

**CREATIVE DAREBIN**

**DAREBIN ARTS STRATEGY 2014- 2020**

**A Plan for a Thriving Creative Community**

# Darebin Arts Strategy 2014 - 2020

*“What better way of fostering a sense of community, promoting mental health and well being, and reducing the pressures of a competitive, materialistic society than by encouraging widespread participation in the arts.”*

*The Role of the arts & culture in planning practice, American Planning Association  
Making Great Communities Happen*

## Table of Contents

1. **Creative Darebin – A Plan for a Thriving Creative Community  
Vision and Mission**
2. **Purpose and Approach**
  - 2.1 Purpose of the Strategy
  - 2.2 Role for local government
  - 2.3 International Context; Global Cities, the Arts and Urban Regeneration
  - 2.4 Primary Goals
  - 2.5 Our Values; Council Plan 2013-2017
3. **Current Context**

3.1 Background:	Darebin Now
3.2 Our changing city:	Predictions + trends 2020
3.3 Our unique assets:	Diverse community, artists and infrastructure
3.4 Snapshot:	Current Scope / What We Currently Provide
4. **Creative Darebin Arts Strategy:  
Key Focus Areas & Priority Actions 2014-2020**
  - 4.1 **Inclusive** - Increase access and participation in the arts for priority communities
  - 4.2 **Enterprising** – Make Darebin the home of choice for artists and creative industries
  - 4.3. **Regenerative** – Develop creative spaces and places
  - 4.4. **Connected** – Create connections across communities and between generations
  - 4.5 **Vibrant & Visionary** - Lead by example and commit to best practice principles
5. **What will success look like?**
  - 5.1 Social inclusion: Reducing barriers to participation in the arts
  - 5.2 Economic impact: Enterprise
  - 5.3 Design impact: Infrastructure and amenity
  - 5.4 Social cohesion: Community connectedness
  - 5.5 Cultural impact: Artistic vibrancy
  - 5.6 Sector impact: Best practice
6. **Guiding Principles**
  - 6.1 How will we get there?
  - 6.2 Who will collaborate with us to make it happen?
7. **Milestones 2014-2020**

## **Appendices**

**Appendix 1. Consultation Process**

**Appendix 2: Key Demographic Data relevant to the Arts Strategy 2014-2020**

**Appendix 3. Policy Context: Federal and State**

**Appendix 4. Supporting Darebin Council Plans and Strategies**

**Acknowledgements**

**Bibliography & Links**

**Footnotes**

## 1. Creative Darebin – A Plan for a Thriving Creative Community

*Darebin Arts Strategy 2014-2020  
A plan for a thriving creative community*

### **OUR VISION - A City brimming with creative possibilities.**

*Imagine a City where art and creative activity is experienced in every corner, with vibrant arts precincts across our suburbs in which artists make their work, inspiring local residents to participate and create their own.*

*A City that honours and is inspired by its history and, at the same time, encourages new creative interpretations of culture that reflect our current ways of life.*

*A City that respects and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture.*

*A City where the arts have a genuine impact for everyone, creating enduring, meaningful connections between our diverse communities and across generations.*

*Where there are no barriers to full participation in the arts for those who experience economic, physical, family or language barriers.*

*A City where artists and creative industries are welcomed and valued as a unique industry sector, and recognised for the employment and economic benefits they bring to each neighbourhood and the community at large.*

*A City with diverse dynamic festivals and permanent art in our parks and public spaces, integrating artistic thinking into the consideration of how new suburbs are designed for the future.*

*A City that makes the processes of making art easier; supporting a thriving creative community.*

Creative Darebin.

### **OUR MISSION - To create the ideal environmental conditions for creativity to thrive in our City.**

The Darebin Council Plan 2013-2017 (Darebin, the Place to Live) has set an ambitious agenda of transformational change within the City of Darebin. A key pillar within the Council Plan is the goal of achieving A Thriving and Creative Culture (Goal 4), which sets out a wide range of strategies and actions to enhance the creative life of our City. This involves many departments of Council that have not historically been associated with a cultural agenda – departments such as economic development, planning and community safety, to name a few. An integrated, whole-of-Council approach to fostering a creative culture is emerging, and the aspirations of our community in this area are being listened to and acted upon. Fostering a Thriving and Creative Culture is not only the responsibility of the those working directly in the arts and culture field.

To support the Council Plan and deliver what it promises to the community, a refreshed Darebin Arts Strategy is required; one that reflects the complexities of our community today, predicts as best we can the future needs of our City and sets a dynamic agenda for best practice contemporary arts and creative practice in a community setting.

## Chapter 2. Purpose and Approach

*“The fundamental purpose of governance is to work towards a healthy, safe, tolerant and creative society.”*

*Culture: Fourth Pillar of Sustainable Development*

### 2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the new Arts Strategy is to set a new direction for the way Council thinks about the comprehensive role of the arts in civic life.

Historically, local government arts and culture plans have focussed almost exclusively on the provision of community celebrations, festivals and events, with outcomes linked primarily to community wellbeing measures. The Darebin Arts Strategy builds on this foundation but puts the focus firmly on the interrelationship between the arts, creativity, media, and more permanent areas of planning such as urban design, public realm and amenity, economic prosperity and jobs growth, placemaking, retail activity centre success, as well as improvements in social and health indicators.

It is the aim of the Darebin Arts Strategy 2014-2020 to create the ideal environmental conditions for creativity to thrive and be sustainable in our City: for creativity to touch every part of our lives.

### 2.2 The role for local government

Local government has a complex role to play in fostering a city's creative culture.

In relation to the arts and creative culture, Council has a primary responsibility for understanding and articulating the community's values and desired future, for providing opportunities for cultural learning and creative expression, and for effectively addressing local needs through creative programs. This approach needs to be adaptable in order to respond to the span of needs identified for the recreational arts-enthusiast, the community in need of an arts focus to bring them together, and the needs of the professional artist and creative entrepreneur whose livelihood depends on Council's understanding of how their business operates.

To do this effectively requires striking a healthy balance between taking the lead as a Council by initiating new projects and capital works programs for long-term impact, whilst also understanding when our involvement may act as an impediment to the community being able to simply get on with the business of making art and making a business out of art.

We have endeavoured to consider these aspects of Council's role – when to take the lead, when to act as an enabler and when to step out of the way – in all discussions, consultations and workshops conducted in the development of this Strategy.

Through numerous community and stakeholder consultations (refer *Appendix 1*), as well as a comprehensive policy review (refer *Appendix 3*) with appropriate local, national and international benchmarking, a significant opportunity has been identified to develop a contemporary, responsive, participation and enterprise-focused approach to arts activity, cultural engagement and planning in the City of Darebin.

### 2.3 International Context: Global cities, the arts and urban regeneration

*“There are three (3) measureable dimensions of cultural vitality; the presence of opportunities for cultural engagement, participation by residents in viewing and contributing to cultural production, and systems of support that develop and maintain artistically – and culturally – rich urban environments.”<sup>1</sup>*

Culture and Regeneration, Arts Research Digest, issue 37

Cities as diverse as Newcastle-Gateshead (UK)<sup>2</sup>, Sydney(AU)<sup>3</sup>, Newark, New Jersey (USA)<sup>4</sup>, Berlin (DK)<sup>5</sup> and, locally, the cities of Yarra (VIC)<sup>6</sup> and Newcastle (NSW)<sup>7</sup> are focusing on arts and artists in social and commercial enterprises and programs that address wellbeing and economic indicators through a progressive approach to arts participation and artistic practice.

