

BROKEN HILL REGIONAL ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS POLICY

QUALITY CONTROL			
TRIM REFERENCES	12/114 – D20/17609		
RESPONSIBLE POSITION	Gallery and Museum Manager		
APPROVED BY	Council		
REVIEW DATE	July 2024	REVISION NUMBER	1
EFFECTIVE DATE	ACTION	MINUTE NUMBER	
27/05/2020	Public Exhibition	46260	
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1. INTRODUCTION

The fundamental role of the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery (BHRAG) is to provide access to quality exhibition and cultural material. This policy sets out the principles the BHRAG will adopt and factors it will consider when developing and approving temporary, collection and touring exhibitions and the overall exhibition program.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

This Policy supports the Broken Hill City Council Community Strategic Plan. This Policy also supports BHRAG’s purpose:

- **Mission:** To provide a dynamic cultural hub for Broken Hill and region through supporting arts practice and engagement with the arts and by inspiring, stimulating ideas and encouraging conversations.
- **Vision:** Being an influential contributor to the cultural life of Broken Hill and NSW through our collaboration with our partners and our communities to offer experiences that engage, challenge and inspire.

Exhibitions are developed to offer innovative, varied and engaging interpretations of a broad variety of visual art across a range of media and periods. Exhibitions are focused on fostering and encouraging access and engagement for diverse audiences. Throughout the development process, the integration of relevant, engaging and innovative display techniques, online content, exhibition collateral and materials, public engagement and education programming and touring opportunities will be considered.

BHRAG is committed to ensuring that all aspects of the development, planning, approval and management of exhibitions and the exhibition program are undertaken on terms that are ethical, accountable and sustainable. It is through the exhibition program that works of art will be experienced not only as discrete objects, but also as vehicles of more comprehensive and

complex meanings within the context of the production, interpretation and experience of culture within the community.

BHRAG will develop a diverse range of activities so that the interaction between art, ideas, criticism and the production of new creative work becomes part of its institutional momentum.

3. POLICY SCOPE

Gallery exhibitions will vary in terms of focus, size, scope and audience. Exhibitions may comprise works in any medium in use as a means of artistic expression in the visual arts, including film, video, performance, light and sound, laser and neon, computer and/or electronically based works. They may also encompass exhibitions comprising of other creative fields such as design, craft, fashion and architecture.

Exhibitions may be curated in-house, guest-curated or received from appropriate outside professionally curated sources. All exhibitions by local/regional artists will be selected, curated by Gallery staff. An exhibition may not only consist of works of art and/or craft but may include:

- Objects of material culture which may be relevant in providing a context for the exhibition;
- Support material including catalogues, information sheets, didactic panels and education kits;
- Public programs.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

The BHRAG artistic program is developed and implemented to allow access to visual and cultural material that exposes the methods and meaning of artistic practice and the issues of cultural identity and/or place. Usually, an emphasis will be given to exhibitions that relate to themes of community interest, the local environment, feature artistic excellence, developing local art practice; expand audience's engagement to contemporary art and celebrate cultural diversity and understanding. Primarily, the Art Gallery has a responsibility to its local and regional audiences, and this is considered to be the primary target of the BHRAG exhibition program.

Selected BHRAG gallery spaces will also be used for exhibition/display artworks drawn from the BHRAG Collection. The rationale for displaying works from the collection will be based on:

- The condition of the work for display;
- Featuring the depth and diversity of objects of the BHRAG collection;
- Improving the public's access to and understanding of the BHRAG Collection.

