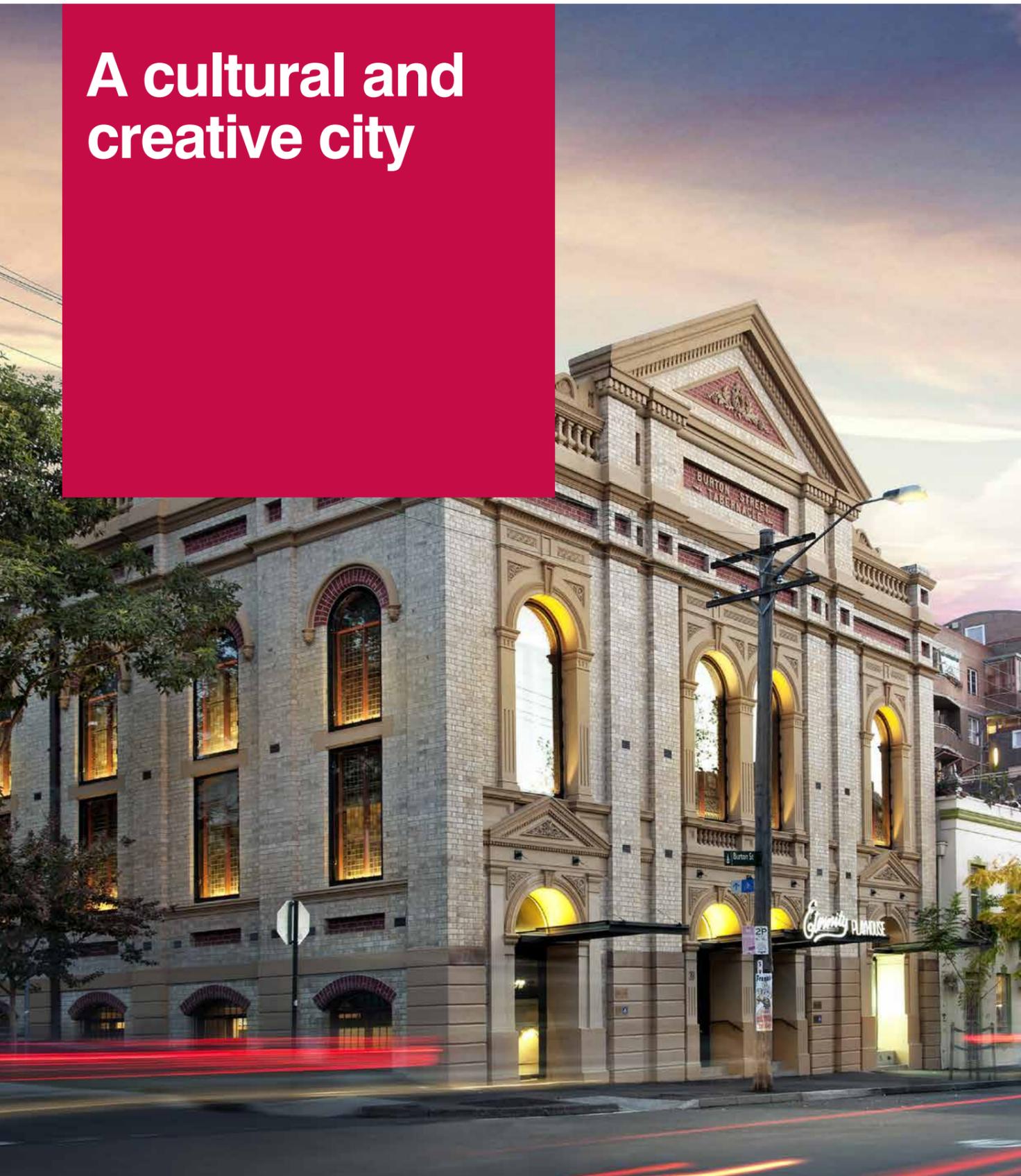


A cultural and creative city



Planning for a creative city

Sydney's cultural life emerges directly from our residents, workers and visitors – from our First Nations peoples to those who have more recently arrived in our city.

Sydney's cultural life is of national importance. NSW hosts the nation's largest number of artists, musicians, architects, designers and cultural professionals, as well as the biggest audiences and highest levels of participation.

Creative enterprises are often small and we must make room for these initiatives. We need to ensure the people who drive them can continue to live in Sydney and lead the kind of lives that inspire creativity.

This means providing suitable space for creative enterprises and affordable housing for cultural workers. It also means working across many policy areas, including planning, building, liquor licensing, transport and housing.

Our research highlighted the impact of building and planning policy on the cultural sector. Outdated planning and building controls usually separate commercial, residential and industrial zones.

Updating the regulatory framework will allow modern cultural initiatives, which use hybrid business models and rely on the cross pollination of ideas, to thrive.

We also work to influence areas outside of the City's control such as liquor licensing and the intersection (and conflict) of regulations under the Liquor Act and the Protection of Environment and Operations Act.

We need to plan for the city we want to become, make culture more visible, develop our next generation of creative talent, and ensure everyone with an interest in our city's cultural life can have their say.



An important part of successful cultural districts around the world lies in whether the thought has been given to the animation of public spaces for outdoor performances, smaller scale galleries, live music in cafes and bars, craft studios and maker spaces, informal gathering spaces, educational facilities and how all this links to the surrounding urban fabric. The small stuff that feels like background is as important in a compelling destination as are the more established cultural institutions that create the foreground.

Culture Forward – A Plan for Culture for Brooklyn
(AEC Consulting, Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance and Downtown Brooklyn)

Left Eternity Playhouse Theatre, Darlinghurst

Right Peace, Justice and Unity by Rodney Monk, Pitt Street, Sydney

The City is committed to supporting Sydney's cultural life. We recognise the intrinsic and instrumental value of creativity as a cultural, economic and social force.