Research into international best practice has produced a number of landmark case studies wherein the arts have taken a lead role in community regeneration<sup>8</sup>. This is a global trend that has also been documented by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD)<sup>9</sup>, the Executive Bureau of United Cities & Local Governments<sup>10</sup>, along with organisations as diverse as the American Urban Planning Association<sup>11</sup> and the newly-formed Arts Participation Incubator at Deakin University<sup>12</sup>.

A growing body of international research documents the impact engagement in the arts has in promoting connectivity and pro-social behaviours within a community. Families<sup>13</sup>, schools<sup>14</sup>, youth, diverse multicultural communities and other groups experiencing barriers of access to cultural participation all benefit when the arts ‘steps up its game’ with digital, intergenerational, inclusive and creative programming.

It is therefore the right time to be bold and expansive in the strategic focus for arts and creative culture in the City of Darebin, as well as to embed a culture of evaluation and best practice.

### 2.4 Primary goals - Quality of life and community relevance

*“Another goal of governments could be to create a nation of individuals and communities enriched through their participation in the arts adventure.”<sup>15</sup>*

Hugh Mackay, social commentator, Artshub 2013

The primary goals for the Darebin Arts Strategy 2014-2020 relate to enhancing quality of life and community relevance.

The three goals are to;

1. Improve social cohesion, wellbeing and connectedness through arts and creative experiences for those who live, work, study or play in the City of Darebin
2. Create the environment and conditions that encourage creative endeavour and enterprise to proliferate
3. Set the strategic agenda for facilitating the growth of a creative culture across the Northern Metropolitan region

## 2.5 Our values: City of Darebin Council Plan 2013-2017

The Council Plan 2013-2017 *Darebin, the Place to Live* has a mission to **Work with our diverse community to build a sustainable and liveable city**. The Darebin Arts Strategy will intersect with all six Council Goals to ensure achievement of:

- ✓ a vibrant and innovative economy
- ✓ healthy and connected community
- ✓ sustainable and resilient neighbourhoods
- ✓ thriving and creative culture
- ✓ excellent service, and
- ✓ openness and accountable governance and democracy

Each of the **Key Focus Areas and Priority Actions** of the Darebin Arts Strategy (see *Chapter 4*) are in direct alignment or response to these six Council Goals.

### 3.1 Background: Darebin Now

In 2013, Darebin is a city of over 144,000 residents, with an average annual growth rate of 1.21% per annum. The population is projected to grow to over 160,000 residents by 2021 (refer *Appendix 2* for key demographic data in this chapter).

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander census population of the City of Darebin in 2011 was 1,165: 5.8% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Melbournians live in the City of Darebin. Our City is well-known for its cultural diversity: indeed, it is one of the most diverse communities anywhere in Australia. Just over 38% of our population speaks a language other than English at home, with 29% from a non-English speaking background and over 33% born overseas. These percentages are higher than those for Greater Melbourne<sup>16</sup>.

A significant percentage of the population is impacted by disability in some way. 5.9% of the population in the City of Darebin report needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. Combined with the number of residents involved in full or part-time carer responsibilities, at least 14% of the population is coping with disability and its effect upon family and work life. The City also has a relatively high level of socioeconomic disadvantage compared to other LGAs in Victoria<sup>17</sup>.

For the City to be responsive to residents' needs now and into the future, the Arts Strategy must benefit the community in ways that comprehensively leverage the potential of this complex demographic mix.

### 3.2 Our changing city: Predictions + trends 2020

The City of Darebin faces important demographic and social challenges in the next six years, with population growth and related impacts upon rental affordability and city services being of primary concern. Given its geographic position in the northern region of Melbourne, the City of Darebin has a major role to play in providing affordable housing for our proportion of the additional one million people who are expected to live in Melbourne over the next thirty years.

By 2020, a significant segment of the population will be entering retirement age<sup>18</sup>, whilst a new generation of our City's young people will enter their twenties at a time of high youth unemployment nationally and internationally<sup>19</sup>.

Predicted trends facing our city in the next six years include an upswing in population growth in the central corridor, particularly in Preston and Reservoir; an increase in the percentage of lone households<sup>20</sup>; a dynamic and changing multicultural mix<sup>21</sup>; a need for constructive youth participation<sup>22</sup>, a growing gap in income levels *within* the City<sup>23</sup> (the haves and the have nots); changes to the face and nature of our primary industries<sup>24</sup>; and an extraordinary influx of professional artists and creative industries to Darebin<sup>25</sup> in the current cultural precinct of Northcote/Thornbury/Preston along the High Street spine, and now extending into Reservoir.

Population growth creates additional pressures upon existing infrastructure, programs, the environment, roads and services on the one hand, while providing potential for growth in the city's economy and community on the other.

With an increasing number of new arrivals from India and China, the City's language groups are predicted to diversify even further in the years ahead<sup>26</sup>. In terms of age, the population of Darebin over 65 will increase by 8.7% in 2020 to comprise 14% of the total population<sup>27</sup>. At the same time there is an equally significant projected growth in the under 15 age group and the largest proportional increase by 2020 will be in 50-54 year olds.

In response, the new Arts Strategy has sharpened its focus, to ensure our programs have direct impact upon improved amenity and economic health, as well as for accepted community wellbeing and social cohesion measures.

### 3.3 Our unique assets: Diverse community, artists and infrastructure

*Artists and art galleries are flocking to Thornbury and Preston in ever-increasing numbers*<sup>28</sup>  
*Preston Leader, 30 April 2013*

The City is well-known for its live music scene, acting as a magnet for musicians, composers, promoters, recording and music venues, particularly in Northcote and Thornbury. Businesses supporting the theatre industry have always congregated in our suburbs, as have a range of visual arts cooperatives, youth arts companies and arts access organisations. The cultural and demographic mix within Darebin is rich and multifaceted. The opportunity for intercultural dialogue and intergenerational learning arising from such diversity is exciting.

Recent years have seen an increase in individuals and businesses focusing on film production and online game design moving into the City. Concurrently, we have seen a steadily growing hand-made craft and design community forming, evidenced by the increasing popularity of weekend markets and pop-up shops selling locally designed wearable art and fashion.

In addition, Darebin is home to a number of well-known Australian performing artists, arts workers, designers, film-makers, photographers, visual and digital artists, along with social and cultural entrepreneurs. We are the home of celebrated Australian artists such as Adam Elliott, Clare Bowditch, Ed Kuepper, Denise Scott, Jordie Lane, Daniel Crooks, Bill Henson, Christos Tsiolkas among others equally prolific but less publically well-known.

A key outcome of the open consultation process was a significant interest in future opportunities for the City's successful Public Art program to beautify and enliven the public realm and streetscapes even further.

In terms of creative places and spaces, Darebin currently manages three significant cultural facilities; **Northcote Town Hall**, **Bundoora Homestead Art Centre** and **Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre (DAEC)**.

**Northcote Town Hall** has emerged in more recent years as a strong community asset by increasing its focus as an artistic incubator for the development of new artistic works from Melbourne's vibrant independent artists' community.