Overall, the following principles will guide BHRAG's exhibition approach and content. Exhibitions under the management of BHRAG will be selected in consideration of the following aims to:

- provide a cultural, educational and recreational resource for local residents and visitors;
- promote the City and region as a place of creativity with a diverse culture and heritage; to draw reference to and involve the people, place and history of Broken Hill and region; and the significance of the Gallery's history, collection and historic building. This includes providing access to the City art collection in unique and engaging ways.
- present contemporary visual arts and crafts practice relevant to the Art Gallery and its community through the creation and dissemination of new ideas and collaborating with living artists.
- embrace the philosophy of access for all and provide engaging, diverse and inspirational learning and recreational opportunities;
- recognise the diversity of opinion and beliefs within the community;
- encourage participation, enquiry and aspiration regarding the arts;

- seek to challenge, query and explore human activity, values, customs and systems within a non-judgemental context, while recognising public standards and expectations;
- bring new opportunities to the region from national and international sources;
- support professional artists in their pursuit to become recognised in their field both at a local, national and international level;
- foster the professional development of local artists through engagement with exhibition and public program opportunities and the development and presentation of their art
- promote the region as a place of creative endeavour and inspiration with a diverse culture and heritage;
- remain agile and responsive by creating opportunities/exhibitions that develop community connected and community created content around topical issues.

4.1 Exhibition Proposals

Overall, The BHRAG artistic program is planned through an invited, application and curated process by the Gallery and Museum Manager and staff.

BHRAG will also consider exhibition proposals submitted by staff, artists, external curators, other galleries and other interested groups or individuals. Recognising that the Art Gallery advisory committee is constituted by members who have relevant expertise and relevant networks, the advisory committee can be a source of recommendations for exhibition proposals.

Exhibition proposals are reviewed and assessed by the Gallery and Museum Manager and staff in accordance with the Gallery's internal procedures and processes and approved by the Manager for inclusion in the exhibition program. Solo and group exhibitions are selected through an application process open to artists, arts collectives, and community groups of the Broken Hill LGA/Region. This application process is governed by the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery Exhibition Proposal Guidelines. Applications will be advertised yearly by the Art Gallery.

Successful applicants will enter into a final agreement developed in partnership with the Art Gallery subject to possible modifications of dates, budget and public program or other details. In respect to all applications made through an Exhibition Proposal Application that the decision of Gallery staff is final.

4.2 Selection Criteria

The following forms the basic criteria for decision-making in relation to exhibitions managed by BHRAG, however the final discretion for exhibition selection will be with the Gallery and Museum Manager.

- **Artistic integrity, quality and clarity:** The potential to uphold elements of artistic expression, for example, innovation, uniqueness, creativity, skill, value. Whether the standard of work and concept is appropriate to the nature of the proposed exhibition and whether they meet the standards of a professional public exhibition space. Ability to interpret the exhibition proposal and ascertain the feasibility of the proposal with an emphasis on articulation and legibility.
- **Source and cultural sensitivity:** Proven ability of the artist, curator or Touring Agent to develop and deliver exhibitions of a high standard. Whether the exhibition content and concepts fall within accepted industry guidelines relating to social and cultural interpretation.
- **Cost to the venue and resources:** Potential cost implications to the venue: e.g. additional insurance, hire fees, transport costs. Provision of additional resources, such as education kits, catalogues and interpretive information that would enable audiences to better understand and appreciate artworks on display.
- **Practicalities and environment:** Consideration of any practical difficulties in hosting exhibitions: access and installation, public safety, size and weight of work. Consideration

of the proposal in relation to the exhibition environment including security, climate control, sound and lighting.

- **Program, relevance, appeal and links:** The relationship of exhibition content and concept to the overall program schedule. Relevance to the BHRAG Business Plan i.e. the exhibition program is informed by the vision, mission, goals and priorities set out in the current Strategic Plan. Applicability and interest to a stated audience. Our venue is utilised by a varied demographic and must therefore be accessible and relevant to the general public. Whether there are any City or regional links to the proposal and consideration of educational potential associated with workshops, seminars and artist talks.
- **Partnerships:** The exhibition program supports the development, expansion and strengthening of important partnerships and alliances with key regional/national/international galleries and touring organisations.

4.3 Ethical Considerations

The principle of best practice applies to all aspects of the Art Gallery's planning, programs and management including the adoption of industry codes of practice.

The Art Gallery acknowledges that it is unable to address all audiences at all times. However, it will attempt to present a balanced exhibition program which, over the life of the BHRAG Strategic Business Plan, will address a wide range of audiences.

