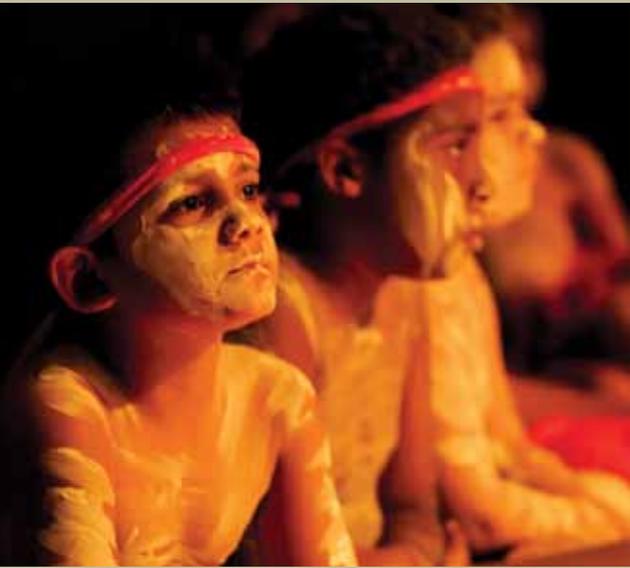
**Council works within and across its Units and Directorates to develop initiatives, which may include but are not limited to:**

- 42. Partnerships between arts organisations and sporting clubs in recognition that each discipline can provide learning, insights and skills exchange for community capacity building.
- 43. Linking and incorporating arts and cultural elements into sporting programs, including Aboriginal and emerging migrant and refugee communities enabling greater access to sporting and recreational facilities.
- 44. Investigation of new movement forms based on sports and dance physical theatre skills.



## A SPORTING CITY

Katy Green in residence at  
Blacktown Arts Centre  
Photograph by Adam Hollingworth



# CIVIC LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

# GOALS

- Q. To initiate and enshrine the integration of arts and culture into the life of the community through civic leadership.
- R. To ensure that governance is transparent and accountable through public participation in the development and evaluation of arts and cultural policy.

# STRATEGY

**Council works within and across its Units and Directorates to develop initiatives, which may include but are not limited to:**

- 45. A Civic Leadership Program that provides opportunities for skilled advocates of the community to work with council officers as “community interpreters” on various issues to improve the effectiveness of information and engagement across the diverse communities of Blacktown.
- 46. The Arts and Cultural Development Unit working through its arts and cultural programs and services to realise its responsibilities under the Reconciliation Action Plan.
- 47. Working with migrant and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services to encourage integration of those communities into mainstream arts and cultural programs.
- 48. A communication strategy to promote the value of engaging with Council’s arts and cultural services and programs.
- 49. Employment of artists and cultural workers to develop Local Government Week activities which will connect with and engage the diverse cultural communities of Blacktown.
- 50. Consideration of arts and cultural matters by Council and its Committees and Sub-Committees informed by the cultural plan and related policies.
- 51. Terms of Reference for Arts and Cultural Sub-Committees inclusive of diverse cultures, ages, specialist knowledge and providing the best possible access to Committee membership by diversity of Blacktown residents.
- 52. Continuing support and recognition of the Blacktown Arts Centre and its program as a leading professional contemporary arts facility to be programmed in accordance with Council’s Cultural Plan.
- 53. Cross-cultural awareness training (Council, arts/community services sectors, volunteers) building professional knowledge and skills to contribute to Council’s vision for a creative, friendly, inclusive city.



Blacktown City Council Acquisition  
*Not for Public Use*, Charcoal on paper 2008  
Artist: Catherine O'Donnell  
Photograph Courtesy Blacktown Arts Centre