**Bundoora Homestead Art Centre** continues to balance a fully curated contemporary visual arts program and a social history and heritage focus, and is increasingly becoming a cultural destination for groups travelling from as close as the local schools and longer day trips from regional Victoria.

Meanwhile, **Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre (DAEC)** plays host to local dance schools, business conferences and culturally diverse celebrations, showcasing local and international talent in performances all year long. DAEC's revitalisation is a crowning aspiration for the future, to make a statement for the arts and culture along the Bell Street retail and industrial corridor. In future, we see the new **Islamic Museum** and City of Darebin Library network as important cultural sites for innovation and inclusion in arts initiatives as well.

Artists gather where there are other artists and creative thinkers. Encouraging and strengthening clusters of creative industries, which in turn attract creative individuals, will reap

cultural, economic, community and employment benefits in ever-widening circles throughout Darebin.

### **3.4 Snapshot: What We Currently Provide**

Council currently delivers the following programs and activities as part of its Creative Culture services to the community.

#### **Arts Programs & Exhibitions**

- An annual season of approximately ten community festivals and events; from one day events such as Darebin Community and Kite Festival, Koorie Pride Youth Music Event and HomeCooked Comics Festival to the two week long Darebin Music Feast, Homemade Food and Wine Festival and True North – Reservoir Arts Festival
- Arts Partners programs at Northcote Town Hall and Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre with the independent artists' community, festivals and arts companies. These include the Darebin Arts Speakeasy program for the development and presentation of new performance work at Northcote Town Hall, and the Darebin Arts Loudmouth program for kids and families at Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre during school holidays.
- Annual programming of contemporary art exhibitions and community access programs at Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, including the Darebin Art Show and permanent historical interpretation of the building.

#### **Public Art Commissions**

- A major permanent public art commission for a public space every two years

#### **Community Partnerships**

- Support of local community arts groups such as the Preston Symphony Orchestra and Darebin Brass Band through Community Grants or annual service agreements
- Collaborative partnerships with community-run festivals such as Melbourne Magic Festival
- Development of ongoing community arts projects such as N-Scribe magazine
- Exhibition partnerships with NMIT and Northern Support Services

#### **Cultural Infrastructure**

- Professionally managed performing arts and functions venues at Northcote Town Hall and Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre for commercial and community hire
- Professionally managed, public art gallery at Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, member of PGAV and Museums Australia accredited
- Management, conservation and promotion of the Darebin Art and History Collections

#### **Leadership & Advocacy**

- Collaborations with other Council departments to develop and deliver the Paint The City program of street art (Community Safety) and Active Spaces Vacant Shop program (Economic Development)
- Advocacy through acquisition, exhibition and promotion of high quality local artwork
- Regular promotion of Council and community run arts events through the fortnightly What's On e-newsletter
- Advocacy on issues affecting local artists and the creative community to Council and other levels of government

Council currently invests approximately \$2.6 million per annum in delivering these services. Each year Business Plans are developed with an ongoing aim of reducing the per head subsidy by increasing attendances and improving the reach and relevance of our services for our ever-changing community.

Building on this solid foundation and recognising the dynamic period of growth, demographic change and urban development Darebin is entering, the Arts Strategy 2014-2020 identifies **5 Key Focus Areas** requiring investment in people and resources to achieve Council's goal of a Thriving and Creative Culture.

**5 Key Focus Areas are;**

**4.1 *Inclusive***

- Increase access and meaningful participation in the arts for priority communities

**4.2 *Enterprising***

- Make Darebin the home of choice for artists and creative industries

**4.3 *Regenerative***

- Develop Creative Spaces and Places

**4.4 *Connected***

- Create connections across communities and between generations

**4.5 *Vibrant & Visionary***

- Lead by example and commit to best practice principles in all our work

## KEY FOCUS AREA 4.1

### 4.1 *Inclusive* – Increase access and meaningful participation in the arts for priority communities

Embedding a respect for diversity and inclusiveness in our actions ensures the arts are reflective of contemporary Australia, facilitating multiple perspectives in our work.

This Strategy will remain responsive to changes in community needs throughout its lifetime, but at the time of writing we believe the Darebin communities of

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders community
- People with a Disability and their carers
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities, and
- Young People
- Older People

are priority groups that need support to participate more fully in the arts in our City.

#### **We Are Inclusive - Priority Actions**

##### **We Will:**

1. Establish a Council funded Arts Participation Initiative to collaborate with organisations working with priority communities, to increase active and innovative participation in arts and cultural opportunities
2. Develop programs that support, profile and celebrate the arts and culture of the Aboriginal community
3. Develop a Disability Action Plan for our cultural venues and programs
4. Establish an Artists in Residence program with local primary and secondary schools; creating projects between professional artists, students and parents
5. Expand the creative application of digital and online tools in arts programs, including digitising the Darebin Art, History and Public Art Collections

##### **We Will Continue to:**

- ❖ Review, refresh and renew our Festival program each year to ensure broad participation opportunities for all our communities
- ❖ Ensure there are low cost or free options to access and participate in all Council Festivals, Events and venue programs
- ❖ Ensure Council promotional strategies for the arts meet best practice communication standards to increase access and participation from diverse communities
- ❖ Develop annual business plans for all cultural venues that support the aim of increasing access, diversity and participation levels

#### **Indicative Investment Required**

Action 1	\$80,000 p.a would support partnerships with up to 10 community organisations
Action 2 & 3	Deliverable within existing resources
Action 4	\$150,000 p.a to partner with up to 5 schools
Action 5	\$50,000 one-off investment to digitise Art, History and Public Art Collections

*“Schools that value creativity and innovation lead the way in cultivating the well-informed and active citizens Australia’s future demands.”<sup>29</sup>*

*National Education and the Arts Statement (2005)*

*“In thinking about government’s role in stimulating and supporting the arts, we are in danger of overlooking a simple yet crucial point: the greatest value of the arts – to individuals and to local communities – is through participation in them, rather than merely being exposed to them as spectators.”<sup>30</sup>*

*Hugh Mackay, “Are the Arts Good for Us?” Artshub*

## KEY FOCUS AREA 4.2

### 4.2 *Enterprising* – Make Darebin the home of choice for artists and creative industries

Clusters of creative industries and artists generate ideal conditions for other small businesses to flourish around them. As Darebin moves from a manufacturing base to a knowledge economy, attracting artists and creative businesses to put down roots, live and work with us, generates not only cultural benefits but economic ones too.

Drawing business and arts communities together, this Strategy will generate increased levels of investment in the City by individuals and companies looking to establish and grow their creative enterprises.