Art Gallery staff will keep well-informed of prevailing community standards when selecting exhibitions and content.

The Art Gallery will enter into appropriate contracts with artists, agents, writers or lenders when seeking works for exhibition or publications.

Sponsorship, donations and other patronage will be actively sought and appreciated, but will not solely determine, compromise or hinder the professional commitments or public obligations of BHRAG.

BHRAG will maintain a consistent high standard of display in the presentation and interpretation of exhibitions, including display and directional signage, in accordance with current gallery standards and practices. Appropriate consideration will be given to visitor requirements in the placement, size and clarity of all signage and supporting material.

Where appropriate and feasible BHRAG will respect the installation and display requirements of artists, but in the case of disputes concerning installation and/or display the decision of the Gallery and Museum Manager shall be final.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The following Council Officer is responsible for the implementation and the adherence to this policy:

- Gallery and Museum Manager

5.2 Communication

This Policy will be communicated to the community and staff in accordance with Council's Policy, Procedure and Process Framework and Council's Business Paper process. Following adoption by Council the Policy will be made available on Council's website.

5.3 Associated Documents

The following documentation is to be read in conjunction with this policy:

- Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery Collection Policy

- Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery Exhibition Proposal Guidelines
- Broken Hill Public Art Policy
- International Council of Museums, Code of Professional Ethics – www.icom.museum

6. REVIEW

Review of this policy will incorporate relevant legislation, documentation released from relevant state agencies and best practice guidelines. The standard review period will be within each term of Council following the Local Government Elections, or as required to ensure that it meets legislation requirements and the needs of the community and Council, in consultation with the Art Gallery Advisory committee.

The responsible Council officer will be notified of the review requirements three months prior to the expiry of this policy. The Gallery and Museum Manager is responsible for the review of this policy.

7. LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following:

- All relevant legislation, including but not limited to the *Local Government Act 1993*;
- The National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries (2016);
- Council's code of conduct;
- Council employees shall refrain from personal activities that would conflict with proper execution and management of Council's Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery Exhibitions Policy. However, Gallery or Council staff will be permitted to participate, exhibit and enter prizes at the Gallery provided they follow the exhibition proposal guidelines and make an application. Council's Code of Conduct provides guidance for recognising and disclosing any conflicts of interest.

8. DEFINITIONS

- **Art Gallery or The Gallery:** means Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery (BHRAG).
- **Exhibition program:** means the forward program and schedule of temporary, collection and touring exhibitions.
- **Collection exhibition:** means an exhibition of works of art that is largely drawn from the collection and may include incoming loans and/or commissions. A collection exhibition has a stated curatorial rationale and location and may or may not have a finite display period. Collection exhibitions are managed within established exhibition management frameworks and a specific project budget. Collection exhibitions may be accompanied by a publication, online content, performance elements and associated public engagement and education programs and other exhibition collateral.
- **Temporary exhibition:** means an exhibition of works of art that may include works drawn from the collection, incoming loans and/or commissions. A temporary exhibition has a defined curatorial rationale and a finite display period, title and location, and is managed within an established exhibition management framework and a specific project budget. Temporary exhibitions may also be accompanied by a publication, online content, performance elements and associated public engagement and education programs and other exhibition collateral.
- **Touring exhibition:** means an exhibition of work(s) of art that may include works drawn from the collection, incoming loans and/or commissions that the Gallery tours to other venues. A touring exhibition may originate as a temporary exhibition displayed in-house or may be developed from inception for the purpose of display at other venues. A touring exhibition has a defined curatorial rationale and title and is managed within an established exhibition management framework within a specific project budget and under contractual arrangements with the borrowing venue(s). Touring exhibitions comprising a single work are distinct from outgoing loans in that they have a distinct

curatorial rationale, title and exhibition management framework and are displayed at multiple venues as part of a coordinated tour program rather than based upon isolated loan requests. Touring exhibitions may be accompanied by a publication, online content, performance elements and associated public engagement and education programs and other exhibition collateral.