City context

Sydney's cultural life comes from our collective values, traditions, and visions for the future. This is evidenced by our art, music, film and literature, and in the ways we live together. Culture is at the core of our city – in our galleries and museums, our homes, public spaces and the places we meet and work.

Through collaboration our city becomes greater than the sum of its parts. Faced with the challenges and opportunities of our changing world, it is important that we draw on our diverse skills and perspectives to make Sydney what we want it to be.

The City defines 'culture' as the product of civic participation by the city's residents, workers and visitors, and the reflection and expression of its social character, customs, traditions and heritage.

This heritage extends long before the formation of Sydney itself. Our city is situated on the land of the Gadigal of the Eora Nation. This area is of prime importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities as the first place that long-standing ways of life were disrupted by invasion. It remains central to their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations.

The production of culture takes many forms, including visual and performing arts, music, museums and galleries libraries, craft, design, food, publishing, film, literature, digital and new media, radio, television and interactive technology. It includes the representation and animation of our history, language and heritage.

We also include creativity in the public realm, such as public art and the design of the built environment, as well as private and business activity. We recognise culture can be produced at an institutional as well as an individual level.

Why action is needed

Sydney faces the challenges posed by a changing economy, a rapidly growing population, and shifting environmental and social conditions.

Failure to confront these challenges has the capacity to produce widespread inequality, disrupt our economy, and leave a negative legacy for future generations.

It is important that everyone in Sydney and New South Wales is able to engage with, and contribute to, our cultural life. All of us have the right to access and contribute to the creation of the kind of city we will enjoy visiting, working and living in.

The political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities must be embedded in the city's economic, social, environmental and cultural change.

Initiative, experimentation and enterprise are the bedrock of creativity. By encouraging them, we not only support economic development but enhance a sense of civic participation and cohesion. This ensures a greater number of people feel a stewardship of place, common heritage and are engaged in the cultural life of the city.

Harnessing our combined energy will produce a strong, cohesive sense of who we are, and what we want Sydney to be. This common culture will help us meet the challenges of the future, and ensure our city remains not only economically viable, but also an inclusive and interesting place to live, work and visit.

Urban design and regulation, increased opportunities for creativity, a balance between residential amenity and a vibrant evening economy, a range of public spaces, support for innovation and experimentation, and the reduction of barriers, such as housing costs, as well as arts funding and infrastructure will ensure diverse and active participation in Sydney's cultural life.

The City of Sydney's role

Support Sydney's cultural life, cultural diversity and creative communities.

Foster and promote individual and collaborative expression.

Develop and implement policies, programs, planning controls and regulations that promote cultural use, filming, performance, events, public art and creativity in the city.

Ensure our public spaces support a diverse range of cultural activities.

Facilitate lifelong learning and capacity building through our early education and care facilities, libraries network, community centres, public talks and events and through collaborative and partnership arrangements with other organisations.

Record, share and promote the history of our city.

Plan for public art, cultural infrastructure and precincts as part of urban planning processes.

Develop, maintain and manage City-owned cultural assets and infrastructure to meet the needs of the community.

Undertake and share research and information with the broader community, to help improve understanding of the City's cultural life, and the challenges faced by the creative industries, arts and related sectors.

Collaborate with and advocate to other levels of government for their investment in the cultural life of Sydney.

Left Village Voices by Astra Howard, Crown Street, Surry Hills



7.1

Creativity is a consistent and visible feature of the public domain and there are distinctive cultural precincts in the city and its villages

Sydney in 2030

Creativity is more frequent and visible through a critical mass of activity; both small and large scale, temporary and permanent.

Cultural precinct development has amplified the unique characteristics and histories of the city centre and each village.

Public art is a feature of public and private spaces across the city.

Outdoor event infrastructure allows for creative activity year round in the public domain.

Streamlined approval processes enable increased creative activity led by the city's residents, visitors and businesses.

Above Glebe
Right Creative hoardings, city centre

7.2

The City supports and encourages individual creative expression by ensuring opportunities for creative participation are visible, accessible and sustainable

Sydney in 2030

Opportunities for individual creative expression are visible, valued and accessible, with ample opportunities to participate, develop skills and actively produce culture.

Fewer barriers exist to engage with the creative life of our city, with greater access for all.

7.3

Sydney's cultural sector and creative industries are supported and enhanced leading to greater sector sustainability, productivity gains, and innovation

Sydney in 2030

The City facilitates creative exchange on a local, national and international level.

Opportunities for local artists, creative workers and cultural organisations are supported and extended, leading to productivity gains, innovation and more sustainable careers across the cultural sector.

7.4

The continuous living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is visible and celebrated in our city

Sydney in 2030

Increased opportunities exist to access and engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

These opportunities are driven by a strong presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, creative workers, cultural practitioners and community and cultural organisations, living and working within the City of Sydney local government area.

The cultural experience of our city is shaped by the shared understanding that we are on Gadigal land. This city is an important site of ongoing cross-cultural exchange between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, clans and language groups.

Supporting strategies

- Creative City Cultural Policy 2014–2024 (2014)
- Creative City Action Plan 2014–2024 (2014)
- Live Music Live Performance Action Plan (2014)

Public Art Policy (2011)

City Art Public Art Strategy (2011)

City Centre Public Art Plan (2013)

City Centre Public Art Implementation Plan (2013)

Green Square Public Art Strategy (2013)

Green Square Public Art Implementation Plan (2013)

Eora Journey Recognition in the Public Domain Public Art Plan (2011)

Eora Journey Recognition in the Public Domain Public Art Implementation Plan (2012)

The Cultural Ribbon Strategy–Sydney Harbour's Nature and Culture Walk (2016)