#### ***We Are Enterprising* - Priority Actions**

##### **We Will:**

1. Develop and promote a new Creative Industries support function to inform, educate and facilitate new creative businesses and individual artists in the processes of Council; including establishing relevant industry networks and information sharing, and expanding the DIY Arts Business seminar program
2. Establish low-cost rehearsal and studio spaces for Darebin artists in retail Activity Centres
3. Increase amount available for applications to the Arts and Culture category of Council's Community Grants and enable individual artists to apply
4. Conduct a cultural mapping project and develop a Cultural Tourism Strategy, including a focus on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders
5. Research feasibility of establishing a workshop space to provide space and skills-sharing for visual, design and craft artists
6. Investigate establishing micro-loans to support creative enterprises
7. Advocate for existing use rights for arts and entertainment businesses

##### **We Will Continue to:**

- ❖ Manage and promote artist development and presentation programs at Northcote Town Hall, DAEC and Bundoora Homestead Art Centre
- ❖ Give priority to high quality Darebin artists when programming the Bundoora Homestead Art Centre Access Gallery
- ❖ Support local visual artists through Darebin Art Show and artwork acquisitions
- ❖ Collaborate with Economic Development on the Active Spaces empty shops program
- ❖ Seek input from the Darebin Arts Ambassadors and create annual opportunities for new members to join
- ❖ Provide employment for local artists to perform or make work as part of Council's Festivals and Events program
- ❖ Present an annual DIY Arts Business Seminar series

#### Indicative Investment Required

Action 1	Deliverable within existing resources
Action 2	\$80,000 p.a. would provide two spaces in the City of Darebin
Action 3	\$50,000 p.a increase to the Grant pool
Action 4	\$50,000 one-off investment
Action 5, 6, 7	Deliverable within existing resources

*“...[a] City can support the creative industries through support for clustering activities together, sharing resources (space, equipment and knowledge)”<sup>31</sup>*  
*City of Sydney Cultural Policy Discussion Paper, 2013*

## KEY FOCUS AREA 4.3

### 4.3. Regenerative – Develop Creative Spaces and Places

Darebin is experiencing rapid growth and changes to land-use across multiple sites. Ensuring that the needs of the community's cultural and creative life are taken into account in the early planning and design process will lead to a more liveable city for our residents in the future. Urban design also impacts us daily on a neighbourhood scale. It includes what we see and experience as we travel to work or walk to the local shops. Permanent and temporary public art, street art and welcoming, creative public spaces are key to creating the kind of neighbourhood we like to live in and feel proud to show off to visitors.

This Strategy takes a stronger position than previous strategies on the inclusion of arts related considerations in all Council deliberations around infrastructure development and land-use decisions.

#### **We Are Regenerative - Priority Actions**

##### **We Will:**

1. Conduct a feasibility study for a redeveloped Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre
2. Establish a Public Art resource service within Council to assist property developers in the commissioning of public art in private developments
3. Introduce a 'percentage for art' compulsory contribution from major property developments
4. Commission a feasibility study for the creation of a large-scale mixed-use Arts Colony in Darebin incorporating rehearsal, workshop studios, office and storage space for artists and creative businesses in a creative cluster; including research into where additional cultural facilities will be required in urban growth areas for future communities
5. Commission major public art works to be installed at primary gateways into the City
6. Commission a Masterplan for the completion of the original Arts Precinct vision around Northcote Town Hall, old Northcote Police Station, Civic Square and Carnegie Library spaces to create a contemporary community cultural asset and artistic hub

##### **We Will Continue to:**

- ❖ Commission a major permanent art work for public spaces every two years
- ❖ Continue to own and manage Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, Northcote Town Hall and Bundoora Homestead Art Centre; undertaking continuous improvement to provide relevant and affordable cultural services for our communities
- ❖ Continue to maintain our Public Art assets

#### Indicative Investment Required

Action 1	\$80,000 one-off investment
Action 2	Approximately \$75,000 p.a
Action 3	Cross-Council goal achievable within existing resources
Action 4	\$100,000 one-off investment
Action 5	\$80,000 for each Public Art commission
Action 6	\$80,000 one-off investment

*"Much of the writing on creative industries and cultural quarters acknowledges the role of artists and other creative people in early stages of an area's redevelopment and the fact that 'successful' regeneration can lead to their displacement, unless there is a policy or financial mechanism to enable them to stay."<sup>32</sup>*

*Graeme Evans and Phyllida Shaw, "Culture and Regeneration"  
Arts Research Digest, Issue 37, summer 2006*

## KEY FOCUS AREA 4.4

### 4.4. *Connected* – Create connections across communities and between generations

*“This country has such a high life expectancy, people are living a long time, and we were new to Australia and we were hungry to know older people, to have those relationships with them.”<sup>33</sup>*

*Darebin resident*

With social isolation becoming a recurring theme in community consultations, the Arts Strategy aims to ameliorate this trend with every action we take. Communities, temporary and ongoing, form through active participation in the arts. This Strategy provides numerous options for a great range of community members to gather together and form relationships across cultural and age differences.

We will support and initiate programs that encourage different communities to connect with each other through art, and for multiple generations within and across communities to participate in shared activities together.

#### ***We Are Connected* - Priority Actions**

##### **We Will:**

1. Redesign the entrance and foyer of Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre into a welcoming community gathering place and develop a program of free daytime cultural activities
2. Strengthen our online community in line with the Darebin Digital Strategy
3. Increase Council’s connection and interaction with local primary and secondary schools by creating partnerships with the school community for arts programs
4. Research options for an inter-cultural community arts project celebrating the role migration has played in Darebin
5. Increase the amount available for the arts and culture category of the Community Grants to support a greater range of intercultural and intergenerational arts projects in the community

##### **We Will Continue to:**

- ❖ Adopt a cross-Council approach when researching and developing new arts initiatives
- ❖ Program opportunities for intergenerational and inter-cultural skills sharing at all Council festivals and through Bundoora Homestead Art Centre’s public programs
- ❖ Create welcoming places and opportunities to gather and connect

#### **Indicative Investment Required**

Action 1	\$250,000 one-off investment
Action 2	Deliverable within existing resources
Action 3	Expenditure covered in Key Focus Area 4.1
Action 4	Deliverable within existing resources
Action 5	\$50,000 p.a. to establish new grant category

*“People get to know each other and form relationships in the course of celebrating the arts”<sup>34</sup>*

*Artswave.org, Cincinnati*

## KEY FOCUS AREA 4.5

### 4.5 *Vibrant & Visionary* - Lead by example and commit to best practice principles in all our work

Darebin is a City known for the quantity, range and quality of its artistic community, and for the enthusiasm with which the broader community embraces arts and creative expression. By providing extraordinary experiences and a variety of diverse activities and genres to choose from, overall arts practice is enhanced. Performances and programs that are unique, reflect innovative thinking, or represent something distinctive about our City, support development of the arts sector itself.

In order for Darebin to establish itself as an exemplar of creative strategic leadership, the commitment to best practice and continuous learning must be embedded in the people and systems that will deliver this Strategy.

#### *We Are Vibrant & Visionary* - Priority Actions

##### **We Will:**

1. Establish an effective evaluation framework that measures specific benefits of the Priority Actions
2. Embed assessment of Cultural Impact as a core requirement of every Council Report and in consideration of services across Council such as Masterplans, Structure Plans, Building Use and Public Space initiatives
3. Review the Arts Strategy and renew the Priority Actions in its third year; including a public forum to report back to the community on the Strategy's progress
4. Provide a coordinated approach to promoting arts and cultural opportunities and services, and tailor the method of communication to reach diverse communities
5. Focus on professional development for Council teams in order to deliver aligned and innovative programs for the community
6. Advocate for a regional approach to arts and cultural planning across the Northern metropolitan Councils

##### **We Will Continue to:**

- ❖ Identify and consolidate core Program Services and ensure that Council Officers have the key competencies to deliver them
- ❖ Develop annual business plans that focus on improving the customer and participant experience
- ❖ Focus on best practice for art in community programs
- ❖ Conduct public forums to remain connected to our community
- ❖ Support the making and presentation of great art experiences for our community

Indicative Investment Required	
All Actions	Deliverable within existing resources

*“(We need to keep up with) the new ways people are engaging with culture, eg. shareable, social, participatory, mobile, distributed, multi-sensory, fragmented and with mass personalisation.”<sup>35</sup>*

*Jesse Rosen, “Provocative Choices for Orchestras”, Huffington Post*

## Chapter 5. What will success look like?

Creative Darebin is an Arts Strategy designed to have long-term impact and demonstrable outcomes. Progress toward achieving our goals will be measured against the following indicators:

### 5.1 Social inclusion: Reducing barriers to participation in the arts Indicators

- % respondents describing arts programs as "inclusive and welcoming for all members of our community"
- % respondents describing arts programs as "easily accessible"
- Level of cultural engagement by race/ethnicity, age, socioeconomics, and geography
- % of participants who describe Darebin Arts programs as "a place for me"

We will know we are successful when the Community says things like;  
*"I've never been to one of the Darebin arts festivals before. It's usually too hard with Mum in her wheelchair. But we both felt included and had great fun. We'll definitely come back next year."*

### 5.2 Economic impact: Enterprise Indicators

- # of new creative businesses setting up or relocating to Darebin p.a.
- % new creative enterprises "satisfied with Council and Council's processes for doing business"
- % of local labour force identifying as professional art and media practitioners or arts workers

We will know we are successful when Artists and Entrepreneurs say things like;  
*"I chose to set up my business here in Thornbury largely because so many other artists were living in the area. And the Council has some innovative business support programs which really helped me get started. They made it really easy."*

### 5.3 Design impact: Infrastructure and amenity Indicators

- % of new urban developments including new public art
- % of developers who agree "public art adds value to our development"
- % of community who agree "the City has much-improved Visual amenity"
- % of community who agree "the new public spaces, art works and infrastructure make me feel happy to live in Darebin"

We will know we are successful when the Community says things like;  
*"All the new buildings and open spaces in Darebin are really inspiring. The City feels like a place I want to stay for many years."*

## 5.4 Social cohesion: Community connectedness

### Indicators

- % of participants who describe feeling “more connected to their neighbours and the Darebin community” as a result of their involvement in the arts
- % of participants who “learned something new about the experiences of other generations” through the arts programs of Council and/or partners
- % of participants who “learned something new about another culture” through their involvement in the arts
- % residents reporting new relationships attributable to arts involvement within the past year

We will know we are successful when the Community says things like;  
*“It was so great to spend time with some older people learning about how they’d arrived in Melbourne in the 60’s. My kids don’t see their grandparents much and it was wonderful to see them making friends across the age gap. They’re going to keep working together on a combined art piece for the project. Can’t wait to see what they create.”*

## 5.5 Cultural impact: Artistic vibrancy

### Indicators

- % of audiences and participants that agree they were highly absorbed in the performance or program (Captivation)
- % of audiences and participants that agree they felt mentally and emotionally engaged in the performance or program (Intellectual stimulation and emotional response)
- % of audiences that agree there is a good balance between tradition and newness in and within the full program (Aesthetic growth)
- % feedback from respected industry peers saying we are contributing to development of artistic practice
- % positive critical views for arts programs in the media

We will know we are successful when Artists, Audiences and Industry Peers say things like;  
*“You have to check out what’s happening in Darebin. I saw the most amazing outdoor installation in Preston last week and it was so surprising and challenging, I thought about it for days afterward.”*

## 5.6 Sector impact: Best Practice

- % residents describing “increased trust in Council and its arts programs”
- # of external presentations and papers delivered by Council staff
- # of partnerships with other Northern region LGAs

We will know we are successful when the Community and Local Government Peers say things like;  
*“I’m so impressed with the cultural changes in our city. Their programs are streets ahead of many other councils in Melbourne.”*

*“The City of Darebin Arts team has developed a very progressive plan for the future. We should have one of their staff come and present to us”*

## Chapter 6. Guiding Principles

*“Excellence in culture occurs when an experience affects and changes an individual... An excellent cultural experience goes to the root of living.*

*Excellence is about experience and good practice is what leads it.”*  
*Brian McMaster, Supporting Excellence in the Arts (UK, 2008)*<sup>36</sup>

### 6.1 How will we get there?

The development of any new strategy challenges us to consider some important questions:

- What is our desired future?
- How can we make a lasting difference for future generations without compromising the present?
- How can we ensure success for the new plan?

Therefore, the Darebin Arts Strategy defines some key guiding principles to ensure the plan itself is achievable, workable, sustainable, measurable, and moves inexorably toward its primary goals and desired outcomes. This will happen through a systemic commitment to:

- ✓ Equity: A non-negotiable expectation of diversity in practice and inclusiveness for community
- ✓ Organisational Alignment: A whole-of-Council approach with collaborative dialogue at every level
- ✓ Professional Excellence: Best practice in arts participation and cultural development
- ✓ Continuous Learning: Research, evaluation and review of our programs to ensure their continuing relevance
- ✓ Environmental Sustainability: A commitment to embedding sustainability measures into all activities

### 6.2 Who will collaborate with us to make it happen?

For the strategy to be a success, strategic partnerships will be essential. The complexity of our City's current and future needs, and those of our constituency can not be addressed without cooperation and collaboration. We will commit therefore to the creation of robust and mutually beneficial strategic partnerships with community, tertiary, arts and commercial organisations who share our vision and goals.

Current external partners include:

#### **Media Partners**

- Leader Newspapers
- 3RRR Radio
- 3PBS Radio

#### **Tertiary & Education Partners**

- La Trobe University
- NMIT
- RMIT
- Department of Education & Early Childhood Development
- Local primary and secondary schools

#### **Artistic Partners**

- Songlines Aboriginal Music Corporation
- Decibels Records
- Melbourne Magic Festival
- APRA
- Home Make It Reservoir
- Heritage Festival

- NAIDOC
- Melbourne Fringe Festival
- Melbourne International Comedy Festival
- Next Wave Festival
- Explosive Media
- Arts Centre Melbourne
- National Youth Week
- Castlemaine Art Gallery
- Australian War Memorial
- National Gallery of Victoria
- National Library of Australia
- State Library of Victoria
- National Archives of Australia

**Real Estate & Transport Partners**

- Yarra Trams
- Jellis Craig Real Estate
- Love Real Estate

**Local Traders**

- Northcote Business Association
- Preston Business Association
- Reservoir Traders

**Health & Environmental Partners**

- Northern Support Services
- Seniors Festival
- Veterans Mental Health week
- Australian Animal Protection Society

Through the life of this Strategy we will build on these partnerships and establish new ones that enable us to reach our strategic goals.

## Chapter 7. Milestones

### 7.1 Timeline

Actions begun by	14- 15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
Establish Arts Participation program	*					
Disability Action Plans for venues and programs		*				
School partnerships programs incl Artists in Residence		*				
Digitise Art Collection	*					
Develop Creative Industries Support role	*					
Establish low-cost rehearsal and studio spaces		*				
Increase Community Grant pool	*					
Develop Cultural Tourism Strategy		*				
Investigate micro-loans for artists and creative industries	*					
Establish Public Art resource service	*					
Masterplan for mixed-use Arts Colony and creative clusters		*				
Public Art at Gateways	*		*		*	
Commission feasibility of completing Northcote Arts Precinct vision		*				
Conduct feasibility study for redevelopment of Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre	*					
Redesign public spaces at DAEC		*				
Strengthen online communications	*					
Establish effective evaluation framework	*					
Review the Arts Strategy in its 3 <sup>rd</sup> year			*			
<b>Ongoing Actions</b>						
Develop programs with the Aboriginal community						
Coordinated approach to promotions and communications to reach diverse communities						
Focus on professional development for Council Officers and community members						
Conduct research into future needs for cultural facilities and services						
Advocate for existing use rights for arts and entertainment businesses						
Expand the creative application of digital and online tools						
Advocate for a Northern metro regional approach						

## Appendix 1. Consultation Process

The consultation process for the new six year Creative Darebin Arts Strategy involved open, targeted and forum consultations with over 240 residents and key community stakeholders. The outcomes of these numerous sessions were documented, analysed and reduced to five focus areas that now underpin the proposed strategy.

### **Phase 1: Open Community Consultation: April 2013**

The City of Darebin conducted three initial community consultation meetings at Northcote Town Hall, Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre and the Reservoir Civic Centre in April 2013. The arts and culture team had marketed the meetings primarily through an email list of approximately 3000 contacts and in total 18 community members attended. Of these, the majority were arts practitioners and local area residents; however it was raised as a concern that there was insufficient representation from Darebin's diverse communities for these sessions.

### **Phase 2: Targeted Stakeholder Consultation: May-July 2013**

As a result, the Manager Arts, Culture & Venues and team conducted an additional series of over twenty external stakeholder consultations in May-July 2013, including with local commercial, community and arts partners.

### **Phase 3: Research & International Benchmarking February-July 2013**

From February to July 2013, the Arts & Culture team also reviewed recent City of Darebin survey data and conducted wide desktop research into comparable local Council policies in Victoria, national capital city plans (Melbourne 2010-2013), Sydney (City of Sydney Cultural Discussion paper, March 2013), City of Auckland and international case studies (as noted in *Chapter 1*) to ensure the new Strategy can be considered best practice.

### **Phase 4: What's Your Big Idea? Public Forum with Julia Zemiro August 2013**

A significant public forum in relation to the 2014-2020 Arts Strategy was held on 15 August 2013. The program was hosted by Julia Zemiro along with guest speakers Ajak Kwai, David Campbell and the Bamford-Caleo family. This event was curated to ensure the Darebin community was given a further opportunity to contribute to the Creative Darebin Arts Strategy and to respond meaningfully to the emerging focus areas and directions for planning. The City received an excellent response to this invitation, with over 150 local area residents attending the event at Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre. A lively discussion ensured the voices of the community can now be heard clearly throughout this Strategy.

### **Phase 5: Draft Strategy Community Consultation**

The Draft Arts Strategy was widely distributed through community groups and Council Advisory Committees for further comment and written submissions.

## Appendix 2. Key Demographic Data relevant to the Arts Strategy 2014-2020

### A2.1 Population

In 2031, the population of City of Darebin is forecast to be 173,980, an increase of 40,340 persons (30.19%) from 2006

Area name	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
City of Darebin	133,640	143,057	152,075	160,031	166,900	173,980

### A2.2 Changing Ageing Demographics

In 2006, the most populous age group in City of Darebin was 30-34 year olds, with 12,401 persons. In 2021 the most populous forecast age group will continue to be 30-34 year olds, with 14,821 persons. The City's median age is 36.

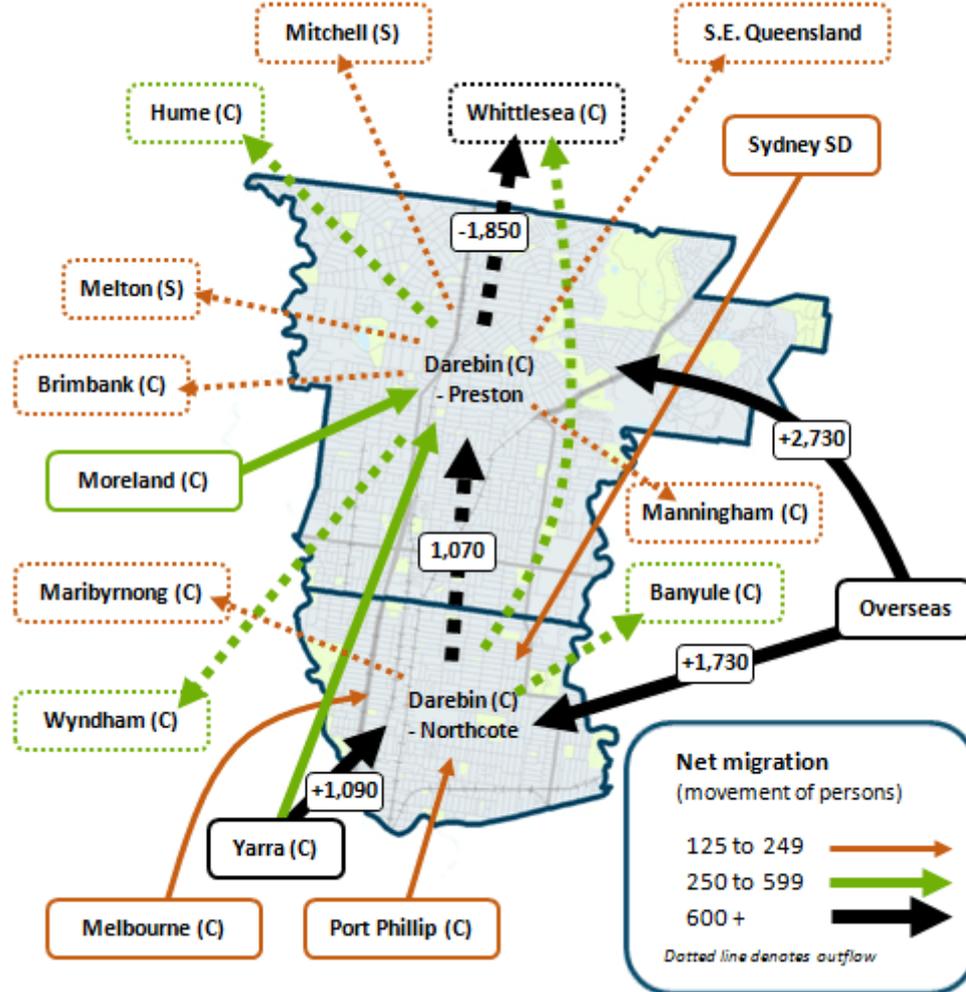
The number of people aged under 15 is forecast to increase by 4,323 (20.2%), representing a rise in the proportion of the population to 16.1%. The number of people aged over 65 is expected to increase by 1,797 (8.7%), and represent 14.0% of the population by 2021.

The age group which is forecast to have the largest proportional increase (relative to its population size) by 2021 is 50-54 year olds, who are forecast to increase by 37.6% to 9,865 persons.

### A4.3 Indigenous Residents

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Census population of the City of Darebin in 2011 was 1,165. Total indigenous population is 55 above 2006 levels. 5.8% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Melbournians live in the City of Darebin.

#### A4.4. Increase in residents from other inner city LGAs and from Overseas 2001-2006



Biggest changes in residents from other countries between 2006-2011 are India (+1,983), China (+1,232), UK (+515) and NZ (+429).

#### A4.5 Relative Disadvantage

SEIFA: The SEIFA index is derived from attributes that reflect disadvantage such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations.

A higher score on the index means a *lower* level of disadvantage. A lower score on the index means a *higher* level of disadvantage.

The City of Darebin scores 990 on the SEIFA index of disadvantage in 2011 and was ranked 39th most disadvantaged LGA in the state. In 2006 it had a score of 972 and was ranked 24th most disadvantaged in the state. In 2001 it had a score of 966.

#### A4.6 Changing Industries

Between 2006 and 2011, Manufacturing as an employer fell from 16.6% of all jobs in Darebin to 13.2%. The highest employers are Education and Training (14.4%) and Retail (14.4%).

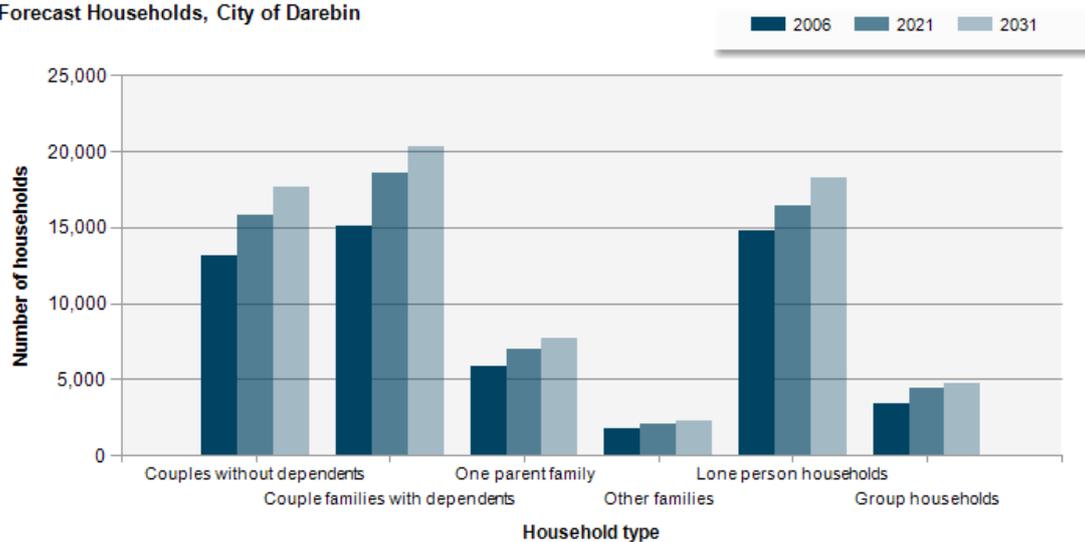
#### A4.7 Changes in Household Structure:

The main changes in household type between 2006 and 2021 are forecast to be:

The largest increase is forecast to be in Group households, which will increase by 1,001 households, comprising 6.8% of all households, compared to 6.3% in 2006.

Lone person households are also forecast to increase by 1,574 households, to comprise 25.6% of all households in 2021, compared to 27.5% in 2006.

Forecast Households, City of Darebin



#### A4.8 Cultural Diversity and English Proficiency

In the 2011 Census 33.7 per cent of Darebin residents stated they were born overseas. The major contributing countries were Italy, Greece, India, China, the United Kingdom and Vietnam. 26% of those born overseas arrived in Australia within the last 5 years.

38.7% Darebin's residents speak a language other than English at home. Darebin's residents speak a wide range of languages (other than English): Italian, Greek, Arabic, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Macedonian, Cantonese, Punjabi, Hindi and Spanish.

Approximately 7.8 per cent of the population does not speak English well or at all.

The majority of people born in a non-English speaking country live in the north of the municipality in Reservoir, Kingsbury and Bundoora areas.

### Appendix 3. Policy Context: Federal and State

The following federal and state policies and strategies inform and support the work of the Creative Darebin Arts Strategy 2014-2020:

Federal Policy or strategy	Summary of aligned goals or outcomes
<p><b>'Creative Australia'</b> <b>National Cultural Policy (2013)</b></p> <p><b>Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage universal creative expression and recognise the role of the artist in this process</li> <li>• Connect arts and culture to national life for a social and economic dividend</li> <li>• Modernise funding and support</li> <li>• Recognise the central role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in Australian life</li> <li>• Enhance national focus on Asia</li> <li>• Develop a National Arts &amp; Culture Accord (tri-level government cooperative initiative)</li> <li>• Increase opportunities for Australia's creative industries to contribute to the economy as leaders of innovation and drivers of productivity across all industry sectors</li> <li>• Evaluate the intrinsic and instrumental impacts of artistic expression and participation</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Arts &amp; Disability Strategy (2010)</b></p> <p><b>Cultural Ministers Council</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address barriers that prevent people with a disability to access and participate in the arts</li> <li>• Develop strategies to address barriers for emerging and professional artists with disabilities to realise their ambitions</li> <li>• Support audience development to enable a growing market for work by artists with disabilities</li> <li>• Enhance coordination and collaboration across all levels of government, so that people with a disability have a stronger voice in policy development and planning</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Disability Strategy 2010-2020</b></p> <p><b>Department of Human Services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People with disability live in accessible and well designed communities with opportunity for full inclusion in social, economic, sporting and cultural life</li> <li>• Acknowledge and support the role of families and carers</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Urban Policy (May 2011)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harness the productivity of Australia's people and industry by better managing</li> </ul>

<p><b>Department of Infrastructure and Transport</b></p>	<p>our use of labour, creativity, knowledge, land and infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the liveability of our cities by promoting better urban design, planning, and affordable access to recreational, cultural and community facilities</li> <li>• Progress the goals of productivity, sustainability and liveability through better governance and management</li> </ul>
<p><b>Urban Design Protocol for Australian Cities (Nov 2011)</b></p> <p><b>Department of Infrastructure and Transport</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create the focus for people to engage with each other (liveability)</li> <li>• Create the focus for people to engage with city and place (productivity and sustainability)</li> <li>• Develop comfortable and welcoming urban spaces and places</li> <li>• Design vibrant and activated spaces, with people around</li> <li>• Design respects the needs and aspirations of the community that lives and works there</li> <li>• Design creates opportunities for people to prosper and local businesses to thrive</li> <li>• Practice celebrates unique characteristics – heritage, culture and community – to create a sense of place and identity</li> <li>• People feel safe where they live</li> <li>• A place you want to visit, experience or live in</li> </ul>
<p><b>‘The People of Australia’ Australia’s Multicultural Policy (2011)</b></p> <p><b>Department of Immigration &amp; Citizenship</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to a just, inclusive and socially cohesive society where everyone can participate in the opportunities that Australia offers and where government services are responsive to the needs of Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds</li> </ul>
<p><b>‘Powering ideas: an innovation agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> century’ (2009)</b></p> <p><b>Department of Innovation, Industry, Science, Research and Tertiary Education</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective dissemination of new technologies, processes, and ideas to increase innovation across the economy, with a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises</li> <li>• Encourage a culture of collaboration within the research sector and between researchers and enterprise</li> <li>• Collaborate with others in the public and community sectors in the innovation system to improve policy development and service delivery</li> </ul>

<p><b>National Education &amp; the Arts Statement (2005)</b></p> <p><b>Co-authored by Ministerial Council on Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs with the Cultural Ministers Council</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All children and young people have a high quality arts education in every phase of learning</li> <li>• Create sustainable partnerships to strengthen community identity and local cultures</li> <li>• Facilitate connections between schools and the arts and cultural sector to enrich learning outcomes in and through the arts</li> <li>• Promote a culture of creativity in childhood and of innovation in schools through fostering and showcasing effective programs and career pathways</li> </ul>
<p><b>Australian Curriculum (2012-2015)</b></p> <p><b>Australian Curriculum, Assessment &amp; Reporting Authority</b></p>	<p>Given the high percentage of CALD population in the City of Darebin, the three overarching cross-curricular learning priorities in the emerging Australian curriculum are significant to the new Arts Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures</b></li> </ul> <p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander priority provides opportunities for all learners to deepen their knowledge of Australia by engaging with the world's oldest continuous living cultures. Students will understand that contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are strong, resilient, rich and diverse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Australia's engagement with Asia</b></li> </ul> <p>This priority will ensure that students learn about and recognise the diversity within and between the countries of the Asia region. They will develop knowledge and understanding of Asian societies, cultures, beliefs and environments, and the connections between the peoples of Asia, Australia, and the rest of the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Sustainability</b></li> </ul> <p>Sustainability will allow all young Australians to develop the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary for them to act in ways that contribute to more sustainable patterns of living. The Sustainability priority is futures-oriented, focusing on [...] creating a more ecologically and socially just world through informed action. Actions that support more sustainable patterns of living require consideration of environmental, social, cultural and economic systems and their interdependence.</p>

Victorian State Policy	Summary of aligned goals or outcomes
<p><b>Arts Victoria priority actions (2011-12)</b></p> <p><b>Victorian Department of Premier &amp; Cabinet Annual Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage diversity and engagement</li> <li>• Invest in arts development</li> <li>• Engage young people and families in arts and cultural experiences</li> <li>• Continue support for the Artists in Schools Program</li> <li>• Develop support for new live music programs in Victoria</li> </ul> <p>At the time of writing, Arts Victoria was operating without a current policy framework, primarily due to a delayed Liberal agenda in this area. Most key current initiatives relate to international export, regional participation and cultural infrastructure through the major arts agencies. No policy exists in relation to urban-suburban arts participation or digital programs for the arts to support community wellbeing and cohesion.</p>
<p><b>Action Agenda for Health Promotion 2012-2020</b></p> <p><b>VicHealth</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise that the social and economic conditions for all people influence their health</li> <li>• Support initiatives that assist individuals, communities, workplaces and broader society to improve wellbeing</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Improve mental wellbeing (Goal 5) &gt;</i></b>  “Some of our most powerful influences on mental wellbeing exist in the environments where we live, work, learn, play and build relationships with one another... For example, social isolation can lead to stress, anxiety, depression, decreased resilience to traumatic events and suicide. It is also associated with increased rates of death, especially from heart disease and stroke. In contrast, social participation has been shown to build social connection and is associated with a wide range of positive physical and mental health outcomes.” (p. 35)</p>
<p><b>Department of Human Services (VIC)</b></p>	<p>The Victorian Department of Human Services through the Office for Youth supports creative and leadership programs for youth and refugee communities to be supported within the community. Aligned program priorities for recently arrived youth include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music and culture (FreeZa)</li> <li>• Change it Up (Local government and youth leadership)</li> </ul>

## Appendix 4. Supporting Darebin Council Plans

The following local strategies and plans support Council's achievement of the Creative Darebin Arts Strategy 2014-2020:

- 2013-2017 Council Plan/ Budget
- Darebin Community Safety Strategy 2012 -2016
- Darebin Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015 and Action Plans
- Darebin Digital Strategy 2013-2018
- Darebin Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015
- Darebin Leisure Strategy 2010-2020
- Darebin Open Space Strategy 2007-2017
- Darebin Youth Engagement Strategy 2012-2017
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013
- Beyond FIDO (Public Art Strategy) 2006-2015
- The City of Darebin Art and History Collections Policy 2012-2015
- The City of Darebin Art and History Collection Access Policy 2012-2015
- Municipal Strategic Statement (Darebin Planning Scheme)
- Urban Renewal Strategy for High Street and Plenty Road 2011-2020

### **Further information**

All Supporting Strategies are available in hardcopy and most can be found in electronic format online on Council's website at:

[www.darebin.vic.gov.au](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au)

## Acknowledgements

Darebin City Council would like to thank the community for their contribution to the Darebin Arts Strategy 2014-2020.

The community engagement process helped us to develop ideas and explore the Vision, the Mission and the Goals. Council would also like to thank the many members of Darebin's Advisory Committees who have helped us at all stages of the Plan's development.

### **Acknowledgement of Darebin's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community**

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people and the Kulin Nations as the traditional landowners and the historical and contemporary custodians of the land on which the City of Darebin and surrounding municipalities are located.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diversity of Darebin's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, valuing the unique and important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and organisations play in progressing reconciliation, respect and the building of mutual understanding across the City, amongst its people, and in the achievement of shared aspirations. Council also recognises and pays tribute to, and celebrates, Darebin's long standing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.

### **Darebin's Diversity Statement**

The Darebin City Council acknowledges the history and contributions of the various communities, migrants and refugees that have settled in the municipality and made it their home. Their endeavours have enriched the economic, social, cultural, artistic, community and civic character of the city and created a cosmopolitan locality where variety and difference are welcomed and encouraged rather than suppressed and shunned. The City of Darebin is today home to people of diverse races, ethnicities, faiths and beliefs, abilities, gender, talents and aspirations, sexualities and sex and gender identities, age and occupations, income and lifestyles. The community of Darebin cherishes this diversity and values it as an important civic asset. Council plays a role in promoting, encouraging, fostering and harnessing this asset and giving it the opportunity to flourish and be celebrated, acknowledged and respected.

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- *RAND Corporation: Gifts of the Muses paper*
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- *Are the Arts Good for Us? Hugh Mackay*
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- *How Australia is Faring on Social Inclusion, Australian Social Inclusion Board (2012)*
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- *Artswave.org.au*
- *SMH, abc.net, Financial Times*

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### Footnotes;

<sup>1</sup> Culture and Regeneration, Arts Research Digest, issue 37

<sup>2</sup> Newcastle Gateshead 10 year Cultural Policy 2002-2012 (UK)

<sup>3</sup> Sydney cultural policy discussion paper

<sup>4</sup> New Jersey Performing Arts Centre study

<sup>5</sup> Berlin cultural study

<sup>6</sup> City of Yarra cultural policy

<sup>7</sup> City of Newcastle cultural policy

<sup>8</sup> Culture and Regeneration, Arts Research Digest, issue 37

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<sup>17</sup> Data from Darebin City Council Research Unit  
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podcast  
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